 

A

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| Word | Meaning |
| Abase | Humiliate, cause to shame |
| Abash | Cause to be embarrassed, cause to feel self-conscious |
| Abate | Subside or moderate |
| Abdicate | To give up a position, right or power |
| Aberrant | Abnormal or deviant |
| Abet | Assist usually in doing something wrong |
| Abeyance | Suspended action |
| Abhor | Detest, hate |
| Abide | Dwell, put up with, tolerate |
| Abject | Miserable, pitiful |
| Abjure | To reject, abandon formally |
| Abortive | Unsuccessful, fruitless |
| Abound | Be abundant or plentiful, exist in large quantities |
| Abrogate | Abolish, revoke formally |
| Abscission | The art of cutting |
| Abscond | Depart secretly and hide |
| Abstemious | Sparing in eating and drinking |
| Abstinence | The giving up of certain pleasures |
| Abstruse | Obscure, profound, difficult to understand |
| Absurd | Wildly unreasonable, illogical |
| Abysmal | Very bad |
| Access | The right to enter |
| accommodate | Adjust or bring into harmony, adapt |
| Accomplice | Partner in crime |
| Accost | Approach and speak first to a person |
| Accretion | Growth or increase |
| Accrue | To accumulate, grow by additions |
| acknowledge | Recognize, admit |
| Acme | Highest point of something, pinnacle |
| Acquiesce | Assent, agree passively, comply without protest |
| acrimonious | Bitter in words or manner, stingy |
| Acute | Sharp, quickly perceptive, brief and severe, extremely pressing |
| Adamant | Uncompromising, unyielding |
| Adherent | Conform to or follow rules exactly, stick to firmly |
| Adjunct | Something added, attached or joined |
| Admonish | Warn, reprove |
| Adroit | Clever or skillful |
| Adulterate | Make impure by adding tainted substances |
| Advent | The arrival of a notable person or thing |
| Adversary | Someone who offers opposition |
| Adverse | Negative, harmful, unpleasant |
| Advocate | To publicly support a particular policy or way of doing things |
| Aegis | Under the influence or protection of a specific individual or party |
| Aesthetic | Artistic, capable of appreciating the beauty |
| Affected | Phony, pretentious |
| Affinity | Fondness, liking, similarity |
| Afflict | Cause pain or trouble to, affect adversely |
| Affluent | Having an abundant supply of money or possessions |
| Aggrandize | To make greater |
| Aggregate | Gather, accumulate |
| Alacrity | Cheerful promptness, eagerness |
| Alchemy | Medieval chemical philosophy based on changing metal into gold |
| Allay | To lessen, ease, soothe |
| Alleged | Questionable, doubtful |
| Alloy | A combination of two or more metals |
| Alleviate | Relieve |
| Allure | The power to entice by charm |
| Aloof | Remote in manner, not friendly |
| Altruistic | Showing unselfish concern for welfare of others |
| Amalgamate | Combine in one |
| Ambiguous | Unclear or doubtful in meaning |
| Ambivalence | State of conflicting emotional attitudes |
| Ambrosia | Something delicious |
| Ameliorate | Improve |
| Amenable | Agreeable, cooperative, suited |
| Amenity | Something that increases comfort |
| Amicable | Characterized by friendship and goodwill |
| Amnesty | Formal act of liberating someone, grant an official pardon to |
| Amorous | Showing, feeling or relating to sexual desire |
| Amulet | Ornament worn as a charm against evil spirits |
| Anachronism | Something misplaced in time |
| Analgesic | Medication to eliminate pain |
| Analogous | Comparable |
| Anarchy | Absence of governing body, state of disorder |
| Anathema | Someone who is cursed or shunned, something that one strongly dislikes |
| Annals | Record of historical events |
| Anodyne | Something that calms or sooths pain |
| Anomalous | Abnormal, irregular |
| Antecedent | Something that comes before |
| Antediluvian | Prehistoric |
| anthropologist | Someone who studies the development of humans |
| Antipathy | Aversion, dislike |
| Antiquated | Old-fashioned or outdated |
| Antithesis | Total opposite of |
| Apathy | Indifference |
| Apex | The highest point |
| Apogee | The highest point |
| Apostate | An individual who has rejected his faith or religious conventions |
| Apothegm | A terse, witty saying |
| Appalled | Struck with horror, greatly dismayed |
| Appease | Pacify, soothe, relieve |
| Appellation | Name |
| Apposite | Strikingly appropriate and relevant |
| Apprise | Inform |
| Approbation | Approval |
| Appropriate | Acquire, take possession of for one’s own use |
| Apropos | Relevant |
| Arabesque | Ornate design featuring intertwined curves |
| Arbiter | One appointed to settle down a dispute |
| Arbitrary | Chosen or done at random |
| Archaic | Very old |
| Archaeology | Study of material evidence of past human life |
| Ardent | Very enthusiastic or passionate |
| Ardor | Great emotion or passion |
| Arduous | Hard, strenuous |
| Argot | A specialized vocab used by a group |
| Array | A display or arrangement |
| Arrest | To stop, seize |
| Artifact | Items made by human craft |
| Artifice | A move made to advantage or trick someone |
| Artless | Without guilt, open and honest |
| Ascend | To travel in an upward direction |
| Ascertain | Be careful or certain to do things |
| Ascetic | Practicing self-denial, austere |
| Asinine | Extremely stupid or foolish |
| Asperity | Severity, harshness, irritability |
| Aspersion | Slander, false rumor |
| Aspirant | Having ambitions to achieve something |
| Aspire | To seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal |
| Asset | A useful or valuable thing |
| Assiduous | Diligent , hard working |
| Assuage | Ease pain, satisfy hunger, soothe anger |
| Astringent | Harsh, severe |
| Astute | Marked by practical hardheaded intelligence |
| Asylum | Place of shelter or refuge |
| Atavism | Return of a trait after a period of absence |
| Atrophy | To weaken in ability or function |
| Attenuate | Reduce |
| Attest | Authenticate, affirm to be true |
| Atypical | Somewhat odd, strange or abnormal |
| Audacious | Daring, bold |
| Augment | enlarge or increase |
| Austere | Forbiddingly stern, severely simple and unornamented |
| Avarice | Greed |
| Aver | Assert confidently, state formally as true |
| Aversion | Act of turning yourself away |
| Avid | Enthusiastic, passionate |
| Avocation | Secondary occupation |
| Avuncular | Like an uncle, benevolent and tolerant |
| Axiomatic | Taken for granted |

B

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Babble | Chatter idly or foolishly |
| Badger | To bother persistently, annoy |
| Baffle | To bewilder or confuse, hinder or prevent |
| Bacchanalian | Pertaining to riotous or drunken festivity or revelry |
| Balk | Hesitate or be unwilling to accept an idea or undertaking |
| Banal | Trite, lacking originality, commonplace, hackneyed |
| Bane | Something causing misery or death |
| Banter | Playful conversation |
| Bard | Poet |
| Bask | Be exposed to warmth and light, revel in and make the most of |
| Bawdy | Obscene |
| Beatify | To sanctify, to bless, to ascribe a virtue to |
| Bedizen | To dress in a vulgar, showy manner |
| Bedlam | A condition of chaos |
| Begrudge | Envy the possession or enjoyment of |
| Behemoth | Huge and powerful |
| Belie | Contradict, give a false impression |
| Belittle | Dismiss as unimportant |
| Belligerent | Hostile and aggressive |
| Beneficent | Kindly, doing good |
| Benevolent | Willing to help do good |
| Bereft | Sorrowful through loss or deprivation |
| Besiege | To approach with excessive no. of requests or questions |
| Besmirch | Charge falsely or with malicious intent |
| Bias | A partiality that prevents objective consideration of an issue |
| Bigot | A prejudiced person who is intolerant of any opinions differing from his own |
| Bifurcate | To divide into two parts |
| Bizarre | Highly unusual |
| Blandishment | Flattery |
| Blatant | Completely obvious, especially in an offensive manner |
| Blaze | Unconcerned, bored because of frequent indulgence |
| Bliss | Great joy |
| Blunt | Very direct in one’s words usually in a negative manner |
| Bogus | Not real, fraudulent |
| Bolster | Support, reinforce |
| Bombastic | Pompous, using inflated language |
| Bona fide | Not counterfeit or copied, real or done honestly |
| Boorish | Rude, insensitive |
| Bovine | Cow-like |
| Brash | Offensively bold |
| Brawl | A fight with large no. of people involved |
| Brazen | Bold, shameless |
| Bristle | Rise up as in fear, react in an offended or angry manner |
| Broach | To mention for the first time |
| Bucolic | Characteristic of countryside, rustic, pastoral |
| Bulwark | An object that acts as a shield |
| Burgeon | Grow forth, set out buds |
| Burnish | Make shiny by rubbing, polish |
| Buttress | Support, prop up |

