

A

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| Word | Meaning |
| Abate | Subside or moderate |
| Abdicate | To give up a position, right or power |
| Aberrant | Abnormal or deviant |
| Abeyance | Suspended action |
| Abscond | Depart secretly and hide |
| Abstemious | Sparing in eating and drinking |
| Admonish | Warn, reprove |
| Adulterate | Make impure by adding tainted substances |
| Aesthetic | Artistic, capable of appreciating the beauty |
| Aggregate | Gather, accumulate |
| Alacrity | Cheerful promptness, eagerness |
| Alleviate | Relieve |
| Amalgamate | Combine in one |
| Ambiguous | Unclear or doubtful in meaning |
| Ambivalence | State of conflicting emotional attitudes |
| Ameliorate | Improve |
| Anachronism | Something misplaced in time |
| Analogous | Comparable |
| Anarchy | Absence of governing body, state of disorder |
| Anomalous | Abnormal, irregular |
| Antipathy | Aversion, dislike |
| Appease | Pacify, soothe, relieve |
| Apprise | Inform |
| Approbation | Approval |
| Appropriate | Acquire, take possession of for one’s own use |
| Arduous | Hard, strenuous |
| Artless | Without guilt, open and honest |
| Ascetic | Practicing self-denial, austere |
| Assiduous | Diligent |
| Assuage | Ease pain, satisfy hunger, soothe anger |
| Attenuate | Reduce |
| Audacious | Daring, bold |
| Austere | Forbiddingly stern, severely simple and unornamented |
| Autonomous | Independent |
| Aver | Assert confidently, state formally as true |

B

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Banal | Trite, lacking originality, commonplace, hackneyed |
| Belie | Contradict, give a false impression |
| Beneficent | Kindly, doing good |
| Bolster | Support, reinforce |
| Bombastic | Pompous, using inflated language |
| Boorish | Rude, insensitive |
| Burgeon | Grow forth, set out buds |
| Burnish | Make shiny by rubbing, polish |
| Buttress | Support, prop up |

C

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Capricious | Unpredictable, fickle |
| Castigation | Punishment, severe criticism |
| Catalyst | Agent that increases pace of a chemical action |
| Caustic | Burning, sarcastically biting |
| Chicanery | Trickery, deception |
| Coagulate | Thicken, clot, congeal |
| Coda | Concluding section, concludes or summarizes |
| Cogent | convincing |
| commensurate | Corresponding in degree or proportion |
| Compendium | Brief, comprehensive summary |
| complaisant | Trying to please, overly polite, obliging |
| Compliant | Yielding, conforming to requirements |
| conciliatory | Soothing, reconciling |
| Condone | Overlook, approve, give tacit approval |
| Confound | To be unable to think clearly, confusing |
| connoisseur | A lover of art |
| Contention | Claim, thesis |
| contentious | Quarrelsome |
| Contrite | Penitent |
| conundrum | Riddle, difficult problem |
| converge | Tend to meet, come together |
| convoluted | Coiled around, involved, intricate |
| craven | Cowardly |

D

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Daunt | Intimidate, frighten |
| decorum | Propriety, orderliness and good taste in manners |
| default | Failure to act |
| deference | Courteous regard for another’s wishes |
| delineate | Portray, depict, sketch |
| denigrate | Blacken |
| Deride | Ridicule, make fun of |
| derivative | Unoriginal, obtained from another source |
| desiccate | Dry up |
| desultory | Aimless, haphazard, digressing at random |
| deterrent | Something that discourages, hindrance |
| diatribe | Bitter scolding, invective |
| dichotomy | Split, branching into two parts |
| diffidence | Shyness |
| diffuse | Wordy, rambling, spread out |
| digression | Wandering away from the subject |
| Dirge | Lament with music |
| disabuse | Correct a false impression |
| discerning | Mentally quick and observant, having insight |
| discordant | Conflicting, not harmonious |
| discredit | Defame, disbelieve |
| discrepancy | Lack of consistency, difference |
| discrete | Separate, unconnected, consisting of distinct parts |
| disingenuous | Lacking genuine candor, insincere |
| disinterested | Unprejudiced |
| disjointed | Lacking coherence, separated at the joints |
| dismiss | Reject, eliminate from consideration |
| disparage | Belittle |
| disparate | Unrelated, basically different |
| Dissemble | Disguise, pretend |
| Disseminate | Distribute, spread, scatter(like seeds) |
| dissolution | Disintegration, looseness in morals |
| dissonance | Discord, opposite of harmony |
| distend | Expand, swell out |
| Distill | Purify, refine and concentrate |
| diverge | Vary, go in different directions, spread out |
| Divest | Strip, deprive |
| Document | Provide written evidence |
| dogmatic | Opinionated, arbitrary, doctrinal |
| dormant | Sleeping, lethargic |
| Dupe | Someone easily fooled |

