

pang

a sudden sharp feeling

"pangs of regret"

"she felt a stab of excitement"

"twinges of conscience"

rural

living in or characteristic of farming or country life

"rural people"

"large rural households"

"unpaved rural roads"

"an economy that is basically rural"

peddling

the act of selling goods for a living

tangentially

in passing

"touched on it tangentially"

actuator

a mechanism that puts something into automatic action

juxtaposition

the act of positioning close together (or side by side)

"it is the result of the juxtaposition of contrasting colors"

aflutter

excited in anticipation

cornucopia

a goat's horn filled with grain and flowers and fruit
symbolizing prosperity

resurgence

bringing again into activity and prominence

"the revival of trade"

"a revival of a neglected play by Moliere"

"the Gothic revival in architecture"

pervasive

spreading or spread throughout

"armed with permeative irony...he punctures affectations"

"the pervasive odor of garlic"

"an error is pervasive if it is material to more than one conclusion"

malaise

physical discomfort (as mild sickness or depression)

palpable

capable of being perceived

especially capable of being handled or touched or felt

"a barely palpable dust"

"felt sudden anger in a palpable wave"

"the air was warm and close--palpable as cotton"

"a palpable lie"

trinity

the cardinal number that is the sum of one and one
and one

subsequent

following in time or order

"subsequent developments"

convergence

the occurrence of two or more things coming together

furrowed

having long narrow shallow depressions (as grooves or wrinkles) in the surface

"furrowed fields"

"his furrowed face lit by a warming smile"

boon

very close and convivial

"boon companions"

a desirable state

"enjoy the blessings of peace"

"a spanking breeze is a boon to sailors"

overt

open and observable

not secret or hidden

"an overt lie"

"overt hostility"

"overt intelligence gathering"

"open ballots"

rationale

(law) an explanation of the fundamental reasons
(especially an explanation of the working of some
device in terms of laws of nature)

"the rationale for capital punishment"

"the principles of internal-combustion engines"

emblematic

serving as a visible symbol for something abstract

"a crown is emblematic of royalty"

"the spinning wheel was as symbolic of colonial
Massachusetts as the codfish"

WOO

seek someone's favor

"China is wooing Russia"

anachronism

something located at a time when it could not have existed or occurred

clout

a target used in archery

strike hard, especially with the fist

"He clouted his attacker"

engender
call forth

inherently

in an inherent manner

"the subject matter is sexual activity of any overt kind, which is depicted as inherently desirable and exciting"

status quo

the existing state of affairs

virtuous

morally excellent

shrewd

marked by practical hardheaded intelligence

"a smart businessman"

"an astute tenant always reads the small print in a lease"

"he was too shrewd to go along with them on a road that could lead only to their overthrow"

hyperbolic

enlarged beyond truth or reasonableness

"a hyperbolic style"

pronounced

strongly marked

easily noticeable

"walked with a marked limp"

"a pronounced flavor of cinnamon"

introspection

the contemplation of your own thoughts and desires and conduct

nacre

the iridescent internal layer of a mollusk shell

cognizant

(sometimes followed by ` of') having or showing knowledge or understanding or realization or perception

"was aware of his opponent's hostility"

"became aware of her surroundings"

"aware that he had exceeded the speed limit"

tacit

implied by or inferred from actions or statements

"gave silent consent"

"a tacit agreement"

"the understood provisos of a custody agreement"

quell

suppress or crush completely

"squelch any sign of dissent"

"quench a rebellion"

satiate

supplied (especially fed) to satisfaction

fill to satisfaction

"I am sated"

serenity

a disposition free from stress or emotion

ameliorate

to make better

"The editor improved the manuscript with his changes"

dispel

force to go away

used both with concrete and metaphoric meanings

"Drive away potential burglars"

"drive away bad thoughts"

"dispel doubts"

"The supermarket had to turn back many
disappointed customers"

voyeuristic

of or relating to voyeurs or voyeurism

"his voyeuristic pleasures"

succinctly

with concise and precise brevity

to the point

"Please state your case as succinctly as possible"

"he wrote compactly but clearly"

lexicon

a language user's knowledge of words

fiscal

involving financial matters

"fiscal responsibility"

inception

an event that is a beginning

a first part or stage of subsequent events

myriad

too numerous to be counted

"incalculable riches"

