**aberrant**: Departing from an accepted standard; divergent. *The aberrant behavior of the student concerned his parents*  
**aberrations**: A departure from what is normal, usual, or expected, typically an unwelcome one. *The anomalies in the data were considered statistical aberrations*  
**abrogate**: To repeal or do away with (a law, right, or formal agreement). *The government sought to abrogate the outdated treaty*  
**amenable**: Open and responsive to suggestion; easily persuaded or controlled. *The team was amenable to new ideas and suggestions*  
**amplify**: To increase the volume or intensity of; to make more strong, clear, or complete. *The microphone amplified her voice*  
**anachronistic**: Belonging to a period other than that being portrayed; out of date. *The sword in the modern action movie was anachronistic*  
**animadversions**: Criticism or censure. *His controversial statements drew sharp animadversions from the media*  
**animus**: Hostility or ill feeling. *He felt a strong animus toward his former business partner*  
**anomalies**: Something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected. *Scientists were puzzled by the anomalies in the experimental results*  
**anomie**: Lack of the usual or ethical standards in an individual or group. *Rapid social change can sometimes lead to a sense of anomie in society*  
**apathetic**: Showing or feeling no interest, enthusiasm, or concern. *The apathetic audience barely reacted to the performance*  
**apathy**: Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern. *The general apathy of the public towards politics was concerning*  
**archaic**: Very old or old-fashioned. *The use of “thee” and “thou” is now considered archaic*  
**arduous**: Involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring. *Climbing the mountain was an arduous task*  
**atrophy**: Decrease in size or wasting away of a body part or tissue; a gradual decline in effectiveness due to underuse or neglect. *Years of disuse caused the muscles to atrophy*  
**astute**: Having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one’s advantage. *An astute businessman, he always made shrewd investments*  
**atavistic**: Relating to or characterized by atavism; reversion to an earlier type; primitive. *He felt an atavistic urge to hunt and gather*  
**authentic**: Of undisputed origin; genuine. *The museum displayed an authentic ancient artifact*  
**axiomatic**: Self-evident or unquestionable. *It is axiomatic that a good education opens doors to opportunity*  
**axioms**: Statements or propositions which are regarded as being established, accepted, or self-evidently true. *The geometric proofs relied on a set of fundamental axioms*  
**banal**: So lacking in originality as to be obvious and boring. *Banal pop songs*  
**barrage**: A concentrated artillery bombardment over a wide area; a rapid, continuous bombardment of something. *She faced a barrage of questions*  
**benign**: Gentle and kind; not harmful in effect. *A benign tumor*  
**bolster**: To support or strengthen; to prop up. *The new evidence helped to bolster the prosecution’s case*  
**brevity**: Concise and exact use of words in writing or speech; shortness of time. *The brevity of the presentation was appreciated by the audience*  
**capitulations**: The act of surrendering or ceasing to resist an opponent or demand. *The treaty included several capitulations on disputed territories*  
**capricious**: Given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior; unpredictable. *A capricious leader is unpredictable*  
**caricature**: A ludicrous or grotesque representation of a person or thing by exaggerating striking characteristics. *The political cartoon was a clever caricature of the prime minister*  
**camaraderie**: Mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together. *There was great camaraderie among the team members*  
**circumscribed**: Restricted or limited. *Their power was severely circumscribed by the new laws*  
**circumvent**: To find a way around an obstacle; to overcome a difficulty, typically in a clever and surreptitious way. *They tried to circumvent the regulations by exploiting loopholes*  
**clandestine**: Kept secret or done secretively, especially because illicit. *The clandestine meeting took place under the cover of darkness*  
**cohesion**: The act or state of sticking together tightly; the tendency to unite. *The team’s cohesion was evident in their synchronized movements*  
**collateral**: Something pledged as security for repayment of a loan; additional but subordinate; parallel. *The bank required collateral for the large loan*  
**complacency**: A feeling of uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one’s achievements. *The team’s complacency after early success led to their downfall*  
**conciliatory**: Intended or likely to placate or pacify. *He adopted a conciliatory tone to ease the tension in the room*  
**consolidate**: To make (something) physically stronger or more solid; to combine (a number of things) into a single more effective