



VOCABULARY LISTS

## 5000 GRE Words 1

December 11, 2011 By Rajinder S. (Hayward, CA)

[New List...](#)**abase**

cause to feel shame

**abash**

cause to be embarrassed

**abate**

become less in amount or intensity

**abbreviate**

shorten

**aberrant**

markedly different from an accepted norm

**aberration**

a state or condition markedly different from the norm

**abet**

assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing

**abeyance**

temporary cessation or suspension

**abhor**

find repugnant

**abide**

dwell

**abject**

of the most contemptible kind

**abjure**

formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief

**ablution**

the act of washing oneself, as for ritual purposes

**abnegate**

deny or renounce

## abnegation

the denial and rejection of a doctrine or belief

## abode

any address at which you dwell more than temporarily

## abolish

do away with

## abominable

unequivocally detestable

## abominate

find repugnant

## aboriginal

having existed from the beginning

## abortive

failing to accomplish an intended result

## abrade

rub hard or scrub

## abridge

lessen, diminish, or curtail

## abrogate

revoke formally

## abscission

the act of cutting something off

## abscond

run away, often taking something or somebody along

## absolute

perfect or complete or pure

## absolve

grant remission of a sin to

## abstain

refrain from doing, consuming, or partaking in something

## abstemious

marked by temperance in indulgence

## abstinence

the trait of refraining from something, especially alcohol

## abstract

existing only in the mind

## abstruse

difficult to penetrate

## abusive

characterized by physical or psychological maltreatment

## abut

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

## abysmal

so deep as to be immeasurable

## abyss

a bottomless gulf or pit

## academic

associated with an educational institution

## accede

yield to another's wish or opinion

## accelerate

move faster

## accessible

capable of being reached

## accessory

a supplementary component that improves capability

## acclaim

enthusiastic approval

## acclimate

get used to a certain environment

## acclivity

an upward slope or grade, as in a road

## accolade

a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction

## accommodate

have room for; hold without crowding

## accomplice

a person who joins with another in carrying out some plan

## accord

concurrence of opinion

## accost

approach and speak to someone aggressively or insistently

## accoutre

provide with military equipment

## accretion

an increase by natural growth or addition

## accrue

grow by addition

## acephalous

lacking a head or a clearly defined head

## acerbic

sour or bitter in taste

## acerbity

a sharp bitterness

## acetic

relating to a clear organic acid with a pungent odor

## acidulous

being sour to the taste

## acknowledge

declare to be true or admit the existence or reality of

## acme

the highest point of something

## acne

an inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands

## acoustics

the study of the physical properties of sound

## acquiesce

agree or express agreement

## acquiescence

agreement with a statement or proposal to do something

## acquiescent

willing to carry out the orders or wishes of another

## acquittal

a judgment of not guilty

## acrid

strong and sharp, as a taste or smell

## acrimonious

marked by strong resentment or cynicism

## acrophobia

a morbid fear of great heights

## actuarial

relating to statistics to calculate insurance premiums

## actuary

someone versed in the interpretation of numerical data

## actuate

put in motion

## acuity

sharpness of vision

## acumen

shrewdness shown by keen insight

## acute

ending in a sharp point

## adage

a condensed but memorable saying embodying an important fact

## adamant

very hard native crystalline carbon valued as a gem

## adapt

make fit for, or change to suit a new purpose

## addendum

textual matter that is added onto a publication

## addiction

being dependent on something habit-forming

## addle

mix up or confuse

## address

the place where a person or organization can be found

## adduce

advance evidence for

## adept

having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude

## adhere

stick to firmly

## adherent

someone who believes and helps to spread a doctrine

## adipose

composed of animal fat

## adjacent

having a common boundary or edge

## adjoin

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

## adjourn

close at the end of a session

## adjunct

something added to another thing but not essential to it

## adjuration

a solemn and earnest appeal to someone to do something

## adjure

command solemnly

## adjutant

an officer who acts as an assistant to a more senior officer

## admonish

scold or reprimand; take to task

## admonition

a firm rebuke

## adore

love intensely

## adorn

make more attractive, as by adding ornament or color

## adroit

quick or skillful or adept in action or thought

## adulation

exaggerated flattery or praise

## adulterate

make impure by adding a foreign or inferior substance

## adulterated

mixed with impurities

## adumbration

the act of providing vague advance indications

## advent

arrival that has been awaited

## adventitious

associated by chance and not an integral part

## adversary

someone who offers opposition

## adverse

in an opposing direction

## adversity

a state of misfortune or affliction

## advert

a public promotion of some product or service

## advocacy

active support of an idea or cause

## advocate

a person who pleads for a person, cause, or idea

## aegis

armor plate that protects the chest

## aeon

the longest division of geological time

## aerie

the lofty nest of a bird of prey, such as a hawk or eagle

## aery

characterized by lightness and insubstantiality

## aesthetic

characterized by an appreciation of beauty or good taste

## affable

diffusing warmth and friendliness

## affected

influenced

## afferent

of nerves and nerve impulses

## affidavit

written declaration made under oath

## affiliation

the act of becoming formally connected or joined

## affinity

a natural attraction or feeling of kinship

## affirmation

the act of asserting or stating something

## afflatus

a strong creative impulse; divine inspiration

## affliction

a cause of great suffering and distress

## affluence

abundant wealth



affray

a noisy fight

affront

a deliberately offensive act

afterlife

life after death

agape

with the mouth wide open as in wonder or awe

agenda

a list of matters to be taken up, as at a meeting

agglomeration

the act of collecting in a mass

aggrandize

embellish; increase the scope, power, or importance of

aggregate

a sum total of many heterogeneous things taken together

aghast

struck with fear, dread, or consternation

agility

the gracefulness of a quick and nimble person or animal

agitate

move or cause to move back and forth

agitation

a mental state of extreme emotional disturbance

agnostic

a person who claims the existence of God is unknowable

agog

highly excited

agrarian

relating to rural matters

agronomist

an expert in soil management and field-crop production

## airy

open to or abounding in fresh atmosphere

## alacrity

liveliness and eagerness

## albite

a widely distributed feldspar that forms rocks

## alchemy

a pseudoscientific forerunner of chemistry in medieval times

## alcove

a small recess opening off a larger room

## alias

a name that has been assumed temporarily

## alienate

arouse hostility or indifference in

## alimentary

of or providing nourishment

## alimony

support paid by one spouse to another after separation

## allay

lessen the intensity of or calm

## allege

report or maintain

## allegiance

the act of binding yourself to a course of action

## allegory

a short moral story

## alleviate

provide physical relief, as from pain

## alliteration

use of the same consonant at the beginning of each word

## allocate

distribute according to a plan or set apart for a purpose

## alloy

a mixture containing two or more metallic elements

## allude

make an indirect reference to

## allure

the power to entice or attract

## allusion

passing reference or indirect mention

## alluvial

relating to deposits carried by rushing streams

## alms

money or goods contributed to the poor

## aloft

at or on or to the masthead or upper rigging of a ship

## aloof

remote in manner

## altercation

a noisy quarrel

## altruism

the quality of unselfish concern for the welfare of others

## altruistic

showing unselfish concern for the welfare of others

## amalgam

a combination or blend of diverse things

## amalgamate

bring or combine together or with something else

## amass

collect or gather

## amazon

a large, strong, and aggressive woman

## ambidextrous

equally skillful with each hand

## ambience

the atmosphere of an environment

## ambiguous

having more than one possible meaning

## ambivalence

mixed feelings or emotions

## amble

walk leisurely

## ambrosia

the food and drink of the gods

## ambulatory

able to walk about

## ambush

concealing yourself and lying in wait to attack by surprise

## ameliorate

make better

## amenable

disposed or willing to comply

## amend

make revisions to

## amenities

things that make you comfortable and at ease

## amiable

diffusing warmth and friendliness

## amicable

characterized by friendship and good will

## amiss

in an improper or mistaken or unfortunate manner

## amity

a state of friendship and cordiality

## amnesia

partial or total loss of memory

## amnesty

a warrant granting release from punishment for an offense

## amok

wildly; without self-control

## amorally

without regard for the distinction between right and wrong

## amorous

inclined toward or displaying love

## amorphous

having no definite form or distinct shape

## amortization

reducing the value of an asset over a period of years

## amphibian

cold-blooded vertebrate living on land but breeding in water

## amphitheater

an oval large stadium with tiers of seats

## ample

more than enough in size or scope or capacity

## amplify

increase the volume of

## amputate

remove surgically

## amuck

wildly; without self-control

## amulet

a trinket thought to be a magical protection against evil

## anachronism

locating something at a time when it couldn't have existed

## analgesia

absence of the sense of pain without loss of consciousness

## analgesic

capable of relieving pain

## analogous

similar or equivalent in some respects

## analogy

drawing a comparison in order to show a similarity

## anarchist

an advocate of the abolition of governments

## anarchy

a state of lawlessness and disorder

## anathema

a formal ecclesiastical curse accompanied by excommunication

## ancestry

the lineage of an individual

## anchor

a mechanical device that prevents a vessel from moving

## ancillary

furnishing added support

## andiron

metal supports for logs in a fireplace

## anecdote

short account of an incident

## anemia

a deficiency of red blood cells

## anesthetic

a drug that causes temporary loss of bodily sensations

## anguish

extreme distress of body or mind

## angular

having the shape of intersecting lines or planes

## animadversion

harsh criticism or disapproval

## animated

having life or vigor or spirit

## animosity

a feeling of ill will arousing active hostility

## animus

a feeling of ill will arousing active hostility

## annals

a chronological account of events in successive years

## anneal

bring to a desired consistency by heating and cooling

## annex

attach to

## annihilate

kill in large numbers

## annotate

add explanatory notes to or supply with critical comments

## annuity

income from capital investment paid regularly

## annul

cancel officially

## anodyne

capable of relieving pain

## anoint

administer an oil or ointment to, often ceremonially

## anointment

the act of applying oil or an oily liquid

## anomalous

deviating from the general or common order or type

## anomaly

deviation from the normal or common order or form or rule

## anonymity

the state of being unknown

## anonymous

having no known name or identity or known source

## antagonism

an actively expressed feeling of dislike and hostility

## antecede

be earlier in time; go back further

## antecedent

a preceding occurrence or cause or event

## antediluvian

of or relating to the period before the biblical flood

## anthem

a song of devotion or loyalty

## anthology

a collection of selected literary passages

## anthropoid

resembling human beings

## anthropologist

a social scientist specializing in the study of humanity

## anthropomorphic

suggesting human features for animals or inanimate things

## anticlimax

a disappointing decline after a previous rise

## antidote

a remedy that stops or controls the effects of a poison

## antipathy

a feeling of intense dislike

## antiquated

so extremely old as seeming to belong to an earlier period

## antique

made in or typical of earlier times and valued for its age

## antiquity

the historic period preceding the Middle Ages in Europe

## antiseptic

thoroughly clean and free of disease-causing organisms



## antithesis

exact opposite

## antler

deciduous horn of a member of the deer family

## anvil

a heavy block on which hot metals are shaped by hammering

## apathetic

showing little or no emotion or animation

## apathy

an absence of emotion or enthusiasm

## ape

any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all

## aperture

a natural opening in something

## apex

the highest point of something

## aphasia

inability to use language because of a brain lesion

## aphorism

a short pithy instructive saying

## apiarist

a farmer who keeps bees for their honey

## apiary

a shed containing a number of beehives

## apiculture

the cultivation of bees for the production of honey

## aplomb

great coolness and composure under strain

## apocalyptic

of or relating to a catastrophe

## apocryphal

being of questionable authenticity

## apogee

the farthest point in an orbit around the Earth

## apolitical

neutral with regards to government policy

## apologist

a person who argues to defend some policy or institution

## apologue

a short moral story (often with animal characters)

