

Advanced vocabulary development

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Word list 1

Group 1		Notes
Abhor	hate
Bigot	narrow-minded, prejudiced person
Counterfeit	fake; false	.....
Enfranchise	give voting rights	.....
Hamper	hinder; obstruct	.....
Kindle	to start a fire	.....
Noxious	harmful; poisonous; lethal	.....
Placid	calm; peaceful	.....
Remuneration	payment for work done	.....
Talisman	lucky charm	.....

Group 2		Notes
Abrasive	rough; coarse; harsh	.....
Bilk	cheat; defraud	.....
Covert	hidden; undercover	.....
Engender	cause	.....
Hangar	storage area (like garage) for a plane	.....
Knotty	complex; difficult to solve	.....
Nuance	something subtle; a fine shade of meaning	.....
Plagiarism	taking credit for someone else's writing or ideas	.....
Renown	fame	.....
Tangent	going off the main subject	.....

Group 3		Notes
Abasement	humiliation; degradation	.....
Billowing	swelling; fluttering; waving	.....
Cower	recoil in fear or servility; shrink away from	.....
Enhance	improve; make better or clearer	.....
Harangue	noisy, attacking speech	.....
Labyrinth	a maze	.....
Nullify	to counter; make unimportant	.....
Plaintiff	petitioner (in court of law)	.....
Replete	full	.....
Tangible	can be touched	.....

Group 4		Notes
Abrogate	cancel; deny; repeal	.....
Blasphemy	speech which offends religious sentiments	.....
Credible	believable	.....
Enigma	puzzle; mystery	.....
Harbingers	indicators; bringers of warnings	.....
Labyrinthine	complicated; highly convoluted	.....
Nuzzle	cuddle; snuggle	.....
Plaudit	statement giving strong praise	.....
Reprehensible	shameful; very bad	.....
Tardy	slow; late; overdue; delayed	.....

Group 5		<u>Notes</u>
Absolution	forgiveness; pardon; release	.....
Blatant	obvious	.....
Creditable	praiseworthy	.....
Ensconce	establish firmly in a position	.....
Hasten	hurry; accelerate; rush	.....
Laceration	a cut	.....
Obdurate	stubborn	.....
Plausible	can be believed; reasonable	.....
Reprieve	a respite; postponement of a sentence	.....
Tawdry	of little value; gaudy	.....

Group 6		<u>Notes</u>
Abstain	desist; go without; withdraw	.....
Blighted	damaged; destroyed; ruined	.....
Credulous	gullible; ready to believe anything	.....
Enshroud	cover	.....
Haughtiness	arrogance; pride	.....
Lachrymose	tearful; sad	.....
Obfuscate	deliberately make something difficult to understand	.....
Plethora	an excess	.....
Repudiate	shun; eschew	.....
Tedium	boredom	.....

Group 7		Notes
Abstemious	self denying; refraining from indulging	.....
Blithe	free-spirited; carefree	.....
Crepuscular	active at dawn and dusk	.....
Enunciation	clear pronunciation; accent; articulation	.....
Headstrong	stubborn; willful	.....
Lackluster	dull; monotonous; bland	.....
Objective	unbiased; not subjective	.....
Pliable	flexible; not stubborn	.....
Rescind	retract; repeal	.....
Temper	to moderate; soften	.....

Group 8		Notes
Abstruse	difficult to understand; obscure	.....
Blunderbuss	1. ancient weapon (type of gun); 2. a clumsy person	.....
Cringe	recoil; flinch; shy away	.....
Envenom	to cause bitterness and bad feeling	.....
Hedonism	self indulgence; pleasure-seeking	.....
Laconic	using few words; brief; to the point	.....
Oblique	indirect; slanting	.....
Plumage	feathers of a bird	.....
Resignation	acceptance of fate	.....
Tenacious	stubborn; resolute; holding firm to a purpose	.....

Group 9		Notes
Accolade	tribute; honor; praise	.....
Bolster	support; prop up	.....
Cryptic	puzzling; enigmatic	.....
Ephemeral	short-lived	.....
Hedonist	a pleasure seeker	.....
Lamentation	expression of regret or sorrow	.....
Obliterate	destroy; demolish; eradicate	.....
Plummet	fall suddenly and steeply	.....
Resolution	determination	.....
Tentative	not certain	.....

Group 10		Notes
Acquiesce	to agree to; give in to	.....
Bombast	arrogant, pompous language	.....
Curtail	cut short	.....
Epicure	someone who appreciates good food and drink	.....
Heed	listen to	.....
Lampoon	ridicule; spoof	.....
Oblivious	totally unaware	.....
Podium	raised platform	.....
Resonant	echoing	.....
Tenuous	flimsy; not solid	.....

Word list 2

Group 1		<u>Notes</u>
Acrid	sharp; pungent (used of smells and tastes)	.....
Boorish	ill-mannered	.....
Cynical	believing that people act only out of selfish motives	.....
Epistle	a letter (form of communication)	.....
Heresy	against orthodox opinion	.....
Lance	spear; spike; javelin	.....
Obscure	difficult to understand; partially hidden	.....
Poignant	deeply moving; strongly affecting the emotions	.....
Respite	a break; intermission	.....
Terse	concise; to the point	.....

Group 2		<u>Notes</u>
Acrophobia	fear of heights	.....
Bourgeois	middle class	.....
Debility	weakness; incapacity	.....
Epistolary	concerned with letters; through correspondence	.....
Hiatus	interruption; pause	.....
Languid	tired; slow	.....
Obscured	hidden; covered; buried	.....
Poised	calm; collected; self-possessed	.....
Resplendent	shining; glowing	.....
Therapeutic	medicinal; curative	.....

Group 3		<u>Notes</u>
Acuity	sharpness (mental or visual)	.....
Braggart	someone who boasts	.....
Debunking	exposing false claims or myths	.....
Epitomized	typified; characterized; personified	.....
Hidebound	rigid in opinions	.....
Languish	decay; fade away; get weaker	.....
Obsequious	servile; submissive	.....
Polemical	causing debate or argument	.....
Restorative	a tonic	.....
Thwart	prevent; frustrate	.....

Group 4		<u>Notes</u>
Adamant	forceful; inflexible	.....
Brawny	muscular	.....
Decathlon	an athletic competition with ten events	.....
Equivocate	speak ambiguously; avoid telling the truth	.....
Hieroglyphics	1. picture writing; 2. writing which is difficult to read or enigmatic	.....
Larceny	theft; robbery; stealing	.....
Obsession	a dominating concern	.....
Ponderous	weighty; slow and heavy	.....
Retention	preservation; withholding	.....
Timorous	cowardly; fearful	.....

Group 5		<u>Notes</u>
Adroit	skilful	.....
Brevity	being brief	.....
Decorum	dignified, correct behavior [<i>decorous (a)</i>]	.....
Err	make a mistake	.....
Hinder	obstruct	.....
Largess	generosity	.....
Obsolete	no longer valid	.....
Pontificate	speak pompously or dogmatically	.....
Reticent	restrained; holding something back; uncommunicative	.....
Tirade	stream of verbal abuse	.....

Group 6		<u>Notes</u>
Adulation	strong admiration; worship	.....
Bristle	to show irritation	.....
Decoy	lure; trap; trick	.....
Erratic	wandering; irregular	.....
Histrionic	theatrical; exaggerated	.....
Laud	praise	.....
Obstreperous	noisy and boisterous	.....
Portend	foretell	.....
Retraction	withdrawal; cancellation of a statement	.....
Titter	giggle quietly	.....

Group 7		Notes
Adversity	hardship	.....
Broach	start to discuss; approach	.....
Deference	respect	.....
Esoteric	obscure and difficult to understand	.....
Hoary	old	.....
Lavish	on a grand scale; wasteful	.....
Obtuse	mentally dull	.....
Portent	a warning sign; omen	.....
Revere	worship	.....
Tome	large book	.....

Group 8		Notes
Advocate	support	.....
Brusque	blunt; abrupt	.....
Defoliate	cause leaves to fall off	.....
Espouse	promote; take up; support	.....
Hone	sharpen; increase; whet	.....
Lax	careless; not strict	.....
Obviate	avoid; make unnecessary	.....
Poseur	someone who puts on an act	.....
Riddled	full of (usually full of holes)	.....
Torpid	inactive; lazy; stagnant	.....

Group 9		<u>Notes</u>
Aesthetic	concerning art or beauty	.....
Bulwark	fortification; barricade; wall	.....
Defunct	no longer in existence	.....
Etymology	the study of word origins	.....
Hyperbole	grossly exaggerated speech	.....
Legend	1. key to map; 2. myth or story	.....
Odious	hateful	.....
Posterity	future generations	.....
Rife	common	.....
Torpor	dormancy; sluggishness; inactivity	.....

Group 10		<u>Notes</u>
Affable	friendly; social; easygoing	.....
Bureaucracy	officialdom	.....
Degradation	deprivation; poverty; debasement	.....
Eulogy	praise	.....
Hypochondriac	a person obsessed with health; having imaginary illnesses	.....
Legion	in large numbers	.....
Officious	domineering; intrusive; meddlesome	.....
Posthumous	after death	.....
Rigor	thoroughness	.....
Totter	walk unsteadily	.....