C

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Cache | A hidden storage space |
| Cacophonous | Unpleasant or harsh-sounding |
| Cadge | To beg, sponge |
| Cajole | Persuade someone to do something, convince with gentle pleadings |
| Callous | Insensitive |
| Callow | Immature, lacking in life experience |
| Calumny | False and malicious accusation |
| Canard | False, deliberately misleading story |
| Candid | Truthful and straightforward |
| Candor | The quality of being open and honest |
| Canon | An established set of principles |
| Cant | Insincere talk, language of particular group |
| Cantankerous | Irritable, ill-humored |
| Capitulate | To give in or surrender under certain terms |
| Capricious | Unpredictable, fickle |
| Captious | Faultfinding, intended to entrap as in an argument |
| Cardinal | Of foremost importance |
| Carnage | The killing of large number of people |
| Carnal | Related to physical appetites |
| Carping | Having the tendency to criticize |
| Cartography | Science of map-making |
| Caste | Social stratification |
| Castigation | Punishment, severe criticism |
| Cataclysm | A violent upheaval that causes great destruction and change |
| Catalyst | Agent that increases pace of a chemical action |
| catastrophic | Extremely harmful |
| Categorical | Absolute, without exception |
| Caucus | Smaller group within an organization |
| Causal | Involving a cause |
| Caustic | Burning, sarcastically biting |
| Celerity | A rate that is rapid |
| Celestial | Concerned with sky or heaven, sublime |
| Centrifugal | Moving away from a center |
| Centripetal | Moving towards a center |
| Cessation | The fact of being brought to an end |
| Chagrin | A feeling of being frustrated or annoyed because of failure or disappointment |
| Champion | To defend or support |
| Charisma | A personal attractiveness that enables you to influence others |
| Charlatan | A person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill |
| Chasten | To correct by punishment or reproof, to restrain or subdue |
| Chicanery | Trickery, deception |
| Chimerical | Produced by a wildly fanciful imagination |
| Chivalry | Bravery and gallantry towards women |
| Churlish | Rude, boorish |
| Circuitous | Roundabout |
| Clamor | Noisy outcry |
| Clairvoyant | One who can predict the future, psychic |
| Clandestine | Conducted by hidden aims or methods |
| Cliché | A word or phrase used excessively |
| Clique | A small, exclusive group |
| Cloister | To confine, seclude |
| Coagulate | Thicken, clot, congeal |
| Coalesce | To cause to become one |
| Coda | Concluding section, concludes or summarizes |
| Codify | To systemize |
| Coerce | To cause to do through pressure or necessity |
| Cogent | Very clear and easy to the mind to accept and believe |
| Cognizant | Informed, aware |
| Collage | An assemblage of diverse elements |
| Cogent | Convincing |
| Comely | Very pleasing to the eye |
| Commensurate | Corresponding in degree or proportion |
| commodious | Spacious and convenient |
| Compassion | A deep awareness and sympathy for another’s sufferings |
| Compatible | Able to exist and perform in harmonious and agreeable combination |
| Compendium | Brief, comprehensive summary |
| compensate | To make up for a misdeed |
| Complacent | Self-satisfied |
| Complaisant | Trying to please, overly polite, obliging |
| Complement | Something that makes up a whole |
| Compliant | Yielding, conforming to requirements |
| Complicity | Guilt as an accomplice in a crime or offense |
| comprehensive | Including or dealing with all aspects of something |
| Compunction | Uneasiness caused by guilt |
| Concave | Curving inward |
| Conciliatory | Soothing, reconciling |
| Concoct | To invent |
| Concomitant | Existing concurrently |
| Concur | Happen simultaneously, be in agreement |
| Condolence | An expression of sympathy with another’s grief |
| Condone | Overlook, approve, give tacit approval |
| Conducive | Tending to bring about |
| Confidant | A person with whom you can share your secrets |
| conflagration | An extensive fire that destroys a great deal of land and property |
| Confound | To be unable to think clearly, confusing, perplexing, to baffle |
| Confront | Come face to face with |
| Congenial | Friendly, suited to, similar in habits |
| Conjecture | Reasoning that involves conclusions from incomplete evidence |
| Conjugal | Pertaining to marriage agreement |
| Connoisseur | A lover of art |
| Connubial | Relating to marriage |
| Conscript | A person compulsorily enrolled for military services |
| Consecrate | To declare sacred |
| consternation | A feeling of worry, shock or fear |
| Construe | Make sense of |
| consummate | Extremely skilled |
| contemptuous | Showing or feeling deep hatred for someone or something |
| Contend | To assert |
| Contention | Claim, thesis |
| Contentious | Quarrelsome |
| Continence | Self-control |
| Contrite | Penitent |
| Contumacious | Disobedient, rebellious |
| Conundrum | Riddle, difficult problem |
| Convention | Practice widely accepted |
| Converge | Tend to meet, come together |
| Convex | Curved outward |
| Convivial | Sociable |
| Convoluted | Coiled around, involved, intricate |
| Cope | How well one deals with difficult situation |
| Copious | Abundant, plentiful |
| Coquette | Woman who flirts |
| Corpulent | Having a large bulky body |
| Cornucopia | State of abundance |
| Corroborate | To strengthen with evidence |
| Coterie | An exclusive circle of people with a common purpose |
| countenance | A person’s facial expression |
| Coup | A sudden and decisive change of government by force |
| Cosmology | Study of universe |
| Covert | Hidden, secret |
| Covetous, covet | Desiring something owned by other |
| Cozen | To mislead by trick or fraud, to deceive |
| Craven | Cowardly |
| Credence | Acceptance of something as true |
| Credo | Statement of belief of principle, creed |
| Cryptic | Having a mysterious meaning |
| Culminate | Reach a climax or point of highest development |
| Culpable | Deserving blame as being wrong or evil |
| cumbersome | Difficult to handle or use because of size or weight, not elegant or graceful |
| Cumulative | Force by successive additions |
| Cupidity | Extreme greed for material wealth |
| Cursory | Hasty and without attention to detail |
| Curtail | To limit something |
| Cynic | Someone who is critical of the motive of others |