## apophthegm

a short pithy instructive saying

## apoplexy

a loss of consciousness from the lack of oxygen in the brain

## apostate

not faithful to religion or party or cause

## apothecary

a health professional trained in the art of preparing drugs

## apothegm

a short pithy instructive saying

## apotheosis

model of excellence or perfection of a kind

## appall

strike with disgust or revulsion

## apparent

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment

## apparition

a ghostly appearing figure

## appease

make peace with

## appellation

identifying words by which someone or something is called

## append

fix to; attach

## application

the action of putting something into operation

## apposite

being of striking appropriateness and pertinence

## appraise

consider in a comprehensive way

## appreciate

be fully aware of; realize fully

## apprehend

anticipate with dread or anxiety

## apprehensive

in fear or dread of possible evil or harm

## apprise

inform somebody of something

## approbation

official acceptance or agreement

## appropriate

suitable for a particular person, place, or situation

## appurtenance

equipment consisting of miscellaneous articles

## appurtenance

equipment consisting of miscellaneous articles

## apropos

of a suitable, fitting, or pertinent nature

## aptitude

inherent ability

## aquiline

curved down like an eagle's beak

## arable

capable of being farmed productively

## arbiter

someone chosen to judge and decide a disputed issue

## arbitrary

based on or subject to individual discretion or preference

## arbitrate

act between parties with a view to reconciling differences

## arboreal

of or relating to or formed by trees

## arboretum

a facility where trees and shrubs are cultivated

## arcade

a structure composed of arches supported by columns

## arcane

requiring secret or mysterious knowledge

## arch

a curved masonry construction for spanning an opening

## archaeology

the branch of anthropology that studies prehistoric people

## archaic

so extremely old as seeming to belong to an earlier period

## archetype

something that serves as a model

## archipelago

a group of many islands in a large body of water

## archives

collection of records especially about an institution

## ardor

feelings of great warmth and intensity

## arduous

characterized by effort to the point of exhaustion

## argot

a characteristic language of a particular group

## aria

an elaborate song for solo voice

## arid

lacking sufficient water or rainfall

## aristocracy

a privileged class holding hereditary titles

## armada

a large fleet

## aromatic

having a strong pleasant odor

## arraign

accuse of a wrong or an inadequacy

## arrant

without qualification; used informally as intensifiers

## array

an impressive display

## arrears

the state of being behind in payments

## arrhythmic

lacking a steady beat or accent

## arrogance

overbearing pride evidenced by a superior manner

## arrogate

seize and take control without authority

## arroyo

a stream or brook

## arsenal

all the weapons and equipment that a country has

## artery

a blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the body

## artful

not straightforward or candid

## articulate

express or state clearly

## artifact

a man-made object

## artifice

a deceptive maneuver, especially to avoid capture

## artisan

a skilled worker who practices some trade or handicraft

## artless

simple and natural; without cunning or deceit

## ascendancy

the state when one person or group has power over another

## ascertain

learn or discover with confidence

## ascetic

someone who practices self denial as a spiritual discipline

## asceticism

rigorous self-denial and active self-restraint

## ascribe

attribute or credit to

## aseptic

free of pathological microorganisms

## ashen

pale from illness or emotion

## asinine

devoid of intelligence

## askance

with suspicion or disapproval

## askew

turned or twisted to one side

## asperity

harshness of manner

## aspersion

a disparaging remark

## aspirant

an ambitious young person

## aspiration

a cherished desire

## aspire

have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal

## assail

attack someone physically or emotionally

## assay

a test of a substance to determine its components

## assent

agree or express agreement

## assert

declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

## asseverate

state categorically

## assiduous

marked by care and persistent effort

## assimilate

make alike

## assuage

provide physical relief, as from pain

## assumption

the act of taking something for granted

## assurance

a binding commitment to do or give or refrain from something

## asteroid

a small celestial body composed of rock and metal

## astigmatism

impaired eyesight common in nearsighted people

## astral

being or relating to or resembling or emanating from stars

## astringent

tending to draw together or constrict soft organic tissue

## astronomical

relating to the branch of physics studying celestial bodies

## astute

marked by practical hardheaded intelligence

## asunder

into parts or pieces

## asylum

a shelter from danger or hardship

## asymmetric

characterized by lack of balance in the arrangement of parts

## atavism

a reappearance of an earlier characteristic

## atelier

a studio especially for an artist or designer

## atheistic

related to a lack of belief in the existence of God

## athwart

across the course, direction, or center line of a ship

## atone

turn away from sin or do penitence

## atrocious

an act of shocking cruelty

## atrophy

a decrease in size of an organ caused by disease or disuse

## attentive

taking heed

## attenuate

become weaker, in strength, value, or magnitude

## attest

provide evidence for



## attire

clothing of a distinctive style or for a particular occasion

## attribute

a quality belonging to or characteristic of an entity

## attrition

the act of rubbing together

## atypical

not representative of a group, class, or type

## audacious

disposed to venture or take risks

## audacity

aggressive boldness or unmitigated effrontery

## audit

examine carefully for accuracy

## augment

enlarge or increase

## augury

an event indicating important things to come

## august

profoundly honored

## aureole

the outermost region of the sun's atmosphere

## auroral

characteristic of the dawn

## auscultation

listening to sounds within the body with a stethoscope

## auspicious

auguring favorable circumstances and good luck

## austere

of a stern or strict bearing or demeanor

## austerity

self-denial, especially refraining from worldly pleasures

## authenticate

establish the undisputed credibility of something

## authoritarian

characteristic of an absolute ruler or absolute rule

## authoritative

of recognized power or excellence

## autocrat

a cruel and oppressive dictator

## autocratic

characteristic of an absolute ruler or absolute rule

## automaton

a mechanism that can move independently of external control

## autonomous

existing as an independent entity

## autopsy

an examination and dissection of a dead body

## auxiliary

furnishing added support

## avalanche

a slide of large masses of snow, ice and mud down a mountain

## avant-garde

radically new or original

## avarice

reprehensible acquisitiveness; insatiable desire for wealth

## avatar

the manifestation of a Hindu deity in human or animal form

## avenge

take action in return for a perceived wrong

## aver

declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

## averse

strongly opposed

## aversion

a feeling of intense dislike

## avert

turn away or aside

## aviary

a building where birds are kept

## avid

marked by active interest and enthusiasm

## avocation

an auxiliary activity

## avouch

admit openly and bluntly

## avow

declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

## avuncular

being or relating to an uncle

## awe

an overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration

## awful

exceptionally bad or displeasing

## awl

a pointed tool for marking surfaces or for punching holes

## awry

turned or twisted to one side

## axiom

a proposition that is not susceptible of proof or disproof

## azure

of a deep somewhat purplish blue color

## babble

utter meaningless sounds

## bacchanal

wild gathering involving excessive drinking and promiscuity

## Bacchanalia

an orgiastic festival in ancient Greece in honor of Dionysus

## bacchanalian

used of riotously drunken merrymaking

## backslide

return to a lower level, as in one's morals or standards

## badger

sturdy carnivorous burrowing mammal with strong claws

## badinage

frivolous banter

## baffle

be a mystery or bewildering to

## bait

something used to lure fish or other animals

## baleful

threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments

## balk

refuse to comply

## ballast

any heavy material used to stabilize a ship or airship

## balm

preparation applied externally as a remedy or for soothing

## balmy

mild and pleasant

## banal

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

## bandanna

large and brightly colored handkerchief

## bandy

discuss lightly

## bane

something causing misery or death

## baneful

deadly or sinister

## bank

financial institution that accepts deposits and lends money

## bantering

cleverly amusing in tone

## bar

a rigid piece of metal or wood

## barb

a point facing the main point making an arrowhead or spear

## bard

a lyric poet

## barefaced

with no effort to conceal

## bargain

an agreement between parties fixing obligations of each

## baroque

relating to an elaborately ornamented style of art and music

## barrage

the heavy fire of artillery to saturate an area

## barrister

a British lawyer who speaks in the higher courts of law

## barterer

a trader who exchanges goods and not money

## base

lowest support of a structure

## bask

expose oneself to warmth and light, as for relaxation

## bassoon

a double-reed woodwind instrument that makes a low sound