Word list 3

Group 1		Notes
Alacrity	eagerness; enthusiasm; quickness	.....
Burgeon	grow; flourish; put forth new shoots	.....
Deleterious	harmful	.....
Euphemism	a polite phrase to cover something unpleasant	.....
Hypocritical	insincere	.....
Lethargic	tired; without energy	.....
Ogle	stare at; observe in an obvious manner	.....
Postulate	hypothesize; propose	.....
Robust	strong; healthy; tough	.....
Tractable	obedient; dutiful; polite	.....

Group 2		Notes
Alchemy	medieval chemistry; attempt to change base metal into gold	.....
Burnish	polish	.....
Deliberate	to think over deeply	.....
Euphony	pleasant sounds	.....
Iconoclast	person who opposes orthodoxy	.....
Levity	flippancy; joking about serious matters	.....
Olfactory	concerned with the sense of smell	.....
Potable	suitable for drinking	.....
Rotund	round	.....
Tranquil	peaceful	.....

Group 3		Notes
Alibi	an excuse that shows someone was not at a crime scene	.....
Buttress	strengthen; support	.....
Delineation	demarcation; explanation; definition; outlining	.....
Evacuate	vacate; empty; abandon	.....
Idiosyncrasy	a personal peculiarity; something unique to an individual	.....
Libertarian	someone who opposes tyranny	.....
Ominous	threatening	.....
Potent	powerful; compelling; strong	.....
Ruminate	think over something; ponder	.....
Transcribe	copy	.....

Group 4		Notes
Allay	to lessen	.....
Byline	the line that tells you who wrote an article	.....
Demur	hesitate; refuse	.....
Exacerbate	make worse	.....
Ignominious	shameful	.....
Liniment	soothing lotion	.....
Omnipotent	all-powerful	.....
Pragmatic	practical	.....
Ruse	trick; stratagem	.....
Transgress	go astray; disobey; commit a sin	.....

Group 5		Notes
Alleviate	make less severe	.....
Cacophony	discordant loud noises	.....
Denounce	condemn; speak out against	.....
Exasperated	frustrated; annoyed	.....
Ignominy	shame [<i>ignominious (a) = shameful</i>]	.....
Lithe	flexible; supple	.....
Omniscient	all-knowing	.....
Pragmatist	practical person; one who is concerned with usefulness	.....
Saccharin	falsely sweet	.....
Transient	short-lived; ephemeral	.....

Group 6		Notes
Aloof	distant; detached; cold	.....
Cajole	coax	.....
Deplete	use up; lessen	.....
Exceptionable	very bad (something which we should object to)	.....
Illuminate	to light up or make clear	.....
Livid	very angry	.....
Onerous	burdensome; hard to undertake	.....
Preamble	introductory material	.....
Sacrosanct	very holy; inviolable	.....
Traverse	to move across	.....

Group 7		Notes
Altruism	putting others first; being self-sacrificing	.....
Caldron	huge cooking pot	.....
Deplore	regret	.....
Exculpate	free someone from blame; pardon; acquit	.....
Illusory	deceptive; false; misleading	.....
Lobbyist	person who tries to persuade someone to support a particular cause	.....
Onus	burden	.....
Precarious	unstable; risky	.....
Sagacious	wise	.....
Trepidation	fear	.....

Group 8		Notes
Amass	accumulate	.....
Callow	immature	.....
Depravity	moral corruption	.....
Execrable	very, very bad	.....
Immoderate	excessive; extreme	.....
Lofty	snooty; arrogant; haughty	.....
Opaque	does not let light through	.....
Precedent	a previous occurrence used as a guide	.....
Sage	a wise person	.....
Trinket	something of little value; knick-knack	.....

Group 9		<u>Notes</u>
Ambiguity	uncertainty; vagueness	.....
Candid	frank; honest	.....
Deprecate	criticize; denounce	.....
Exegesis	scholarly explanation or interpretation	.....
Immutable	unchanging; permanent	.....
Longevity	long life	.....
Opulent	wealthy; rich; magnificent	.....
Precept	guiding principle	.....
Salacious	lecherous; erotic	.....
Trite	unoriginal; dull	.....

Group 10		<u>Notes</u>
Ambiguous	unclear in meaning; can be interpreted in different ways	.....
Candor	frankness; openness	.....
Deride	ridicule; make fun of; mock	.....
Exemplary	outstandingly good; setting a fine example	.....
Impartial	unbiased; neutral	.....
Loquacious	talkative	.....
Ordain	1. destine; 2. confer holy orders on a priest
Precinct	district of a city
Sallow	yellowish
Trivial	unimportant

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Word list 4

Group 1		Notes
Ambivalence	lack of clarity; wavering; being undecided
Cantankerous	bad-tempered; quarrelsome	.....
Derogatory	uncomplimentary	.....
Exemplify	to serve as a good example	.....
Impecunious	having no money	.....
Lucid	clear	.....
Ornate	highly decorated	.....
Precipice	steep slope	.....
Salubrious	health-giving	.....
Truant	shirker; someone absent without permission	.....
Group 2		Notes
Ambulatory	able to walk around (used of hospital patients)	.....
Capacious	spacious	.....
Desecrate	to damage or pollute a holy place	.....
Exhaustive	complete and thorough	.....
Impious	wicked; profane	.....
Ludicrous	ridiculous; silly	.....
Orthodox	conventional	.....
Precipitous	done in a hurry	.....
Salutary	something which teaches you a lesson; beneficial	.....
Truncate	cut short	.....

Group 3		Notes
Ameliorate	make better	.....
Capitulate	surrender; give in to	.....
Desecration	spoiling something holy	.....
Exonerates	acquits; absolves; removes blame	.....
Impoverished	destitute; poor	.....
Lukewarm	1. unenthusiastic; 2. neither hot nor cold	.....
Ossify	1. turn to bone; 2. become fixed and rigid	.....
Preclude	prevent or make impossible	.....
Sanctimonious	hypocritically holy	.....
Tumult	uproar; noise	.....

Group 4		Notes
Amelioration	improvement	.....
Carping	constant criticism	.....
Desist	stop; discontinue; cease	.....
Exorcism	getting free/rid of; eliminating (especially demons)	.....
Impromptu	unrehearsed; spontaneous	.....
Lummox	clumsy person	.....
Ostentatious	showy	.....
Precocious	developing early	.....
Sanction	give approval to	.....
Turpitude	depravity	.....

Group 5		Notes
Amiable	friendly	.....
Cartographer	person who makes maps	.....
Despondent	having no hope; miserable	.....
Expatriate	refugee; emigrant; someone living away from his own country	.....
Inadvertent	not intentional	.....
Luscious	juicy; moist; succulent	.....
Oust	push out of a position	.....
Predecessor	one who came before	.....
Sanguinary	bloodthirsty; bloody	.....
Tyro	novice; beginner	.....

Group 6		Notes
Amity	friendship	.....
Castigate	scold strongly	.....
Destitution	hardship; poverty; misery	.....
Expedient	convenient; practical	.....
Incantation	chant; invocation; prayer	.....
Lynch	assassinate; kill; illegal hanging	.....
Overt	obvious; not hidden	.....
Predicament	dilemma; difficult situation	.....
Sanguine	optimistic; cheerful	.....
Ubiquitous	found everywhere; omnipresent	.....

Group 7		Notes
Amorphous	lacking in shape	.....
Catharsis	purging of pent-up emotions	.....
Deter	put off; prevent	.....
Expedite	make faster	.....
Incarceration	putting in prison	.....
Machinations	plots and plans	.....
Overwrought	worked up; in an emotional state	.....
Preeminent	famous; outstanding	.....
Sardonic	mocking	.....
Unalloyed	undiluted; total	.....

Group 8		Notes
Analgesic	medicine to combat pain	.....
Caucus	type of private political meeting	.....
Deteriorate	worsen; decline	.....
Exposition	clear explanation	.....
Incessant	without stopping	.....
Maelstrom	whirlpool; storm in the ocean	.....
Palatable	good to eat; agreeable	.....
Prerogative	right or privilege	.....
Savant	person with knowledge	.....
Unctuous	oily; using excessive flattery	.....

Group 9		Notes
Analogous	comparable	.....
Caustic	burning	.....
Detrimental	harmful	.....
Extol	praise	.....
Incipient	just beginning	.....
Magnanimous	generous; big-hearted	.....
Palisade	fence made of posts	.....
Prescient	having fore-knowledge	.....
Scale	to climb	.....
Undermined	damaged; attacked	.....

Group 10		Notes
Anarchy	chaos; lack of government	.....
Cavalcade	procession of vehicles	.....
Devoured	greedily eaten/consumed	.....
Extradite	deport from one country back to the home country	.....
Inclination	tendency; a leaning toward	.....
Magnate	powerful businessman	.....
Palliative	a remedy that improves but doesn't cure	.....
Presentiment	a feeling that something might happen	.....
Scapegoat	person on whom blame is placed for faults of others
Underscore	emphasize

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Word list 5

Group 1		Notes
Anecdote	a brief amusing story
Celerity	speed
Dexterous	skilful with hands
Extraneous	irrelevant	.....
Incoherent	not clear	.....
Maladroit	clumsy; unskillful	.....
Pallid	pale	.....
Presumptuous	assuming too much; arrogant	.....
Scrupulous	careful; diligent; painstaking	.....
Unequivocal	clear; obvious	.....

Group 2		Notes
Animosity	hatred; antagonism	.....
Censorious	disapproving; critical	.....
Dichotomy	a division into two parts	.....
Extrapolate	extend; predict on the basis of known data	.....
Incongruous	not fitting in; out of place	.....
Malady	illness	.....
Palpable	easily felt; easily perceived	.....
Pretentious	pompous; self-important	.....
Scrutinize	examine carefully	.....
Unfetter	set free	.....