D

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Daunt | Intimidate, frighten |
| Dearth | Scarcity |
| Debacle | Chatter idly or foolishly |
| Debauchery | Corruption |
| Debilitate | Make someone very weak and infirm |
| Debris | The remains of something that has been destroyed or broken up |
| Decade | A period of 10 years |
| Decadence | The state of being degenerate in mental or moral aspects |
| Decapitate | Cut the head of |
| Declaim | Speak against in an impassioned manner, recite in elocution |
| Decorum | Propriety, orderliness and good taste in manners |
| Decrepit | Worn out or ruined because of age or neglect |
| Deem | Keep in mind or convey as a view |
| Defame | To malign, harm someone’s reputation |
| Default | Failure to act |
| Deference | Courteous regard for another’s wishes |
| Defunct | No longer existing |
| Degrade | Reduce the worth |
| Deleterious | Harmful to living things |
| Delineate | Portray, depict, sketch |
| Delude | Make someone believe something that is not true |
| Deluge | A severe flood, a large no. of things occurring in the same instance |
| Delve | To search thoroughly and carefully for information, turn up |
| Demeanor | Behavioral attributes |
| Demographic | Related to population balance |
| Demotic | Pertaining to people |
| Demur | To express doubt, question or oppose |
| Denigrate | Blacken |
| Denizen | Regular visitor |
| Denote | To point out something |
| Denouement | Outcome |
| Deplorable | Completely unacceptable |
| Deploy | Place troops or weapons in battle formation |
| Deprecate | Express strong disapproval of |
| Deride | Ridicule, make fun of |
| Derivative | Unoriginal, obtained from another source |
| Derogatory | Conveying a poor opinion of something |
| Desiccate | Dry up |
| Desist | To stop doing something |
| Desuetude | State of disuse |
| Desultory | Aimless, haphazard, digressing at random |
| Deterrent | Something that discourages, hindrance |
| Detriment | An event that inflicts damage to an individual or thing |
| Detraction | Act of taking away |
| Devout | Very religious or strongly committed to belief or cause |
| Dexterity | The ability to do task both quickly and skillfully |
| Diaphanous | Transparent, vague, insubstantial |
| Diatribe | Bitter scolding, invective |
| Dichotomy | Split, branching into two parts |
| Diffidence | Shyness |
| Diffuse | Wordy, rambling, spread out |
| Dilettante | A person whose interest in an area is not very serious |
| Digression | Wandering away from the subject |
| Diminutive | Very small |
| Dirge | Lament with music |
| Discern | To be able to see |
| Disabuse | Correct a false impression |
| Discerning | Mentally quick and observant, having insight |
| Discomfit | To make uneasy, disconcert |
| Discordant | Conflicting, not harmonious |
| Discredit | Defame, disbelieve |
| Discrepancy | Lack of consistency, difference |
| Discreet | Not attracting attention |
| Discrete | Separate, unconnected, consisting of distinct parts |
| Discretion | Quality of showing self-restraint in speech or actions |
| Disdain | Lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike |
| Disgruntled | In a state of sulky dissatisfaction |
| Disheveled | In disarray, extremely disorderly |
| Disingenuous | Lacking genuine candor, insincere |
| Disinterested | Unprejudiced |
| Disjointed | Lacking coherence, separated at the joints |
| Dismantle | Take off or remove |
| Dismiss | Reject, eliminate from consideration |
| Disparage | Belittle |
| Disparate | Unrelated, basically different |
| Dispersed | To spread out equally |
| Dissemble | Disguise, pretend |
| Disseminate | Distribute, spread, scatter(like seeds) |
| Dissent | Hold or express opinions that are at variance with those commonly held |
| Dissident | Person who disagrees about beliefs |
| Dissolution | Disintegration, looseness in morals |
| Dissonance | Discord, opposite of harmony |
| Distend | Expand, swell out |
| Distill | Purify, refine and concentrate |
| Distrait | Inattentive, preoccupied |
| Distraught | Deeply agitated especially from emotion |
| Diverge | Vary, go in different directions, spread out |
| Divest | Strip, deprive |
| Divulge | To make a secret known |
| Docile | Easily handled or managed |
| Doctrinaire | Dogmatic, unyielding |
| Document | Provide written evidence |
| Doddering | Mentally or physically infirm with age |
| Doggerel | Poor verse |
| Dogmatic | Opinionated, arbitrary, doctrinal |
| Doleful | Filled with sadness or grief |
| Dormant | Sleeping, lethargic |
| Dregs | The least wanted part |
| Dross | Waste, worthless matter |
| Drudgery | Hard monotonous routine work |
| Dubious | Not convinced |
| Dulcet | Pleasing to the ear |
| Dupe | Someone easily fooled |
| Duplicity | Dishonest behavior intended to trick someone |
| Duress | Compulsory force or threat |

E

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| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Ebullient | Showing excitement and enthusiasm |
| Eclectic | Selective, collect from disparate sources |
| Edifice | A structure that has a roof and walls |
| effervescence | State of high spirits or liveliness |
| Effete | Depleted of vitality, over-refined, decadent |
| Efficacy | Power to produce desired effect |
| Effigy | A representation of a person |
| Effrontery | Impudence, shameless boldness |
| Egoism | Self-centeredness |
| Egotistical | Excessively self-centered, conceited |
| Egregious | Conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible |
| Elapse | Pass by, move |
| Elegy | Poem or song expressing lamentation |
| Elicit | Draw out by discussion |
| Elixir | A substance believed to have power to cure ills |
| Elucidate | Make free from confusion or ambiguity |
| Elusive | Difficult to describe |
| Elysian | Delightful, blissful |
| Emaciated | Thin and wasted |
| Embellish | Adorn, ornament, enhance, as a story |
| Eminent | Standing out from others |
| Emissary | Someone sent on a mission to represent interests of someone else |
| Emit | Give off |
| Emollient | Soothing, mollifying |
| Empirical | Based on experience |
| Emulate | Imitate, rival |
| Encomium | A formal expression of praise |
| encumbrance | Any obstruction that is burdensome |
| Endemic | Prevailing among a specific group or area |
| Enervate | Weaken |
| Engender | Cause, produce |
| Engrossed | Marked by complete attention |
| Enhance | Increase, improve |
| Enigma | Something that baffles understanding and cannot be explained |
| Ennui | The feeling of being bored by something tedious |
| Entourage | Group following and attending to some important person |
| Entreaty | Earnest or urgent request |
| entomology | Scientific study of insects |
| Enunciate | To pronounce clearly |
| Ephemeral | Short-lived, fleeting |
| epistemology | Philosophy branch that examines the nature of knowledge |
| Epithet | A defamatory or abusive word or phrase |
| Epitome | A standard or typical example |
| Equable | Steady, serene, unvarying |
| Equanimity | Calmness of temperament, composure |
| Equivocate | Lie, mislead, attempt to conceal the truth |
| Errant | Mistaken, straying for the proper course |
| Erudite | Learned, scholarly |
| Eschew | Avoid and stay away from deliberately |
| Esoteric | Hard to understand, known to only chosen few |
| Essay | To make an attempt, subject to a test |
| Estimable | Admirable, possible to estimate |
| ethnocentric | Based on the belief that one’s group is superior |
| Etiology | Causes or origins |
| Etymology | Origin and history of a word |
| Eugenics | Study of factors that affect the hereditary qualities of human race and ways to improve those qualities |
| Eulogy | Expression of praise |
| Euphemism | Mild expression instead unpleasant |
| Euphoria | Feeling of extreme happiness |
| Euthanasia | Mercy killing |
| Evanescent | Tending to vanish like vapor |
| Evince | To show plainly, be an indication of |
| Evocative | Tending to call to mind or produce a reaction |
| Exacerbate | Worsen, embitter |
| Excoriate | Express strong disapproval of |
| excruciating | Extremely painful |
| Exact | To force the payment of, demand and obtain by authority |
| Exculpate | Clear from blame |
| Execrable | Detertable, abhorrent |
| Exhort | To urge by strong appeals |
| Exigency | Urgent situation requiring immediate attention |
| Existential | Related to existence |
| Exonerate | Pronounce not guilt of criminal charges |
| Exorcise | To expel evil spirits, free from bad influence |
| Expatiate | To speak or write at length |
| Expatriate | To send into exile |
| Expedient | A means to an end |
| Expedite | Process fast and efficient |
| Expiate | To atone for |
| Explicate | To explain, clarify, interpret |
| Expository | explanatory |
| Expunge | Remove by erasing or crossing out |
| Expurgate | Edit by omitting or modifying parts |
| Extant | In existence, not lost |
| extemporaneous | Unrehearsed |
| Extirpate | To root up, to destroy |
| Extol | Praise, glorify or honor |
| Extraneous | Not essential |
| Extrapolation | Projection, conjecture |
| Extrinsic | Not inherent or essential |
| Exult | To express great joy |
| Exultation | Utterance of sounds expressing great joy |