## bastard

the illegitimate offspring of unmarried parents

## bastion

projecting part of a rampart or other fortification

## bate

moderate or restrain; lessen the force of

## battalion

an army unit consisting of a headquarters and companies

## batten

a strip fixed to something to hold it firm

## bauble

cheap showy jewelry or ornament

## bawdy

humorously vulgar

## bearing

characteristic way of holding one's body

## beatific

resembling or befitting an angel or saint

## beatitude

a state of supreme happiness

## bedizen

decorate tastelessly

## bedraggle

make wet and dirty, as from rain

## beeline

the most direct route

## befuddle

be confusing or perplexing to

## beget

generate children

## begrudge

be envious of or feel annoyance toward

## beguile

attract; cause to be enamored

## behemoth

someone or something that is abnormally large and powerful

## beholden

under a moral obligation to someone

## behoove

be appropriate or necessary

## behoove

be appropriate or necessary

## belabor

beat soundly

## belated

after the expected or usual time

## beleaguer

annoy persistently

## belie

be in contradiction with

## belittle

cause to seem less serious

## bellicose

having or showing a ready disposition to fight

## belligerent

characteristic of an enemy or one eager to fight

## bemoan

regret strongly

## bemused

perplexed by many conflicting situations or statements

## benediction

a ceremonial prayer invoking divine protection

## benefactor

a person who helps people or institutions

## beneficent

doing or producing good

## beneficial

promoting or enhancing well-being

## beneficiary

the recipient of funds or other advantages

## benefit

something that aids or promotes well-being

## benevolent

showing or motivated by sympathy and understanding

## benighted

overtaken by night or darkness

## benign

kind in disposition or manner

## benignity

the quality of being kind and gentle

## benison

a spoken blessing

## bent

stooped (used of the back and knees)

## bequeath

leave or give, especially by will after one's death

## berate

censure severely or angrily

## bereaved

sorrowful through loss or deprivation

## bereavement

state of sorrow over the death or departure of a loved one

## bereft

sorrowful through loss or deprivation

## berserk

frenzied as if possessed by a demon

## beseech

ask for or request earnestly



## beset

assail or attack on all sides

## besiege

surround so as to force to give up

## besmirch

smear so as to make dirty or stained

## bestial

resembling a beast; showing lack of human sensibility

## bestow

give as a gift

## bete noire

a detested person

## betoken

be a signal for or a symptom of

## betray

deliver to an enemy by treachery

## betroth

give to in marriage

## bevy

a flock of birds

## beware

be on one's guard; be cautious or wary about; be alert to

## bewitch

cast a spell over someone or something

## bicameral

consisting of two chambers

## bicker

argue over petty things

## bid

propose a payment

## biennial

occurring every second year

## bifurcated

divided into or made up of two parts

## bigot

a prejudiced person who is intolerant of differing opinions

## bigotry

intolerance and prejudice

## bilious

relating to a digestive juice secreted by the liver

## bilk

cheat somebody out of what is due, especially money

## billingsgate

foul-mouthed or obscene abuse

## billow

a large sea wave

## billowing

characterized by great swelling waves or surges

## bimester

a period of 2 months

## bisque

a thick, creamy soup made from shellfish

## biting

causing a sharply painful or stinging sensation

## bitter

causing a sharp and acrid taste experience

## bivouac

temporary living quarters built by the army for soldiers

## bizarre

conspicuously or grossly unconventional or unusual

## blackball

vote against; refuse to endorse; refuse to assent

## blanch

turn pale, as if in fear

## bland

lacking taste or flavor or tang

## blandishment

flattery intended to persuade

## blare

make a loud noise

## blase

nonchalantly unconcerned

## blasphemous

grossly irreverent toward what is held to be sacred

## blasphemy

profane language

## blatant

without any attempt at concealment; completely obvious

## blazon

the official symbols of a family, state, etc.

## bleak

unpleasantly cold and damp

## blemish

a mark or flaw that spoils the appearance of something

## blight

any plant disease resulting in withering without rotting

## blighted

affected by something that prevents growth or prosperity

## bliss

a state of extreme happiness

## blithe

carefree and happy and lighthearted

## blithesome

carefree and happy and lighthearted

## bloat

swelling of the intestinal tract of animals caused by gas

## bloat

swelling of the intestinal tract of animals caused by gas

## blotch

an irregularly shaped spot

## blowhard

a very boastful and talkative person

## bludgeon

a club used as a weapon

## blue

of the color intermediate between green and violet

## blues

a state of depression

## bluff

a high steep bank

## blunder

an embarrassing mistake

## blunt

not sharp (used of a knife or other blade)

## blurt

utter impulsively

## blush

become rosy or reddish

## bluster

be gusty, as of wind

## bode

indicate by signs

## bog

wet spongy ground of decomposing vegetation

## bogus

fraudulent; having a misleading appearance

## bohemian

a nonconformist who lives an unconventional life

## boisterous

full of rough and exuberant animal spirits

## bolster

support and strengthen

## bolt

a screw that screws into a nut to form a fastener

## bombardment

an attack by dropping explosive devices

## bombast

pompous or pretentious talk or writing

## bombastic

ostentatiously lofty in style

## bookish

characterized by diligent study and fondness for reading

## boon

something that is desirable, favorable, or beneficial

## boor

a crude uncouth ill-bred person lacking refinement

## boorish

ill-mannered and coarse in behavior or appearance

## boost

increase

## bootless

unproductive of success

## bore

make a hole, especially with a pointed power or hand tool

## botch

make a mess of, destroy, or ruin

## bouillon

a clear seasoned broth

## bound

confined by bonds

## bountiful

producing in abundance

## bourgeois

being of the property-owning class

## bout

a contest or fight

## bovine

any of various wild or domestic cattle

## bowdlerize

edit by omitting or modifying parts considered indelicate

## brackish

slightly salty

## brag

show off

## braggadocio

vain and empty boasting

## braggart

a very boastful and talkative person

## braid

make by interlacing

## brand

a name given to a product or service

## brandish

move or swing back and forth

## bravado

a swaggering show of courage

## brave

possessing or displaying courage

## brawl

to quarrel noisily, angrily or disruptively

## brawn

the trait of possessing muscular strength

## brawny

possessing physical strength and weight; rugged and powerful

## brazen

unrestrained by convention or propriety

## brazier

large metal container in which coal or charcoal is burned

## breach

an opening, especially a gap in a dike or fortification

## breadth

the extent of something from side to side

## breed

cause to procreate (animals)

## breviary

(Roman Catholic Church) a book of prayers to be recited daily certain priests and members of religious orders

## brevity

the attribute of being short or fleeting

## bridle

headgear for a horse

## brim

the top edge of a vessel or other container

## brindled

having a gray or brown streak or a patchy coloring

## brink

the edge of a steep place

## brisk

quick and energetic

## bristle

a stiff hair

## brittle

having little elasticity

## broach

bring up a topic for discussion

## brocade

thick heavy expensive material with a raised pattern

## brochure

a small book usually having a paper cover

## broil

cook by exposing to strong heat in a part of an oven

## bromide

a trite or obvious remark

## brooch

a decorative pin

## brood

hang over, as of something threatening, dark, or menacing

## brook

a natural stream of water smaller than a river

## browbeat

discourage or frighten with threats or a domineering manner

## browse

feed as in a meadow or pasture

## bruise

a small injury that results in discoloration

## brunt

the main part, especially of a force or shock

## brusque

rudely abrupt or blunt in speech or manner

## buccaneer

someone who robs at sea or plunders the land from the sea

## bucolic

devoted to raising sheep or cattle

## buffet

piece of furniture that stands at the side of a dining room

## buffoon

a person who amuses others by ridiculous behavior



## buffoonery

acting like a clown

## bugaboo

an imaginary monster used to frighten children

## bulge

swell or protrude outwards

## bulk

the property possessed by a large mass

## bullion

a mass of precious metal

## bully

discourage or frighten with threats or a domineering manner

## bulwark

an embankment built around a space for defensive purposes

## bump

an impact (as from a collision)

## bumptious

offensively self-assertive

## bungle

make a mess of, destroy, or ruin

## buoyant

tending to float on a liquid or rise in air or gas

## bureaucracy

a government administered primarily by nonelective officials

## burgeon

grow and flourish

## burlesque

a theatrical entertainment of broad and earthy humor

## burnish

polish and make shiny

## buskin

a boot reaching halfway up to the knee

## bust

a sculpture of the head and shoulders of a person

## buttress

a support usually of stone or brick

## buxom

healthily plump and vigorous

## cabal

a clique that seeks power usually through intrigue

## cache

a hidden storage space

## cacophonous

having an unpleasant sound

## cacophony

loud confusing disagreeable sounds

## cadaver

the dead body of a human being

## cadaverous

of or relating to a corpse

## cadence

the accent in a metrical foot of verse

## cadet

a military trainee (as at a military academy)