or coherent whole. *The company decided to consolidate its smaller offices into one large headquarters*  
**contentious**: Causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial; involving heated argument. *The issue of climate change remains highly contentious*  
**contingent**: Subject to change; dependent on. *The success of the project is contingent upon securing sufficient funding*  
**cosmopolitanism**: The ideology that all human ethnic groups belong to a single community based on a shared morality. *His belief in cosmopolitanism led him to advocate for global cooperation*  
**crystalline**: Having the structure and transparency of a crystal; sparklingly clear. *The lake’s crystalline waters reflected the sky*  
**cursory**: Hasty and therefore not thorough or detailed. *A cursory glance at the document was not enough to understand its complexities*  
**despondency**: A state of low spirits caused by loss of hope or courage. *He felt a deep sense of despondency after failing the exam*  
**desultory**: Lacking a plan, purpose, or enthusiasm; going from one subject to another in a halfhearted way. *He made a desultory attempt to clean his room*  
**dialectical**: Relating to the philosophical concept of dialectic, involving discussion and reasoning to find a truth. *The debate was a dialectical exchange of opposing viewpoints*  
**discord**: Lack of agreement or harmony between people or things. *The constant discord among family members caused much tension*  
**draconian**: Excessively harsh and severe (of laws or punishments). *The new draconian laws were met with widespread protest*  
**dualistic**: Relating to or characterized by dualism; involving two opposing parts or aspects. *The philosophy presented a dualistic view of mind and body*  
**eclipse**: A major reduction or loss of power, prominence, or success; to overshadow. *The success of the new product threatened to eclipse its predecessors*  
**effervescent**: Bubbly, fizzy; vivacious and enthusiastic. *Her effervescent personality lit up the room*  
**efficacious**: Effective; producing the desired effect. *The medicine proved to be highly efficacious in treating the illness*  
**eliding**: Omitting (a sound or syllable) when speaking; passing over or omitting (something). *The speaker was careful to avoid eliding words when giving the presentation*  
**elucidate**: To make (something) clear; to explain. *The speaker used examples to elucidate her complex theory*  
**enduring**: Lasting over a long period; permanent. *The enduring legacy of the philosopher continues to influence thought*  
**equilibrium**: A state in which opposing forces or influences are balanced. *The market reached a state of equilibrium between supply and demand*  
**equitable**: Fair and impartial. *The company aimed to create an equitable distribution of profits*  
**erratic**: Not regular or consistent in movement, behavior, or quality. *The car’s erratic movements made the driver nervous*  
**exigent**: Pressing; demanding. *The exigent circumstances required immediate attention*  
**exigencies**: Urgent need or demand. *The exigencies of the crisis required immediate action*  
**exorbitant**: Unreasonably high (of a price or amount charged). *The hotel charged an exorbitant price for a small room*  
**exponential**: (Of an increase) becoming more and more rapid. *The company experienced exponential growth in sales*  
**extirpate**: Root out and destroy completely. *The disease was extirpated from the region*  
**extraneous**: Irrelevant or unrelated to the subject being dealt with. *Remove any extraneous details from your report*  
**facetious**: Treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humor; flippant. *His facetious remarks during the crisis were unhelpful*  
**fallacies**: Mistaken beliefs, especially ones based on unsound argument. *The argument was full of logical fallacies*  
**facilitate**: To make (an action or process) easy or easier. *Good communication facilitates understanding*  
**facilitates**: Makes an action or process easy or easier. *Technology greatly facilitates communication across distances*  
**fatuity**: Foolishness; stupidity. *The fatuity of his argument was evident*  
**flippant**: Not showing a serious or respectful attitude. *His flippant response to the serious question was inappropriate*  
**flummox**: To bewilder or perplex (someone). *The complicated instructions flummoxed the new employee*  
**frenetic**: Fast and energetic in a rather wild and uncontrolled way. *The frenetic pace of city life can be overwhelming*  
**fundamental**: Forming a necessary base or core; of central importance. *Respect for human rights is a fundamental principle of democracy*  
**gestational**: Relating to or denoting the process of carrying or being carried in the womb between conception and birth. *Gestational diabetes requires careful monitoring during pregnancy*  
**harmonious**: Forming a pleasing or consistent whole; free from disagreement or dissent. *The colors in the painting were harmonious and balanced*  
**heuristic**: Enabling a person to discover or learn something for themselves. *The teacher used a heuristic approach to problem-solving, encouraging students to explore solutions*  
**hegemony**: Leadership or dominance, especially by one state or social group over others. *The company sought to establish its hegemony in the market*  
**homages**: Special honors or respect shown publicly. *Artists paid homages to their mentors through their work*  
**hybridization**: The process of combining two different species or varieties to create a hybrid; the combining of two distinct elements to produce a new one. *The hybridization of various musical genres created a unique sound*  
**ignoble**: Not honorable in character or purpose. *He was accused of ignoble motives behind his seemingly charitable actions*  
**ignominious**: Deserving or causing public disgrace or shame. *The team suffered an ignominious defeat in the final match*  
**immutable**: Unchanging over time or unable to be changed. *The laws of physics are considered immutable*  
**impediments**: Hindrances or obstructions in doing something. *Lack of funding and political will were major impediments to the project*  
**implacable**: Unable to be placated; relentless, unstoppable. *The implacable enemy continued their relentless pursuit*  
**inauspicious**: Not conducive to success; unpromising. *The project got off to an inauspicious start with several early setbacks*  
**inchoate**: Just begun and therefore not fully formed or developed; rudimentary. *The artist’s inchoate ideas slowly developed into a masterpiece*  
**incalculable**: Too great to be calculated or estimated. *The storm caused incalculable damage to the coastline*  
**incendiary**: Designed to cause fires; tending to stir up conflict. *The politician’s incendiary remarks further inflamed the crowd*  
**incontrovertible**: Not able to be denied or disputed. *The forensic evidence was incontrovertible proof of his guilt*  
**inconsequential**: Not important or significant. *The details were inconsequential to the overall plan*  
**indolence**: Avoidance of activity or exertion; laziness. *His indolence led to a decline in his academic performance*  
**inimical**: Tending to obstruct or harm; unfriendly, hostile. *Excessive bureaucracy is inimical to efficient progress*  
**inordinate**: Unusually or disproportionately large; excessive. *She spent an inordinate amount of time on social media*  
**intractable**: Hard to control or deal with; difficult or stubborn. *The intractable problem seemed to have no easy solution*  
**insipid**: Lacking flavor, vigor, or interest. *The conversation was so insipid that I almost fell asleep*  
**insouciant**: Showing a casual lack of concern; indifferent. *He maintained an insouciant attitude despite the looming deadline*  
**insuperable**: Impossible to overcome. *The team faced insuperable obstacles in their quest for victory*  
**insurmountable**: Too great to be overcome. *The financial challenges seemed insurmountable at first*  
**instrumental**: Serving as a crucial means, agent, or tool. *His advice was instrumental in her decision*  
**interminable**: Endless or apparently endless (often used hyperbolically). *The meeting seemed interminable*  
**irrepressible**: Not able to be controlled or restrained. *Her irrepressible enthusiasm for life was infectious*  
**irrevocable**: Not able to be changed, reversed, or recovered; final. *His decision to move abroad was irrevocable*  
**jejune**: Naïve, simplistic, and superficial; dry and uninteresting. *Her jejune remarks revealed her lack of understanding*  
**languid**: Displaying a disinclination for physical exertion or effort; slow and relaxed. *The languid afternoon was perfect for napping*  
**languish**: To lose or lack vitality; grow weak or feeble. *The old factory continued to languish in disrepair*  
**lethargic**: Affected by lethargy; sluggish and apathetic. *The hot weather made him feel lethargic and unwilling to move*  
**lucidity**: Clarity of expression; intelligibility; clearness of thought. *The old man had moments of remarkable lucidity despite his illness*  
**magnanimity**: The fact or condition of being magnanimous; generosity. *His magnanimity in victory earned him respect from his opponents*  
**meager**: (Of something provided or available) lacking in quantity or quality. *He survived on a meager diet of bread and water*  
**metrics**: A system or standard of measurement; a set of measures. *The company used various metrics to track its performance*  
**modulations**: The action or process of varying in strength, tone, or pitch. *The speaker’s voice had subtle modulations that conveyed emotion*  
**morality**: Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior. *The film explored complex questions of morality*  
**nascent**: (Especially of a process or organization) just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential. *The nascent technology showed great promise for the future*  
**nebulous**: In the form of a cloud or haze; hazy; unclear, vague, or ill-defined. *The