E

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| ebullient | Showing excitement and enthusiasm |
| eclectic | Selective, collect from disparate sources |
| efficacy | Power to produce desired effect |
| effrontery | Impudence, shameless boldness |
| elegy | Poem or song expressing lamentation |
| Elicit | Draw out by discussion |
| embellish | Adorn, ornament, enhance, as a story |
| empirical | Based on experience |
| emulate | Imitate, rival |
| endemic | Prevailing among a specific group or area |
| enervate | Weaken |
| engender | Cause, produce |
| enhance | Increase, improve |
| ephemeral | Short-lived, fleeting |
| equanimity | Calmness of temperament, composure |
| equivocate | Lie, mislead, attempt to conceal the truth |
| erudite | Learned, scholarly |
| esoteric | Hard to understand, known to only chosen few |
| eulogy | Expression of praise |
| euphemism | Mild expression instead unpleasant |
| exacerbate | Worsen, embitter |
| exculpate | Clear from blame |
| exigency | Urgent situation requiring immediate attention |
| extrapolation | Projection, conjecture |

F

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| facetious | Joking often inappropriately |
| facilitate | Make easier |
| fallacious | Help bring about, make less difficult |
| fatuous | Brainless, foolish, yet smug, inane |
| fawning | Trying to please by behaving obsequiously, flattering |
| felicitous | Apt, suitably expressed, well chosen |
| fervor | Glowing ardor, intensity of feeling |
| Flag | Droop, grow feeble |
| fledgling | inexperienced |
| Flout | Reject, mock, show contempt for |
| foment | Stir up, instigate |
| forestall | Prevent by taking action in advance |
| frugality | Thrift, economical |
| futile | Useless, hopeless, ineffectual |

G

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| gainsay | deny |
| Garrulous | Talkative, wordy, loquacious |
| Goad | Urge on |
| Gouge | overcharge |
| grandiloquent | Pompous, bombastic, using high sounding language |
| gregarious | sociable |
| Guileless | Without deceit |
| Gullible | Easily deceived |

H

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Harangue | Long, passionate and vehement speech |
| homogenous | Of the same kind |
| Hyperbole | Exaggeration, overstatement |

I

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Iconoclastic | Attacking cherished traditions |
| Idolatry | Worship of idols, excessive admiration |
| Immutable | unchangeable |
| Impair | Injure, hurt |
| Impassive | Without feeling, stoical, imperturbable |
| Impede | Hinder, block |
| impermeable | Impervious, not permitting passage through |
| imperturbable | Calm, placid |
| impervious | Impenetrable, incapable of being damaged or distressed |
| implacable | Incapable of being pacified |
| Implicit | Understood but not stated |
| Implode | Burst inward |
| inadvertently | Carelessly, by oversight, unintentionally |
| Inchoate | Elementary, rudimentary, recently begun |
| incongruity | Lack of harmony, absurdity |
| inconsequential | Insignificant, unimportant |
| incorporate | Combine, unite |
| indeterminate | Indefinite, uncertain |
| indigence | Poverty |
| Indolent | lazy |
| Inert | Inactive, lacking power to move |
| ingenuous | Naïve and trusting, young, unsophisticated |
| Inherent | Firmly established by nature or habit |
| innocuous | harmless |
| insensible | Unconscious, unresponsive |
| insinuate | Creep in, hint, imply |
| Insipid | Lacking in flavor, dull |
| insularity | Narrow-mindedness, insolation |
| intractable | Stubborn, unyielding |
| intransigence | Refusal of any compromise, stubbornness |
| Inundate | Overwhelm, flood, submerge |
| Inured | Hardened, accustomed |
| Invective | Abuse |
| Irascible | Irritable, easily angered |
| irresolute | Uncertain how to act, weak |
| Itinerary | Plan of a trip |

L

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| laconic | Brief and to the point |
| lassitude | Weariness, languor |
| latent | Dormant, potential but undeveloped, hidden |
| Laud | praise |
| lethargic | Drowsy, dull |
| levee | Stone embankment to prevent flooding |
| levity | A lack of seriousness or earnestness |
| Log | Record of activities |
| loquacious | talkative |
| Lucid | Clear, intelligible, easily understood |
| luminous | shining |

M

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| magnanimity | Generosity |
| Malign | To speak evil of |
| malinger | One who feigns illness to escape duty |
| malleable | Impressionable, capable of being turned into thin sheets |
| maverick | Rebel, nonconformist |
| mendacious | Lying, habitually dishonest |
| metamorphosis | Change of form |
| meticulous | Excessively careful, painstaking, scrupulous |
| misanthrope | One who hates mankind |
| mitigate | Appease, moderate |
| Mollify | Soothe |
| morose | Sullen, melancholy, ill-humored |
| mundane | everyday, worldly as opposed to spiritual |