## cajole

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

## calamity

an event resulting in great loss and misfortune

## calculated

carefully thought out in advance

## caldron

a very large pot that is used for boiling

## caliber

diameter of a tube or gun barrel

## calk

a metal cleat on the bottom front of a horseshoe to prevent slipping

## calligraphy

beautiful handwriting

## callous

emotionally hardened

## callow

young and inexperienced

## callus

a skin area that is thick or hard from continual pressure

## calorific

heat-generating

## calumniate

charge falsely or with malicious intent

## calumny

a false accusation of an offense

## camaraderie

the quality of affording easy familiarity and sociability

## cameo

engraving or carving in low relief on a stone

## camp

temporary lodgings in the country for travelers

## canard

a deliberately misleading fabrication

## candor

the quality of being honest and straightforward

## canine

a dog or related mammal

## canker

an ulcerlike sore

## canny

showing self-interest and shrewdness in dealing with others

## canon

a collection of books accepted as holy scripture

## canonical

conforming to orthodox or recognized rules

## cant

a slope in the turn of a road or track

## cantankerous

stubbornly obstructive and unwilling to cooperate

## cantata

a musical composition for voices and orchestra

## canter

a smooth three-beat gait

## canto

a major division of a long poem

## canvass

get opinions by asking specific questions

## capacious

large in the amount that can be contained

## capacity

capability to perform or produce

## caparison

stable gear consisting of a decorated covering for a horse, especially (formerly) for a warhorse

## capillary

a minute blood vessel connecting arterioles with venules

## capitulate

surrender under agreed conditions

## caprice

a sudden desire

## capricious

determined by chance or impulse rather than by necessity

## capsize

overturn accidentally

## caption

brief description accompanying an illustration

## captious

tending to find and call attention to faults

## carafe

a bottle with a stopper, for serving wine or water

## carapace

hard outer covering or case of certain organisms

## carat

a unit of measurement for the proportion of gold in an alloy

## carcinogenic

causing or tending to cause cancer

## cardinal

a vivid red color

## cardiologist

a specialist in the structure and function of the heart

## careen

pitching dangerously to one side

## career

the particular occupation for which you are trained

## carefree

without trouble or worry

## caricature

a representation of a person exaggerated for comic effect

## carillon

set of bells hung in a bell tower

## carmine

of a color at the end of the color spectrum

## carnage

the savage and excessive killing of many people

## carnal

of or relating to the body or flesh

## carnivorous

relating to flesh-eating animals

## carousal

revelry in drinking; a merry drinking party

## carouse

engage in boisterous, drunken merrymaking

## carping

persistent petty and unjustified criticism

## carrion

the dead and rotting body of an animal; unfit for human food

## carte blanche

complete freedom or authority to act

## cartographer

a person who makes maps

## caryatid

a supporting column carved in the shape of a person

## cascade

a small waterfall or series of small waterfalls

## caste

a hereditary social class among Hindus

## castigate

inflict severe punishment on

## castigation

verbal punishment

## castrate

remove the testicles of a male animal

## casual

without or seeming to be without plan or method; offhand

## casualty

someone injured or killed in an accident

## casuistry

argumentation that is specious or excessively subtle

## cataclysm

a sudden violent change in the earth's surface

## catalyst

substance that initiates or accelerates a chemical reaction

## catapult

an engine providing medieval artillery used during sieges

## cataract

disease that involves the clouding of the lens of the eye

## catastrophe

a sudden violent change in the earth's surface

## catcall

a cry expressing disapproval

## catechism

an elementary book summarizing the principles of a religion

## categorical

relating to or included in a class or classes

## cater

give what is desired or needed

## catharsis

purging the body to stimulate evacuation of the bowels

## cathartic

emotionally purging

## catholic

comprehensive or broad-minded in tastes and interests

## caucus

meet to select a candidate or promote a policy

## cauldron

a very large pot that is used for boiling

## caulk

a waterproof filler and sealant used in building and repair

## causal

involving an entity that produces an effect

## caustic

capable of destroying or eating away by chemical action

## cauterize

burn, sear, or freeze using a hot iron or electric current

## cavalcade

a procession of people traveling on horseback

## cavalier

given to haughty disregard of others

## cavil

raise trivial objections

## cavil

raise trivial objections

## cede

give over

## celerity

a rate that is rapid

## celestial

relating to or inhabiting a divine heaven

## celibate

abstaining from sexual intercourse

## cemetery

a tract of land used for burials

## censor

a person authorized to suppress unacceptable material

## censorious

harshly critical or expressing censure

## censure

harsh criticism or disapproval

## centaur

a mythical being that is half man and half horse

## centigrade

temperature scale on which water freezes at 0 degrees



## centrifugal

tending to move away from a center

## centrifuge

an apparatus that separates particles from a suspension

## centripetal

tending to move toward an area in the middle

## centurion

leader of soldiers in ancient Rome

## cerebral

of or relating to the brain

## cerebration

the process of using one's mind to consider something

## ceremonious

characterized by pomp and stately display

## certitude

complete assurance or confidence

## cessation

a stopping

## cession

the act of surrendering possession or control

## chafe

become or make sore by or as if by rubbing

## chaff

material consisting of seed coverings and pieces of stem

## chafing

soreness or irritation of the skin caused by friction

## chagrin

strong feelings of embarrassment

## chalice

a bowl-shaped drinking vessel

## chameleon

lizard of Africa and Madagascar able to change skin color

## champ

someone who has won first place in a competition

## champion

someone who has won first place in a competition

## championship

a competition at which a winner is chosen

## chancellor

the person who is head of state (in several countries)

