

P

1. pacemaker – an artificial device for stimulating and regulating the heart muscle
2. pachyderm – a thick skinned animal
3. pacifist – a person who is opposed to war
4. paddock – the enclosed area where horses are paraded and mounted before a race
5. paeon – a song of thanksgiving or triumph
6. pageant – ceremony; extravaganza; parade; procession
7. palaeontology – the study of fossils
8. palatable – appetizing; mouth-watering; delicious
9. palatial – grand; elegant; luxurious
10. palaver – a talk or discussion; idle copious talk
11. palette – a little board or plate on which a painter mixes colours
12. pall – melancholy; to weaken or weary
13. pallet – a small or poorly furnished bed; a mattress, or couch, properly a mattress of straw
14. palliate – justify; mitigate; alleviate; reduce
15. pallid – pale; tedious; dull; wan
16. pally – having a close, friendly relationship
17. palpable – noticeable; apparent; perceptible

18. palpitate – to beat rapidly; to pulsate; to pump; to throb
19. paltry – meager, mean; petty; trifling
20. panacea – a cure for all things
21. panache – plume; distinction; splendor; style
22. pandemic – affecting a whole people, epidemic over a wide area
23. pandemonium – any very disorderly or noisy place or assembly; tumultuous uproar
24. pander – to minister to the passions; to indulge; gratify
25. panegyric – a eulogy; laudation
26. panjandrum – an imaginary figure of great power and self-importance
27. panoply – a complete armor; a full suit of armor
28. panorama – tableau; perspective; a wide or complete view
29. pantomime – a play or an entertainment in mime; a situation of fuss, farce or confusion
30. papyrus – the paper-reed
31. parable – a fable or story told to illustrate some doctrine or moral point
32. paradigm – an example; model

33. paradox – a contradictory statement; something which is apparently absurd but is or may be really true
34. paragon – a model of perfection or supreme excellence
35. parallelism – similarity; the state or fact of being parallel; resemblance in corresponding details
36. parameter – limit; boundary; demarcation
37. paranoia – anxiety; fear; suspicion; a form of mental disorder characterized by constant delusion
38. paranoiac – a victim of paranoia
39. parapet – a long wall or edge along the side of a roof; a wall to protect soldiers from the fire of an enemy in front
40. paraphernalia – belongings; baggage; equipment
41. paraphrase – expression of the same thing in other words
42. parasite – sycophant; blood-sucker
43. parched – very dry; very thirsty
44. pare – to cut; to reduce; to cut off the outer surface or edge of
45. paregoric – a medicine that soothes pain
46. pariah – a person of low or no cast
47. parity – equality in status; parallelism
48. parlance – speaking; conversation

49. parley – conference; discussion; to confer
50. parody – satirical imitation; mockery
51. parole – conditional release of a prisoner
52. paroxysm – a fit of acute pain; any sudden violent action; a fit of passion, laughter, coughing, etc.
53. parricide – the murder of a parent or near relative
54. parry – to keep off; to turn aside; to deflect or avert
55. parsimonious – miserly; avaricious; niggardly
56. partial – not total or entire; relating to a part only; fractional
57. partiality – favourism; inclination to favour to one person or party
58. partisan – biased; prejudiced; adherence; partial
59. parturition – the act of giving birth
60. parvenu – someone newly risen into wealth, notice or power; an upstart
61. passé – out of date; no longer fashionable
62. pastoral – relating to rural life or country side
63. pathology – the study of diseases or of the changes in tissues or organs that are associated with disease
64. pathos – the quality that arouses pity; sympathy; feeling
65. patois – regional spoken dialect; jargon

66. patrimony – an inheritance from a father or from ancestors
67. patron – a person who gives financial or other support to a person
68. paucity – lack; scarcity; shortage
69. pauper – a person without means, beggar
70. pecuniary – relating to money; consisting of money; monetary
71. pedagogue – a teacher; a pedant
72. pedant – intellectual; scholar; a pedagogue; a person who values academic learning too highly
73. pedestal – the support of a column, statue, vase, etc.
74. pedestrian – on foot; related to walking; flat or commonplace
75. paediatrician – an expert in the treatment of children's diseases
76. pediment – a triangular structure crowning the front of a building
77. pejorative – degrading; derogatory; disparaging
78. pell-mell – helter-skelter; confusedly; headlong
79. pellucid – perfectly clear; transparent
80. penance – atonement; repentance
81. penchant – a liking or inclination