Group 3		Notes
Annex (<i>n</i>)	a building which is an addition to an existing building	.....
Censure	blame	.....
Didactic	intended to teach; instructive	.....
Extrinsic	irrelevant; on the outside	.....
Inconsequential	unimportant; insignificant; negligible	.....
Malediction	a curse	.....
Panacea	remedy for all ills	.....
Prevaricate	speak misleadingly and evasively	.....
Scuttle	sink	.....
Unfrock	to remove a priest from his position	.....

Group 4		Notes
Annex (<i>v</i>)	take possession of; seize; capture	.....
Cerebral	intellectual	.....
Diffident	lacking confidence	.....
Fallacious	false	.....
Inconspicuous	not easily seen; subtle; not noticeable	.....
Malefactor	a wrong-doer	.....
Paradigm	1. example; 2. model; 3. way of looking at things	.....
Pristine	unspoiled	.....
Seminary	an institution in which priests are trained	.....
Unprecedented	never having happened before	.....

Group 5		Notes
Anomaly	something which does not fit in a pattern; irregularity	.....
Certitude	certainty	.....
Digress	wander off the subject	.....
Falter	hesitate; waver	.....
Indelible	cannot be wiped out	.....
Malingering	deliberately avoid work; shirk	.....
Paradox	apparently contradictory statement	.....
Proclivity	tendency towards	.....
Sensuous	appealing to the senses	.....
Unscathed	unharmd; intact; without a scratch	.....

Group 6		Notes
Antagonism	hostility; strong opposition	.....
Charlatan	trickster who claims knowledge he doesn't have	.....
Dike	dam; embankment	.....
Fanatical	obsessive; fixated	.....
Indifferent	1. neutral; 2. not outstanding	.....
Malingerer	person who deliberately tries to avoid work	.....
Paragon	a perfect example	.....
Procrastinate	delay; put off	.....
Sentinel	guard; sentry	.....
Unwitting	not deliberate; unconscious	.....

Group 7		Notes
Antagonistic	opposed; hostile; aggressive	.....
Chary	wary of; cautious about; reluctant to give	.....
Dilatory	slow; falling behind with one's work	.....
Fanaticism	passion; excessive devotion	.....
Indigenous	native to a particular area	.....
Malleable	flexible; can be shaped	.....
Paramount	of supreme importance	.....
Prodigal	wasteful; extravagant	.....
Sequester	isolate	.....
Upbraid	scold; tell off; reprimand	.....

Group 8		Notes
Antediluvian	outdated; prehistoric; very old-fashioned	.....
Chastises	punishes	.....
Dilemma	puzzling situation	.....
Fastidious	overly particular; finicky	.....
Indolence	laziness	.....
Mallet	1. wooden hammer; 2. stick used for polo	.....
Parasite	1. scrounger; 2. animal which takes digested food from another	.....
Prodigious	very large	.....
Serendipity	fortunate coincidence; unsought discovery	.....
Uproarious	hilarious; hysterical; very funny	.....

Group 9		Notes
Anthology	a book which is a collection of poems or stories	.....
Chicanery	trickery	.....
Dilettante	person who dabbles in a subject without serious study	.....
Fatuous	silly; foolish	.....
Inductee	novice; beginner	.....
Manipulatable	influencable; controllable	.....
Parched	dried up	.....
Profane	unholy	.....
Serene	calm; peaceful	.....
Upshot	outcome	.....

Group 10		Notes
Anthropocentrism	putting man at the center of one's philosophy	.....
Chimerical	changeable; unstable	.....
Diligent	hard-working	.....
Feasible	possible and practicable	.....
Indulgent	pampering; satisfying desires	.....
Marred	damaged; spoiled	.....
Pariah	an outcast from society	.....
Profanity	swearing; cursing
Serrated	jagged; saw-like
Urbane	sophisticated; suave

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Word list 6

Group 1		Notes
Antiquated	outdated; old fashioned
Choleric	easily angered
Diorama	model of a scene	.....
Fecund	fertile	.....
Inebriation	drunkenness; intoxication	.....
Marshal	to gather together	.....
Parity	equality	.....
Profound	having deep meaning	.....
Servile	overly submissive; groveling	.....
Usurp	take someone's position (usually by force)	.....
Group 2		Notes
Apathetic	indifferent; uninterested; lethargic	.....
Chronicler	person who records historical information	.....
Dirge	mournful song	.....
Felicitous	apt	.....
Ineffable	cannot be expressed in words	.....
Marsupial	pouched mammal (like a kangaroo)	.....
Parochial	narrow-minded; concerned only with local matters	.....
Profundity	depth	.....
Skeptical	doubting; not gullible	.....
Utilitarian	useful	.....

Group 3		<u>Notes</u>
Apathy	lack of interest or emotion	.....
Circuitous	indirect	.....
Disapprobation	disapproval	.....
Fervor	passion; enthusiasm	.....
Inept	incompetent; unskilled; useless	.....
Martinet	person who believes in strict discipline	.....
Parody	a mockery; imitation for ridicule; spoof	.....
Proletarian	member of the working class	.....
Skirmish	minor battle	.....
Utopian	a believer in an ideal world	.....

Group 4		<u>Notes</u>
Apocryphal	of doubtful origin	.....
Circumlocution	using too many words; long-windedness	.....
Discern	to distinguish one thing from another	.....
Fickle	unpredictable; whimsical; easily swayed	.....
Inertia	inactivity; lethargy	.....
Masochist	person who intentionally inflicts pain on himself	.....
Parry	ward off; avoid	.....
Prolific	producing a lot	.....
Sluggard	slow-moving; lethargic person	.....
Vacillate	waver; hesitate	.....

Group 5		Notes
Appease	pacify; soothe; calm down; make peace with	.....
Circumscribe	limit	.....
Discord	disagreement	.....
Finesse	skill	.....
Inevitable	cannot be avoided	.....
Matriarchy	society governed by women	.....
Parsimonious	economical; frugal; thrifty	.....
Proponents	promoters; supporters	.....
Smelt	refine an ore	.....
Vacuous	empty; silly; meaningless	.....

Group 6		Notes
Apprehensive	worried; fearful	.....
Circumspect	cautious; considering all sides	.....
Discordancy	cacophony; harshness; jarring	.....
Fitful	not continuous; stopping and starting	.....
Inexorable	relentless	.....
Maverick	a loner	.....
Parsimony	stinginess; frugality; cost-cutting	.....
Prosaic	dull; boring; ordinary	.....
Smorgasbord	a Swedish buffet of cold dishes	.....
Vagrant	person wandering without a home	.....

Group 7		Notes
Arable	can be cultivated	.....
Circumvent	avoid	.....
Discrepancy	something which does not match up; inconsistency	.....
Flagrant	clearly wrong	.....
Inexpedient	not advisable	.....
Meager	in short supply	.....
Partisan	biased; one-sided; committed to one group	.....
Proscribe	forbid	.....
Solace	comfort for grief	.....
Vapid	dull; uninspiring	.....

Group 8		Notes
Arbitrary	random; for no definite reason	.....
Clairvoyant	psychic; mystic	.....
Discriminate	to make a clear distinction; see the difference	.....
Flamboyant	showy; ornate	.....
Infallible	perfect; flawless; cannot make mistakes	.....
Meander	wander from side to side	.....
Pathos	evoking sadness or pity	.....
Prosody	study of versification	.....
Solicit	to ask for; seek	.....
Variegated	multicolored; speckled	.....

Group 9		<u>Notes</u>
Arcane	obscure; known only to a few people	.....
Clamor	shout; scream	.....
Discursiveness	long windedness; indirectness	.....
Flaunt	show off; display in a showy manner	.....
Infamous	famous for something bad	.....
Mellow	soft; melodious; ripe	.....
Patron	one who give support (usually financial)	.....
Prostration	1. lying face down; 2. be overcome with extreme weakness	.....
Somnambulist	sleepwalker	.....
Vehemence	violence; fervor; forcefulness	.....

Group 10		<u>Notes</u>
Archaic	ancient; outdated; old fashioned	.....
Clandestine	secret; covert; stealthy	.....
Disdain	contempt; strong dislike	.....
Flippant	making jokes about serious matters	.....
Infer	deduce; conclude	.....
Menagerie	collection of animals	.....
Patronize	condescend to; behave in an arrogant manner towards	.....
Protagonist	main character in film, book, play etc.
Soothsayer	fortuneteller
Vehement	forceful

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Word list 7

Group 1		Notes
Archetype	classic example of
Clemency	mercy
Disinterested	unbiased
Flout	defy; reject	.....
Ingénue	naïve, unsophisticated person	.....
Mendacious	given to lying	.....
Paucity	shortage	.....
Protean	changeable	.....
Sophomoric	juvenile; immature	.....
Venal	corrupt; can be bribed	.....

Group 2		Notes
Archives	collections of old records; place of storage of old documents	.....
Cliché	overused expression; something unoriginal	.....
Disparage	criticize; belittle	.....
Flustered	worked-up; not calm	.....
Ingrate	ungrateful person	.....
Mercenary	concerned only with money	.....
Peccadillo	minor weakness; trivial offence	.....
Protégé	person under protection of, or guided by another	.....
Soporific	inducing sleep	.....
Veneer	surface coating	.....