F

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| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| fabricate | Make up something |
| facade | Front of a building |
| facet | A distinct feature or element in a problem |
| Facetious | Joking often inappropriately |
| facile | Expressing yourself readily |
| factitious | Not produced by natural forces |
| fallacious | Based on an incorrect or misleading notion of information, intended to deceive |
| falter | Speak haltingly |
| factotum | A person who does all sorts of work |
| Fallacious | Help bring about, make less difficult |
| fallow | Uncultivated |
| Fastidious | Giving careful attention to detail |
| Fatal | Of decisive importance |
| Fatuous | Brainless, foolish, yet smug, inane |
| fawning | Attempting to win flavor by flattery |
| Fauna | Animals of a period or region |
| Fawning | Trying to please by behaving obsequiously, flattering |
| feasible | Capable of being done with means at hand and circumstances as they are |
| Feint | Any distracting or deceptive maneuver |
| Felicitous | Apt, suitably expressed, well chosen |
| felon | Someone who has committed a crime |
| Feral | Existing in wild or untamed state |
| ferment | Agitation and excitement among a group of people |
| Fervor | Glowing ardor, intensity of feeling |
| Fetid | Having a bad smell |
| fetter | To bind, confine |
| fiasco | A sudden and violent collapse |
| Fiat | Arbitrary order, authorization |
| fidelity | Loyalty, exact correspondence |
| filibuster | Use of obstructive tactics in legislature to block passage of a law |
| finesse | Refined in performance, to handle with deceptive or evasive strategy |
| fissure | Crevice |
| flabbergasted | As if dumbstruck with astonishment and surprise |
| Flag | Droop, grow feeble |
| flagrant | Conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible |
| flamboyant | Tending to attract attention because of their exuberance |
| Flay | Strip the skin off |
| Fledgling | Inexperienced |
| Flora | Plants of a region or era |
| florid | Ruddy, reddish, flowery |
| Flout | Treat with contemptuous disregard |
| flourish | An embellishment or ornamentation |
| Flout | Reject, mock, show contempt for |
| Flux | Flowing or continuously moving |
| Foist | Insert without warrant |
| Foment | Stir up, instigate |
| forbearance | Patience |
| Forestall | Prevent by taking action in advance |
| formidable | Menacing, threatening |
| forthright | Characterized by directness in manner or speech |
| fortuitous | Occurring by happy chance |
| forswear | Renounce, repudiate |
| founder | To sink, fail, collapse |
| fracas | A loud quarrel, brawl |
| fractious | Quarrelsome, unruly, rebellious |
| Frail | Wanting in moral strength |
| fraught | Filled with, marked by distress |
| Fray | A noisy battle, skirmish |
| frenetic | Excessively agitated |
| frenzy | State of violent mental agitation |
| Fret | Be constantly or visibly anxious |
| fresco | A painting done on plaster |
| frieze | Ornamental band on a wall |
| froward | Stubbornly contrary, obstinately disobedient, difficult to deal with |
| Frugality | Thrift, economical |
| fulminate | To attack loudly, denounce |
| fulsome | So excessive as to be disgusting |
| furtive | Marked by quiet and caution and secrecy |
| fusion | Union, synthesis |
| Futile | Useless, hopeless, ineffectual |

G

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Gainsay | Deny, take exception to |
| galvanize | Shock or excite someone into taking action |
| Gambol | To frolic, leap playfully |
| gamut | A complete extent or range |
| Garbled | Confused and distorted, unclear |
| Garrulous | Talkative, wordy, loquacious |
| Gauche | Coarse and uncouth, clumsy |
| gaudy | Tastelessly showy |
| gaunt | Very thin especially from disease or hunger |
| Geniality | Cheerfulness, kindliness, sociability |
| genocide | Systematic killing of a racial or cultural group |
| Genre | A kind of literacy or artistic work |
| germane | Relevant and apt |
| gesticulate | Show through movement |
| Glean | Gather as of natural products |
| Gerrymander | To divide an area into voting districts to favor one political party |
| Glib | Fluent in an insincere way, offhand |
| Goad | Urge on |
| Gossamer | Sheer, light and delicate, like cobwebs |
| Gouge | Overcharge |
| Grandiloquent | Pompous, bombastic, using high sounding language |
| gratuity | An award given without claim |
| gregarious | Sociable |
| grimace | A facial expression that usually indicates strong dislike or pain |
| grotesque | Distorted and unnatural in shape or size |
| Grouse | To complain |
| Guileless | Without deceit |
| Guise | Outward appearance, false appearance |
| Gullible | Easily deceived |
| Gustatory | Affecting sense of taste |
| Gusto | Vigorous and enthusiastic |

H

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Halcyon | Calm and peaceful, happy, prosperous |
| Hallowed | Holy, sacred |
| hapless | Unfortunate |
| Harangue | Long, passionate and vehement speech |
| Harass | Subject to aggressive intimidation |
| Harrowing | Extremely distressing, terrifying |
| harbinger | One that initiates a major change |
| Haven | A location that offers security |
| Havoc | Widespread destruction |
| heinous | Hatefully or shockingly evil |
| Herbivores | Animal feeding on plants |
| Heresy | Deviation from a dominant practice |
| Hermetic | Tightly sealed, magical |
| Heterodox | Not widely accepted |
| Hieroglyphics | Writing or symbols difficult to decipher |
| Hirsute | Covered with hair |
| Histrionic | Relating to exaggerated emotional behavior calculated for effect |
| Hoard | To collect |
| Hoax | A humorous or malicious deception |
| Homeostasis | Automatic maintenance by an organism in balance with itself |
| Homily | Sermon, tedious moralizing lecture |
| Hostile | Unfriendly |
| Homogenous | Of the same kind |
| humility | Having a modest view of one’s importance |
| Hyperbole | Exaggeration, overstatement |