concept remained nebulous until he explained it with an example*  
**neutrality**: The state of not supporting or helping either side in a conflict. *The country maintained a policy of strict neutrality during the war*  
**nominal**: In name only; existing as a small amount. *He was the nominal leader, but someone else held the real power*  
**nullify**: To make legally null and void; invalidate; to make of no use or value; cancel out. *The court decided to nullify the contract*  
**obduracy**: The quality or state of being obdurate; stubbornness. *His obduracy made negotiation impossible*  
**obfuscate**: To make obscure, unclear, or unintelligible. *Some politicians obfuscate the truth to mislead the public*  
**obstinate**: Stubbornly refusing to change one’s opinion or chosen course of action, despite attempts to persuade one to do so. *He was obstinate in his refusal to apologize*  
**onerous**: (Of a task or responsibility) involving an amount of effort and difficulty that is oppressively burdensome. *The onerous task of cleaning the entire house*  
**ostentatious**: Characterized by vulgar or pretentious display; designed to impress or attract notice. *An ostentatious display of wealth*  
**ostensible**: Stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so. *His ostensible purpose was to visit his aunt, but he was really there to spy*  
**perennial**: Lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time; enduring or continually recurring. *The perennial debate over taxes continued in Congress*  
**peremptory**: Insisting on immediate attention or obedience, especially in a brusquely imperious way. *His peremptory tone left no room for discussion*  
**perfidious**: Deceitful and untrustworthy. *The perfidious friend betrayed his trust*  
**perfidy**: Deceitfulness; untrustworthiness. *The act of perfidy by his closest friend left him heartbroken*  
**perfunctory**: Carried out with a minimum of effort or reflection. *He gave a perfunctory nod of acknowledgment*  
**pernicious**: Having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way. *The pernicious influence of social media can be damaging*  
**perpetuate**: To make (something) continue indefinitely. *The cycle of poverty was perpetuated by lack of education*  
**peripheral**: Relating to or situated on the edge or periphery of something; of secondary importance. *The issue was peripheral to the main discussion*  
**perturbations**: Deviations of a system from its normal or regular state or path, caused by an outside influence. *Small gravitational perturbations can affect planetary orbits*  
**piquant**: Having a pleasantly sharp taste or appetizing flavor; pleasantly stimulating or exciting to the mind. *The sauce had a piquant and spicy flavor*  
**precarious**: Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse; dependent on chance; uncertain. *The climber found himself in a precarious situation on the cliff face*  
**precludes**: Prevents something from happening or makes something impossible. *The bad weather precludes any outdoor activities today*  
**prognosticate**: To foretell or prophesy (a future event). *Economists prognosticate a period of economic recovery*  
**prohibitive**: Forbidding or restricting something; (of a price or cost) excessively high as to prevent the purchase of something. *The cost of housing in the city was prohibitive for many*  
**prosaic**: Lacking poetic beauty; commonplace, unromantic. *The prosaic description of the sunset failed to capture its beauty*  
**protracted**: Lasting for a long time or longer than expected or usual; lengthened. *The protracted negotiations finally led to a resolution*  
**provisional**: Arranged or existing for the present, possibly to be changed later. *The government formed a provisional administration until new elections could be held*  
**quixotic**: Exceedingly idealistic; unrealistic and impractical. *His quixotic pursuit of world peace seemed admirable but unattainable*  
**recalcitrant**: Having an obstinately uncooperative attitude toward authority or discipline. *The recalcitrant student refused to follow the teacher’s instructions*  
**redundancies**: The state of being no longer needed or useful; superfluous elements. *The new software eliminated several redundancies in the old system*  
**relegate**: Consigned or dismissed to a lower position, rank, or status. *She was relegated to a minor role after her poor performance*  
**repudiate**: To refuse to accept or be associated with; to deny the truth or validity of. *He repudiated the accusations against him*  
**resolute**: Admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering. *She was resolute in her decision to pursue her dreams*  
**robust**: Strong and healthy; vigorous; able to withstand adverse conditions. *The company has a robust financial standing*  
**rogue**: A dishonest or unprincipled man; a mischievous person; a person or thing that behaves in an aberrant or unpredictable way. *The rogue wave caught the ship by surprise*  
**rudimentary**: Involving or limited to basic principles; of