

## A

**Acerbic** (uh-'sur-bik) *Adjective* • sharply or biting critical, sarcastic, or ironic in temper, mood, or tone

**Acrid** ('ak-rid) *Adjective* • sharp or biting to the taste or smell; bitterly pungent; irritating to the eyes, nose, etc.: acrid smoke from burning rubber. • extremely or sharply stinging or bitter; exceedingly caustic

**Antipathy** (an-'tip-uh-thee) *Noun*

• a natural, basic, or habitual repugnance; aversion

**Ascetic** (as-'cet-ic) *Adjective* • practicing strict self-denial as a measure of personal and especially spiritual discipline

**August** (aw-'guhst) *Adjective* • inspiring reverence or admiration; of supreme dignity or grandeur; majestic; venerable; eminent

## B

**Bellicose** ('bel-i-kohs) *Adjective* • inclined or eager to fight; aggressively hostile; belligerent; pugnacious

**Brinkmanship** ('brink-man-ship)

*Noun* • the art or practice of pushing a dangerous situation or confrontation to the limit of safety especially to force a desired outcome

## C

**Cabaret** (kab-uh-'rey) *Noun* • a restaurant providing food, drink, music, a dance floor, and often a floor show • a café that serves food and drink and offers entertainment often of an improvisatory, satirical, and top-

ical nature

**Coup de grâce** (kooduh-'grahs) *Noun* • a death blow, especially one delivered mercifully to end suffering • any finishing or decisive stroke

## D

**Demagogue** ('dem-uh-gog) *Noun* • a person, especially an orator or political leader, who gains power and

popularity by arousing the emotions, passions, and prejudices of the people

## E

**Eclectic** (ih-'klek-tik) *Adjective* • selecting or choosing from various sources. • not following any one system, as of philosophy, medicine, etc., but selecting and using what are considered the best elements of all systems

**Edify** ('ed-uh-fahy) *Verb* • to instruct or benefit, especially morally or

spiritually; uplift

**Effervescent** (ef-er-'ves-uhnt) *Adjective* • effervescing; bubbling • vivacious; merry; lively; sparkling

**Epistemology** (ih-pis-tuh-'mol-uh-jee) *Noun* • a branch of philosophy that investigates the origin, nature, methods, and limits of human knowledge

**Excoriate** (ik-'skawr-ee-eyt) *Verb* • to censure strongly; denounce • to criticize (something) harshly • to strip off or remove the skin from

**Expatriate** (eks-'pey-tree-eyt) *Verb* • to send into exile • to remove (one-self) from residence in one's native

land

**Expropriation** (ex-pro-pri-a-tion) *Noun* • the taking over of private property by a government, often without fair compensation but usually with a legal assertion that the government has a right to do so

## G

**Gamut** ('gam-ut) *Noun* • the whole series of recognized musical

notes • an entire range or series

## H

**Hagiography** (hag-ee-'og-ruh-fee) *Noun* • the writing and critical study of the lives of the saints; hagiology. • a biography that treats the person with

excessive or undue admiration.

**Harrowing** ('har-oh-ing) *Adjective* • extremely disturbing or distressing; grievous

## I

**Iconoclast** (ahy-'kon-uh-klast) *Noun* • a person who attacks cherished beliefs, traditional institutions, etc., as being based on error or superstition • a breaker or destroyer of images, especially those set up for religious veneration.