I

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Iconoclastic | Attacking cherished traditions |
| Idolatry | Worship of idols, excessive admiration |
| idyllic | Extremely happy, peaceful or picturesque |
| igneous | Produced by fire, volcanic |
| ignominious | Causing public disgrace or shame |
| imbibe | Drink |
| imbroglio | Complicated situation, an entanglement |
| imminent | About to happen |
| Immutable | Unchangeable |
| Impair | Injure, hurt |
| Impassive | Without feeling, stoical, imperturbable |
| impeccable | Faultless |
| impecunious | Poor, having no money |
| Impede | Hinder, block |
| imperative | Crucial |
| imperceptible | So slight, gradual as not to be perceived |
| Impermeable | Impervious, not permitting passage through |
| Imperturbable | Calm, placid |
| Impervious | Impenetrable, incapable of being damaged or distressed |
| impetuous | Characterized by undue haste and lack of thought |
| impious | Showing lack of respect for God or religion |
| impinge | To strike, encroach |
| Implacable | Incapable of being pacified |
| implausible | Unlikely, unbelievable |
| Implicit | Understood but not stated |
| Implode | Burst inward |
| implore | Beg someone earnestly or desperately to do something |
| importune | Harass persistently to do something |
| imprecation | Curse, damnation |
| impresario | A person who organizes concerts, plays or operas |
| impromptu | Done without being planned or rehearsed |
| imprudent | Rash, not showing care for the action’s consequence |
| impugn | Dispute the truth of |
| impunity | Exemption from punishment of freedom from injurious consequences of an action |
| impute | To attribute the fault to, Relate to a particular cause or source |
| Inadvertently | Carelessly, by oversight, unintentionally |
| inane | Lacking sense or meaning |
| inanimate | Not alive |
| incapacitated | Deprived of strength or power |
| incarnate | Having bodily form |
| Inchoate | Elementary, rudimentary, recently begun |
| incipient | Beginning to happen or develop |
| incisive | Intelligently analytical and clear thinking |
| inclement | Unpleasantly cold or wet |
| incoherent | Unclear |
| Incongruity | Lack of harmony, absurdity |
| Inconsequential | Insignificant, unimportant |
| incontrovertible | Not able to be denied or disputed |
| Incorporate | Combine, unite |
| incredulous | Unable to believe something |
| incumbent | Morally binding |
| indeterminate | Not exactly known or defined |
| indict | Formally accuse of a crime |
| incursion | Sudden invasion |
| Indeterminate | Indefinite, uncertain |
| indifference | Lack of interest, sympathy or concern |
| indigenous | Native |
| Indigence, indigent | Poverty, poor, needy |
| indoctrinate | Teach to accept a set of beliefs uncritically |
| Indolent | Lazy, idle |
| inebriated | Drunk |
| ineffectual | Not producing desired effect |
| ineluctable | Not to be avoided or escaped, inevitable |
| Inert | Inactive, lacking power to move |
| inevitable | Certain to happen, unavoidable |
| inexorable | Impossible to stop |
| infallible | Incapable of being mistakes or being wrong |
| infamous | Well known for some bad quality or deed |
| infraction | A violation of a law |
| Ingenuous | Naïve and trusting, young, unsophisticated |
| ingratiate | Bring oneself into favor with someone by flattery or pleasing |
| Inherent | Firmly established by nature or habit |
| inhibition | A feeling that makes one self-conscious and unable to act in relaxed way |
| iniquity | Immoral |
| innate | Inborn, natural |
| Innocuous | Harmless |
| inordinate | Unusually large, excessive |
| Insensible | Unconscious, unresponsive |
| insatiable | Impossible to satisfy |
| insensible | Unconscious |
| insidious | Proceeding in gradual subtle way but with harmful effects |
| Insinuate | Creep in, hint, imply |
| Insipid | Lacking in flavor, dull |
| insouciant | Indifferent, lacking care |
| Insularity | Narrow-mindedness, insolation |
| insuperable | Unconquerable, insurmountable |
| intangible | Not material |
| interdict | To forbid, prohibit |
| interject | To insert between other elements |
| interloper | Someone who intrudes on privacy of other |
| interminable | Endless |
| internecine | Deadly to both sides |
| interpolate | To insert, change by adding new words or materials |
| interregnum | Interval between reigns, gap in continuity |
| intimate | Marked by close acquaintance |
| intimidate | Frighten someone in order to make them do what one wants |
| Intractable | Stubborn, unyielding |
| Intransigence | Refusal of any compromise, stubbornness |
| intrepid | Fearless, adventurous |
| intrinsic | Essential |
| introspective | Contemplating one’s own thoughts and feelings |
| Inundate | Overwhelm, flood, submerge |
| Inured | Hardened, accustomed |
| Invective | Abuse |
| Inveigh | To disapprove, protest vehemently |
| Inveigle | To win over by flattering or coaxing |
| inveterate | Confirmed, long standing |
| invidious | Likely to provoke ill will |
| inviolable | Never to be broken or dishonored |
| Irascible | Irritable, easily angered |
| irate | Characterized by great anger |
| Irresolute | Uncertain how to act, weak |
| itinerant | Wandering from place to place, unsettled |
| Itinerary | Plan of a trip |

J

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Jaundiced | Affected by envy, yellowness in skin |
| Jaunty | Expressing a lively, cheerful and self-confidant manner |
| jeopardize | To put at risk |
| jettison | To eliminate something |
| Jibe | To be in agreement |
| Jocose | Fond of joking, jocular |
| Jostle | To complete or struggle with something |
| jubilant | Filled with joy |
| Juggernaut | Huge force destroying everything in its path |
| Junta | Group of people united in political intrigue |
| jurisdiction | Valid power to take decisions |
| Juxtapose | Place side by side |

K

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Kudos | Fame, glory, honor |

L

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Labile | Likely to change |
| labyrinth | A maze |
| laceration | A deep cut in skin or flesh |
| Laconic | Brief and to the point |
| Lambaste | To trash verbally or physically |
| lampoon | Publicly criticize by using ridicule, irony or sarcasm |
| largesse | Generosity in bestowing money or gifts upon others |
| Lascivious | Lustful |
| Lassitude | Weariness, languor |
| Latent | Dormant, potential but undeveloped, hidden |
| Laud | Praise |
| Lax | Not sufficiently strict, severe or careful |
| legerdemain | Skillful use of one’s hands when performing conjuring tricks |
| Lesion | Amounting to large indefinite number |
| Lethargic | Drowsy, dull |
| Levee | Stone embankment to prevent flooding |
| Levity | A lack of seriousness or earnestness |
| Libel | A written defamation |
| Liberal | Tolerant, broad-minded |
| Libertine | One without moral restraint |
| Libido | Sexual desire |
| Lilliputian | Extremely small |
| Limn | To draw, describe |
| Limpid | Clear, transparent |
| Linguistic | Pertaining to language |
| Litany | Lengthy recitation, repetitive chant |
| Literati | Scholarly of learned persons |
| Lithe | Thin, supple and graceful |
| Litigation | Legal proceedings |
| Livid | Furiously angry |
| Loath | Reluctant, unwilling |
| Loathe | Feel intense dislike or disgust for |
| Log | Record of activities |
| longevity | Duration of time for which something persists |
| Loquacious | Talkative |
| Lucid | Clear, intelligible, easily understood |
| lucrative | Producing great profits |
| Lucre | Money or profits |
| lugubrious | Looking gloomy or sad |
| Luminous | Shining |
| Lurid | Unpleasantly bright in color |
| Lush | Of vegetation growing luxuriantly |

M

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| machismo | Strong or aggressive masculine pride |
| Machiavellian | Crafty, double-dealing |
| Machinations | Plots or schemes |
| Maelstrom | Whirlpool, turmoil |
| Magnanimity | Generosity, nobility |
| Maim | Wound or injure so that part of the body is permanently damaged |
| malady | A disease or ailment |
| malevolent | Having or showing a wish to do evil to others |
| Malign | To speak evil of |
| malignant | Evil in nature or effect |
| Malinger | One who feigns illness to escape duty |
| malingerer | A shirker |
| malnutrition | Lack of proper nutrition |
| mammoth | So excessively large or extensive as to suggest a giant |
| Malleable | Impressionable, capable of being turned into thin sheets |
| mandate | An official order to do something |
| manifest | Clear or obvious to the eye |
| manifold | Many and various |
| martinet | A strict disciplinarian |
| masticate | Chew |
| materialism | A tendency to consider physical comforts above spiritual values |
| maudlin | Self pityingly or tearfully sentimental |
| Maverick | Rebel, nonconformist |
| Megalomania | Delusion of power or importance |
| Menagerie | A variety of animals kept together |
| Mendacious | Lying, habitually dishonest |
| Mendicant | Beggar |
| menial | Not requiring much skill and lacking prestige |
| mentor | An experienced and trusted advisor |
| mercenary | Primarily concerned with making money at expense of ethics |
| Meretricious | Gaudy, specious, falsely attractive |
| Mesmerize | To hypnotize |
| metamorphosis | Change of form |
| metaphysics | Philosophy investigating ultimate nature of reality |
| meteorological | Related to weather |
| Meticulous | Excessively careful, painstaking, scrupulous |
| Mettle | Courage, endurance |
| mettlesome | Full of courage and fortitude |
| Microcosm | A small system analogous to a large one |
| Mien | A person’s appearance or manner as an indicator of their mood |
| Milieu | A person’s social environment |
| Militate | To work against |
| Minatory | Threatening, menacing |
| Minuscule | Very small |
| Minutia | Petty details |
| misanthrope | One who hates mankind |
| Miscellany | Mixture of writing on various subjects |
| Miscreant | Villain, criminal |
| Misogynist | One who hates women |
| Mitigate | Appease, moderate |
| Mnemonic | Related to memory, assisting memory |
| Modicum | Limited quantity |
| Mollify | Soothe |
| Monolithic | Solid and uniform, constituting a single whole |
| moribund | At the point of death |
| Morose | Sullen, melancholy, ill-humored |
| Motley | Many colored, made up of many parts |
| multifarious | Diverse |
| Mundane | everyday, worldly as opposed to spiritual |
| munificent | Characterized by great generosity |
| Murky | Dark and gloomy |
| Myriad | A large number |