N

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Negate | Cancel out, nullify, deny |
| neophyte | Beginner |

O

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| obdurate | Stubborn |
| obsequious | Slavishly attentive, sycophantic, servile |
| obviate | Make unnecessary, get rid of |
| occlude | Shut, close |
| officious | Meddlesome, excessively pushy in one’s affairs |
| onerous | Burdensome |
| opprobrium | Infamy, vilification |
| oscillate | Vibrate |
| ostentatious | Showy, pretentious, trying to attract attention |

P

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Paragon | Model of perfection |
| Partisan | One-sided, prejudiced, committed to a party |
| pathological | Pertaining to disease |
| Paucity | scarcity |
| Pedantic | Showing off learning, bookish |
| penchant | Strong inclination, liking |
| Penury | Severe poverty, stinginess |
| perennial | Something long lasting |
| perfidious | Disloyal, treacherous |
| perfunctory | Superficial, lacking care, interest or enthusiasm |
| permeable | Penetrable, porous |
| pervasive | Spread throughout |
| phlegmatic | Calm, not easily disturbed |
| Piety | Devoutness, reverence for God |
| Placate | Pacify, conciliate |
| plasticity | Ability to be molded |
| platitude | Trite remark, commonplace statement |
| Plethora | Excess, overabundance |
| plummet | Fall sharply |
| Porous | Full of pores, like a sieve |
| pragmatic | Practical, concerned with impact of something |
| preamble | Introductory statement |
| precarious | Uncertain, risky |
| precipitate | Rash, premature, hasty, sudden |
| precursor | forerunner |
| presumptuous | Arrogant, taking liberties |
| prevaricate | lie |
| 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 |
| Pungent | Stinging, sharp in taste or smell |

Q

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Qualified | Limited, restricted |
| Quibble | Minor objection, complaint |
| quiescent | At rest, dormant, temporarily inactive |

R

|  |  |
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| Word | Meaning |
| Rarefied | Made less dense |
| recalcitrant | Obstinately stubborn |
| Recant | Disclaim, disavow, openly confess error |
| Recluse | Hermit, loner |
| recondite | Abstruse, profound, secret |
| refractory | Stubborn, unmanageable |
| Refute | Disprove |
| Relegate | Banish to an inferior position, assign |
| reproach | Express disapproval or disappointment |
| reprobate | Person hardened in sin, devoid of decency |
| repudiate | Disown, disavow |
| Rescind | Cancel |
| resolution | Determination |
| Resolve | Determination, firmness of purpose |
| Reticent | Reserved, inclined to silence, uncommunicative |
| reverent | Respectful, worshipful |

S

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Sage | Person celebrated for wisdom |
| salubrious | healthful |
| sanction | Approve, ratify |
| Satiate | Satisfy fully |
| saturate | Soak thoroughly |
| Savor | Enjoy, have a distinct quality |
| secrete | Produce and release |
| Shard | Fragment generally of pottery |
| Skeptic | Doubter, person who suspends judgement |
| solicitous | Worried, concerned |
| soporific | Sleep-causing, marked by sleepiness |
| specious | Seemingly reasonable but incorrect |
| Spectrum | Colored band when beam of light passes through a prism |
| sporadic | Occurring irregularly |
| Stigma | Token of disgrace, brand |
| Stint | Be thrifty, set limits |
| stipulate | Specify, make express conditions |
| Stolid | dull, impassive |
| striated | Marked with parallel bands, grooved |
| Strut | Pompous walk, supporting bar |
| subpoena | Writ summoning a witness to appear |
| subside | Settle down, descend, grow quiet |
| substantiate | Establish by evidence, verify, support |
| supersede | Cause to be set aside, replace, make obsolete |
| supposition | Hypothesis, surmise |

T

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Tacit | Understood, not put into words |
| tangential | Peripheral, only slightly connected, digressing |
| tenuous | Thin, rare, slim |
| tirade | Extended scolding, harangue, denunciation |
| torpor | Lethargy, sluggishness, dormancy |
| tortuous | Winding, full of curves |
| tractable | Docile, easily managed |
| transgression | Violation of a law, sin |
| truculence | Ferocity, aggressiveness |

V

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| vacillate | Waver, fluctuate |
| venerate | Revere |
| veracious | truthful |
| verbose | wordy |
| viable | Practical, workable |
| viscous | Sticky, gluey |
| vituperative | Abusive, scolding |
| volatile | Explosive, changeable |

W

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| warranted | Justified, authorized |
| Wary | Very cautious |
| Welter | Turmoil, bewildering jumble |
| whimsical | Capricious, moody, fanciful |

Z

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Zealot | Fanatic, a person who shows excessive enthusiasm |