Group 3		Notes
Articulate	clear; lucid; eloquent	.....
Clientele	customers	.....
Disparity	an inequality	.....
Fly-by-night	unreliable; disreputable	.....
Inimical	hostile	.....
Mercurial	volatile; changeable	.....
Pedant	person who insists on strict adherence to rules or narrow learning	.....
Protocol	procedure; code of behavior	.....
Sparse	spare; bare; meager	.....
Venerate	revere; worship	.....

Group 4		Notes
Artifice	deception; trickery	.....
Coalesce	come together; merge	.....
Dispassionate	neutral; objective	.....
Forensic	concerned with argument or debate (esp. for legal evidence)	.....
Innate	inherited; inborn	.....
Merge	come together	.....
Pedestrian	common; mundane; banal	.....
Provincial	unsophisticated; narrow-minded	.....
Specious	false	.....
Venial	minor; unimportant	.....

Group 5		<u>Notes</u>
Artisan	craftsman	.....
Coddle	pamper; fuss over; indulge	.....
Disseminating	circulating; broadcasting; spreading (information)	.....
Fortitude	bravery	.....
Innocuous	harmless; inoffensive	.....
Metaphorically	symbolically; figuratively	.....
Peerless	without equal	.....
Prudent	cautious; wise	.....
Speckled	spotted; freckled; dotted	.....
Veracity	truthfulness	.....

Group 6		<u>Notes</u>
Ascetic	without luxuries; severely simple	.....
Coercion	force	.....
Diurnal	active in daytime	.....
Fortuitous	happening by chance	.....
Innovate	create; introduce something new	.....
Meticulous	very careful; painstaking	.....
Pejorative	derogatory	.....
Puerile	childish	.....
Sporadic	not continuous; intermittent	.....
Verbose	talkative; long-winded; rambling	.....

Group 7		Notes
Assiduous	thorough; diligent	.....
Cogent	lucid; well argued	.....
Divert	1. entertain; 2. distract; 3. cause a detour	.....
Fractious	irritable; difficult to control	.....
Inscrutable	mysterious; impenetrable	.....
Mettle	courage; bravery; valor	.....
Pellucid	transparently clear	.....
Punctilious	paying attention to small details	.....
Spurious	false	.....
Verboosity	using too many words	.....

Group 8		Notes
Assuage	to calm	.....
Cogitate	think over something; ponder	.....
Docile	gentle and easily lead	.....
Fraudulent	fake; false	.....
Insentient	unfeeling	.....
Milieu	environment	.....
Pensive	in a thoughtful mood; thinking deeply	.....
Purloin	steal	.....
Stagnant	still; not moving	.....
Vertigo	dizziness	.....

Group 9		<u>Notes</u>
Astute	perceptive; sharp-witted	.....
Collage	picture made from fragments of other pictures	.....
Dogmatic	having stubbornly held opinions	.....
Frivolous	not serious	.....
Inspid	dull; bland; boring	.....
Mire	swamp; muddy ground	.....
Penury	poverty	.....
Pusillanimous	cowardly	.....
Staid	dull; sober; serious	.....
Vestigial	not developed	.....

Group 10		<u>Notes</u>
Asylum	place of refuge or safety	.....
Collate	arrange in order	.....
Dolt	stupid person	.....
Frugal	economical; not wasting anything	.....
Instigate	to start; provoke	.....
Misanthrope	hater of the rest of mankind	.....
Perceptive	observant	.....
Pyromania	compulsion to start fires	.....
Stanza	section of a poem	.....
Vignette	small sketch	.....

Word list 8

Group 1		Notes
Atheist	person who does not believe in God	.....
Colloquial	local and informal (used of language)	.....
Dotard	foolish old man	.....
Furrow	groove	.....
Instigator	troublemaker; person who entices others to do something	.....
Misnomer	wrong name	.....
Percipient	perceptive; insightful	.....
Quaff	drink down quickly	.....
Staunch	loyal; faithful; dependable	.....
Vilification	blackening someone's name	.....

Group 2		Notes
Atrophy	waste away from lack of use	.....
Collusion	plotting and planning	.....
Drawl	speak slowly with words running together	.....
Furtive	hidden and secret	.....
Insurgent	a rebel	.....
Misogynist	hater of women	.....
Perdition	damnation	.....
Quagmire	marsh; bog	.....
Stereotype	fixed image	.....
Vindicate	prove right; remove blame	.....

Group 3		Notes
Attenuate	weaken	.....
Commandeer	take possession of	.....
Drivel	nonsense	.....
Futile	useless; hopeless	.....
Interminable	never-ending	.....
Misrepresentation	deliberately deceiving	.....
Peremptory	in a commanding manner	.....
Quaint	picturesque	.....
Stevedore	dockworker	.....
Virtuoso	an accomplished musician	.....

Group 4		Notes
Augment	increase; make bigger	.....
Complacent	self-satisfied; smug	.....
Droll	dryly amusing	.....
Galleon	ancient type of sailing ship	.....
Intermittent	sporadic; irregular	.....
Mitigate	lessen; make less severe	.....
Perfidy	treachery	.....
Quandary	dilemma; puzzle	.....
Stifle	suppress	.....
Virulent	dangerous; harmful	.....

Group 5		Notes
Auspicious	favorable; promising to turn out well	.....
Compliant	easy to control; submissive	.....
Drone	1. monotonous noise (<i>n</i>); 2. to speak with no emotion (<i>v</i>); 3. male bee	.....
Gambol	frolic; leap; bound	.....
Intransigence	stubbornness	.....
Modicum	small amount	.....
Perfunctory	superficial; cursory	.....
Quarantine	isolation to prevent the spread of disease	.....
Stoic	known for fortitude; indifferent to pleasure or pain	.....
Vital	essential; alive; important	.....

Group 6		Notes
Austere	severely plain	.....
Concatenate	link together	.....
Dubious	doubtful	.....
Garble	distort; confuse; muddle	.....
Intransigent	stubborn; unyielding	.....
Momentous	very important	.....
Peripatetic	nomadic; moving from place to place	.....
Quarry	1. something that is hunted; 2. mine for stone	.....
Stoke	add fuel to; strengthen	.....
Vitriolic	corrosive; strongly attacking	.....

Group 7		Notes
Aversion	a dislike of	.....
Concatenation	linking into chains	.....
Dupe	to fool someone	.....
Garish	gaudy	.....
Intrepid	brave	.....
Monotonous	dull; unvarying	.....
Peripheral	on the edge; not important	.....
Querulous	always complaining	.....
Stolid	impassive; dull; indifferent	.....
Vivacity	liveliness; animation	.....

Group 8		Notes
Balk	hinder and prevent; hesitate over	.....
Conciliate	to bring together; end a dispute	.....
Dynamic	lively; vibrant; energetic	.....
Garner	gather; collect	.....
Inveterate	habitual	.....
Moratorium	temporary prohibition or halt to activity	.....
Perjury	telling lies under oath	.....
Quirk	oddity	.....
Stratagem	plot; plan; trick	.....
Vivify	enliven	.....

Group 9		<u>Notes</u>
Banal	common; dull	.....
Concise	stated in few words	.....
Ebullient	very lively; cheerful; jovial; happy	.....
Garrulous	talkative	.....
Invidious	arousing envy	.....
Moribund	on the point of death	.....
Pernicious	destructive; harmful	.....
Ramble	wander aimlessly	.....
Strident	loud and harsh	.....
Vociferous	noisy; loud in speech	.....

Group 10		<u>Notes</u>
Banality	ordinariness; dullness	.....
Condescend	talk down to	.....
Eccentric	unusual; quirky; odd	.....
Gaunt	emaciated; bony and angular	.....
Inviolable	cannot be invaded	.....
Morose	gloomy; bad tempered	.....
Persnickety	fastidious; fussy	.....
Ramifications	branches; subdivisions of a complex system; outcomes	.....
Stringent	strict or severe	.....
Volatile	dangerously unstable; evaporates easily

Advanced vocabulary development

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Word list 9

Group 1		Notes
Bane	troublesome influence
Condone	tacitly support; overlook
Eclectic	taking things from different sources	.....
Genre	a category; type	.....
Irascible	easily angered	.....
Mundane	ordinary; worldly	.....
Perpetuated	caused to continue	.....
Rancor	resentment; animosity; bad feeling	.....
Strut	swagger; show off	.....
Voluble	talkative	.....

Group 2		Notes
Bard	poet	.....
Condoning	overlooking; disregarding; ignoring	.....
Edifice	building; structure; construction	.....
Germane	relevant	.....
Ire	anger [<i>irate (a)</i> = very angry]	.....
Munificent	generous; charitable	.....
Perpetuity	eternity	.....
Rant	use bombastic language	.....
Stupefying	astonishing; shocking; stunning into silence	.....
Voluminous	very large; spacious	.....

Group 3		Notes
Bastion	fortress; stronghold	.....
Conflagration	big fire	.....
Efface	wipe out; remove all trace of	.....
Germinal	just growing; not developed; immature	.....
Irksome	annoying; infuriating	.....
Mutinous	very rebellious	.....
Personable	attractive	.....
Ratify	approve; consent	.....
Subpoena	summons to court	.....
Voracious	ravenous	.....

Group 4		Notes
Befuddle	confuse	.....
Confound	confuse	.....
Effigy	a model of a person	.....
Gibbering	making meaningless noises	.....
Ironic	satiric; unexpected	.....
Myriad	in large numbers	.....
Perspicacious	insightful; sharp; wise	.....
Raucous	rough and unpleasant (of sounds)	.....
Substantiate	give supporting evidence	.....
Waive	surrender; give up	.....

