

militate



militate

(mīl' i-tāt) *VERB*
TO HAVE FORCE OR INFLUENCE;
(USUALLY AGAINST).

To militate is to be a deciding factor for or against.

Imagine armed soldiers at a checkpoint. Their presence might militate against your plan of crossing the border, or it might militate for their bringing you in for questioning.

mettlesome



(adj.) If you're spirited and brave, you're mettlesome. The adjective mettlesome is a great way to describe someone who's full of pride or courage

It takes a mettlesome person to hike the Appalachian Trail all alone.

mettle



(noun) a person's ability to cope well with difficulties; spirit and resilience.

"the team showed their true mettle in the second half"

meretricious



seeming attractive but really false or of little value

He claims that a lot of journalism is meretricious and superficial.

mendicant



People who live off begging can be called mendicants. However, you probably wouldn't call your kids mendicants, even though they beg you for stuff, because the word mendicant also implies extreme poverty.

metamorphose



If you've ever seen a caterpillar emerge from its cocoon transformed into a butterfly, you've watched it metamorphose, or change completely.

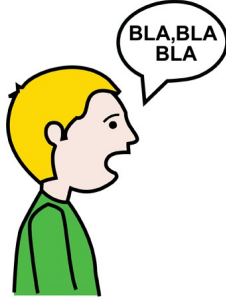
Use the verb metamorphoses to describe a total transformation, like an egg into a bird or a seed into a tomato plant.

mellifluous



Use the adjective mellifluous to describe something that sounds sweet and smooth, like the honeyed voice of a late-night radio DJ.

maunder



When you maunder, you talk in a rambling mutter. People being questioned by reporters should try to answer articulately — they shouldn't just maunder in response.

The difference between a great speech and an interminably boring one is that a good speaker keeps it short (and often funny), but a bad one tends to maunder in a mumbling voice.

limn



Limn is a verb that means to represent or portray. It is most often used to describe the act of drawing or painting a portrait, but it can also refer to describing or outlining a scene or event.

luculent



transparently clear; easily understandable

lambaste



to criticize someone or something severely

His first novel was lambasted by the critics.

lassitude



a state or feeling of being tired and listless; weariness; languor; physical or mental tiredness

Shareholders are blaming the company's problems on the lassitude of the CEO.