"countless hours"

"an infinite number of reasons"

"innumerable difficulties"

"the multitudinous seas"

"myriad stars"

"untold thousands"

a large indefinite number

"he faced a myriad of details"

cumbersome

difficult to handle or use especially because of size or weight

"a cumbersome piece of machinery"

"cumbrous protective clothing"

onerous

not easily borne

wearing

"the burdensome task of preparing the income tax return"

"my duties weren't onerous

I only had to greet the guests"

"a taxing schedule"

impromptu

with little or no preparation or forethought

"his ad-lib comments showed poor judgment"

"an extemporaneous piano recital"

"an extemporary lecture"

"an extempore skit"

"an impromptu speech"

"offhand excuses"

"trying to sound offhanded and reassuring"

"an off-the-cuff toast"

"a few unrehearsed comments"

without advance preparation

"he spoke ad lib"

an extemporaneous speech or remark

"a witty impromptu must not sound premeditated"

erroneous

containing or characterized by error

"erroneous conclusions"

salve

semisolid preparation (usually containing a medicine) applied externally as a remedy or for soothing an irritation

save from ruin, destruction, or harm

bewitching

capturing interest as if by a spell

"bewitching smile"

"Roosevelt was a captivating speaker"

"enchanted music"

"an enthralling book"

"antique papers of entrancing design"

"a fascinating woman"

precipice

a very steep cliff

lenticular

convex on both sides

shaped like a lentil

lustrous

made smooth and bright by or as if by rubbing
reflecting a sheen or glow

"bright silver candlesticks"

"a burnished brass knocker"

"she brushed her hair until it fell in lustrous auburn
waves"

"rows of shining glasses"

"shiny black patents"

forgo

do without or cease to hold or adhere to

"We are dispensing with formalities"

"relinquish the old ideas"

impetus

a force that moves something along

alleviate

provide physical relief, as from pain

"This pill will relieve your headaches"

percolate

the product of percolation

permeate or penetrate gradually

"the fertilizer leached into the ground"

confer

have a conference in order to talk something over

"We conferred about a plan of action"

kudos

an expression of approval and commendation

"he always appreciated praise for his work"

coveted
greatly desired

dogged

stubbornly unyielding

"dogged persistence"

"dour determination"

"the most vocal and pertinacious of all the critics"

"a mind not gifted to discover truth but tenacious to hold it"- T.S.Eliot

"men tenacious of opinion"

adage

a condensed but memorable saying embodying
some important fact of experience that is taken as
true by many people

smorgasbord

a collection containing a variety of sorts of things

"a great assortment of cars was on display"

"he had a variety of disorders"

"a veritable smorgasbord of religions"

profanity

vulgar or irreverent speech or action

mesmerizing

attracting and holding interest as if by a spell

"read the bedtime story in a hypnotic voice"

"she had a warm mesmeric charm"

"the sheer force of his presence was mesmerizing"

"a spellbinding description of life in ancient Rome"

salient

having a quality that thrusts itself into attention

"an outstanding fact of our time is that nations poisoned by anti semitism proved less fortunate in regard to their own freedom"

"a new theory is the most prominent feature of the book"

"salient traits"

"a spectacular rise in prices"

"a striking thing about Picadilly Circus is the statue of Eros in the center"

"a striking resemblance between parent and child"
(military) the part of the line of battle that projects closest to the enemy

coercion

the act of compelling by force of authority

jabber

rapid and indistinct speech

talk in a noisy, excited, or declamatory manner

pique

tightly woven fabric with raised cords

cause to feel resentment or indignation

"Her tactless remark offended me"

protagonist

a person who backs a politician or a team etc.

