

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 |
| Abject | Miserable, pitiful |
| Abjure | To reject, abandon formally |
| Abscission | The art of cutting |
| Abscond | Depart secretly and hide |
| Abstemious | Sparing in eating and drinking |
| Abstinence | The giving up of certain pleasures |
| Abysmal | Very bad |
| Accretion | Growth or increase |
| Accrue | To accumulate, grow by additions |
| Adamant | Uncompromising, unyielding |
| Adjunct | Something added, attached or joined |
| Admonish | Warn, reprove |
| Adulterate | Make impure by adding tainted substances |
| Aesthetic | Artistic, capable of appreciating the beauty |
| Affected | Phony, pretentious |
| Affinity | Fondness, liking, similarity |
| 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 |
| Alloy | A combination of two or more metals |
| Alleviate | Relieve |
| Allure | The power to entice by charm |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Anodyne | Something that calms or sooths pain |
| Anomalous | Abnormal, irregular |
| Antecedent | Something that comes before |
| Antediluvian | Prehistoric |
| Antipathy | Aversion, dislike |
| Apathy | indifference |
| Apex | The highest point |
| Apogee | The highest point |
| Apothegm | A terse, witty saying |
| 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 |
| Archaeology | Study of material evidence of past human life |
| Ardor | Great emotion or passion |
| Arduous | Hard, strenuous |
| Argot | A specialized vocab used by a group |
| Arrest | To stop, seize |
| Artifact | Items made by human craft |
| Artless | Without guilt, open and honest |
| Ascetic | Practicing self-denial, austere |
| Asperity | Severity, harshness, irritability |
| Aspersion | Slander, false rumor |
| Assiduous | Diligent , hard working |
| Assuage | Ease pain, satisfy hunger, soothe anger |
| Astringent | Harsh, severe |
| Asylum | Place of shelter or refuge |
| Atavism | Return of a trait after a period of absence |
| Attenuate | Reduce |
| Audacious | Daring, bold |
| Austere | Forbiddingly stern, severely simple and unornamented |
| Avarice | Greed |
| Aver | Assert confidently, state formally as true |
| Avocation | Secondary occupation |
| Avuncular | Like an uncle, benevolent and tolerant |
| Axiomatic | Taken for granted |

B

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Bacchanalian | Pertaining to riotous or drunken festivity or revelry |
| Banal | Trite, lacking originality, commonplace, hackneyed |
| Banter | Playful conversation |
| Bard | Poet |
| Bawdy | Obscene |
| Beatify | To sanctify, to bless, to ascribe a virtue to |
| Bedizen | To dress in a vulgar, showy manner |
| Behemoth | Huge and powerful |
| Belie | Contradict, give a false impression |
| Beneficent | Kindly, doing good |
| Bifurcate | To divide into two parts |
| Blandishment | Flattery |
| Blaze | Unconcerned, bored because of frequent indulgence |
| Bolster | Support, reinforce |
| Bombastic | Pompous, using inflated language |
| Boorish | Rude, insensitive |
| Bovine | Cow-like |
| Brazen | Bold, shameless |
| Broach | To mention for the first time |
| Bucolic | Characteristic of countryside, rustic, pastoral |
| Burgeon | Grow forth, set out buds |
| Burnish | Make shiny by rubbing, polish |
| Buttress | Support, prop up |

C

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Cacophonous | Unpleasant or harsh-sounding |
| Cadge | To beg, sponge |
| Callous | insensitive |
| Calumny | False and malicious accusation |
| Canard | False, deliberately misleading story |
| Canon | An established set of principles |
| Cant | Insincere talk, language of particular group |
| Cantankerous | Irritable, ill-humored |
| Capricious | Unpredictable, fickle |
| Captious | Faultfinding, intended to entrap as in an argument |
| Cardinal | Of foremost importance |
| Carnal | Related to physical appetites |
| 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 |
| Categorical | Absolute, without exception |
| Caucus | Smaller group within an organization |
| Causal | Involving a cause |
| Caustic | Burning, sarcastically biting |
| Celestial | Concerned with sky or heaven, sublime |
| Centrifugal | Moving away from a center |
| Centripetal | Moving towards a center |
| Champion | To defend or support |
| Chasten | To correct by punishment or reproof, to restrain or subdue |
| Chicanery | Trickery, deception |
| Chivalry | Bravery and gallantry towards women |
| Churlish | Rude, boorish |
| Circuitous | roundabout |
| Clamor | Noisy outcry |
| Clairvoyant | One who can predict the future, psychic |
| 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 |
| Cognizant | Informed, aware |
| Collage | An assemblage of diverse elements |
| Cogent | Convincing |
| Commensurate | Corresponding in degree or proportion |
| Compendium | Brief, comprehensive summary |
| Complacent | Self-satisfied |
| Complaisant | Trying to please, overly polite, obliging |
| Complement | Something that makes up a whole |
| Compliant | Yielding, conforming to requirements |
| Compunction | Uneasiness caused by guilt |
| Concave | Curving inward |
| Conciliatory | Soothing, reconciling |
| Concoct | To invent |
| Concomitant | Existing concurrently |
| Condone | Overlook, approve, give tacit approval |
| Confound | To be unable to think clearly, confusing, perplexing, to baffle |
| Congenial | Friendly, suited to, similar in habits |
| Conjugal | Pertaining to marriage agreement |
| Connoisseur | A lover of art |
| Conscript | A person compulsorily enrolled for military services |
| Consecrate | To declare sacred |
| 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 |
| Copious | Abundant, plentiful |
| Coquette | Woman who flirts |
| Cornucopia | State of abundance |
| Cosmology | Study of universe |
| Covert | Hidden, secret |
| Covetous | 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 |