## chant

a repetitive song in which syllables are assigned to a tone

## chaotic

completely unordered and unpredictable and confusing

## chapel

a place of worship that has its own altar

## chaperon

one who accompanies and supervises a young woman or gatherings of young people

## chaplain

a member of the clergy ministering to some institution

## char

burn to charcoal

## charisma

personal attractiveness that enables you to influence others

## charlatan

a flamboyant deceiver

## charm

attractiveness that interests or pleases or stimulates

## chary

characterized by great caution

## chase

go after with the intent to catch

## chasm

a deep opening in the earth's surface

## chassis

the skeleton of a motor vehicle

## chaste

abstaining from unlawful sexual intercourse

## chasten

censure severely

## chastise

censure severely

## chattel

personal as opposed to real property

## chauvinist

a person with a prejudiced belief in his own superiority

## check

examine so as to determine accuracy, quality, or condition

## checkered

patterned with alternating squares of color

## chequered

patterned with alternating squares of color

## cherubic

having a sweet nature befitting an angel

## chicanery

the use of tricks to deceive someone

## chide

censure severely or angrily

## chimerical

like a grotesque product of the imagination

## chip

a small fragment of something broken off from the whole

## chiromancy

telling fortunes by lines on the palm of the hand

## chiropodist

a specialist in care for the feet

## chisel

an edge tool with a flat steel blade with a cutting edge

## chivalrous

attentive and honorable like an ideal knight

## choice

the act of selecting

## choir

a chorus that sings as part of a religious ceremony

## choleric

characterized by anger

## chore

a specific piece of work required to be done

## choreography

a show involving artistic dancing

## chortle

a soft partly suppressed laugh

## chorus

actors who comment on the action in a classical Greek play

## chronic

long-lasting or characterized by long suffering

## chronicle

a record or narrative description of past events

## chuckle

a soft partly suppressed laugh

## churlish

having a bad disposition; surly

## ciliated

having a margin or fringe of hairlike projections

## cipher

a secret method of writing

## circlet

a small ring-shaped object

## circuit

a journey or route all the way around a place or area

## circuitous

deviating from a straight course

## circumlocution

an indirect way of expressing something

## circumscribe

draw a geometric figure around another figure

## circumspect

careful to consider potential consequences and avoid risk

## circumvent

surround so as to force to give up

## cistern

a sac or cavity containing fluid

## citadel

a stronghold for shelter during a battle

## cite

make reference to

## civil

of or occurring between or among citizens of the state

## clairvoyant

someone who can perceive things not present to the senses

## clamber

climb awkwardly, as if by scrambling

## clamor

utter or proclaim insistently and noisily

## clandestine

conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

## clangor

a loud resonant repeating noise

## clap

strike one's hands together

## clapper

metal striker that hangs inside a bell and makes a sound

## clarion

loud and clear

## clasp

hold firmly and tightly

## claustrophobia

a morbid fear of being closed in a confined space

## clavicle

bone linking the scapula and sternum

## cleave

separate or cut with a tool, such as a sharp instrument

## cleft

a long narrow opening

## clemency

leniency and compassion shown toward offenders

## cliche

a trite or obvious remark

## clientele

customers collectively

## climactic

consisting of or causing a decisive moment

## clime

the weather in some location averaged over a period of time

## clip

a small fastener used to hold loose articles together

## clipper

scissors for cutting hair or finger nails

## clique

an exclusive circle of people with a common purpose

## cloister

residence that is a place of religious seclusion

## clot

a lump of material formed from the content of a liquid

## clout

(boxing) a blow with the fist

## clown

a person who amuses others by ridiculous behavior

## cloying

overly sweet

## coadjutor

an assistant to a bishop

## coagulate

change from a liquid to a thickened or solid state

## coalesce

fuse or cause to come together

## coalition

the union of diverse things into one body or form or group

## coax

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

## cockade

an ornament usually worn on the hat

## coda

the closing section of a musical composition

## coddle

cook in nearly boiling water

## codicil

a supplement to a will

## codify

organize into a system, such as a body of law

## coerce

cause to do through pressure or necessity

## coercion

using force to cause something to occur

## coeval

of the same period

## cog

tooth on the rim of gear wheel

## cogent

powerfully persuasive

## cogitate

consider carefully and deeply

## cognate

related by blood

## cognitive

relating to or involving the mental process of knowing

## cognizance

the state or act of having knowledge of

## cognomen

the name used to identify the members of a family

## cohabit

share living quarters

## cohere

cause to form a united, orderly, and consistent whole

## cohesion

the state of sticking together

## cohort

a band of warriors

## coiffure

the arrangement of the hair

## coin

a flat metal piece (usually a disc) used as money

## coincidence

the property of two things happening at the same time

## coincident

occurring or operating at the same time



## colander

bowl-shaped strainer used to wash or drain foods

## collaborate

work together on a common enterprise or project

## collage

a paste-up of pieces to form an artistic image

## collate

assemble in proper sequence

## collateral

accompanying; following as a consequence

## collation

assembling in proper numerical or logical sequence

## collected

brought together in one place

## collier

someone who works in a coal mine

## colloquial

characteristic of informal spoken language or conversation

## colloquy

formal conversation

## collusion

secret agreement

## colossal

so great in size or force or extent as to elicit awe

## colossus

someone or something that is abnormally large and powerful

## coma

a state of deep and often prolonged unconsciousness

## comatose

in a state of deep and usually prolonged unconsciousness

## combustible

capable of igniting and burning

## comeback

a quick reply to a question or remark

## comely

according with custom or propriety

## comestible

suitable for use as food

## comeuppance

a usually negative outcome or fate that is well deserved

## comity

a state or atmosphere of harmony or mutual civility

## commandeer

take arbitrarily or by force

## commemorate

call to remembrance

## commemorative

intended to honor the memory of someone or something

## commensurate

corresponding in size or degree or extent

## commiserate

feel or express sympathy or compassion

## commodious

large and roomy

## commonplace

completely ordinary and unremarkable

## commonwealth

a political system in which power lies in a body of citizens

## communal

for or by a group rather than individuals

## commune

communicate intimately with

## compact

closely and firmly united or packed together

## compartment

a partitioned section within a larger enclosed area

## compassion

a deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering

## compatible

able to exist and perform in harmonious combination

## compelling

driving or forcing

## compendium

a publication containing a variety of works

## compensated

receiving or eligible for compensation

## compilation

the act of putting together

## compile

get or gather together

## complacency

the feeling you have when you are satisfied with yourself

## complacent

contented to a fault with oneself or one's actions

## complaisance

a disposition or tendency to yield to the will of others

## complaisant

showing a cheerful willingness to do favors for others

## complement

something added to embellish or make perfect

## complementary

acting as a part that completes another part

## compliance

the act of submitting, usually surrendering power to another

## compliant

disposed to act in accordance with someone's wishes

## complicity

guilt as a confederate in a crime or offense

## component

one of the individual parts making up a larger entity

## comport

behave in a certain manner

## compost

a mixture of decaying vegetation and manure

## composure

steadiness of mind under stress

## compound

a whole formed by a union of two or more elements or parts

## comprehend

get the meaning of something

## comprehensive

including all or everything

## compress

squeeze or press together

## comprise

be composed of

## compromise

an accommodation in which both sides make concessions

## compulsion

using force to cause something to occur

## compulsive

caused by an irrational motive for repetitive actions

## compulsory

required by rule

## compunction

a feeling of deep regret, usually for some misdeed

## compute

make a mathematical calculation

## concatenate

add by linking or joining so as to form a chain or series

## concave

curving inward

## concede

give over

## conceit

the trait of being unduly vain

## concentric

having a common center

## conception

the creation of something in the mind

## concerted

involving the joint activity of two or more

## concession

the act of yielding

## conch

an edible tropical marine mollusk or its large spiral shell

## conciliate

gain the good will of or cause to be more favorably inclined

## conciliatory

making or willing to make concessions

## concise

expressing much in few words

## conclave

a confidential or secret meeting

## conclusive

forming an end or termination

## concoct

make something by mixing

## concomitant

following or accompanying as a consequence

## concord

a harmonious state of things and of their properties

## concordat

a signed written agreement between two or more parties

## concur

happen simultaneously

## concurrent

occurring or operating at the same time

## condescend

behave in a patronizing manner

## condign

fitting or appropriate and deserved

## condiment

a preparation to enhance flavor or enjoyment

## condole

express one's sympathy on the occasion of someone's death

## condone

excuse, overlook, or make allowances for

## conducive

tending to bring about; being partly responsible for

## conduit

a passage through which water or electric wires can pass

## confidant

someone to whom private matters are told

## confidante

a woman or girl to whom secrets can be entrusted

## confide

reveal in private

## confidence

belief in yourself and your abilities

## confidential

given in secret

## confine

place limits on

## confiscate

take temporary possession of a security by legal authority

## conflagration

a very intense and uncontrolled fire

## confluence

a place where things merge or flow together

## conformist

someone who follows established standards of conduct

## conformity

correspondence in form, type, or appearance

## confound

be confusing or perplexing to

## congeal

solidify, thicken, or come together

## congenial

suitable to your needs

## congenital

present at birth but not necessarily hereditary

## conglomerate

collect or gather

## conglomeration

a sum total of many heterogeneous things taken together

## congruence

the quality of agreeing; being suitable and appropriate

## congruent

corresponding in character or kind

## conifer

a type of tree or shrub bearing cones

## conjecture

believe especially on uncertain or tentative grounds

## conjugal

relating to the relationship between a wife and husband

## conjure

summon into action or bring into existence

## connivance

agreement on a secret plot

## connoisseur

an expert able to appreciate a field

## connotation

an idea that is implied or suggested

## connubial

relating to marriage or the relationship between spouses

## consanguine

related by blood

## consanguineous

related by blood

## consanguinity

relation by blood

## conscientious

characterized by extreme care and great effort

## conscript

enroll into service compulsorily

## consecrate

give entirely to a specific person, activity, or cause

## consensus

agreement in the judgment reached by a group as a whole

## consequential

having important issues or results

## conservatoire

a schoolhouse with special facilities for fine arts

## conservatory

a schoolhouse with special facilities for fine arts



## consign

give over to another for care or safekeeping

## consistency

a harmonious uniformity or agreement among things or parts

## console

give moral or emotional strength to

## consolidation

combining into a solid mass

## consonance

the property of sounding harmonious

## consonant

a speech sound that is not a vowel

## consort

keep company with

## conspiracy

a plot to carry out some harmful or illegal act

## conspire

act in agreement and in secret towards a deceitful purpose

## consternation

sudden shock or dismay that causes confusion

## constituency

the body of voters who elect a representative for their area

## constituent

one of the individual parts making up a composite entity

## constitution

the act of forming or establishing something

## constraint

the state of being physically limited

## construe

make sense of; assign a meaning to

## consummate

having or revealing supreme mastery or skill

## contagion

an incident in which an infectious disease is transmitted

## contaminate

make impure

## contemn

look down on with disdain

## contempt

lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

## contend

compete for something

## contention

the act of competing as for profit or a prize

## contentious

showing an inclination to disagree

## contest

a struggle between rivals

## context

the set of facts or circumstances that surround a situation

## contiguous

having a common boundary or edge

## continence

voluntary control over urinary and fecal discharge

## contingent

determined by conditions or circumstances that follow

## contortion

a tortuous and twisted shape or position

## contraband

distributed or sold illicitly

## contravene

go against, as of rules and laws

## contrite

feeling or expressing pain or sorrow for sins or offenses

## contrivance

the faculty of inventive skill

## contrive

make or work out a plan for; devise

## contrived

showing effects of planning or manipulation

## controvert

prove to be false or incorrect

## contumacious

willfully obstinate; stubbornly disobedient

## contumely

rude language intended to offend or hurt

## contusion

an injury in which the skin is not broken

## conundrum

a difficult problem

## convene

meet formally

## convention

the act of meeting formally

## conventional

following accepted customs and proprieties

## converge

be adjacent or come together

## conversant

well informed about or knowing thoroughly

## converse

carry on a discussion

## convert

change the nature, purpose, or function of something

## convex

curving or bulging outward

## conveyance

something that serves as a means of transportation

## conviction

an unshakable belief in something without need for proof

## convivial

occupied with or fond of the pleasures of good company

## convoke

call together

## convoluted

highly complex or intricate

## convulsion

violent uncontrollable contractions of muscles

## copious

large in number or quantity

## coquette

talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions

## cordial

politely warm and friendly

## cordon

a series of sentinels or posts enclosing some place or thing

## cormorant

large, dark-colored, long-necked seabird

## cornice

the topmost projecting part of an entablature

## cornucopia

a horn filled with fruit and grain symbolizing prosperity

## corollary

an inference following from the proof of another proposition

## coroner

an official who investigates death not due to natural causes

## corporeal

having material or physical form or substance

## corpulent

excessively fat

## corpus

a collection of writings

## corpuscle

an unattached cell such as a red or white blood cell

## correlate

bear a reciprocal or mutual relation

## correlation

a reciprocal connection between two or more things

## corroborate

give evidence for

## corrode

cause to deteriorate due to water, air, or an acid

## corrosive

capable of destroying or eating away by chemical action

## corrugated

shaped into alternating parallel grooves and ridges

## corsair

a swift pirate ship (often operating with official sanction)