"all their supporters came out for the game"

"they are friends of the library"

cascade

a small waterfall or series of small waterfalls
rush down in big quantities, like a cascade

taciturn

habitually reserved and uncommunicative

affluent

having an abundant supply of money or possessions of value

"an affluent banker"

"a speculator flush with cash"

"not merely rich but loaded"

"moneyed aristocrats"

"wealthy corporations"

an affluent person

a person who is financially well off

"the so-called emerging affluents"

middling

lacking exceptional quality or ability

"a novel of average merit"

"only a fair performance of the sonata"

"in fair health"

"the caliber of the students has gone from mediocre to above average"

"the performance was middling at best"

to a moderately sufficient extent or degree

"pretty big"

"pretty bad"

"jolly decent of him"

"the shoes are priced reasonably"

"he is fairly clever with computers"

any commodity of intermediate quality or size
(especially when coarse particles of ground wheat
are mixed with bran)

pallid

abnormally deficient in color as suggesting physical or emotional distress

"the pallid face of the invalid"

"her wan face suddenly flushed"

intricately

with elaboration

"it was elaborately spelled out"

perplex

be a mystery or bewildering to

"This beats me!"

"Got me--I don't know the answer!"

"a vexing problem"

"This question really stuck me"

profound

showing intellectual penetration or emotional depth

"the differences are profound"

"a profound insight"

"a profound book"

"a profound mind"

"profound contempt"

"profound regret"

sustenance

a source of materials to nourish the body

ominous

threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments

"a baleful look"

"forbidding thunderclouds"

"his tone became menacing"

"ominous rumblings of discontent"

"sinister storm clouds"

"a sinister smile"

"his threatening behavior"

"ugly black clouds"

"the situation became ugly"

obstinate

tenaciously unwilling or marked by tenacious
unwillingness to yield

persist stubbornly

"he obstinates himself against all rational
arguments"

adept

having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude

"adept in handicrafts"

"an adept juggler"

"an expert job"

"a good mechanic"

"a practiced marksman"

"a proficient engineer"

"a lesser-known but no less skillful composer"

"the effect was achieved by skillful retouching"

someone who is dazzlingly skilled in any field

subdued

in a softened tone

"hushed voices"

"muted trumpets"

"a subdued whisper"

"a quiet reprimand"

centripetal

tending to move toward a center

"centripetal force"

abstinent

self-restraining

not indulging an appetite especially for food or drink

"not totally abstinent but abstemious"

a person who refrains from drinking intoxicating beverages

mercurial

liable to sudden unpredictable change

"erratic behavior"

"fickle weather"

"mercurial twists of temperament"

"a quicksilver character, cool and willful at one moment, utterly fragile the next"

zeitgeist

the spirit of the time

the spirit characteristic of an age or generation

voraciously

in an eagerly voracious manner

"she reads voraciously"

rote

memorization by repetition

viability

(of living things) capable of normal growth and development

enthralled

filled with wonder and delight

insatiable

impossible to satisfy

"an insatiate appetite"

"an insatiable demand for old buildings to restore"

"his passion for work was unsatiable"

solitude

a state of social isolation

exemplify

be characteristic of

"This compositional style is exemplified by this
fugue"

newness

the quality of being new

the opposite of oldness

provincial

of or associated with a province

"provincial government"

(Roman Catholic Church) an official in charge of an ecclesiastical province acting under the superior general of a religious order

"the general of the Jesuits receives monthly reports from the provincials"

insipid

lacking taste or flavor or tang

"a bland diet"

"insipid hospital food"

"flavorless supermarket tomatoes"

"vapid beer"

"vapid tea"

coerce

to cause to do through pressure or necessity, by physical, moral or intellectual means : "She forced him to take a job in the city"

"He squeezed her for information"

predilection

a predisposition in favor of something

"a predilection for expensive cars"

"his sexual preferences"

"showed a Marxist orientation"

fable

a deliberately false or improbable account

capsaicin

colorless pungent crystalline compound derived from capsicum

source of the hotness of hot peppers of the genus Capsicum such as chili and cayenne and jalapeno

dissonance

a conflict of people's opinions or actions or characters

crooning

singing in a soft low tone

"her crooning soon put the child to sleep"

dropper

pipet consisting of a small tube with a vacuum bulb at one end for drawing liquid in and releasing it a drop at a time

"she used an eye dropper to administer medication to the eyes"

strychnine

an alkaloid plant toxin extracted chiefly from nux
vomica

formerly used as a stimulant

lariat

a long noosed rope used to catch animals

moniker

a familiar name for a person (often a shortened version of a person's given name)