82. pendant – anything hanging (mostly ornament)
83. pendent – hanging; drooping
84. penitent – sorrow for past sin and feeling a desire to reform; contrite; repentant
85. pendulous – hanging loosely; swinging freely; suspended from the top
86. penitentiary – penal and reformatory; relating to penance
87. pennant – banner; a long narrow flag; a signaling or identifying flag
88. pinnate – feathered; winged
89. pensive – expressing thoughtfulness with sadness; meditative
90. penurious – miserly; parsimonious; stingy
91. penury – poverty; want; destitution
92. perambulate – walk through
93. perceptive – capable of perceiving, sensitive, discerning
94. percussion – striking; impact
95. perdition – utter loss or ruin; hell
96. peremptory – final; admitting no refusal or denial
97. perfidious – faithless; treacherous; unfaithful; deceitful
98. perforce – of necessity; by force

99. perfunctory – done merely as a duty to be got through; acting without zeal or interest; merely formal
100. peregrination – travelling about; wandering; a sojourn abroad
101. peremptory – final; ultimate; arrogantly commanding
102. perennial – growing constantly; perpetual; undying; continual
103. perfidious – deceitful; unfaithful; faithless; treacherous
104. perfidy – faithlessness
105. perigee – the point of the moon's, or any artificial satellite's orbit at which it is nearest the earth
106. perimeter – boundary; the outer edge of an area
107. peripatetic – walking about; itinerant
108. periphery – a surrounding region; the outside of anything
109. periphrasis – circumlocution; round-about expression
110. perique – a strongly-flavored tobacco
111. peritrich – a bacterium bearing a ring of cilia around the body
112. perjury – false swearing; dishonesty
113. perlustrate – to traverse and inspect

114. permeable – allowing through the pores;
penetrable; porous
115. permeate – to pass through the pores of; to
penetrate; to pervade
116. pernicious – deadly; detrimental; destructive; highly
injurious
117. pernod – an alcoholic drink flavored with aniseed
118. peroration – the conclusion of a speech, a summing
up; a rhetorical performance
119. perpetrate – to commit; to execute
120. perpetual – continuously blooming; never ceasing;
endless
121. perquisite – an incidental benefit from one's
employment; benefit apart from salary
122. perseverance – continued application to anything
which one has begun; the act of persevering
123. persiflage – banter; flippancy
124. personable – of good appearance, attractive; easy
to get on with, likeable; friendly
125. persona muto – a character in an opera who neither
speaks nor sings
126. persona non grata – a person who is not acceptable
or disliked
127. perspicacious – astute; perceptive; keen

128. perspicuity – the state of perspicuousness
129. pert – open; unconcealed; impudent
130. pertinacious – thoroughly tenacious; holding obstinately to an opinion or a purpose
131. pertinent – related; appropriate; suitable; fitting
132. perturb – upset; bother; to disturb greatly; to agitate
133. perusal – read or study thoroughly or carefully
134. peruse – to read attentively or critically; to study; to examine in detail
135. pervade – to pass through; to diffuse; to permeate
136. perverse – mulish; irascible; recalcitrant; stubborn
137. pesade – a dressage manoeuvre in which a horse rears up on its hind legs without forward movement
138. pessimism – a tendency to look on the dark side of things; suspicion; discouragement
139. pestilential – of the nature of pestilence; destructive; pestering
140. petrify – to fix in fear, horror, amazement, etc; frighten; to encrust with stony matter; solidify
141. pettle – to pet
142. petty – small; of little or less importance; trivial; small-minded

143. petulant – showing impatience; irritative; peevish;
surly
144. pharaoh – a title of the kings of ancient Egypt
145. phenobarbitone – a sedative and hypnotic drug
146. phenomena – events that may be observed;
happenings; incidents
147. phial – a container for liquids
148. philander – to flirt or have casual affairs with
women
149. philatelist – the collection and study of postage
stamps
150. philanthropist – someone who tries to benefit
mankind
151. philology – the science of language especially of its
historical development, historical linguistics
152. phlegmatic – languid; lethargic; sluggish;
unemotional
153. phobia – fear; aversion; anxiety; worry
154. physiognomy – the art of judging character from
appearance; the general appearance of anything
155. physiological – relating to the science of processes
of life in animals and plants
156. picaresque – the tales of a rogue and vagabond life