**Impertinent** (im-'pur-tn-uhnt) *Adjective* • intrusive or presumptuous,

as persons or their actions; insolently rude; uncivil

**Incognita** (in-kog-'nee-tuh) *Adjective* • (of a woman or girl) incognito

**Incorrigible** ('in-kawr-i-juh-buhl) *Adjective* • not reformable • not manageable

**Ingrate** ('in-grety) *Noun* • an ungrateful person

## L

**Lampoon** (lam-'poon) *Noun* • a sharp, often virulent satire directed

against an individual or institution; a work of literature

## M

**Matrimony** ('ma-truh-moh-nee) *Noun* • the state of being married; marriage • the rite, ceremony, or sacrament of marriage

**Maw** (maw) *Noun* • the mouth, stomach, jaws, or gullet of a voracious animal, especially a carnivore • the

opening into something felt to be insatiable

**Mea culpa** ('mey-uh -'kuhl-puh) *Noun* • an acknowledgment of one's responsibility for a fault or error

**Minx** (minx) *Noun* • a pert, impudent, or flirtatious girl

**Mordant** ('mor-dant) *Adjective* • sharply caustic or sarcastic, as wit or

a speaker; biting

## N

**Nomenclature** ('noh-muhn-kley-cher) *Noun* • a set or system of names or terms, as those used in a particu-

lar science or art, by an individual or community, etc • the names or terms comprising a set or system.

## O

**Opprobrium** (uh-'proh-bree-uhm) *Noun* • disgrace arising from

exceedingly shameful conduct; ignomiy • a cause of shame or disgrace

## P

**Patrimony** ('pa-truh-moh-nee) *Noun* • an estate inherited from one's father or ancestors.

**Preponderant** ('pri-pon-der-uhnt) *Adjective* • superior in weight, force, influence, numbers, etc.; prevailing

**Prerogative** (pri-'rog-uh-tiv) *Noun* • an exclusive right, privilege, etc., exercised by virtue of rank, office, or the like

**Proletariat** (proh-li-'tair-ee-uhnt) *Noun* • the class of wage earners, especially those who earn their living by manual labor or who are dependent for support on daily or casual employment; the working class. • (in Marxist theory) the class of workers, espe-

cially industrial wage earners, who do not possess capital or property and must sell their labor to survive.

**Promulgate** ('pro-mul-gate) *Verb* • to make (an idea, belief, etc.) known to many people by open declaration; proclaim • to put (a law or rule) into action or force

**Purple prose** (pur-ple prose) *Noun* • *Literary Criticism.* prose text that is so extravagant, ornate, or flowery as to break the flow and draw excessive attention to itself

**Putsch** (pooch) *Noun* • a secretly plotted and suddenly executed attempt to overthrow a government

## R

**Rife** (rahyf) *Adjective* • of common or frequent occurrence; prevalent; in widespread existence, activity,

or use • abounding (usually followed by with)

## S

**Salient** ('sey-lee-uhnt) *Adjective* • prominent or conspicuous

**Sectarianism** (sek-'tair-ee-uh-niz-

uhm) *Noun* • sectarian spirit or tendencies; excessive devotion to a particular sect, especially in religion

## T

**Torpid** ('tawr-pid) *Adjective* • sluggish, lethargic, or inactive. • showing

little interest; apathetic

## U

**Umbrage** ('um-brage) *Noun* • offense; annoyance; displeasure • shadow or shade

**Undulate** ('uhn-juh-leyt) *Verb* • move in waves; vibrate

## V

**Virulent** ('vir-yuh-luhnt) *Adjective* • actively poisonous; intensely noxious • *Medicine/Medical.* highly infective; malignant or deadly • intensely bitter, spiteful, or malicious

**Viscera** ('vis-er-uh) *Noun* • *Anatomy, Zoology.* the organs in the cavities of the body, especially those in the abdominal cavity. • (not used

scientifically) the intestines; bowels.

**Visceral** ('vis-er-uhl) *Adjective* • of or relating to the viscera • characterized by or proceeding from instinct rather than intellect

**Vociferous** (voh-'sif-er-uhs) *Adjective* • crying out noisily; clamorous • characterized by or uttered with noisy or vehement outcry

## Z

**Zebra** ('zee-bruh) *Noun* • any of several horselike African mammals of the genus *Equus*, each species hav-

ing a characteristic pattern of black or dark-brown stripes on a whitish background