## cortege

the group following and attending to some important person

## coruscate

reflect brightly

## cosmic

pertaining to or characteristic of the universe

## coterie

an exclusive circle of people with a common purpose

## countenance

the appearance conveyed by a person's face

## countermand

cancel officially

## counterpart

a person or thing having the same function as another

## coup

a sudden and decisive change of government by force

## couple

two items of the same kind

## courier

a person who carries a message

## court

an assembly to conduct judicial business

## covenant

an agreement between God and his people

## covert

secret or hidden

## covetous

immoderately desirous of acquiring something

## cow

female of domestic cattle

## cower

crouch or curl up

## coy

affectedly shy especially in a playful or provocative way

## cozen

be dishonest with

## crabbed

annoyed and irritable

## craft

the skilled practice of a practical occupation

## crass

so unrefined as to be lacking in discrimination

## crave

have an appetite or great desire for

## craven

lacking even the rudiments of courage; abjectly fearful

## credence

the mental attitude that something is believable

## credential

a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts

## credo

any system of principles or beliefs

## credulity

tendency to believe readily

## credulous

showing a lack of judgment or experience

## creed

any system of principles or beliefs

## creep

move slowly

## cremate

reduce to ashes

## crepuscular

like or relating to twilight; dim

## crescendo

a gradual increase in loudness

## crest

the top or extreme point of something

## crestfallen

brought low in spirit

## crevice

a long narrow opening

## cringe

draw back, as with fear, pain, or embarrassment

## crinkle

make wrinkles or creases on a smooth surface

## criterion

the ideal in terms of which something can be judged

## crochet

needlework by interlocking stitches with a hooked needle

## crone

an ugly, evil-looking old woman

## cross

a marking that consists of lines that intersect each other

## crossbreed

the offspring of genetically dissimilar parents or stock

## crotchety

having a difficult and contrary disposition

## cruet

bottle that holds wine or oil or vinegar for the table

## crust

a hard outer layer that covers something

## crux

the most important point

## crypt

a cellar or vault or underground burial chamber

## cryptic

having a secret or hidden meaning

## cubicle

small area set off by walls for special use

## cue

a reminder for some action or speech

## cuisine

the manner of preparing food or the food so prepared

## cul de sac

a street with only one way in or out

## culinary

of or relating to or used in cooking



## cull

remove something that has been rejected

## culmination

a concluding action

## culpable

deserving blame or censure as being wrong or injurious

## culprit

someone or something responsible for harm or wrongdoing

## culvert

a transverse and enclosed drain under a road or railway

## cumbersome

difficult to handle or use because of size or weight

## cumulative

increasing by successive addition

## cunning

showing inventiveness and skill

## cupidity

extreme greed for material wealth

## curator

the custodian of a collection, as a museum or library

## curb

the act of restraining power or action or limiting excess

## curfew

an order that after a certain time activities are prohibited

## curmudgeon

an irascible, cantankerous person full of stubborn ideas

## curry

(East Indian cookery) a pungent dish of vegetables or meats flavored with curry powder and usually eaten with rice

## cursive

handwriting in which letters are connected within words

## cursory

hasty and without attention to detail; not thorough

## curtail

terminate or abbreviate before its intended or proper end

## cynic

someone who is critical of the motives of others

## cynical

believing the worst of human nature and motives

## cynicism

a pessimistic feeling of distrust

## cynosure

something that provides guidance

## dabble

bob under so as to feed off the bottom of a body of water

## dainty

something considered choice to eat

## dais

a platform raised above the surrounding level

## dally

behave carelessly or indifferently

## damn

something of little value

## dank

unpleasantly cool and humid

## dapper

marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners

## dappled

having spots or patches of color

## dart

a sudden quick movement

## dastard

a despicable coward

## daub

an unskillful painting

daunt

cause to lose courage

dauntless

invulnerable to fear or intimidation

dawdle

hang or fall in movement, progress, development, etc.

days

the time during which someone's life continues

daze

confusion characterized by lack of clarity

dazzle

cause to lose clear vision, especially from intense light

deadlock

a situation in which no progress can be made

deadpan

deliberately impassive in manner

dearth

an insufficient quantity or number

debacle

a sudden and complete disaster

debar

prevent the occurrence of; prevent from happening

debase

make impure by adding a foreign or inferior substance

debauch

a wild gathering involving excessive drinking

debenture

the ability of a customer to obtain goods before payment

debilitate

make weak

debonair

having a sophisticated charm

## debris

the remains of something that has been destroyed

## debunk

expose while ridiculing

## debut

the act of beginning something new

## debutante

a young woman making her formal entrance into society

## decadence

the state of being degenerate in mental or moral qualities

## decant

pour out

## decapitate

cut the head off of

## decelerate

lose velocity; move more slowly

## deciduous

shedding foliage at the end of the growing season

## decimate

kill in large numbers

## decipher

convert code into ordinary language

## declivity

a downward slope or bend

## decollete

(of a garment) having a low-cut neckline

## decomposition

the organic phenomenon of rotting

## decorous

characterized by propriety and dignity and good taste

## decorum

propriety in manners and conduct

## decoy

something used to lure fish or other animals

## decree

a legally binding command or decision

## decrepit

worn and broken down by hard use

## decrepitude

a state of deterioration due to old age or long use

## decry

express strong disapproval of

## deducible

capable of being figured out by what is known

## deface

mar or spoil the appearance of

## defalcate

appropriate fraudulently to one's own use

## defamation

an abusive attack on a person's character or good name

## defame

charge falsely or with malicious intent

## default

an option that is selected automatically

## defeatist

someone who is resigned to an unsuccessful ending

## defect

a failing or deficiency

## defection

withdrawing support or help despite allegiance

## defer

yield to another's wish or opinion

## deference

courteous regard for people's feelings

## defiance

a hostile challenge

## defile

make dirty or spotty

## definitive

clearly formulated

## deflect

turn from a straight course or fixed direction

## defoliate

deprived of leaves

## defray

bear the expenses of

## defrock

remove from one's position in the church

## deft

skillful in physical movements; especially of the hands

## defunct

no longer in force or use; inactive

## degenerate

a person whose behavior deviates from what is acceptable

## degradation

changing to a lower, less respected state

## degraded

lowered in value

## dehydrate

remove water from

## deify

exalt to the position of a God

## deign

do something that one considers to be below one's dignity

## delete

cut or eliminate

## deleterious

harmful to living things

## deliberate

carefully thought out in advance

## delineate

represented accurately or precisely

## delineation

a drawing of the outlines of forms or objects

## deliquescent

becoming liquid by absorbing moisture from the air

## delirium

a usually brief state of excitement and mental confusion

## delta

the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet

## delude

be dishonest with

## deluge

a heavy rain

## delusion

a mistaken or unfounded opinion or idea

## delusive

inappropriate to reality or facts

## delusory

causing one to believe what is not true or fail to believe what is true

## delve

turn up, loosen, or remove earth

## demagogue

a leader who seeks support by appealing to popular passions

## demean

reduce in worth or character, usually verbally

## demeanor

the way a person behaves toward other people

## demented

affected with madness or insanity

## demerit

a quality or feature deserving censure

## demesne

territory over which rule or control is exercised

## demise

the time when something ends

## demographic

a statistic characterizing human populations

## demolition

the act of destroying completely

## demoniac

someone who acts as if possessed by a demon

## demoniacal

frenzied as if possessed by a demon

## demotic

of or for the common people

## demur

politely refuse or take exception to

## demure

shy or modest, often in a playful or provocative way

## denigrate

charge falsely or with malicious intent

## denizen

a plant or animal naturalized in a region

## denomination

identifying word by which someone or something is called

## denotation

the most direct or specific meaning of a word or expression

## denouement

the outcome of a complex sequence of events



denounce

speak out against

depict

give a description of

depilate

remove body hair

deplete

use up, as resources or materials

deplore

express strong disapproval of

deploy

place troops or weapons in battle formation

deport

expel from a country

depose

force to leave an office

deposition

the act of putting something somewhere

depravity

moral perversion; impairment of virtue and moral principles

deprecate

express strong disapproval of; deplore

deprecatory

tending to diminish or disparage

depreciate

decline in value

depredation

an act of plundering and pillaging and marauding

deputize

appoint as a substitute

deranged

driven insane

## derelict

a person without a home, job, or property

## dereliction

willful negligence

## deride

treat or speak of with contempt

## derision

the act of treating with contempt

## derivation

the source or origin from which something comes

## derivative

a compound obtained from another compound

## dermatologist

a doctor who specializes in the physiology of the skin

## derogatory

expressive of low opinion

## descant

a decorative musical accompaniment (often improvised) added above a basic melody

## descry

catch sight of

## desecrate

violate the sacred character of a place or language

## deserts

an outcome (good or bad) that is well merited

## desiccate

lacking vitality or spirit; lifeless

## desideratum

something sought after as a necessity

## desolate

providing no shelter or sustenance

## desperado

a bold outlaw

## desperate

a person who is frightened and in need of help

## despicable

morally reprehensible

## despise

look down on with disdain

## despoil

plunder or steal goods

## despondent

without or almost without hope

## despot

a cruel and oppressive dictator

## despotism

dominance through threat of punishment and violence

## destitute

poor enough to need help from others

## desuetude

a state of inactivity or disuse

## desultory

marked by lack of definite plan or regularity or purpose

## detached

no longer connected or joined

## detain

cause to be slowed down or delayed

## detergent

a cleansing agent that differs from soap

## determinate

supplying or being a final or conclusive settlement

## determination

the act of finding out the properties of something

## deterrent

something immaterial that interferes with action or progress

## detonation

the act of setting off an explosive

## detraction

a petty disparagement

## detriment

a damage or loss

## detrimental

causing harm or injury

## deviate

turn aside; turn away from

## devious

turning away from a straight course

## devise

arrange by systematic planning and united effort

## devoid

completely wanting or lacking

## devolve

pass on or delegate to another

## devotee

an ardent follower and admirer

## devout

deeply religious

## dexterous

skillful in physical movements; especially of the hands

## diabolical

showing cunning or ingenuity or wickedness

## diadem

an ornamental jeweled headdress signifying sovereignty

## dialectic

a contradiction of ideas that determines their interaction

## dialectical

relating to reasoning by the exchange of logical arguments

## diaphanous

so thin as to transmit light

## diatribe

thunderous verbal attack

## dichotomy

a classification into two opposed parts or subclasses

## dictum

an authoritative declaration

## didactic

instructive, especially excessively

## die

lose all bodily functions necessary to sustain life

## diffidence

lack of self-assurance

## diffuse

spread out; not concentrated in one place

## diffusion

the act of dispersing something

## dignitary

an important or influential person

## digression

a message that departs from the main subject

## digressive

(of e.g. speech and writing) tending to depart from the main point or cover a wide range of subjects