Group 5		Notes
Begrudge	resent	.....
Congeval	to solidify	.....
Effusive	gushing; demonstrative	.....
Glacial	hostile; unfriendly; cold; icy	.....
Irrational	unreasonable; absurd	.....
Navigable	suitable for sailing	.....
Perspicacity	insight	.....
Raze	destroy; demolish; tear down	.....
Subterfuge	a trick	.....
Wane	grow less	.....

Group 6		Notes
Beguile	mislead; lure	.....
Congenital	present from birth	.....
Egalitarianism	belief in equality	.....
Goad	prod; urge	.....
Irreproachable	cannot be criticized; perfect	.....
Nebulous	vague	.....
Pertinent	relevant	.....
Rebuttal	denial	.....
Subtle	not obvious	.....
Wary	hesitant; cautious	.....

Group 7		Notes
Belabor	explain in unnecessary detail	.....
Connoisseur	person with refined taste and good judgment	.....
Egregious	outstandingly, obviously bad	.....
Grate (v)	1. to annoy; aggravate; vex; 2. shred	.....
Irrevocable	cannot be cancelled; unchangeable	.....
Nefarious	wicked; immoral; disreputable	.....
Peruse	read carefully	.....
Recant	disclaim; retract statement	.....
Subversive	rebellious; revolutionary	.....
Wax	to increase; to grow	.....

Group 8		Notes
Beleaguer	besiege; attack	.....
Consecrate	dedicate	.....
Egress	exit	.....
Gratis	free of charge; without payment	.....
Itinerant	nomadic; wandering from place to place	.....
Negate	cancel; deny	.....
Pervasive	spreading everywhere	.....
Recapitulate	summarize	.....
Succinct	concise	.....
Waylay	accost; stop; approach; hinder	.....

Group 9		Notes
Belie	contradict	.....
Consensus	general agreement	.....
Eloquent	fluent and persuasive in speech	.....
Gratuitous	unwarranted	.....
Jaded	tired; bored; worn out	.....
Negligence	carelessness	.....
Petrify	1. terrify; 2. turn to stone	.....
Receptacle	container; vessel; holder	.....
Suffragist	someone who campaigns for voting rights	.....
Weighty	serious	.....

Group 10		Notes
Belittle	to demean	.....
Conspicuous	easily seen; prominent	.....
Elucidate	make clear	.....
Gravity	seriousness	.....
Jargon	specialized language used by experts	.....
Neologism	newly coined word	.....
Petulant	sulky; peevish	.....
Recluse	someone who cuts himself off from life
Supercilious	proud and haughty
Whelp	young dog

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Word list 10

Group 1		Notes
Bellicose	war-like; aggressive
Consummate	complete; total; supremely good
Elusive	hard to pin down	.....
Gregarious	extroverted; sociable; outgoing	.....
Jaundiced	cynical; pessimistic	.....
Nettle	annoy	.....
Phenomenon	an event or happening (plural: phenomena)	.....
Recuperate	get better after illness	.....
Superlative	extremely good; the best	.....
Whet	sharpen	.....

Group 2		Notes
Belligerent	aggressive; ready to fight	.....
Contemporary	living or happening at the same time	.....
Emaciated	very thin; withered	.....
Gritty	coarse; granular	.....
Jaunt	short pleasure trip	.....
Niggardly	miserly; stingy	.....
Philanthropy	charity; love of mankind	.....
Red tape	formalities; paperwork; official procedure	.....
Surly	grumpy; rude	.....
Whimsical	capricious; changeable	.....

Group 3		Notes
Bemoan	complain about	.....
Contrite	sorry	.....
Emancipate	set free	.....
Guffaw	sudden loud laughter	.....
Jeopardize	put at risk; endanger	.....
Nomadic	wandering from place to place	.....
Philistine	uncultured person	.....
Redolent	smelling of; giving off odors	.....
Surreptitious	secret; sneaky; stealthy	.....
Willful	stubborn	.....

Group 4		Notes
Benevolent	kindly	.....
Contrition	sorrow and repentance	.....
Embezzle	defraud; steal	.....
Guile	cunning; craftiness	.....
Jingoistic	extremely patriotic; nationalistic	.....
Nonchalance	an appearance of indifference; calm and composed	.....
Phlegmatic	calm; imperturbable	.....
Redress	put right something that was wrong	.....
Surreptitiously	secretly; furtively; stealthily	.....
Wily	cunning	.....

Group 5		<u>Notes</u>
Benign	kindly; harmless	.....
Contumacious	stubborn	.....
Embroid	involve in hostility or argument	.....
Guileless	frank; straightforward; honest	.....
Jocular	in a joking manner	.....
Nondescript	having no special features; dull and ordinary	.....
Pillage	plunder	.....
Redundant	unnecessary; superfluous	.....
Susceptible	vulnerable	.....
Wispy	flimsy; frail; delicate	.....

Group 6		<u>Notes</u>
Benignity	compassion; gentleness; fondness	.....
Contusion	a bruise	.....
Emerge	come out; appear	.....
Gullibility	unwariness; trustfulness; being easily fooled	.....
Jollity	gaiety; happiness	.....
Nonentity	a person of no importance; not famous	.....
Pinnacle	topmost point	.....
Referendum	public vote	.....
Suspect	doubtful	.....
Wistful	melancholy; pensive; expressing a longing for	.....

Group 7		Notes
Bequeath	leave something in one's will to be given after one's death	.....
Conundrum	a puzzle	.....
Emulate	to imitate something admired	.....
Gullible	easily fooled	.....
Jubilant	ecstatic; delighted; rejoicing	.....
Nostalgia	longing for the past	.....
Pious	very religious	.....
Refute	disprove	.....
Sybarite	lover of luxury	.....
Zany	crazy; wacky	.....

Group 8		Notes
Berate	scold; criticize	.....
Conventional	usual; customary; common	.....
Endorse	give support or approval to	.....
Gustatory	concerned with the sense of taste	.....
Judicious	correct in judgment; wise	.....
Notoriety	infamy; known for wrong doing	.....
Pivotal	of central importance	.....
Regale	entertain	.....
Sycophant	bootlicker; flatterer	.....
Zeal	enthusiasm	.....

Group 9		Notes
Beret	type of cap	.....
Corpulent	fat	.....
Endurance	staying power; patience; stamina	.....
Hackneyed	common and over-used	.....
Jurisprudence	science or study of law	.....
Novel	new; unusual	.....
Placate	pacify; soothe; calm	.....
Relegate	dismiss to a lower position	.....
Taciturn	quiet; saying little	.....
Zealot	fanatic	.....

Group 10		Notes
Bestial	behaving like a beast; brutal	.....
Corrugated	highly folded	.....
Enduring	lasting	.....
Hallowed	worshipped; consecrated	.....
Juxtapose	place next to	.....
Novice	a beginner; tyro	.....
Placebo	harmless medicine with no effect; dummy medicine	.....
Remorse	regret; sorrow; contrition
Tactile	concerned with the sense of touch
Zenith	summit

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Word list 11

Group 1		Notes
Abate	reduce in intensity
Abjure	renounce; swear to refrain from something
Blandishment	words used to coax or flatter [<i>blandish</i> (v)]	.....
Boor	ill-mannered person [<i>boorish</i> (a)]	.....
Cardinal	1. high ranking church official; 2. major, important	.....
Deliberate	1. slow (a); 2. to think over (v); 3. on purpose (a)	.....
Equivocation	speaking ambiguously [<i>equivocate</i> (v), <i>equivocal</i> (a)]	.....
Feckless	feeble; helpless; lacking in initiative	.....
Imperturbability	quality of being calm and not easily disturbed [<i>imperturbable</i> (a)]	.....
Meretricious	falsely attractive; tawdry	.....
Group 2		Notes
Augury	prediction, looking for omens [<i>auger</i> (v)]	.....
Boycott	refuse to have dealings with	.....
Glib	slick; superficial esp. in speech	.....
Incise	cut into [<i>incision</i> (n); <i>incisive</i> (a)]	.....
Moralistic	concerned with morals [<i>moralize</i> (v)]	.....
Ostracism	shunning; social isolation [<i>ostracize</i> (v)]	.....
Penchant	inclination; leaning; tendency; predilection	.....
Rarefy	make less dense [<i>rarefaction</i> (n)]	.....
Repine	fret; be discontented	.....
Stipulate	specify [<i>stipulation</i> (n)]	.....

Group 3		Notes
Diaphanous	transparent; thin and delicate	.....
Feint	pretended attack; a move intended to deceive	.....
Inured	hardened; habituated	.....
Mettlesome	spirited [<i>mettle (n)</i>]	.....
Puissance	power	.....
Recondite	obscure	.....
Stygian	very dark	.....
Touting	advertising; supporting [<i>tout (v)</i>]	.....
Virtuosity	skill, expertise [<i>virtuoso (n)</i> ; <i>virtuosi (n.pl)</i>]	.....
Volubility	excessive talkativeness [<i>voluble (a)</i>]	.....

Group 4		Notes
Caret	punctuation mark signifying omission	.....
Contiguous	adjacent; touching; abutting [<i>contiguity (n)</i>]	.....
Damp	(used of vibration) reduce in extent	.....
Ellipsis	omission of essential words	.....
Extirpation	wiping out; complete destruction [<i>extirpate (v)</i>]	.....
Foppish	behaving or dressing like a dandy; excessively concerned with fashion	.....
Gaffe	blunder; social mistake	.....
Hortatory	encouraging; exhorting	.....
Opprobrious	expressing great scorn [<i>opprobrium (n)</i>]	.....
Recumbent	reclining; lying down	.....