D

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Daunt | Intimidate, frighten |
| Dearth | Scarcity |
| Debauchery | Corruption |
| Decorum | Propriety, orderliness and good taste in manners |
| Defame | To malign, harm someone’s reputation |
| Default | Failure to act |
| Deference | Courteous regard for another’s wishes |
| Defunct | No longer existing |
| Delineate | Portray, depict, sketch |
| Demographic | Related to population balance |
| Demotic | Pertaining to people |
| Demur | To express doubt, question or oppose |
| Denigrate | Blacken |
| Denizen | Regular visitor |
| Denouement | Outcome |
| Deride | Ridicule, make fun of |
| Derivative | Unoriginal, obtained from another source |
| Desiccate | Dry up |
| Desuetude | State of disuse |
| Desultory | Aimless, haphazard, digressing at random |
| Deterrent | Something that discourages, hindrance |
| Detraction | Act of taking away |
| Diaphanous | Transparent, vague, insubstantial |
| 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 |
| Discomfit | To make uneasy, disconcert |
| Discordant | Conflicting, not harmonious |
| Discredit | Defame, disbelieve |
| Discrepancy | Lack of consistency, difference |
| Discrete | Separate, unconnected, consisting of distinct parts |
| Discretion | Quality of showing self-restraint in speech or actions |
| 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) |
| 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 |
| Diverge | Vary, go in different directions, spread out |
| Divest | Strip, deprive |
| Divulge | To make a secret known |
| doctrinaire | Dogmatic, unyielding |
| Document | Provide written evidence |
| Doggerel | Poor verse |
| Dogmatic | Opinionated, arbitrary, doctrinal |
| Dormant | Sleeping, lethargic |
| Dross | Waste, worthless matter |
| Dupe | Someone easily fooled |

E

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Ebullient | Showing excitement and enthusiasm |
| Eclectic | Selective, collect from disparate sources |
| effervescence | State of high spirits or liveliness |
| effete | Depleted of vitality, over-refined, decadent |
| Efficacy | Power to produce desired effect |
| Effrontery | Impudence, shameless boldness |
| egoism | Self-centeredness |
| egotistical | Excessively self-centered, conceited |
| Elegy | Poem or song expressing lamentation |
| Elicit | Draw out by discussion |
| elixir | A substance believed to have power to cure ills |
| elysian | Delightful, blissful |
| emaciated | Thin and wasted |
| Embellish | Adorn, ornament, enhance, as a story |
| emollient | Soothing, mollifying |
| Empirical | Based on experience |
| Emulate | Imitate, rival |
| encomium | A formal expression of praise |
| Endemic | Prevailing among a specific group or area |
| Enervate | Weaken |
| Engender | Cause, produce |
| Enhance | Increase, improve |
| entomology | Scientific study of insects |
| enunciate | To pronounce clearly |
| Ephemeral | Short-lived, fleeting |
| epistemology | Philosophy branch that examines the nature of knowledge |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| evince | To show plainly, be an indication of |
| evocative | Tending to call to mind or produce a reaction |
| Exacerbate | Worsen, embitter |
| 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 |
| exorcise | To expel evil spirits, free from bad influence |
| expatiate | To speak or write at length |
| expatriate | To send into exile |
| expiate | To atone for |
| Explicate | To explain, clarify, interpret |
| expository | explanatory |
| extant | In existence, not lost |
| extemporaneous | unrehearsed |
| extirpate | To root up, to destroy |
| extraneous | Not essential |
| Extrapolation | Projection, conjecture |
| extrinsic | Not inherent or essential |