157. piebald – black and white in patches;
heterogeneous
158. pied – variegated like a magpie; of various colours
159. pillage – loot; rob; to plunder
160. pinion – to confine by holding or binding the arms
161. pinnacle – the highest point; summit; acme
162. pioneer – an initiator of a new enterprise, an
inventor, etc.
163. pious – religious; sanctimonious; devout; faithful
164. piquant – pungent; spicy; appetizing; stimulating
165. pique – animosity or ill-feeling; a feeling of anger or
vexation caused by wounded pride
166. piscatorial – fishing; relating to fish or fishermen
167. pithy – sententious and masterful; concise
168. pittance – a miserable wage; a very small portion or
quantity
169. placate – pacify; assuage; to calm; to mollify
170. placid – displaying calmness of nature, not easily
disturbed or angered; serene
171. plagiarize – to steal from (the writings or ideas of
another); forge; lift
172. plaintive – pathetic; sad; sorrowful; mournful
173. plangent – resounding; resonant; resounding
mournfully

174. platitude – an empty remark made as if it were important; banality; flatness
175. platonic – spiritual; idealistic; incorporeal
176. plauditory – applaudable; praise best owed, enthusiastic approval
177. plausible – logical; feasible; possible
178. plebeian – of the common people; common
179. plebiscite – an ascertainment of general opinion on any matter; a direct vote of the whole nation or of the people on a special point
180. plenary – full; absolute; complete; to be attended by all members or delegates
181. plenipotentiary – having or conferring full powers; person invested with full powers
182. plenitude – fullness; completeness; plentifulness
183. plethora – plenty; abundance; in large amounts
184. plumb – a heavy mass hung on a string to show a vertical line, or for some other purpose; to hold vertically
185. podiatrist – a specialist in the treatment of the disorders of the foot
186. podium – a platform; dais
187. poignant – intense; touching; pathetic; stinging
188. polemic – argument; controversy

189. politic – judicious; prudent; discreet
190. polity – political organization; a body of people organized under a system of government
191. poltroon – a despicable coward
192. polygamist – one who marries more than one person at a time
193. polyglot – relating to speaking or writing many languages; one who speaks or writes many languages
194. ponderous – heavy; weighty; bulky
195. pontificate – pretend to be infallible, be pompously dogmatic
196. pore – opening; orifice; a minute passage or interstice, especially the opening of a sweat-gland
197. porphyry – a very hard, variegated rock of a purple and white colour, used in sculpture
198. portend – to warn of as something to come; to forecast; to indicate
199. portent – an evil omen; the quality of being portentous, ominousness
200. portentous – ominous; prodigious; threatening
201. portly – having a dignified bearing or mien; stout
202. posterity – succeeding generations; successors; future generations

203. posthumous – born after the father's death;
published after the author's or composer's death
204. post prandial – after dinner
205. postulate – fundamental principle; hypothesis;
submit
206. potable – fit to drink
207. potentate – a powerful ruler; a monarch
208. potential – ability; talent; capability
209. potion – a draught of liquid medicine; elixir; brew
210. potpourri – a fragrant mixture of dried petals,
leaves, etc. used to scent a room; a literary production
of uncomposed parts; a miscellany
211. poultice – a hot semi-liquid mixture spread on a
bandage and applied to the skin to reduce inflammation
212. practicable – capable of being done; carried out or
accomplished, feasible
213. practical – realistic; pragmatic; useful
214. pragmatic – fundamental; basic; realistic; sensible
215. prate – to talk boastfully or insolently; to talk
foolishly or sententiously
216. prattle – to talk idly and volubly; to utter baby talk
217. preamble – an introduction; a preface; a prologue; a
prelude

218. precarious – unstable; uncertain; depending on chance; insecure; delicate
219. precedence – the act of going before in time; priority; the fact of being before in rank
220. precedent – the original of a copy; model; preceding; former; previous
221. precept – a rule of action; an instruction in moral conduct; principle; an axiom; law
222. preceptor – a teacher or instructor
223. precinct – a division for police or electoral purposes; a place around a building
224. preciousness – fastidious over-refinement
225. precipice – a high vertical or nearly vertical cliff or rock face
226. precipitate – to accelerate; to hurl headlong; abrupt; hasty; hurried; a substance separated from solution or suspension, falling and settling at the bottom as a solid deposit
227. precipitation – the amount of rainfall; impulsive action; great hurry
228. precipitous – steep; sheer
229. précis – an abstract; a summary
230. precise – definite; accurate; exact