N

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Nadir | The most unsuccessful point in a situation |
| Naïve | Showing lack of experience, wisdom or judgement |
| nascent | Just coming to existence and showing potential for future |
| nebulous | Hazy |
| necromancy | Black magic |
| nefarious | Wicked or criminal |
| Negate | Cancel out, nullify, deny |
| Neologism | New word or expression |
| Neophyte | Beginner, novice |
| nepotism | Favoring relatives by those in power |
| Nettle | A herbaceous plant |
| neurotic | Having caused by neurosis |
| Nexus | A means of connection, a center |
| nirvana | An ideal or idyllic state |
| noisome | Having an extremely offensive smell |
| nomadic | Wandering, wanderer |
| Nominal | small |
| nondescript | Dull and uninteresting, lacking distinct characteristics |
| nonentity | A person who is not important |
| nonplussed | Bewildered |
| Nostalgia | Sentimental longing for the past time |
| Nostrum | Medicine or remedy of doubtful effectiveness |
| nuance | A subtle variation |
| Nugatory | Invalid, trifling |
| Nullify | Cancel out |
| nurture | Helping someone grow up |

O

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Obdurate | Stubborn |
| obliterate | To destroy, wipe out |
| obloquy | Shame from public disapproval |
| obscure | Not clearly understood or expressed |
| obsequious | Slavishly attentive, sycophantic, servile |
| obsess | Be preoccupied with something |
| obsolescence | Become outdated |
| Obsequy | Funeral ceremony |
| Obviate | Make unnecessary, get rid of |
| Occlude | Shut, close |
| Occult | Relating to practices connected with supernatural phenomenon |
| Odyssey | A long adventurous voyage, a quest |
| Officious | Meddlesome, excessively pushy in one’s affairs |
| Olfactory | Concerning senses of smell |
| Oligarchy | A govt. by a few leaders |
| ominous | Suggesting that something bad is going to happen in the future |
| omnipotent | Unlimited power or influence |
| Onerous | Burdensome |
| onomatopoeia | Formation of words that imitate the sounds of actions they refer to |
| opprobrium | Infamy, vilification |
| opulence | Great wealth or luxuriousness |
| ornithologist | One who studies birds |
| Oscillate | Vibrate |
| ostensible | Stated or appearing to be true but not necessarily so |
| ostentatious | Showy, pretentious, trying to attract attention |
| ostracize | Avoid speaking with |
| Oust | To banish or kick out |
| Overt | Open and not secret |
| overweening | Arrogant, presumptuous |

P

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Paean | Song of joy or triumphant, a fervent expression of joy |
| paleontology | Study of past geological eras through fossil remains |
| Pall | A cloth spread over a coffin, hearse or tomb |
| palliate | To get rid or alleviate |
| Pallid | Lacking color or liveliness |
| pandemonium | Wild and noisy disorder or confusion, uproar |
| panegyric | Elaborate praise, formal hymn of praise |
| Paragon | Model of perfection |
| Partisan | One-sided, prejudiced, committed to a party |
| paroxysm | A sudden attack or outbursts of a particular emotion or activity |
| parsimonious | Very unwilling to spend money or use resources |
| partisan | A strong supporter of a party, person or cause |
| Passé | No longer fashionable, out of date |
| pathetic | Arousing pity, especially through vulnerability or sadness |
| pathological | Pertaining to disease |
| Patois | Jargon, a regional dialect |
| Paucity | Scarcity |
| pecuniary | Relating to or consisting of money |
| pedagogue | A teacher especially a strict or pedantic one |
| pedagogy | Method and practice of teaching |
| Pedantic | Showing off learning, bookish |
| Pellucid | Transparent, easily understood |
| penance | Punishment inflicted on oneself as an outward expression of repentance for wrongdoing |
| Penchant | Strong inclination, liking |
| penitent | Feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong |
| pensive | Engaged in, involving or reflecting deep, serious thought |
| Penury | Severe poverty, stinginess |
| Perceive | To view or become aware of |
| peregrination | Wandering from place to place |
| peremptory | Imperative, leaving no choice |
| Perennial | Something long lasting |
| Perfidious | Disloyal, treacherous |
| perfunctory | Superficial, lacking care, interest or enthusiasm |
| perigee | Point in orbit of earth closest to sun |
| Permeable | Penetrable, porous |
| permeate | Spread throughout |
| pernicious | Having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way |
| perpetrate | Carry out or commit an immoral action |
| perpetuate | Make something continue indefinitely |
| persevere | Continue in a course of action even with little or no inclination of success |
| perspicacious | Having a ready insight into and understanding of things |
| pertinent | Relevant or applicable to a particular matter |
| perturb | To disturb greatly, make uneasy or anxious |
| peruse | To read or examine carefully, to look over casually |
| Pervasive | Spread throughout |
| perverse | Spreading widely throughout an area or group or people |
| pestilence | A fatal epidemic disease especially bubonic plague |
| phenomenon | A fact that is observed to exist |
| petulant | Rude, peevish |
| Phlegmatic | Calm, not easily disturbed |
| phobia | An extreme or irrational fear of or aversion to something |
| phoenix | Anything that is restored after suffering great destruction |
| Physiognomy | Facial features |
| Piety | Devoutness, reverence for God |
| pinnacle | The most successful point, the culmination |
| Piquant | Pleasantly pungent, attractive |
| Pique | Fleeting feeling or hurt pride |
| pittance | A very small or inadequate amount of money |
| Placate | Pacify, conciliate |
| Placid | Calm |
| plaintive | Melancholy, mournful |
| Plasticity | Ability to be molded |
| Platitude | Trite remark, commonplace statement |
| platonic | Spiritual, theoretical |
| Plethora | Excess, overabundance |
| Plumb | To examine deeply, determine the depth |
| Plummet | Fall sharply |
| plutocracy | Society ruled by the rich |
| Porous | Full of pores, like a sieve |
| poseur | Person who behaves affectedly to impress others |
| pragmatic | Practical, concerned with impact of something |
| Prate | To talk idly, chatter |
| Prattle | Meaningless, foolish talk |
| preamble | Introductory statement |
| precarious | Uncertain, risky |
| precept | Principle, law |
| precipitate | Rash, premature, hasty, sudden, to cause to happen, without deliberation |
| precursor | Forerunner |
| preempt | To supersede, apt for oneself |
| prehensile | Capable of grasping |
| premonition | Forewarning, presentiment |
| presage | To foretell, indicate in advance |
| presumptuous | Arrogant, taking liberties |
| preternatural | Supernatural |
| prevaricate | Lie |
| primordial | Original, existing from the beginning |
| Pristine | Primitive, unspoiled, characteristic of earlier times |
| Probity | Uprightness, incorruptibility |
| Problematic | Doubtful, unsettled, perplexing, questionable |
| Prodigal | Wasteful, reckless with money |
| Profound | Deep, complete |
| prohibitive | Tend to prevent the use of something, inclined to forbid |
| proliferate | Grow rapidly, multiply |
| propensity | Natural inclination |
| propitiate | Appease |
| Propriety | Fitness, correct conduct |
| Proscribe | Banish, outlaw, ostracize |
| provident | Providing for future need, frugal |
| puissant | Powerful |
| punctilious | Careful in observing rules for behavior |
| Pungent | Stinging, sharp in taste or smell |
| pusillanimous | Cowardly |
| Purport | To profess, suppose, claim |

Q

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| quagmire | Marsh, difficult situation |
| Quail | To cower, lose heart |
| Qualified | Limited, restricted |
| Qualm | Sudden feeling of nausea |
| quandary | State of uncertainty in a choice between unfavorable options |
| quarry | A person who is the aim of an attack |
| Quell | Suppress or crush completely |
| Query | Question |
| Quibble | Minor objection, complaint |
| quiescent | At rest, dormant, temporarily inactive |
| Quip | A witty saying |
| Quorum | No. of members necessary to conduct meeting |