a primitive kind. *He had only a rudimentary understanding of the complex theory*  
**rubric**: A heading on a document; a set of instructions or rules. *The rubric for the essay clearly outlined the grading criteria*  
**salient**: Most noticeable or important. *The salient features of the plan were highlighted in the presentation*  
**salutary**: Producing good effects; beneficial. *The difficult experience had a salutary effect on his character*  
**schism**: A split or division between strongly opposed parties, caused by differences in opinion or belief. *The schism within the political party led to its downfall*  
**seamless**: Smooth and continuous, without apparent joins or interruptions. *The transition to the new system was seamless*  
**seminal**: (Of a work, event, moment, or figure) strongly influencing later developments. *His seminal research laid the groundwork for modern genetics*  
**simulacra**: An image or representation of someone or something; an unsatisfactory imitation or substitute. *The theme park offered simulacra of ancient civilizations*  
**soporific**: Tending to induce drowsiness or sleep; tedious. *The professor’s lecture had a soporific effect on the students*  
**spontaneity**: The condition of being spontaneous; spontaneous behavior or action. *The success of the improv show relied on the spontaneity of the performers*  
**sporadic**: Occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered or isolated. *There were sporadic outbreaks of the disease in rural areas*  
**stasis**: A period or state of inactivity or equilibrium. *The project entered a period of stasis due to funding issues*  
**stringent**: (Of regulations, requirements, or conditions) strict, precise, and exacting. *The new safety regulations are very stringent*  
**stymie**: To prevent or hinder the progress of. *Financial problems stymied their plans for expansion*  
**superlative**: Of the highest quality or degree. *Her performance was truly superlative*  
**supersede**: To take the place of (a person or thing previously in authority or use); to replace. *The new technology will soon supersede the old one*  
**surge**: A sudden powerful forward or upward movement, especially by a crowd or by a natural force such as the tide; a sudden large increase. *There was a surge in demand for the new product*  
**surreptitious**: Kept secret, especially because it would not be approved of. *They had a surreptitious meeting in the park*  
**symbiosis**: Interaction between two different organisms living in close physical association, typically to the advantage of both. *The relationship between the two companies was a classic example of symbiosis*  
**tenacity**: The quality or fact of being able to grip something firmly; the quality or fact of being very determined. *Her tenacity in pursuing her goals was admirable*  
**torpor**: A state of physical or mental inactivity; lethargy. *He awoke from his torpor*  
**transcendent**: Beyond or above the range of normal or merely physical human experience; supreme. *The artist sought to capture a transcendent beauty in her work*  
**transient**: Lasting only for a short time; impermanent. *The transient nature of fashion means trends come and go quickly*  
**ubiquitous**: Present, appearing, or found everywhere. *Smartphones have become ubiquitous in modern society*  
**undermine**: To lessen the effectiveness, power, or ability of, especially gradually or insidiously. *Years of neglect had undermined the building’s foundations*  
**unremitting**: Never relaxing or slackening; incessant. *The team faced unremitting pressure from their opponents*  
**usurped**: Taken (a position of power or importance) illegally or by force. *The ambitious general usurped the throne*  
**vacillate**: To alternate or waver between different opinions or actions; to be indecisive. *He tended to vacillate when making important decisions*  
**vacillating**: Alternating or wavering between different opinions or actions; irresolute. *His vacillating stance on the issue made it difficult to trust him*  
**vacuums**: Spaces entirely devoid of matter; states of emptiness. *The old system created regulatory vacuums that needed to be filled*  
**venal**: Showing or motivated by susceptibility to bribery. *A venal official accepted bribes to overlook the violations*  
**veracities**: Conformity to facts; accuracy; habitual truthfulness. *The lawyer questioned the veracities of the witness’s statements*  
**verisimilitude**: The appearance of being true or real. *The novel achieved a remarkable verisimilitude in its depiction of historical events*  
**vigilance**: The action or state of keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties. *Constant vigilance is necessary to prevent security breaches*  
**xenophobia**: Dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries. *The rise of nationalism often leads to increased xenophobia*  
**community-oriented**: Directed towards or focusing on the needs or interests of a community. *The organization’s programs are strongly community-oriented*