"Joe's mother would not use his nickname and always called him Joseph"

"Henry's nickname was Slim"

ectoplasm

(spiritualism) a substance supposed to emanate from the body of the medium during a trance

prurient

characterized by lust

"eluding the lubricious embraces of her employer"

"her sensuous grace roused his lustful nature"

"prurient literature"

"prurient thoughts"

"a salacious rooster of a little man"

paresis

a slight or partial paralysis

inconspicuous

not prominent or readily noticeable

"he pushed the string through an inconspicuous hole"

"the invisible man"

stoical

seeming unaffected by pleasure or pain

impassive

"stoic courage"

"stoic patience"

"a stoical sufferer"

gibber

unintelligible talking

Speak (about unimportant matters) rapidly and incessantly

peristalsis

the process of wavelike muscle contractions of the alimentary tract that moves food along

protoplasm

the substance of a living cell (including cytoplasm and nucleus)

eunuch

a man who has been castrated and is incapable of reproduction

"eunuchs guarded the harem"

precinct

a district of a city or town marked out for administrative purposes

wary

marked by keen caution and watchful prudence

"they were wary in their movements"

"a wary glance at the black clouds"

"taught to be wary of strangers"

caustically

in a caustic vitriolic manner

"he addressed her caustically"

snide

expressive of contempt

"curled his lip in a supercilious smile"

"spoke in a sneering jeering manner"

"makes many a sharp comparison but never a mean or snide one"

resignation

acceptance of despair

ballad

a narrative song with a recurrent refrain

renal

of or relating to the kidneys

coroner

a public official who investigates by inquest any death not due to natural causes

helm

steering mechanism for a vessel

a mechanical device by which a vessel is steered

be at or take the helm of

"helm the ship"

store

a mercantile establishment for the retail sale of goods or services

"he bought it at a shop on Cape Cod"

keep or lay aside for future use

"store grain for the winter"

"The bear stores fat for the period of hibernation when he doesn't eat"

curtly

in a curt, abrupt and discourteous manner

"he told me curtly to get on with it"

"he talked short with everyone"

"he said shortly that he didn't like it"

innocuous

not injurious to physical or mental health

carotid

of or relating to either of the two major arteries supplying blood to the head and neck

pungent

strong and sharp

"the pungent taste of radishes"

"the acrid smell of burning rubber"

mull

a term used in Scottish names of promontories

"the Mull of Kintyre"

reflect deeply on a subject

"I mulled over the events of the afternoon"

"philosophers have speculated on the question of God for thousands of years"

"The scientist must stop to observe and start to excogitate"

unrequited

not returned in kind

"unrequited (unanswered) love"

petulant

easily irritated or annoyed

"an incorrigibly fractious young man"

"not the least nettlesome of his countrymen"

reconcile

make (one thing) compatible with (another)

"The scientists had to accommodate the new results with the existing theories"

futility

uselessness as a consequence of having no practical result

ectopic

exhibiting ectopia

gravelly

abounding in small stones

"landed at a shingly little beach"

callousness

devoid of passion or feeling

hardheartedness

equivocation

a statement that is not literally false but that cleverly avoids an unpleasant truth

derisive

abusing vocally

expressing contempt or ridicule

"derisive laughter"

"a jeering crowd"

"her mocking smile"

"taunting shouts of `coward' and `sissy'"

plaintive

expressing sorrow

cavalier

given to haughty disregard of others

a gallant or courtly gentleman

gurney

a metal stretcher with wheels

ischium

one of the three sections of the hipbone
situated below the ilium

pubis

one of the three sections of the hipbone
together these two bones form the front of the
pelvis

lope

a slow pace of running
run easily

reprimand

an act or expression of criticism and censure

"he had to take the rebuke with a smile on his face"

rebuke formally

speculum

a mirror (especially one made of polished metal) for use in an optical instrument

elucidate

make clear and (more) comprehensible

"clarify the mystery surrounding her death"

absolution

the condition of being formally forgiven by a priest
in the sacrament of penance

transcendence

a state of being or existence above and beyond the limits of material experience

inconsequential

lacking worth or importance

"his work seems trivial and inconsequential"