Group 5		Notes
Ambidextrous	able to use both left and right hands equally well	.....
Culpability	guilt [<i>culpable</i> = blameworthy]	.....
Discernment	judgment; perceptiveness	.....
Encomium	praise	.....
Inveigle	coax; cajole; wheedle; entice	.....
Minatory	threatening	.....
Ossified	turned to bone; become rigid [<i>ossification (n)</i>]	.....
Plumb	measure depth of (<i>v</i>); exact (<i>a. slang</i>)	.....
Quintessential	most typical; the perfect example of [<i>quintessence (n)</i>]	.....
Runic	mysterious; magical	.....

Group 6		Notes
Accretion	accumulation of matter; growth produced by adding from the outside	.....
Anachronistic	occurring in the wrong time period [<i>anachronism (n)</i>]	.....
Chronic	long lasting (often used for diseases in which case the opposite is <i>acute</i>)	.....
Churlishness	rudeness; ill-mannered behavior	.....
Demagogue	mob leader (who appeals to base instincts) [<i>demagogy/demagoguery (n)</i>]	.....
Effrontery	daring; audacity (has a negative connotation)	.....
Idyll	story or incident in peaceful or ideal setting [<i>idyllic (a)</i>]	.....
Interregnum	interval between reigns or governments	.....
Nugatory	of minor significance; futile	.....
Sinecure	job which pays salary but requiring little effort	.....

Group 7		Notes
Anodized	electroplated; coated with thin layer of metal	.....
Aphoristic	expressed tersely [<i>aphorism (n)</i> = short statement; <i>maxim</i>]	.....
Canonical	orthodox [<i>canon (n)</i> = set of accepted works]	.....
Commensurate	equal in significance	.....
Dexterity	skill, esp. with hands [<i>dexterous (a)</i>]	.....
Extant	still in existence (opposite of extinct)	.....
Impugned	challenged; called into question	.....
Probity	uprightness; honesty	.....
Raconteur	person who relates a story	.....
Solicitous	kindly; expressing care and concern	.....

Group 8		Notes
Amalgamate	join; consolidate [<i>amalgamation (n)</i>]	.....
Baleful	evil	.....
Coerce	force [<i>coercion (n)</i> ; <i>coercing (a)</i>]	.....
Inchoate	undeveloped; nascent	.....
Iniquitous	evil; unjust [<i>iniquity (n)</i>]	.....
Libertine	dissolute person; prodigal	.....
Millinery	hats and hat-making	.....
Natty	neat; dapper; smart	.....
Occluded	obscured; blocked	.....
Sidereal	of or related to stars	.....

Group 9		Notes
Avaricious	greedy for money	.....
Extirpate	wipe out totally	.....
Halcyon	peaceful and happy; calm (esp. of summer weather)	.....
List (v)	1. to lean to one side; 2. to write in order	.....
Maudlin	sad; sentimental; inclined to weep	.....
Refulgent	glowing; radiant	.....
Subliminal	below the threshold of consciousness	.....
Testiness	irritability; irascibility [<i>testy</i> (a)]	.....
Vituperate	attack bitterly	.....
Whittle	1. carve with knife; 2. reduce step by step	.....

Group 10		Notes
Caricature	ridicule (v); cartoon intended to ridicule (n)	.....
Colander	bowl with holes used to drain vegetables etc.	.....
Cumbersome	bulky; difficult to carry [<i>encumber</i> = to burden]	.....
Dispatch	1. send (v); 2. speed; celerity (n)	.....
Epistemology	theory of knowledge	.....
Froward	stubborn; wayward; disobedient	.....
Supine	lying flat on one's back	.....
Throwback	exhibiting primitive, or ancestral, traits	.....
Untoward	unexpected
Verisimilar	true to life; giving the appearance of reality

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Word list 12

Group 1		Notes
Abysmal	very deep; very bad
Approbation	approval [<i>opp. disapprobation</i>]
Bent (<i>n</i>)	inclination; aptitude	.....
Cadge	get by begging	.....
Debacle	disaster	.....
Extemporize	speak without preparation or rehearsal [<i>extemporaneous (a)</i>]	.....
Incumbents	occupiers of a job or position	.....
Lambaste	attack verbally	.....
Noisome	disgusting	.....
Pastiche	work (usually artistic) which imitates, or is composed of parts taken from varied sources	.....

Group 2		Notes
Arboreal	living in trees; concerned with trees	.....
Centrifuge	device to separate substances by spinning them at high speed	.....
Cloistered	isolated	.....
Disabuse	make someone aware of an error in thinking	.....
Engendering	causing; bringing into being [<i>engender (v)</i>]	.....
Intemperate	excessive; immoderate [<i>intemperance (n)</i>]	.....
Lugubrious	sad; gloomy	.....
Nonplussed	confused	.....
Pedagogy	science of education; teaching	.....
Satiate	satisfy; fill completely [<i>satiable (a); satiation (n)</i>]	.....

Group 3		Notes
Artless	without effort; without trickery; simple	.....
Comeliness	beauty; prettiness [<i>comely (a)</i>]	.....
Doff	take off (esp. of a hat)	.....
Don	put on (esp. of clothes)	.....
Erudition	learning; scholarly knowledge [<i>erudite (a)</i>]	.....
Plaintive	sad; mournful	.....
Suborn	bribe	.....
Tendentious	dogmatic; biased	.....
Tortuous	indirect; winding	.....
Verbiage	excessive or meaningless wordiness	.....

Group 4		Notes
Atonement	making amends for sin or crime [<i>atone (v)</i>]	.....
Complaisance	flexibility; willingness to please [<i>complaisant (a)</i>]	.....
Daguerreotype	forerunner of the photograph	.....
Fawn	behave in a sycophantic way; grovel [<i>fawning (a)</i>]	.....
Gregariousness	sociability; liking for crowds [<i>gregarious (a)</i>]	.....
Nascent	emerging; newly formed	.....
Paeon	praise; tribute (esp. in song)	.....
Reproof	scolding; criticism [<i>reprove (v)</i>]	.....
Scurvy	1. disease due to lack of vitamin C; 2. contemptible; rascally	.....
Tutelary	serving as a guardian [<i>tutelage (n)</i>]	.....

Group 5		Notes
Abscission	cutting; process causing leaves to fall off	.....
Contentious	causing argument [<i>contention (n)</i> ; <i>contend (v)</i>]	.....
Debilitating	weakening [<i>debilitate (v)</i>]	.....
Foible	quirk; minor weakness	.....
Importune	beg; solicit [<i>importunate (a)</i>]	.....
Pertain	be relevant to [<i>pertinent (a)</i>]	.....
Slew	glut; excess	.....
Toady	sycophant; flatterer	.....
Torrid	hot and steamy	.....
Veracious	true [<i>veracity (n)</i>]	.....

Group 6		Notes
Asperity	using harsh or critical tone	.....
Blowhard	boastful person	.....
Disingenuous	naïve	.....
Evanescent	short-lived [<i>evanescence (n)</i>]	.....
Intangible	cannot be touched; abstract [<i>intangibility (n)</i>]	.....
Labile	changing rapidly; unstable	.....
Malapropism	use of similar sounding but incorrect word	.....
Posture (v)	to put on an act	.....
Proximate	immediate; nearest	.....
Pugnacious	aggressive, ready to fight [<i>pugnacity (n)</i>]	.....

Group 7		Notes
Foreshadowed	indicated a future event [<i>foreshadow (v)</i>]	.....
Gaucherie	awkwardness [<i>gauche (a)</i>]	.....
Heterodox	unorthodox	.....
Inscrutability	quality of being difficult to comprehend [<i>inscrutable (a)</i>]	.....
Limerick	short amusing poem	.....
Mannered	stylized; pretentious	.....
Pluck (n)	courage	.....
Sedulous	persevering; eager and thorough	.....
Syllogism	type of logical reasoning	.....
Vicissitude	unexpected change in fortune or circumstances	.....

Group 8		Notes
Acolyte	disciple; follower or attendant	.....
Admonitory	scolding [<i>admonition (n)</i>]	.....
Caprices	whimsies; fancies	.....
Cornucopia	symbol (horn filled with fruit etc.) denoting natural abundance	.....
Deferential	showing respect [<i>deference (n)</i> ; <i>defer (v)</i>]	.....
Intractability	stubbornness; resistance [<i>intractable (a)</i>]	.....
Luminary	eminent person	.....
Minion	underling; servant	.....
Undergird	support; strengthen	.....
Vitiate	weaken; sap energy	.....

Group 9		Notes
Coterie	clique; small group with common interests	.....
Denigrate	decry; criticize; belittle	.....
Empirical	found by experiment or practice	.....
Gainsay	contradict	.....
Hyperbole	exaggeration [<i>hyperbolic (a)</i>]	.....
Modest	1. bashful; unpretentious; 2. not excessive	.....
Prolixity	wordiness [<i>prolix (a)</i>]	.....
Rebus	puzzle in which pictures give clues	.....
Sere	withered; old	.....
Vulpine	like a fox [compare with <i>bovine</i> (cow-like); <i>porcine</i> (pig-like), etc.]	.....