R

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Rabid | Having excessive enthusiasm for something or someone |
| raconteur | Witty. Skillful storyteller |
| Rail | To scold with bitter or abusive language |
| Raiment | Clothing |
| ramification | Implication, consequence |
| rampant | Unrestrained and violent |
| Rarefied | Made less dense |
| Rash | Acting without thinking |
| Rationale | Fundamental reason |
| rationalize | Employ logic or reason |
| Raucous | Making disturbingly harsh and loud noise |
| Raze | To demolish completely |
| Realm | A kingdom |
| Rebu | Puzzle in which pictures or symbols represent words |
| rebuke | To criticize sharply |
| recalcitrant | Obstinately stubborn |
| Recant | Disclaim, disavow, openly confess error |
| Recluse | Hermit, loner |
| recoil | To rebound |
| recondite | Abstruse, profound, secret |
| redolent | Filled with scent or odor |
| redoubtable | Formidable, arousing fear |
| redress | To make something right |
| refractory | Stubborn, unmanageable |
| Refulgent | Brightly shining, resplendent |
| Refute | Disprove |
| Regale | To entertain |
| Relegate | Banish to an inferior position, assign |
| remiss | Lacking care or attention to duty |
| remote | Situated in a scheduled or distant place |
| remonstrate | To object or protest |
| remuneration | Compensation for goods or services |
| Renege | To go back on one’s word |
| repent | To feel sorrow for what is done |
| reparation | Amends, compensation |
| repertoire | Entire range of skills or aptitude |
| Replenish | To refill |
| replete | Having much or plenty of something |
| Repine | Fret, complain |
| repose | A state of rest |
| reprehensible | Highly unacceptable action |
| Reprise | Repetition especially of music |
| repress | To prevent from coming forth |
| reprimand | An act of disapproval |
| Reproach | Express disapproval or disappointment, to find fault with, blame |
| reprobate | Person hardened in sin, devoid of decency |
| repudiate | Disown, disavow, to reject |
| repugnant | Repulsive or offensive |
| repulse | To repel or drive back |
| repute | Be generally regarded as |
| requisite | Something mandatory |
| Rescind | Cancel |
| resolution | Determination |
| Resolve | Determination, firmness of purpose |
| resourceful | Able to overcome difficulties |
| respite | Brief interval of rest |
| restrictive | To be limited |
| Reticent | Reserved, inclined to silence, uncommunicative |
| retort | Answer back |
| retrospect | A review of past occurrences |
| revere | Feel deep respect or admiration for |
| Reverent | Respectful, worshipful |
| revert | To turn back |
| revile | To attack with abusive language |
| rhetoric | Persuasive or impressive language often insincere |
| Rife | In a great quantity |
| Rift | A crack, split or break in something |
| Riposte | Retaliatory action or retort |
| roster | A list of some items |
| Rococo | Excessively ornate |
| Rubric | Protocol, title or heading |
| rudimentary | Basic, minimal |
| Rue | Regret |
| ruminate | To think deeply about something |
| Ruse | Trick, crafty man, cunning |
| rustic | Having a simple style |

S

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| sabbatical | Extended period of leave |
| Sage | Person celebrated for wisdom, wise |
| salient | Most prominent |
| Salacious | Lustful, lascivious |
| Salubrious | Healthful |
| Salutary | Expecting an improvement favorable to health |
| Salvation | A thing that rescues someone from a dangerous situation |
| Sanctimonious | Pretending to be better than others on a moral leave |
| Sanction | Approve, ratify |
| Sanctuary | A place to be safe or to escape from life |
| Sanguine | Optimistic, hopeful or confident about the future |
| Sardonic | Cynical, scornfully mocking |
| Sartorial | Pertaining to tailors |
| Satiate, satiety | Satisfy fully |
| Saturate | Soak thoroughly |
| Saturnine | Gloomy |
| Satyr | A creature half-man and half-beast with horns and legs of a goat |
| Savor | Enjoy, have a distinct quality |
| Schematic | Relating to or in the form of a diagram or outline |
| schism | A split or separation within a group |
| scion | A descendent of a notable family |
| scoff | To sneer or laugh with scorn |
| scrutinize | Examine closely |
| scurrilous | Something said or done to ruin a person’s reputation |
| scurry | Rushing hastily in an undignified way |
| Secrete | Produce and release |
| sedate | Soothe or calm |
| Sedentary | Staying or living in one’s place |
| Sedition | Behavior prompting rebellion |
| Sedulous | Diligent, assiduous |
| Seismic | Relating to earthquakes |
| senile | characteristic of or caused by old age |
| Sensual | Relating to senses |
| Sensuous | Relating to the senses |
| Sentient | Aware, conscious and able to perceive |
| serenity | Untroubled, calm and peaceful |
| Servile | Submissive, obedient |
| Sextant | Navigation tool that determines latitude and longitude |
| Shard | Fragment generally of pottery |
| shibboleth | A behavior or word that indicated one’s origin |
| Sidereal | Relating to stars |
| Simian | Relating to apes |
| Simile | Comparison of one thing to another using ‘like’ or ‘as’ |
| Sinecure | Well-paying job that requires no or little work |
| Singular | Unique, odd, extraordinary |
| sinister | Wicked or evil characteristics |
| Sinuous | Intricate, complex |
| Site | a location |
| Skeptic | Doubter, person who suspends judgement |
| skirmish | A brief argument |
| slovenly | Habitually dirty and unkempt, dirty appearance |
| Sobriety | Seriousness |
| Sodden | Thoroughly soaked, saturated |
| sojourn | Reside temporarily |
| solace | Comfort in grief or disappointment |
| Solicitous | Worried, concerned |
| soliloquy | Literary or dramatic speech by one character not addresses to others |
| somber | Grim or miserable |
| sophistry | A reason or argument that sounds correct but is actually false |
| Solvent | Able to meet financial obligations |
| Somatic | Corporeal, relating to body |
| Soporific | Sleep-causing, marked by sleepiness |
| Sordid | Filthy, contemptible and corrupt |
| spate | A series of, a sudden forceful flow |
| spear | To impale or pierce an object |
| Specious | Seemingly reasonable but incorrect |
| Spectrum | Colored band when beam of light passes through a prism |
| spontaneous | Natural without planning or thought |
| spendthrift | Person who spends money recklessly |
| Sporadic | Occurring irregularly |
| spurious | Not real or genuine |
| Squalor | Filthy, wretched condition |
| squeamish | Easily disgusted |
| Staccato | Marked by abrupt clear-cut sounds |
| stagnant | Not moving |
| Stanch | To stop or check the flow of |
| staunch | Very loyal and committed in attitude |
| steep | Having a sharp inclination |
| stentorian | Extremely loud |
| stereotype | An unfair impression prevalent about a person or race |
| Stigma | Token of disgrace, brand |
| Stint | Be thrifty, set limits |
| Stipulate | Specify, make express conditions |
| Stolid | dull, impassive |
| stratified | Arranged in layers |
| Striated | Marked with parallel bands, grooved |
| Stricture | Something that restrains, negative criticism |
| Strident | Loud, harsh, unpleasantly noisy |
| strife | Struggle or conflict |
| Strut | Pompous walk, supporting bar, display to impress others |
| stunt | A difficult, brave or clever act |
| Stultify | To impair or reduce to uselessness |
| Stupefy | To dull the senses of, stun, astonish |
| stupor | A condition in which it is difficult to think |
| stymie | To stand as an obstacle, a thwarting and distressing situation |
| Stygian | Dark and gloomy, hellish |
| subjugate | Bring under control by conquest |
| Subpoena | Writ summoning a witness to appear |
| subservient | Abjectly submissive |
| Subside | Settle down, descend, grow quiet |
| Substantiate | Establish by evidence, verify, support |
| substantive | Essential |
| subsume | To include, incorporate |
| subterfuge | Trickery or deceit used to achieve one’s goal |
| subterranean | Beneath the ground |
| subversive | Intended to undermine or underthrow |
| succinct | Expressed in clear but brief manner |
| Succor | Relief, help in time of distress or want |
| succulent | Tender, juicy and tasty |
| Succumb | To give up or give in |
| Suffrage | The right to vote |
| sullen | Bad tempered and gloomy |
| sultry | Hot and humid weather |
| sumptuous | Splendid, of the best quality |
| Sundry | Various |
| superficial | On the surface |
| superfluous | Unnecessary, more than needed |
| Supersede | Cause to be set aside, replace, make obsolete |
| Supine | Lying in the back, marked by lethargy |
| Supplant | To replace, substitute |
| suppliant | Beseeching |
| supplicant | One who asks humbly and earnestly |
| Supposition | Hypothesis, surmise |
| surfeit | An overabundant supply |
| surge | A sudden increase |
| surmise | To guess that something is true without having evidence to confirm it |
| surreptitious | Kept secret and marked by quiet and caution |
| susceptible | Vulnerable to an influence |
| symptomatic | Showing symptoms |
| Syllogism | A form of deductive reasoning |
| Sylvan | Related to woods or forest |