"the quite inconsequent fellow was managed like a puppet"

exertion

use of physical or mental energy

hard work

"he got an A for effort"

"they managed only with great exertion"

animosity

a feeling of ill will arousing active hostility

dilapidated

in deplorable condition

"a street of bedraggled tenements"

"a broken-down fence"

"a ramshackle old pier"

"a tumble-down shack"

indictment

a formal document written for a prosecuting attorney charging a person with some offense

paternal

belonging to or inherited from one's father

"spent his childhood on the paternal farm"

"paternal traits"

bile

a digestive juice secreted by the liver and stored in the gallbladder

aids in the digestion of fats

grimace

a contorted facial expression

"she made a grimace at the prospect"

contort the face to indicate a certain mental or emotional state

"He grimaced when he saw the amount of homework he had to do"

curt

marked by rude or peremptory shortness

"try to cultivate a less brusque manner"

"a curt reply"

"the salesgirl was very short with him"

milling

corrugated edge of a coin

earshot

the range within which a voice can be heard

"the children were told to stay within earshot"

vengeful

disposed to seek revenge or intended for revenge

"more vindictive than jealous love" - Shakespeare

"punishments...essentially vindictive in their nature" - M.R.Cohen

admonish

admonish or counsel in terms of someone's behavior

"I warned him not to go too far"

"I warn you against false assumptions"

"She warned him to be quiet"

congregation

a group of people who adhere to a common faith
and habitually attend a given church

brimstone

an old name for sulfur

pulpit

a platform raised above the surrounding level to
give prominence to the person on it

inordinately

extremely

"she was inordinately smart"

"it will be an extraordinarily painful step to negotiate"

insofar

to the degree or extent that

"insofar as it can be ascertained, the horse lung is comparable to that of man"

"so far as it is reasonably practical he should practice restraint"

amble

a leisurely walk (usually in some public place)

walk leisurely

penance

remorse for your past conduct

ailment

an often persistent bodily disorder or disease
a cause for complaining

birthday

an anniversary of the day on which a person was born (or the celebration of it)

sedentary

requiring sitting or little activity

"forced by illness to lead a sedentary life"

clammy

unpleasantly cool and humid

"a clammy handshake"

"clammy weather"

"a dank cellar"

"dank rain forests"

pragmatism

(philosophy) the doctrine that practical consequences are the criteria of knowledge and meaning and value

normalcy

being within certain limits that define the range of normal functioning

stellar

indicating the most important performer or role

"the leading man"

"prima ballerina"

"prima donna"

"a star figure skater"

"the starring role"

"a stellar role"

"a stellar performance"

prowess

a superior skill that you can learn by study and practice and observation

"the art of conversation"

"it's quite an art"

grits

coarsely ground hulled corn boiled as a breakfast dish in the southern United States

fanfare

a gaudy outward display

attorney

a professional person authorized to practice law
conducts lawsuits or gives legal advice

falter

the act of pausing uncertainly

"there was a hesitation in his speech"

be unsure or weak

"Their enthusiasm is faltering"

ensemble

a group of musicians playing or singing together

"a string ensemble"

bristle

a stiff fiber (coarse hair or filament)

natural or synthetic

be in a state of movement or action

"The room abounded with screaming children"

"The garden bristled with toddlers"

tantamount

being essentially equal to something

"it was as good as gold"

"a wish that was equivalent to a command"

"his statement was tantamount to an admission of guilt"

stern

of a stern or strict bearing or demeanor
forbidding in aspect

"an austere expression"

"a stern face"

the rear part of a ship

rabid

of or infected by rabies

tenacity

persistent determination

imperceptible

impossible or difficult to perceive by the mind or senses

"an imperceptible drop in temperature"

"an imperceptible nod"

"color is unperceivable to the touch"

emphysema

an abnormal condition of the lungs marked by decreased respiratory function associated with smoking or chronic bronchitis or old age

consolation

the comfort you feel when consoled in times of
disappointment

"second place was no consolation to him"

taut

pulled or drawn tight

"taut sails"

"a tight drumhead"

"a tight rope"

hoarse

deep and harsh sounding as if from shouting or illness or emotion

"gruff voices"

"the dog's gruff barking"

"hoarse cries"