Group 10		Notes
Corroborate	give supporting evidence [<i>corroboration (n)</i>]	.....
Exacerbated	made worse [<i>exacerbate (v)</i> ; <i>exacerbation (n)</i>]	.....
Exact (v)	to demand; extort	.....
Faddish	whimsical; following a fashion	.....
Hapless	unlucky	.....
Misconstrue	put a wrong interpretation on something	.....
Perennial	long-lasting	.....
Rent	torn (past participle of the verb <i>to rend</i>)	.....
Shard	fragment of pottery	.....
Xenophobe	person afraid of foreigners	.....

Word list 13

Group 1		Notes
Alleviated	made less severe [<i>alleviation</i> (n); <i>alleviate</i> (v)]	.....
Apostrophe	1. punctuation mark; 2. appeal to someone not present (a figure of speech)	.....
Centurion	roman soldier (commander of a company of 100 soldiers)	.....
Emollient	softening (a); something which softens (n)	.....
Fusillade	long burst of gunfire	.....
Inerrancy	infallibility; inability to make mistakes [<i>inerrant</i> (a)]	.....
Mince	1. chop into small pieces; 2. walk with tiny steps, 3. speak in an affected manner	.....
Palpate	medical term meaning to examine with the hands	.....
Platitude	unoriginal, obvious saying	.....
Quibble	1. (v) to argue about minor matters; to play on words when finding fault; 2. (n) a minor verbal point in an argument	.....

Group 2		Notes
Apprehension	slight fear; sense of something unfavorable	.....
Conniving	cunning; scheming [<i>connive</i> (v)]	.....
Derision	mockery [<i>deride</i> (v)]	.....
Epigram	short, witty saying	.....
Lassitude	lack of energy; weariness	.....
Pedantic	over-insistent on matters of book-learning [<i>pedant</i> (n)]	.....
Phenomenology	branch of science concerned with things as they are perceived; not directly derived from theory	.....
Precipitate	1. hurried (a); 2. insoluble product of a reaction in chemistry (n), 3. to instigate or speed up an action (v)	.....
Renege	go back on promise or retract statement	.....
Apprehension	slight fear; sense of something unfavorable	.....

Group 3		Notes
Armada	fleet of ships	.....
Dawdler	slow person who falls behind others [<i>dawdle</i> (v)]	.....
Dross	something worthless; impurities left after refining	.....
Expiate	atone; make amends for	.....
Hack	1. chop roughly; 2. person who writes to earn money, 3. hired horse	.....
Prone	1. vulnerable to; 2. horizontal	.....
Propensity	tendency; inclination	.....
Scabbard	cover for a sword	.....
Skiff	small boat	.....
Umbrage	1. shadow; 2. offence; sense of injury	.....

Group 4		Notes
Dilettantism	dabbling esp. in the arts [<i>dilettante</i> (n) = person who dabbles]	.....
Enervate	weaken	.....
Malevolent	having evil intentions [<i>malevolence</i> (n)]	.....
Neophyte	new convert; tyro	.....
Panegyric	speech praising someone; laudatory words	.....
Presage	forewarn of; indicate	.....
Serration	jagged edge	.....
Slight	1. minor (a); 2. perceived insult (v) and (n)	.....
Tare	1. weed; 2. allowance made for container when weighing	.....
Unprepossessing	unattractive	.....

Group 5		Notes
Aberration	deviation from the normal	.....
Cant	insincere talk	.....
Disinter	dig up [opposite <i>inter</i> = bury]	.....
Façade	1. front elevation of building, 2. false appearance or demeanor	.....
Impeding	hindering [<i>impede</i> (v); <i>impediment</i> (n)]	.....
Lacuna	gap; missing part [plural = <i>lacunae</i>]	.....
Monolithic	united in purpose; forming a single unit	.....
Pied	multicolored	.....
Roster	list of names	.....
Seemly	appropriate (of behavior); decorous	.....

Group 6		Notes
Analogue	1. something similar; 2. output proportional to input (engineering)	.....
Coda	piece of music at the end of a musical work; finale; final part of document	.....
Commingle	mix	.....
Equivocal	ambiguous; open to interpretation [<i>equivocate</i> (v), <i>equivocation</i> (n)]	.....
Fallible	capable of making mistakes [<i>fallibility</i> (n)]	.....
Hallow	respect; worship	.....
Indigence	poverty	.....
Papyrus	material used for writing on before paper was invented	.....
Pique	1. annoyance (n); 2. to stimulate interest; to annoy (v)	.....
Sap	1. liquid inside plants (n); 2. to drain; to undermine (v); 3. a fool (n)	.....

Group 7		Notes
Arbitrator	mediator; person appointed to judge a dispute [<i>arbitrate</i> (v)]	.....
Descry	to see (esp. at a distance); catch sight of	.....
Facetious	not intended to be taken seriously	.....
Indecorous	unseemly; inappropriate (of behavior)	.....
Proliferate	grow and spread [<i>proliferation</i> (n)]	.....
Scotch (v)	to prevent; stop; disable	.....
Strut	1. supporting rod (n); 2. to walk in an arrogant manner; show off (v)	.....
Toy (v)	to play with	.....
Usury	lending money at high interest rates	.....
Wag (n)	a witty person	.....

Group 8		Notes
Atavism	reappearance of ancestral traits; regression [<i>atavistic</i> (a)]	.....
Filibuster	delaying tactics	.....
Gambit	opening move; transaction	.....
Mitigation	making less severe [<i>mitigate</i> (v)]	.....
Obligate	compulsory	.....
Predilection	leaning; interest; talent	.....
Propitiate	appease; try to gain favor [<i>propitiation</i> (n)]	.....
Stanch	to stop	.....
Travesty	parody; ridiculous error	.....
Waft	drift smoothly (v); whiff; smell (n)	.....

Group 9		Notes
Forage	search for food	.....
Lumber	1. walk in an ungainly way; 2. timber (wood)	.....
Muse	1. think; meditate (<i>v</i>); 2. a source of inspiration (<i>n</i>) [in mythology, a goddess who gives inspiration]	.....
Prescience	foreknowledge	.....
Prune	1. to trim; 2. a dried plum	.....
Ready	(used of wit) quick	.....
Resolve	firmness (<i>n</i>)	.....
Squalid	dirty and demeaning	.....
Sullied	made dirty or impure [opposite <i>unsullied</i> ; <i>sully</i> (<i>v</i>)]	.....
Veneration	worship; respect [<i>venerable</i> (<i>a</i>), <i>venerate</i> (<i>v</i>)]	.....

Group 10		Notes
Demur	object; hesitate to accept	.....
Duplicity	cunning; deception; double dealing	.....
Exigency	urgent matter; pressing need	.....
Expostulate	offer strong objections; remonstrate	.....
Gossamer	delicate; filmy; like gauze	.....
Inefficacious	ineffective	.....
Pine	1. type of evergreen tree; 2. grieve	.....
Prudish	narrow-minded; excessively concerned with morals [<i>prudery</i> (<i>n</i>), <i>prude</i> (<i>n</i>)]	.....
Quixotic	impractically idealistic	.....
Stipple	cover with dots of paint etc.	.....

Word list 14

Group 1		Notes
Abrasion	1. damage to skin caused by scraping; 2. process of scraping or rubbing [<i>abrade</i> (v)]	.....
Adumbrate	outline; indicate	.....
Cognitive	concerned with thinking or perceiving [<i>cognition</i> (n)]	.....
Deign	condescend	.....
Fervid	passionate	.....
Gall	1. bitterness (bad feeling); 2. confidence; 3. abnormal growth on a plant	.....
Levee	1. raised bank of a river; 2. morning reception held by a monarch	.....
Preternatural	unnatural; abnormal	.....
Quell	suppress	.....
Score (n)	written form of music	.....

Group 2		Notes
Abut	to adjoin	.....
Consternation	worry and concern	.....
Gavel	judge's hammer	.....
Lien	right to sell property held as a security; legal hold on job etc.	.....
Parenthesis	remarks deviating from the main point [<i>parentheses</i> are round brackets in punctuation]	.....
Sinewy	vigorous; having well-developed muscles [a <i>sinew</i> is a tendon]	.....
Steep (v)	to soak in water	.....
Tamp	to plug; press loose matter down tightly (e.g. pack explosives into a hole)	.....
Venturing	1. hazarding; risking; putting forward; 2. going somewhere [<i>venturesome</i> means courageous or willing to take risks]	.....
Wry	1. twisted or bent to one side; 2. dryly humorous	.....

Group 3		Notes
Arduous	hard	.....
Decimated	kill or destroy a large part of (originally one tenth)	.....
Fledge	1. grow feathers; 2. leave nest [<i>fledgling (n)</i> = an inexperienced person or a baby bird]	.....
Gouge	cut or dig out	.....
Picayune	insignificant; of little value	.....
Riveting	fascinating [<i>to rivet</i> literally means to fix metal plates using metal pins]	.....
Soliloquy	solo speech	.....
Supplicant	person who requests or begs for something [<i>supplicate (v)</i>]	.....
Transcendental	supernatural; going beyond normal experience [<i>transcendent (a)</i>]	.....
Veritable	true; genuine [<i>verity (n)</i>]	.....

Group 4		Notes
Condescension	talking down to someone [<i>condescending (a)</i>]	.....
Divest	remove; take off	.....
Eddy	circular current	.....
Epaulet	shoulder decoration	.....
Fallacy	wrong idea [<i>fallacious (a)</i>]	.....
Fringe	1. decorative border with tassels (<i>n</i>); 2. to form an edge (<i>v</i>)	.....
Leaven	to make light; modify; cause bread to rise using yeast etc.	.....
Patronize	1. to talk down to; condescend; 2. to be a customer of	.....
Prominent	1. eminent; 2. protruding; 3. obvious	.....
Statute	law [<i>statutory (a)</i>]	.....