T

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| Word | Meaning |
| Taboo | Considered inapt because of societal beliefs or emotional dislikes |
| Tacit | Understood, not put into words |
| Taint | To contaminate or pollute something |
| Talisman | Charm to bring good luck and avert misfortune |
| Tangential | Peripheral, only slightly connected, digressing |
| Tangible | Capable of being touched |
| tantalizing | Not directly related to something |
| tantamount | Equivalent in seriousness to, virtually the same as |
| Taut | Stressed to the point of being nervous |
| Tautology | Unnecessary repetition |
| Taxonomy | Science of classification |
| technology | Using scientific ideas for practical purposes |
| Temerity | Excessive confidence or boldness, audacity |
| Tenable | Capable to be protected or maintained |
| tenacious | Not readily letting go or giving up |
| Tenet | Belief, doctrine |
| Tenuous | Thin, rare, slim, weak and likely to change |
| terminate | To end |
| Terminus | End or final point of something |
| Terse | A very short statement or remark |
| Terrestrial | Earthly, commonplace |
| Theocracy | Govt. by priests representing a God |
| Therapy | Remedy to mend a condition |
| Thespian | An actor or actress |
| Throng | A large cluster of individuals |
| Thwart | To hinder or stop something from happening |
| Timbre | Voice tone color |
| Timorous | Showing or suffering from nervousness or lack of confidence, frightened |
| Tinge | A trace amount |
| Tirade | Extended scolding, harangue, denunciation |
| Toady | Flatterer, yes-man |
| tolerate | To put up with, allow the existence of |
| Tome | Book, usually large and academic |
| Torpor | Lethargy, sluggishness, dormancy |
| Torque | A turning or twisting force |
| Tortuous | Winding, full of curves |
| Tout | To promote or praise energetically |
| Tractable | Docile, easily managed |
| tradition | A custom or practice |
| Tranquil | Relaxed, peaceful |
| Transgression | Violation of a law, sin |
| Transient | Temporary, fleeting |
| Translucent | Partially transparent |
| Travail | Work especially arduous work |
| Travesty | Parody, caricature, exaggerated imitation |
| Treatise | Article treating a subject systematically and thoroughly |
| Tremulous | Frugal, timid, trembling |
| trenchant | Sharp, characterized by full force and vigor |
| trend | A general direction in which something is developing |
| Trepidation | Fear and anxiety |
| trivial | Of little significance or value |
| Truculence, truculent | Ferocity, aggressiveness |
| truncated | To reduce the length of item by clipping it |
| Tryst | Agreement between lovers to meet, rendezvous |
| Tumid | Swollen, distended |
| Turbid | Muddy, opaque, in a state of great confusion |
| turbulent | Characterized by conflict, disorder or confusion, not stable or calm |
| Turgid | Swollen, pompous |
| turpitude | A corrupt, depraved or wicked behavior |
| Tutelary | Serving as a guardian or protector or patron |

U

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| Word | Meaning |
| Ubiquitous | Present everywhere |
| Ultimate | The best achievable, utmost or extreme |
| Umbrage | To find something offensive |
| unconscionable | Not right or reasonable |
| Uncanny | Mysterious, strange |
| Unctuous | Not expressing true feelings, excessive flattery |
| Undulating | Moving in waves |
| Unfeigned | Not false, genuine |
| Universal | Applicable to all cases |
| Unkempt | Not clean or tidy |
| Unmitigated | In its entirety, complete, not diminished in intensity |
| Untenable | Indefensible |
| Untoward | Troublesome, not favorable |
| Unsavory | Unpleasant to smell or taste |
| Unwieldy | Hard to relocate because of its size |
| urbane | Marked by sophistication, refinement and courteousness |
| Usurp | To take over, to seize or use without authority |
| Usury | A practice of lending money at exorbitant rates |
| Utopia | An imagined state of things with everything perfect |

V

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| Word | Meaning |
| Vacillate | Waver, fluctuate |
| Vacuous | Empty, void, lacking intelligence |
| valedictory | Pertaining to a firewall |
| Valor | Courage when facing danger |
| Vapid | Tasteless, dull |
| variegated | Varied, marked with different colors |
| Vaunt | To boast, drag |
| vehemently | In a fierce manner |
| Venal | Mercenary, corruptible |
| Vendetta | Prolonged feud marked by bitter hostility |
| Veneer | Coating consisting of a thin layer of wood |
| venerable | Profoundly honored |
| Venerate | Revere |
| Venial | Warranting only temporal punishment |
| Venom | Toxin secreted by animals |
| veracious | Truthful |
| Verbose | Wordy |
| Vertigo | Dizziness, a reeling sensation, a feeling that you are about to fall |
| vestige | The last small part of something that existed before |
| Vexation, vexatious | Irritation, annoyance |
| Viable | Practical, workable |
| Vigil, vigilant | A purposeful surveillance to guard or observe |
| Vilify | Spread negative information about |
| Vindicate | Show to be right by providing justification or proof |
| vindictive | Vengeful, unforgiving |
| Virile | Characterized by energy or vigor |
| Virtuoso | Someone with master skills |
| Virulent | Extremely poisonous or injurious, producing venom |
| Visage | Appearance, aspect |
| Viscous | Sticky, gluey |
| Vitiate | To impair the quality of, corrupt morally, make imperfect |
| vitriolic | Harsh or corrosive in tone |
| Vituperative, vituperation | Abusive, scolding |
| vivacious | Vigorous and animated |
| vivisection | Dissection, surgery |
| Vogue | Prevailing fashion or practice |
| Volition | Faculty or power of using one’s will |
| Volatile | Explosive, changeable |
| voluminous | Large in capacity |
| voracious | Devouring or craving food in large quantities |
| Vortex | Whirlpool, center of turbulence |
| vulnerable | Capable of getting hurt |

W

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| Word | Meaning |
| Wan | Deficient in color suggesting physical or emotional distress |
| Wane | Gradual decline |
| warranted | Justified, authorized |
| Wary | Very cautious |
| Welter | Turmoil, bewildering jumble |
| Wheedle | Influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing or flattering |
| Whet | Sharpen by rubbing |
| whimsical | Capricious, moody, fanciful |
| Wince | Draw back as with fear or pain |
| Wistful | Vaguely longing, sadly thoughtful |
| Wrest | Forcibly pull from a person’s grasp |

X

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| Word | Meaning |
| xenophobia | Fear of foreigners |

Y

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| Word | Meaning |
| Yearling | A young animal past its first year but not yet two |
| Yen | A yearning for something or to do something |
| Yield | Amount produced, investment, profit |
| Yokel | Rustic, country bumpkin |

Z

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| Word | Meaning |
| Zealot | Fanatic, a person who shows excessive enthusiasm |
| zealous | Marked by active interest and enthusiasm |
| Zenith | Time at which something is most powerful or successful |