F

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Facetious | Joking often inappropriately |
| Facilitate | Make easier |
| factotum | A person who does all sorts of work |
| Fallacious | Help bring about, make less difficult |
| fallow | Uncultivated |
| Fatuous | Brainless, foolish, yet smug, inane |
| Fauna | Animals of a period or region |
| Fawning | Trying to please by behaving obsequiously, flattering |
| Felicitous | Apt, suitably expressed, well chosen |
| feral | Existing in wild or untamed state |
| Fervor | Glowing ardor, intensity of feeling |
| fetid | Having a bad smell |
| fetter | To bind, confine |
| 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 |
| Flag | Droop, grow feeble |
| Fledgling | Inexperienced |
| flora | Plants of a region or era |
| florid | Ruddy, reddish, flowery |
| flourish | An embellishment or ornamentation |
| Flout | Reject, mock, show contempt for |
| flux | Flowing or continuously moving |
| Foment | Stir up, instigate |
| forbearance | Patience |
| Forestall | Prevent by taking action in advance |
| formidable | Menacing, threatening |
| forswear | Renounce, repudiate |
| founder | To sink, fail, collapse |
| fracas | A loud quarrel, brawl |
| fractious | Quarrelsome, unruly, rebellious |
| 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 |
| fusion | Union, synthesis |
| Futile | Useless, hopeless, ineffectual |

G

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Gainsay | Deny, take exception to |
| Gambol | To frolic, leap playfully |
| Garrulous | Talkative, wordy, loquacious |
| Gauche | Coarse and uncouth, clumsy |
| Geniality | Cheerfulness, kindliness, sociability |
| 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 |
| gregarious | Sociable |
| Grouse | To complain |
| Guileless | Without deceit |
| Guise | Outward appearance, false appearance |
| Gullible | Easily deceived |
| Gustatory | Affecting sense of taste |

H

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| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Halcyon | Calm and peaceful, happy, prosperous |
| Hallowed | Holy, sacred |
| Harangue | Long, passionate and vehement speech |
| Harrowing | Extremely distressing, terrifying |
| Herbivores | Animal feeding on plants |
| 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 |
| Homeostasis | Automatic maintenance by an organism in balance with itself |
| Homily | Sermon, tedious moralizing lecture |
| Homogenous | Of the same kind |
| Hyperbole | Exaggeration, overstatement |

I

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| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Iconoclastic | Attacking cherished traditions |
| Idolatry | Worship of idols, excessive admiration |
| igneous | Produced by fire, volcanic |
| imbroglio | Complicated situation, an entanglement |
| Immutable | Unchangeable |
| Impair | Injure, hurt |
| Impassive | Without feeling, stoical, imperturbable |
| impecunious | Poor, having no money |
| Impede | Hinder, block |
| Impermeable | Impervious, not permitting passage through |
| Imperturbable | Calm, placid |
| Impervious | Impenetrable, incapable of being damaged or distressed |
| impinge | To strike, encroach |
| Implacable | Incapable of being pacified |
| implausible | Unlikely, unbelievable |
| Implicit | Understood but not stated |
| Implode | Burst inward |
| imprecation | Curse, damnation |
| impute | To attribute the fault to, Relate to a particular cause or source |
| Inadvertently | Carelessly, by oversight, unintentionally |
| incarnate | Having bodily form |
| Inchoate | Elementary, rudimentary, recently begun |
| Incongruity | Lack of harmony, absurdity |
| Inconsequential | Insignificant, unimportant |
| Incorporate | Combine, unite |
| incursion | Sudden invasion |
| Indeterminate | Indefinite, uncertain |
| Indigence | Poverty |
| Indolent | Lazy, idle |
| ineluctable | Not to be avoided or escaped, inevitable |
| 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 |
| insouciant | Indifferent, lacking care |
| Insularity | Narrow-mindedness, insolation |
| insuperable | Unconquerable, insurmountable |
| intangible | Not material |
| interdict | To forbid, prohibit |
| 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 |
| Intractable | Stubborn, unyielding |
| Intransigence | Refusal of any compromise, stubbornness |
| 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 |
| Irascible | Irritable, easily angered |
| 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 |
| Jibe | To be in agreement |
| Jocose | Fond of joking, jocular |
| Juggernaut | Huge force destroying everything in its path |
| Junta | Group of people united in political intrigue |
| Juxtapose | Place side by side |