Group 5		Notes
Antipathy	hatred	.....
Aver	affirm	.....
Expatriate	speak or write at great length	.....
Flag (v)	1. to lose energy; 2. to signal	.....
Flail	1. tool used to thresh grain; 2. to thresh (separate grain from chaff); 3. to wave arms about wildly	.....
Indicted	accused (of crime)	.....
Loll	laze around; hang out (when used of the tongue)	.....
Malign	slander	.....
Secure (v)	1. to fix firmly; 2. to obtain	.....
Talon	long pointed nail or claw	.....

Group 6		Notes
Abeyance	state of inactivity; disuse	.....
Disarm	1. take away weapons; 2. win over to one's side [<i>disarming (a)</i>]	.....
Elaborate	1. complex and detailed (<i>a</i>); 2. to expand on (<i>v</i>)	.....
Foment	1. stir up; 2. bathe with hot liquids (medical)	.....
Jockeying	maneuvering; struggling to get ahead of others [<i>jockey (v)</i>]	.....
Minutiae	small details	.....
Rue	regret [<i>rueful (a)</i>]	.....
Somatic	concerned with the body	.....
Stinting	holding back; limiting the supply (of supplies/money etc.) [<i>stint (v)</i>]	.....
Temperate	moderate	.....

Group 7		Notes
Allure	1. attraction (<i>n</i>); 2. to attract (<i>v</i>)	.....
Caulk	treat with substance such as tar to make water-tight	.....
Conscript	1. person enlisted compulsorily into the armed forces; 2. (<i>v</i>) to enlist compulsorily	.....
Desultory	aimless; inconsistent in effort	.....
Elegy	poem concerned with death; praise of a dead person	.....
Fallow	uncultivated	.....
Forbearing	tolerant [<i>forbear</i> (<i>v</i>); <i>forbearance</i> (<i>n</i>)]	.....
Hegemony	political domination; complete authority	.....
Improbability	lack of honesty or integrity	.....
Qualm	hesitation or fear	.....

Group 8		Notes
Assay	1. try; 2. assess purity	.....
Chauvinist	someone excessively patriotic [<i>chauvinism</i> (<i>n</i>)]	.....
Discrete	separate; discontinuous (not to be confused with <i>discreet</i> - prudent; diplomatic)	.....
Enlist	1. sign up for the army; 2. obtain	.....
Fabricated	made up; false; manufactured [<i>fabricate</i> (<i>v</i>); <i>fabrication</i> (<i>n</i>)]	.....
Fulminate	1. attack loudly in words; denounce thunderously; 2. explode noisily	.....
Hawser	thick rope or cable	.....
Jibe	agree with; complement; match up with (in British usage <i>jibe</i> means mock)	.....
Peer	1. an equal; 2. to stare at; 3. nobleman	.....
Stickler	one who is strict about rules or details	.....

Group 9		Notes
Cloture	closure; terminating a debate by voting	.....
Congruent	matching [<i>congruency (n)</i>]	.....
Dally	waste time; flirt	.....
Dissemble	avoid the truth	.....
Dote	be excessively fond of [<i>doting (a)</i>]	.....
Errant	1. wandering; 2. wrong; 3. straying from accepted standards	.....
Fervent	passionate	.....
Stomach (v)	to tolerate	.....
Synapse	junction between two nerve cells	.....
Undercutting	offering a lower price; undermining	.....

Group 10		Notes
Arson	deliberate, criminal starting of fires	.....
Carrion	dead flesh; carcasses	.....
Intelligible	can be understood	.....
Ironclad	cannot be altered; firm	.....
Lint	fluff; soft material used to cover wounds	.....
Pretension	assumed attitude of superiority; arrogance	.....
Pundit	expert	.....
Pyre	ceremonial fire	.....
Sate	satisfy	.....
Syncopation	type of musical rhythm with missed beats

Advanced vocabulary development

Ages
18+

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Word list 15

Group 1		Notes
Abraded	worn away; eroded [<i>abrade</i> (v); <i>abrasion</i> (n)]
Apposite	fitting; suitable
Diatribes	tirade; violent denunciation; stream of criticism	.....
Gerontocracy	government by the aged	.....
Maculated	spotted	.....
Quisling	traitor	.....
Sedulity	thoroughness; perseverance [<i>sedulous</i> (a)]	.....
Seine	type of fishing net	.....
Tender	to offer	.....
Waffle	talk nonsense	.....

Group 2		Notes
Burlesque	1. comic play; 2. lampoon	.....
Exemplar	model type [<i>exemplary</i> (a)]	.....
Homiletics	art of preaching and giving sermons	.....
Impugn	challenge; question someone's honor etc.	.....
Incubus	encumbrance; nightmarish thing	.....
Lope	run with long strides	.....
Macerate	chop into tiny pieces	.....
Nostrum	remedy	.....
Saw	1. tool for cutting; 2. wise saying	.....
Sibyl	prophetess	.....

Group 3		Notes
Brook	1. small stream; 2. tolerate	.....
Emboss	decorate with a raised design	.....
Eschew	shun; avoid	.....
Limpid	transparently clear	.....
Liturgy	form of worship	.....
Nexus	connection	.....
Odometer	instrument to measure distance covered	.....
Purchase	1. grip; 2. buy	.....
Quotidian	daily; routine	.....
Seminal	essential; formative	.....

Group 4		Notes
Agog	amazed; wide-eyed with enthusiasm	.....
Amortize	pay off a debt in installments	.....
Curmudgeon	grumpy person	.....
Dormancy	state of inactivity	.....
Efficacy	effectiveness	.....
Epithet	phrase used as a label or to express the essential nature of	.....
Figurehead	symbol of power; nominal leader	.....
Fracas	fight; disturbance	.....
Jamb	door post	.....
Milk	to squeeze; obtain by application of pressure	.....

Group 5		<u>Notes</u>
Chorales	simple hymns	.....
Dissonance	discord; disagreement	.....
Frieze	decorative border	.....
Gist	essence; main point	.....
Latent	hidden; real but undeveloped	.....
Partiality	bias	.....
Plodding	walking slowly and heavily; uninspired	.....
Rekindle	relight; revive	.....
Symphony	type of musical composition	.....
Tarnished	made dull; spoil (reputation)	.....

Group 6		<u>Notes</u>
Compromised	1. damaged or put in doubt (esp. of reputation); 2. reached an agreement by giving up part of a claim	.....
Drabness	dullness	.....
Endow	give gift; provide with money etc.	.....
Esoterica	obscure details	.....
Falters	hesitates	.....
Prattle	mindless talk	.....
Prohibitive	1. prohibiting; 2. exorbitantly expensive	.....
Purist	conservative; one who insists on correct forms of language etc.	.....
Quack	charlatan; fake	.....
Taunt	mock; tease	.....

Group 7		Notes
Arresting (<i>a</i>)	attracting attention; striking	.....
Barrage	extended gunfire to cover an attack; dam across river; deluge or information etc.	.....
Chantey	type of song sung by sailors	.....
Ferrous	concerned with iron or its compounds	.....
Manipulative	scheming	.....
Orate	speak in a pompous manner	.....
Psychosis	severe mental disturbance	.....
Savor	enjoy	.....
Table (<i>v</i>)	put down for future discussion	.....
Underwrite	give guarantee, insure	.....

Group 8		Notes
Dissident	person who disagrees [<i>dissidence (n)</i>]	.....
Enigmatic	puzzling [<i>enigma (n)</i>]	.....
Foolhardy	reckless [<i>foolhardiness (n)</i>]	.....
Homogeneity	evenness; uniformity	.....
Personification	1. represent something as a person; 2. a concrete example of	.....
Plaque	1. surface deposit on teeth or in artery etc.; 2. decorative plate or sign	.....
Plausibility	believability [<i>plausible (a)</i>]	.....
Resilience	resistance; ability to spring back [<i>resilience (a)</i>]	.....
Trilogy	set of three (literary works etc.); <i>tetralogy</i> = set of four	.....
Vagary	something unaccountable; freak	.....

Group 9		Notes
Aisle	corridor; passageway (esp. between rows of seats)	.....
Discountenance	disallow	.....
Imperative	must be obeyed	.....
Indigent	poor; needy [<i>indigence (n)</i>]	.....
Nadir	lowest point	.....
Paranoia	mental state characterized by delusions or excessive fear	.....
Prudence	caution; wisdom	.....
Resuscitation	revival from unconsciousness [<i>resuscitate (v)</i>]	.....
Shirk	avoid (esp. work)	.....
Teetotalism	total abstinence from alcohol	.....

Group 10		Notes
Balm	soothing ointment or anything soothing [<i>balmy (a)</i>]	.....
Calibrate	mark an accurate scale on a device	.....
Cataclysmic	violently disruptive [<i>cataclysm (n)</i>]	.....
Impropriety	inappropriate behavior	.....
Pith	center; soft part of stem; essence	.....
Primordial	present from the beginning of time	.....
Reconnaissance	examination or survey conducted in advance [<i>reconnoiter (v)</i>]	.....
Sinistral	left-handed (or counterclockwise) [<i>dextral</i> - right handed]	.....
Tempers	moderates	.....
Undermine	subvert; attempt to overthrow	.....