231. precision – the quality of being precise; exactness; accuracy
232. preclude – to hinder by anticipation, counteract in advance; to prevent; to stop; to curb; to obstruct
233. precocious – strikingly advanced or mature in mental development, speech, social behavior, etc.
234. precursor – a forerunner, herald or harbinger; a predecessor
235. predatory – killing and feeding on others
236. predecessor – the person who precede one in one's job or position
237. predilection – preference or special liking; fondness; attraction
238. pre-eminent – distinguished; notable; prominent
239. pre-empt – to secure by pre-emption; to forestall or thwart
240. prefatory – introductory; serving as a preface or introduction
241. prehensile – capable of grasping or holding
242. prelude – preface; anything said as a face of introduction; an event that precedes and prepares the ground for one more momentous
243. premeditate – to plan or think out beforehand

244. premier – the first in importance, order, or time, of earliest creation
245. premonition – a feeling that something is going to happen before it actually does
246. premonitory – conveying a warning or premonition
247. preponderate – to ponder beforehand
248. preposterous – utterly absurd; contrary to the order of nature or reason
249. prerogative – a privilege that is exclusive to a person, group, etc; a right arising out of one's rank, position or office
250. presage – to portend; to forebode; to foretell
251. prescience – fore-knowledge; foresight
252. presentiment – a premonition or foreboding
253. preponderance – excess in number; weighing more
254. prestige – dignity; status; position
255. presto – (music) in a quick tempo
256. presumptuous – tending to presume; impertinently bold
257. pretentious – pompous; showy, ostentatious; snobbish
258. preternatural – abnormal; out of the ordinary course of nature
259. pretext – excuse; reason

260. prevail – to win through; to have an edge over; to persuade; to influence
261. prevaricate – to avoid stating the truth or coming directly to the point; to lie
262. prim – formal; nicely dressed; prudish
263. primogeniture – the right of inheritance of the first-born child; the circumstance of being first-born
264. prima-donna – a person, especially a woman, who is temperamental, over-sensitive and hard to please
265. prime – adulthood; the best part; the chief minister of a state; chief; first in order of rank or importance
266. primordial – existing from the beginning; original; rudimentary
267. primp – to tidy or smarten; to dress; to adorn
268. pristine – original; primitive; fresh, clean; untouched; undefiled
269. privation – destitution; poverty; the state of being deprived of something
270. privy – familiar; inmate; a lavatory, especially in its own shed or outhouse
271. probation – a preliminary time to allow suitability or unsuitability; testing
272. probe – to examine searchingly; investigate; investigation; inspection

273. probity – honour; character
274. problematic – of the nature of a problem; complex; questionable
275. proboscis – a trunk or long snout; a trunk-like process such as the suctorial mouth-parts of some insects; a nose
276. proclivity – inclination; propensity
277. procrastinate – to put off what should be done immediately; to defer action
278. proctor – an officer at certain universities, appointed annually and having mainly disciplinary functions
279. prod – to goad; to provoke; to poke
280. prodigal – extravagant; lavish; wasteful
281. prodigious – more than usually large in size or degree
282. prodigy – a person or thing that causes great wonder; a child of precocious genius or virtuosity
283. profane – debase; desecrate; blasphemous
284. profligate – dissolute; lascivious; prodigal; extravagant
285. profusion – the state of being profuse; extravagance; prodigality
286. progenitor – an ancestor; a forefather

287. progeny – offspring; descendants
288. prognathous – with a projecting jaw
289. prognosis – a forecasting or forecast, especially of the course of a disease
290. prognosticate – to foretell; to indicate the coming of
291. projectile – a missile; a body projected by force
292. proletariat – the poorest laboring class; the wage-earning class
293. prolific – reproductive; abundant; producing many works
294. prolix – long and wordy
295. promenade – a walk, ride or drive, for pleasure, show or gentle exercise
296. promiscuous – abandoned; careless; confusedly or indiscriminately mixed
297. promise – an undertaking to do or keep from doing something
298. promontory – a high cape; a projection, ridge or eminence
299. promulgate – to announce publicly; to put into effect by proclamation; to make widely known
300. prone – liable; apt; likely