K

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

L

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Labile | Likely to change |
| Laconic | Brief and to the point |
| Lambaste | To trash verbally or physically |
| Lascivious | Lustful |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Litigation | Legal proceedings |
| Log | Record of activities |
| Loquacious | Talkative |
| Lucid | Clear, intelligible, easily understood |
| Lucre | Money or profits |
| Luminous | Shining |

M

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Machiavellian | Crafty, double-dealing |
| Machinations | Plots or schemes |
| Maelstrom | Whirlpool, turmoil |
| Magnanimity | Generosity, nobility |
| 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 |
| Megalomania | Delusion of power or importance |
| Menagerie | A variety of animals kept together |
| Mendacious | Lying, habitually dishonest |
| Mendicant | Beggar |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Morose | Sullen, melancholy, ill-humored |
| Motley | Many colored, made up of many parts |
| multifarious | Diverse |
| Mundane | everyday, worldly as opposed to spiritual |

N

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| necromancy | Black magic |
| Negate | Cancel out, nullify, deny |
| Neologism | New word or expression |
| Neophyte | Beginner, novice |
| Nexus | A means of connection, a center |
| nonplussed | Bewildered |
| Nostalgia | Sentimental longing for the past time |
| Nostrum | Medicine or remedy of doubtful effectiveness |
| Nugatory | Invalid, trifling |

O

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| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Obdurate | Stubborn |
| obsequious | Slavishly attentive, sycophantic, servile |
| 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. be a few leaders |
| Onerous | Burdensome |
| onomatopoeia | Formation of words that imitate the sounds of actions they refer to |
| opprobrium | Infamy, vilification |
| ornithologist | One who studies birds |
| Oscillate | Vibrate |
| ostentatious | Showy, pretentious, trying to attract attention |
| 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 |
| pallid | Lacking color or liveliness |
| panegyric | Elaborate praise, formal hymn of praise |
| Paragon | Model of perfection |
| Partisan | One-sided, prejudiced, committed to a party |
| pathological | Pertaining to disease |
| patois | Jargon, a regional dialect |
| Paucity | Scarcity |
| Pedantic | Showing off learning, bookish |
| Pellucid | Transparent, easily understood |
| Penchant | Strong inclination, liking |
| Penury | Severe poverty, stinginess |
| 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 |
| perturb | To disturb greatly, make uneasy or anxious |
| Pervasive | Spread throughout |
| petulant | Rude, peevish |
| Phlegmatic | Calm, not easily disturbed |
| phoenix | Anything that is restored after suffering great destruction |
| Physiognomy | Facial features |
| Piety | Devoutness, reverence for God |
| Piquant | Pleasantly pungent, attractive |
| pique | Fleeting feeling or hurt pride |
| 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 |
| Query | Question |
| Quibble | Minor objection, complaint |
| quiescent | At rest, dormant, temporarily inactive |
| Quorum | No. of members necessary to conduct meeting |

R

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| raconteur | Witty. Skillful storyteller |
| Rail | To scold with bitter or abusive language |
| Raiment | Clothing |
| ramification | Implication, consequence |
| Rarefied | Made less dense |
| Rationale | Fundamental reason |
| Rebu | Puzzle in which pictures or symbols represent words |
| recalcitrant | Obstinately stubborn |
| Recant | Disclaim, disavow, openly confess error |
| Recluse | Hermit, loner |
| recondite | Abstruse, profound, secret |
| redoubtable | Formidable, arousing fear |
| refractory | Stubborn, unmanageable |
| Refulgent | Brightly shining, resplendent |
| Refute | Disprove |
| Regale | To entertain |
| Relegate | Banish to an inferior position, assign |
| remonstrate | To object or protest |
| Renege | To go back on one’s word |
| reparation | Amends, compensation |
| Repine | Fret, complain |
| Reprise | Repetition especially of music |
| Reproach | Express disapproval or disappointment, to find fault with, blame |
| 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 |
| Riposte | Retaliatory action or retort |
| Rococo | Excessively ornate |
| Rubric | Protocol, title or heading |
| Rue | Regret |
| Ruse | Trick, crafty man, cunning |