## dilapidated

in a state of decay, ruin, or deterioration

## dilapidation

the process of becoming dilapidated

## dilate

become wider

## dilatory

wasting time

## dilemma

state of uncertainty in a choice between unfavorable options

## dilettante

an amateur engaging in an activity without serious intention

## diligence

conscientiousness in paying proper attention to a task

## dilute

lessen the strength or flavor of a solution or mixture

## diminution

change toward something smaller or lower

## din

a loud harsh or strident noise

## dinghy

a small boat of shallow draft

## dingy

thickly covered with ingrained dirt or soot

## dint

force or effort

## diorama

a picture representing a continuous scene

## dipsomaniac

a person who drinks alcohol to excess habitually

## dire

fraught with extreme danger; nearly hopeless

## dirge

a song or hymn of mourning as a memorial to a dead person

## disabuse

free somebody from an erroneous belief

## disaffected

discontented as toward authority

## disapprobation

pronouncing as wrong or morally culpable

## disarray

untidiness, especially of clothing and appearance

## disavowal

denial of any connection with or knowledge of

## disband

cause to break up or cease to function

## disbar

expel from the practice of law by official action

## disburse

expend, as from a fund

## discernible

perceptible by the senses or intellect

## discerning

having or revealing keen insight and good judgment

## disclaim

make a disavowal about

## disclose

expose to view as by removing a cover

## discombobulated

having self-possession upset; thrown into confusion

## discomfit

cause to lose one's composure

## discompose

cause to lose one's composure

## disconcert

cause to lose one's composure

## disconsolate

sad beyond comforting; incapable of being soothed

## discord

lack of agreement or harmony

## discordant

not in agreement or harmony

## discount

an amount or percentage deducted

## discourse

an extended communication dealing with some particular topic

## discredit

the state of being held in low esteem

## discrepancy

a difference between conflicting facts or claims or opinions

## discrete

constituting a separate entity or part

## discretion

power of making choices unconstrained by external agencies

## discriminate

marked by the ability to see or make fine distinctions

## discriminating

showing or indicating careful judgment and discernment

## discursive

tending to cover a wide range of subjects

## disdain

lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

## disembark

exit from a ship, vehicle, or aircraft

## disenfranchise

deprive of voting rights

## disengage

release from something that holds fast or entangles

## disfigure

mar or spoil the appearance of

## disgorge

eject the contents of the stomach through the mouth

## disgruntle

put into a bad mood or into bad humour



## dishabille

the state of being carelessly or partially dressed

## dishearten

take away the enthusiasm of

## disheveled

in disarray; extremely disorderly

## dishonor

a state of shame or disgrace

## disinclination

a certain degree of unwillingness

## disingenuous

not straightforward or candid

## disinter

dig up for reburial or for medical investigation

## disinterested

unaffected by concern for one's own welfare

## disjointed

taken apart at the points of connection

## disjunction

state of being disconnected

## dislodge

remove or force from a position previously occupied

## dismantle

take off or remove

## dismember

separate the limbs from the body

## dismiss

stop associating with

## disparage

express a negative opinion of

## disparate

fundamentally different or distinct in quality or kind

## disparity

inequality or difference in some respect

## dispassionate

unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice

## dispatch

the act of sending off something

## dispel

to cause to separate and go in different directions

## dispense

administer or bestow, as in small portions

## disperse

move away from each other

## dispersion

spreading widely or driving off

## dispirited

showing no enthusiasm

## disport

occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion

## disproportion

imbalance among the parts of something

## disputatious

showing an inclination to disagree

## disquietude

feelings of anxiety that make you tense and irritable

## disquisition

an elaborate analytical or explanatory essay or discussion

## dissection

cutting so as to separate into pieces

## dissemble

behave unnaturally or affectedly

## disseminate

cause to become widely known

## dissension

disagreement among those expected to cooperate

## dissent

a difference of opinion

## dissertation

a treatise advancing a point of view resulting from research

## dissident

a person who objects to some established policy

## dissimulate

hide feelings from other people

## dissipate

cause to separate and go in different directions

## dissolute

unrestrained by convention or morality

## dissolution

separation into component parts

## dissonance

disagreeable sounds

## dissuade

turn away from by persuasion

## dissuasion

a communication that dissuades you

## distaff

the staff on which wool or flax is wound before spinning

## distant

separated in space or coming from far away

## distend

cause to expand as if by internal pressure

## distill

undergo condensation

## distinct

constituting a separate entity or part

## distinction

a discrimination between things as different

## distinctive

of a feature that helps to identify a person or thing

## distort

twist and press out of shape

## distortion

a shape resulting from being deformed

## distract

draw someone's attention away from something

## distract

having the attention diverted especially because of anxiety

## distraught

deeply agitated especially from emotion

## diurnal

having a daily cycle or occurring every day

## diva

a distinguished female operatic singer

## diverge

move or draw apart

## diverse

distinctly dissimilar or unlike

## diversion

a turning aside

## diversity

noticeable variety

## divest

take away possessions from someone

## divination

the art or gift of prophecy by supernatural means

## divine

a clergyman or other person in religious orders

## divulge

make known to the public information previously kept secret

## docile

easily handled or managed

## docket

a temporally organized plan for matters to be attended to

## doctrinaire

a stubborn person of arbitrary or arrogant opinions

## doctrine

a belief accepted as authoritative by some group or school

## document

a representation of a person's thinking with symbolic marks

## doddering

mentally or physically infirm with age

## doff

remove

## dogged

stubbornly unyielding

## doggerel

a comic verse of irregular measure

## dogmatic

pertaining to a code of beliefs accepted as authoritative

## doldrums

a belt of calms between the Atlantic and Pacific trade winds

## dolorous

showing sorrow

## dolt

a person who is not very bright

## domicile

housing that someone is living in

## dominant

most frequent or common

## dominate

be in control

## domineer

rule or exercise power over in a cruel and autocratic manner

## don

teacher at a university or college

## doom

an unpleasant or disastrous destiny

## dormant

inactive but capable of becoming active

## dormer

a gabled extension built out from a sloping roof

## dorsal

on or near the back of an animal or organ

## dossier

papers containing detailed information about a person

## dotage

mental infirmity as a consequence of old age

## dote

shower with love; show excessive affection for

## dour

showing a brooding ill humor

## douse

wet thoroughly

## dowdy

lacking in stylishness or taste

## downcast

filled with melancholy and despondency

## dowry

money brought by a woman to her husband at marriage

## dowse

use a divining rod in search of underground water or metal

## doze

a light fitful sleep

## drab

a dull greyish to yellowish or light olive brown

## Draconian

imposing a harsh code of laws

## draft

a current of air

## drama

a work intended for performance by actors on a stage

## drastic

forceful and extreme and rigorous

## draught

a serving of drink (usually alcoholic) drawn from a keg

## draw

cause to move by pulling

## dregs

sediment that has settled at the bottom of a liquid

## dribble

flowing in drops

## drip

flowing in drops

## drivel

saliva spilling from the mouth

## droll

comical in an odd or whimsical manner

## drone

make a monotonous low dull sound

## droop

sink or settle from pressure or loss of tautness

## dross

worthless or dangerous material that should be removed

## drudge

a laborer who is obliged to do menial work

## drudgery

hard, monotonous, routine work

## dubious

fraught with uncertainty or doubt

## ductile

capable of being shaped or bent or drawn out

## duenna

a woman chaperon

## dulcet

pleasing to the ear

## dull

so lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness

## dumbfound

be a mystery or bewildering to

## dummy

a figure representing the human form

## dupe

fool or hoax

## duplicity

the act of deceiving or acting in bad faith

## durance

imprisonment (especially for a long time)

## duration

the period of time during which something continues

## duress

compulsory force or threat

## duteous

willingly obedient out of a sense of respect

## dutiful

willingly obedient out of a sense of respect



## dwindle

become smaller or lose substance

## dynamic

characterized by action or forcefulness of personality

## dynamo

a coil that rotates between the poles of an electromagnet

## dysentery

an infection of the intestines marked by severe diarrhea

## dyslexia

impaired ability to learn to read

## dyspeptic

suffering from indigestion

## earmark

give or assign a resource to a particular person or cause

## earn

acquire or deserve by one's efforts or actions

## earthly

of or belonging to or characteristic of this world

## earthy

of or consisting of or resembling the soil

## ebb

the outward flow of the tide

## ebullience

eager enjoyment or approval

## ebullient

joyously unrestrained

## eccentric

conspicuously or grossly unconventional or unusual

## eccentricity

strange and unconventional behavior

## ecclesiastic

of or associated with a church

## eclat

brilliant or conspicuous success or effect

## eclectic

selecting what seems best of various styles or ideas

## eclecticism

making decisions on the basis of what seems best instead of following some single doctrine or style