301. prophylactic – guarding against disease; something that prevents disease
302. propagate – to breed; to multiply; to spread from one to another
303. propellant – something which propels
304. propensity – inclination; liking
305. propinquity – nearness
306. propitiate – appease; pacify; to render favourable
307. propitious – favourable; auspicious
308. propound – to offer for consideration
309. propriety – appropriateness; seemliness; decency; conformity with good manners
310. propulsive – of a force causing forward movement
311. prorogue – to postpone; to prolong
312. prosaic – relating to prose; routine; ordinary; everyday
313. proscenium – the front part of the stage
314. proscribe – to prohibit; to disallow; to outlaw; to ban
315. proselytize – to convert
316. proselyte – someone who has changed from one religion or opinion to another
317. prospects – outlooks on the probable future; chances

318. prospectus – synopsis; an outline of the plan; an account of the organization; report
319. prosper – thrive; succeed; progress
320. prosperous – affluent; rich; wealthy
321. prosody – the study of versification
322. prostrate – lying or bent with one's face on the ground; lying at length, with the body stretched out; lying at someone's mercy
323. protagonist – the chief actor, character or combatant
324. protean – readily assuming different shapes; variable; inconstant
325. protégé – a pupil; a ward; someone under the protection or patronage of another person
326. protocol – the regulations, customs, etiquette, etc. to be observed by any group or on any occasion
327. prototype – the first or original type or model from which anything is copied; pattern
328. protract – to postpone; to lengthen in time; to prolong
329. protracted – prolong or lengthen in space
330. protrude – to thrust or push out or forward; to obtrude; to extend
331. provenance – source

332. provender – dry food for animals such as hay or corn
333. provident – farsighted; thoughtful; prudent; thrifty
334. provincial – relating to a province; local
335. provisional – conditional; temporary; adopted on the understanding that it may be changed later
336. proviso – any condition; clauses; a provision or condition in a deed or other writing
337. provoke – to excite with anger; to irritate; to incite
338. proximity – very nearby; immediate nearness in place; relationship, etc.
339. proxy – representation; substitute
340. prude – a person of priggish or affected modesty; a puritan; someone who has or pretends to have extreme propriety
341. prudent – cautious; careful; judicious; economical
342. prune – to remove anything superfluous from; to cur; reduce
343. prurient – having an unhealthy interest in sexual matters; arousing sexual interest
344. pseudonym – a fictitious name assumed e.g. by an author; alias
345. psoriasis – a skin disease marked by red, itchy, scaly patches

346. psyche – nature; the soul, spirit or mind
347. psychiatrist – a person who is medically qualified to treat diseases of the mind
348. psychopathic – pertaining to psychopathy or the behavior or condition of a psychopath
349. psychosis – a serious mental disorder; mental confusion and a lack of insight on the part of the patient into his or her condition
350. pterodactyl – a fossil flying reptile with large and bird-like skull, long jaws and a flying membrane attached to the long fourth digit of the forelimb
351. pueblo – a communal habitation of the Indians of New Mexico, etc.
352. puerile – childish; juvenile; pertaining to children
353. pugilist – a boxer
354. pugnacious – given to fighting; combative; belligerent; quarrelsome
355. puissant – powerful
356. pulchritude – beauty
357. pule – cry in a complaining or weak way
358. pulmonary – of the lungs or respiratory cavity; leading to or from the lungs
359. pulsate – to beat, throb; to change repeatedly in force or intensity

360. pummel – to beat, pound or thump, especially with the fists
361. punctilious – scrupulous and exact; attentive to etiquette and punctilios
362. pundit – any learned person
363. pungency – bitter; acrid; keenly touching the mind
364. punitive – of punishment
365. puny – trivial; petty
366. purblind – nearly blind; dim-sighted
367. purgatory – purifying; cleansing; expiatory
368. purge – to purify; to empty the bowels frequently
369. purloin – to lift; to snatch; to steal
370. purport – gist; the meaning conveyed; to give out as its meaning; intention
371. pursuance – the carrying out of a plan or action
372. purveyor – someone whose business is to provide food or meals
373. purview – field of activity or view; range; scope
374. pusillanimous – cowardly; gutless; lacking firmness or determination
375. putative – reputed
376. putrefy – to cause to rot; decay
377. putrid – rotten; wretchedly bad; stinking

378. pyre – a pile of combustible material for burning a dead body
379. pyromania – an obsessive urge to set light to things
380. pyromaniac – one who has obsessive urge to set light to things