S

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Sage | Person celebrated for wisdom, wise |
| Salacious | Lustful, lascivious |
| Salubrious | Healthful |
| Salutary | Expecting an improvement favourable to health |
| Sanction | Approve, ratify |
| Sardonic | Cynical, scornfully mocking |
| Sartorial | Pertaining to tailors |
| Satiate | 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 |
| Secrete | Produce and release |
| Sedition | Behavior prompting rebellion |
| Sedulous | Diligent, assiduous |
| Seismic | Relating to earthquakes |
| Sensual | Relating to senses |
| Sensuous | Relating to the senses |
| Sentient | Aware, conscious and able to perceive |
| Servile | Submissive, obedient |
| Sextant | Navigation tool that determines latitude and longitude |
| Shard | Fragment generally of pottery |
| 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 |
| Sinuous | Intricate, complex |
| Skeptic | Doubter, person who suspends judgement |
| Sobriety | Seriousness |
| Sodden | Thoroughly soaked, saturated |
| Solicitous | Worried, concerned |
| soliloquy | Literary or dramatic speech by one character not addresses to others |
| Solvent | Able to meet financial obligations |
| Somatic | Corporeal, relating to body |
| Soporific | Sleep-causing, marked by sleepiness |
| Sordid | Filthy, contemptible and corrupt |
| Specious | Seemingly reasonable but incorrect |
| Spectrum | Colored band when beam of light passes through a prism |
| spendthrift | Person who spends money recklessly |
| Sporadic | Occurring irregularly |
| Squalor | Filthy, wretched condition |
| Staccato | Marked by abrupt clear-cut sounds |
| Stanch | To stop or check the flow of |
| stentorian | Extremely loud |
| 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 |
| Strut | Pompous walk, supporting bar, display to impress others |
| Stultify | To impair or reduce to uselessness |
| Stupefy | To dull the senses of, stun, astonish |
| Stygian | Dark and gloomy, hellish |
| Subpoena | Writ summoning a witness to appear |
| Subside | Settle down, descend, grow quiet |
| Substantiate | Establish by evidence, verify, support |
| substantive | Essential |
| subsume | To include, incorporate |
| subversive | Intended to undermine or underthrow |
| Succor | Relief, help in time of distress or want |
| Suffrage | The right to vote |
| Sundry | Various |
| 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 |
| Syllogism | A form of deductive reasoning |
| Sylvan | Related to woods or forest |

T

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| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Tacit | Understood, not put into words |
| Talisman | Charm to bring good luck and avert misfortune |
| Tangential | Peripheral, only slightly connected, digressing |
| Tautology | Unnecessary repetition |
| Taxonomy | Science of classification |
| Tenet | Belief, doctrine |
| Tenuous | Thin, rare, slim, weak |
| Terrestrial | Earthly, commonplace |
| Theocracy | Govt. by priests representing a God |
| Thespian | An actor or actress |
| Timbre | Voice tone color |
| Tirade | Extended scolding, harangue, denunciation |
| Toady | Flatterer, yes-man |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Trepidation | Fear and anxiety |
| Truculence | Ferocity, aggressiveness |
| Tryst | Agreement between lovers to meet, rendezvous |
| Tumid | Swollen, distended |
| Turbid | Muddy, opaque, in a state of great confusion |
| Turgid | Swollen, pompous |
| Tutelary | Serving as a guardian or protector or patron |

U

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| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Uncanny | Mysterious, strange |
| undulating | Moving in waves |
| unfeigned | Not false, genuine |
| untenable | Indefensible |
| untoward | Troublesome, not favorable |
| Usury | A practice of lending money at exorbitant rates |

V

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| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Vacillate | Waver, fluctuate |
| Vacuous | Empty, void, lacking intelligence |
| valedictory | Pertaining to a firewall |
| Vapid | Tasteless, dull |
| variegated | Varied, marked with different colors |
| Vaunt | To boast, drag |
| Venal | Mercenary, corruptible |
| vendetta | Prolonged feud marked by bitter hostility |
| Venerate | Revere |
| veracious | Truthful |
| Verbose | Wordy |
| Vertigo | Dizziness |
| Vexation | Irritation, annoyance |
| Viable | Practical, workable |
| vindictive | Vengeful, unforgiving |
| Virtuoso | Someone with master skills |
| Visage | Appearance, aspect |
| Viscous | Sticky, gluey |
| Vitiate | To impair the quality of, corrupt morally |
| vituperative | Abusive, scolding |
| vivisection | Dissection, surgery |
| Vogue | Prevailing fashion or practice |
| Volatile | Explosive, changeable |
| Vortex | Whirlpool, center of turbulence |

W

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| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| warranted | Justified, authorized |
| Wary | Very cautious |
| Welter | Turmoil, bewildering jumble |
| whimsical | Capricious, moody, fanciful |
| Wistful | Vaguely longing, sadly thoughtful |

X

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

Y

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Meaning |
| Yearling | A young animal past its first year but not yet two |
| Yield | Amount produced, investment, profit |
| Yokel | Rustic, country bumpkin |

Z

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