## eclipse

the phenomenon when one celestial body obscures another

## ecliptic

the great circle representing the annual path of the sun

## ecologist

a biologist who studies organisms and their environment

## economy

the system of production and distribution and consumption

## ecosystem

organisms interacting with their physical environment

## ecstasy

a state of elated bliss

## eddy

a miniature whirlpool or whirlwind

## edict

a formal or authoritative proclamation

## edifice

a structure that has a roof and walls

## edify

make understand

## educe

construe a meaning or elicit a principle

## eerie

suggestive of the supernatural; mysterious

## efface

remove by or as if by rubbing or erasing

## effective

producing or capable of producing an intended result

## effectual

producing or capable of producing an intended result

## effectuate

bring about or cause to happen

## effeminate

having unsuitable feminine qualities

## effervesce

become bubbly or frothy or foaming

## effervescence

the process of bubbling as gas escapes

## effete

excessively self-indulgent, affected, or decadent

## efficacy

capacity or power to produce a desired result

## effigy

a representation of a person

## efflorescent

bursting into flower

## effluvium

a foul-smelling outflow or vapor

## effrontery

audacious behavior that you have no right to

## effulgent

radiating or as if radiating light

## effusion

an unrestrained expression of emotion

## effusive

uttered with unrestrained enthusiasm

## ego

an inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others

## egoism

concern for your own interests and welfare

## egotism

an exaggerated opinion of your own importance

## egotistical

having an inflated idea of one's own importance

## egregious

conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible

## egress

the act or means of going out

## ejaculation

the discharge of semen in males

## elaborate

marked by complexity and richness of detail

## elaboration

developing in intricate and painstaking detail

## elastic

capable of resuming shape after stretching or compression

## elated

exultantly proud and joyful; in high spirits

## elation

a feeling of joy and pride

## elegy

a mournful poem; a lament for the dead

## elevation

distance of something above a reference point

## elicit

call forth, as an emotion, feeling, or response

## elixir

a substance believed to cure all ills

## ellipsis

omission or suppression of parts of words or sentences

elliptical

rounded like an egg

elope

run away secretly with one's beloved

eloquence

powerful and effective language

eloquent

expressing yourself readily, clearly, effectively

elucidate

make clear and comprehensible

elusive

skillful at evading capture

elysian

relating to the abode of the blessed after death

Elysium

a place or condition of ideal happiness

emaciated

very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

emanate

give out, as breath or an odor

emancipate

free from slavery or servitude

emasculate

deprive of strength or vigor

embargo

a government order imposing a trade barrier

embark

go on board

embed

fix or set securely or deeply

embellish

make more attractive, as by adding ornament or color

## embezzlement

the fraudulent appropriation of funds or property

## embitter

cause to be resentful

## emblazon

decorate with heraldic arms

## embody

represent in bodily form

## emboss

raise in a relief

## embrace

squeeze tightly in your arms, usually with fondness

## embroider

decorate with needlework

## embroil

force into some kind of situation or course of action

## embryonic

of an organism prior to birth or hatching

## emend

make corrections to

## emendation

a correction by emending

## emeritus

a professor or minister who is retired from assigned duties

## emetic

a medicine that induces nausea and vomiting

## eminent

standing above others in quality or position

## emissary

someone sent on a mission to represent another's interests

## emollient

a substance with a soothing effect when applied to the skin

## emolument

compensation received by virtue of holding an office

## empathy

understanding and entering into another's feelings

## empirical

derived from experiment and observation rather than theory

## empyreal

of or relating to the sky or heavens

## emulate

strive to equal or match, especially by imitating

## enact

order by virtue of superior authority; decree

## enamored

marked by foolish or unreasoning fondness

## encipher

convert ordinary language into code

## encircle

surround or form a ring around

## enclave

an enclosed territory that is culturally distinct

## encomiastic

formally expressing praise

## encomium

a formal expression of praise

## encompass

include in scope

## encroachment

any entry into an area not previously occupied

## encumber

hold back, impede, or weigh down

## endear

make attractive or lovable

## endearment

the act of showing affection

## endemic

native to or confined to a certain region

## endive

widely cultivated herb with leaves valued as salad green

## endorse

approve of

## endue

give qualities or abilities to

## enduring

unceasing

## energize

cause to be alert and active

## enervate

weaken mentally or morally

## enfranchise

grant freedom to, as from slavery or servitude

## engage

consume all of one's attention or time

## engaged

having one's attention or mind or energy consumed

## engaging

attracting or delighting

## engender

call forth

## engross

devote fully to

## engulf

flow over or cover completely

## enhance

increase



## enigma

something that baffles understanding and cannot be explained

## enigmatic

not clear to the understanding

## enjoin

give instructions to or direct somebody to do something

## enlist

join the military

## enliven

make lively

## enmity

a state of deep-seated ill-will

## ennui

the feeling of being bored by something tedious

## enormity

the quality of extreme wickedness

## enrapture

hold spellbound

## ensconce

fix firmly

## ensue

take place or happen afterward or as a result

## entail

have as a logical consequence

## enterprise

a purposeful or industrious undertaking

## enterprising

marked by initiative and readiness to undertake new projects

## enthrall

hold spellbound

## entice

provoke someone to do something through persuasion

## entity

that which is perceived to have its own distinct existence

## entomology

the branch of zoology that studies insects

## entourage

the group following and attending to some important person

## entrance

something that provides access to get in

## entreat

ask for or request earnestly

## entree

the principal dish of a meal

## entrepreneur

someone who organizes a business venture

## enumerate

specify individually

## enunciate

express or state clearly

## environ

extend on all sides of simultaneously; encircle

## eon

the longest unit of geological time

## epaulet

an ornamental cloth pad worn on the shoulder

## epaulette

an ornamental cloth pad worn on the shoulder

## ephemeral

anything short-lived, as an insect that lives only for a day

## epic

a long narrative poem telling of a hero's deeds

## epicure

a person devoted to refined sensuous enjoyment

## Epicurean

of Epicurus or epicureanism

## epicurean

devoted to pleasure

## epigram

a witty saying

## epilogue

a short speech by an actor at the end of a play

## episodic

divided into or composed of distinct scenes or events

## epistemologist

a specialist in the philosophical theory of knowledge

## epitaph

an inscription in memory of a buried person

## epithet

descriptive word or phrase

## epitome

a standard or typical example

## epoch

a period marked by distinctive character

## equable

not varying

## equanimity

steadiness of mind under stress

## equestrian

of or relating to or featuring horseback riding

## equilibrium

a stable situation in which forces cancel one another

## equine

resembling a horse

## equinox

when the sun crosses the plane of the earth's equator

## equipage

equipment and supplies of a military force

## equipoise

equality of distribution

## equitable

fair to all parties as dictated by reason and conscience

## equity

conformity with rules or standards

## equivocal

open to two or more interpretations

## equivocate

be deliberately ambiguous or unclear

## erode

remove soil or rock

## erotic

giving sexual pleasure; sexually arousing

## errant

straying from the right course or from accepted standards

## erratic

liable to sudden unpredictable change

## erroneous

containing or characterized by mistakes

## erudite

having or showing profound knowledge

## erudition

profound scholarly knowledge

## escapade

any carefree episode

## eschew

avoid and stay away from deliberately

## escutcheon

a shield; especially one displaying a coat of arms

## esoteric

understandable only by an enlightened inner circle

## espionage

the systematic use of spies to obtain secrets

## espouse

choose and follow a theory, idea, policy, etc.

## esprit de corps

the spirit that makes the members of a group want to succeed

## esteem

the condition of being honored

## estimable

deserving of respect or high regard

## estranged

caused to be unloved

## ethereal

characterized by lightness and insubstantiality

## ethnic

distinctive of the ways of living of a group of people

## ethnology

branch of anthropology dealing with divisions of humankind

## ethos

the distinctive spirit of a culture or an era

## etymology

a history of a word

## eugenic

causing improvement in the offspring produced

## eulogistic

formally expressing praise

## eulogy

a formal expression of praise for someone who has died

## euphemism

an inoffensive expression substituted for an offensive one

## euphonious

having a pleasant sound

## euphony

any pleasing and harmonious sounds

## euphoria

a feeling of great elation

## euthanasia

the act of killing someone painlessly

## evanescent

tending to vanish like vapor

## evasive

avoiding or escaping from difficulty or danger

## evenhanded

without partiality

## eventual

expected to follow in the indefinite future

## evince

give expression to

## eviscerate

remove the entrails of

## evocative

serving to bring to mind

## evoke

call forth, as an emotion, feeling, or response

## ewe

female sheep

## ewer

an open vessel with a handle and a spout for pouring

## exacerbate

make worse

## exact

marked by strict and complete accordance with fact

## exacting

severe and unremitting in making demands

## exaction

act of demanding or levying by force or authority

## exalt

praise, glorify, or honor

## exasperate

make furious

## except

prevent from being included or considered or accepted

## exceptionable

likely to cause objection or disapproval

## excerpt

a passage selected from a larger work

## exchequer

the funds of a government or institution or individual

## excise

remove by cutting

## excision

surgical removal of a body part or tissue

## exclaim

utter aloud, often with surprise, horror, or joy

## excoriate

express strong disapproval of

## exculpate

pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

## execrable

unequivocally detestable

## execrate

curse or declare to be evil or anathema

## execute

put in effect

## executioner

an official who inflicts capital punishment

## executive

a person responsible for the administration of a business

## executor

a person appointed to carry out the terms of the will

## exegesis

an explanation or critical interpretation

## exemplary

worthy of imitation

## exemplify

be characteristic of

## exempt

freed from or not subject to an obligation or liability

## exertion

use of physical or mental energy; hard work

## exhale

expel air

## exhilarating

making lively and joyful

## exhort

spur on or encourage especially by cheers and shouts

## exhume

dig up for reburial or for medical investigation

## exigency

a pressing or urgent situation

## exigent

demanding immediate attention

## exiguous

extremely scanty

## existential

relating to or dealing with the state of being



## exodus

a journey by a group to escape from a hostile environment

## exonerate

pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

## exorbitant

greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

## exorcise

expel through adjuration or prayers

## exotic

characteristic of another place or part of the world

## expansive

able or tending to extend in one or more directions

## expatiate

add details, as to an account or idea

## expatriate

a person who is voluntarily absent from home or country

## expediency

the quality of being suited to the end in view

## expedient

appropriate to a purpose

## expedite

process fast and efficiently

## expeditious

marked by speed and efficiency

## expeditiously

with efficiency; in an efficient manner

## expenditure

the act of spending money for goods or services

## expertise

skillfulness by virtue of possessing special knowledge

## expiate

make amends for