"makes all the instruments sound powerful but husky"- Virgil Thomson

seething

in constant agitation

"a seething flag-waving crowd filled the streets"

"a seething mass of maggots"

"lovers and madmen have such seething brains"-

Shakespeare

glib

marked by lack of intellectual depth

"glib generalizations"

"a glib response to a complex question"

awning

a canopy made of canvas to shelter people or things
from rain or sun

pokey

wasting time

a correctional institution used to detain persons who are in the lawful custody of the government (either accused persons awaiting trial or convicted persons serving a sentence)

startling

so remarkably different or sudden as to cause
momentary shock or alarm

"Sydney's startling new Opera House"

"startling news"

"startling earthquake shocks"

ambiguous

open to two or more interpretations
or of uncertain nature or significance
or (often) intended to mislead

"an equivocal statement"

"the polling had a complex and equivocal (or
ambiguous) message for potential female
candidates"

"the officer's equivocal behavior increased the
victim's uneasiness"

"popularity is an equivocal crown"

"an equivocal response to an embarrassing
question"

dilapidation

a state of deterioration due to old age or long use

avail

a means of serving

"of no avail"

"there's no help for it"

use to one's advantage

"He availed himself of the available resources"

undertow

an inclination contrary to the strongest or prevailing feeling

"his account had a poignant undertow of regret"

reticence

the trait of being uncommunicative

not volunteering anything more than necessary

cinder

a fragment of incombustible matter left after a
wood or coal or charcoal fire

stark

devoid of any qualifications or disguise or
adornment

"the blunt truth"

"the crude facts"

"facing the stark reality of the deadline"

completely

"stark mad"

"mouth stark open"

jamb

upright consisting of a vertical side member of a door or window frame

decor

decoration consisting of the layout and furnishings
of a livable interior

ravaged

having been robbed and destroyed by force and violence

"the raped countryside"

wry

humorously sarcastic or mocking

"dry humor"

"an ironic remark often conveys an intended meaning obliquely"

"an ironic novel"

"an ironical smile"

"with a wry Scottish wit"

emaciated

very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

"emaciated bony hands"

"a nightmare population of gaunt men and skeletal boys"

"eyes were haggard and cavernous"

"small pinched faces"

"kept life in his wasted frame only by grim concentration"

contrite

feeling or expressing pain or sorrow for sins or offenses

rapport

a relationship of mutual understanding or trust and agreement between people

heinous

extremely wicked, deeply criminal

"a flagitious crime"

"heinous accusations"

pry

a heavy iron lever with one end forged into a wedge

to move or force, especially in an effort to get something open

"The burglar jimmied the lock": "Raccoons managed to pry the lid off the garbage pail"

loco

informal or slang terms for mentally irregular

"it used to drive my husband balmy"

posturing

adopting a vain conceited posture

semblance

an outward or token appearance or form that is deliberately misleading

"he hoped his claims would have a semblance of authenticity"

"he tried to give his falsehood the gloss of moral sanction"

"the situation soon took on a different color"

androgynous

relating to or exhibiting both female and male sex organs but with a predominantly female appearance

innate

not established by conditioning or learning

"an unconditioned reflex"

rudimentary

being or involving basic facts or principles

"the fundamental laws of the universe"

"a fundamental incompatibility between them"

"these rudimentary truths"

"underlying principles"

precocious

characterized by or characteristic of exceptionally early development or maturity (especially in mental aptitude)

"a precocious child"

"a precocious achievement"

flippant

showing inappropriate levity

opportune

suitable or at a time that is suitable or
advantageous especially for a particular purpose

"an opportune place to make camp"

"an opportune arrival"

contorted

twisted (especially as in pain or struggle)

"his mad contorted smile"

"writhed lips"

"my writhen features"- Walter scott

sneer

a facial expression of contempt or scorn

the upper lip curls

express through a scornful smile

"she sneered her contempt"

conviction

an unshakable belief in something without need for proof or evidence

incredulous

not disposed or willing to believe

unbelieving

trepidation

a feeling of alarm or dread

pockmarked

used of paved surfaces having holes or pits

winning

having won

"the victorious entry"

"the winning team"

succeeding with great difficulty

"winning is not everything"