

**aberrant** : *markedly different from an accepted norm*

**abeyance** : *temporary cessation or suspension*

**abscond** : *run away, often taking something or somebody along*

**abstemious** : *marked by temperance in indulgence*

**abstruse** : *difficult to understand*

**absurd** : *inconsistent with reason or logic or common sense*

**abyss** : *a bottomless gulf or pit*

**acquiesce** : *agree or express agreement*

**adamant** : *very hard native crystalline carbon valued as a gem*

**adept** : *having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude*

**admonish** : *scold or reprimand; take to task*

**adulate** : *flatter in an obsequious manner*

**adulation** : *exaggerated flattery or praise*

**adulterate** : *make impure by adding a foreign or inferior substance*

**adumbrate** : *describe roughly or give the main points or summary of*

**adverse** : *in an opposing direction*

**aesthete** : *one who professes great sensitivity to the beauty of art*

**affable** : *diffusing warmth and friendliness*

**affliction** : *a cause of great suffering and distress*

**affluent** : *having an abundant supply of money or possessions of value*

**aggrandize** : *embellish; increase the scope, power, or importance of*

**agitate** : *move or cause to move back and forth*

**agog** : *highly excited*

**alacrity** : *liveliness and eagerness*

**allegation** : *a formal accusation against somebody*

**allegiance** : *the act of binding yourself to a course of action*

**ally** : *a friendly nation*

**amalgamate** : *bring or combine together or with something else*

**ambiguous** : *having more than one possible meaning*

**ambivalent** : *uncertain or unable to decide about what course to follow*

**ambrosial** : *worthy of the gods*

**ameliorate** : *make better*

**amenable** : *disposed or willing to comply*

**anachronism** : *locating something at a time when it couldn't have existed*

**analgesic** : *capable of relieving pain*

**annex** : *attach to*

**annotate** : *add explanatory notes to or supply with critical comments*

**annul** : *cancel officially*

**anomalous** : *deviating from the general or common order or type*

**antediluvian** : *of or relating to the period before the biblical flood*

**antipathy** : *a feeling of intense dislike*

**antiseptic** : *thoroughly clean and free of disease-causing organisms*

**aphoristic** : *terse and witty and like a maxim*

**apocryphal** : *being of questionable authenticity*

**apparition** : *a ghostly appearing figure*

**appraise** : *consider in a comprehensive way*

**apprehension** : *fearful expectation or anticipation*

**apprise** : *inform somebody of something*

**approbation** : *official acceptance or agreement*

**aptitude** : *inherent ability*

**aqueous** : *similar to or containing or dissolved in water*

**arable** : *capable of being farmed productively*

**arbitrate** : *act between parties with a view to reconciling differences*

**arduous** : *characterized by effort to the point of exhaustion*

**articulate** : *express or state clearly*

**ascetic** : *someone who practices self denial as a spiritual discipline*

**ascribe** : *attribute or credit to*

**asperity** : *harshness of manner*

**aspersion** : *a disparaging remark*

**aspiration** : *a cherished desire*

**assess** : *estimate the nature, quality, ability or significance of*

**assuage** : *provide physical relief, as from pain*

**astringent** : *tending to draw together or constrict soft organic tissue*

**astute** : *marked by practical hardheaded intelligence*

**atone** : *turn away from sin or do penitence*

**atrophy** : *a decrease in size of an organ caused by disease or disuse*

**attentive** : *taking heed*

**attenuate** : *become weaker, in strength, value, or magnitude*

**audacious** : *disposed to venture or take risks*

**augment** : *enlarge or increase*

**auspicious** : *indicating favorable circumstances and good luck*

**austere** : *of a stern or strict bearing or demeanor*

**avarice** : *reprehensible acquisitiveness; insatiable desire for wealth*

**aver** : *declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true*

**averse** : *strongly opposed*

**avert** : *turn away or aside*

**avid** : *marked by active interest and enthusiasm*

**baleful** : *threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments*

**balk** : *refuse to proceed or comply*

**banal** : *repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse*

**baneful** : *evil or sinister*

**banter** : *light teasing repartee*

**barefaced** : *with no effort to conceal*

**bask** : *expose oneself to warmth and light, as for relaxation*

**belie** : *be in contradiction with*

**bellicose** : *having or showing a ready disposition to fight*

**benevolent** : *showing or motivated by sympathy and understanding*

**benign** : *kind in disposition or manner*

**bilk** : *cheat somebody out of what is due, especially money*

**bizarre** : *conspicuously or grossly unconventional or unusual*

**blandishment** : *flattery intended to persuade*

**bleak** : *unpleasantly cold and damp*

**blithe** : *carefree and happy and lighthearted*

**blunder** : *an embarrassing mistake*

**board** : *a stout length of sawn timber*

**bog** : *wet spongy ground of decomposing vegetation*

**bogus** : *fraudulent; having a misleading appearance*

**bolster** : *support and strengthen*

**bombast** : *pompous or pretentious talk or writing*

**boor** : *a crude uncouth ill-bred person lacking refinement*

**breach** : *an opening, especially a gap in a dike or fortification*

**brisk** : *quick and energetic*

**brittle** : *having little elasticity*

**brood** : *hang over, as of something threatening, dark, or menacing*

**burgeon** : *grow and flourish*

**burlesque** : *a theatrical entertainment of broad and earthy humor*

**buttress** : *a support usually of stone or brick*

**cadge** : *obtain or seek to obtain by wheedling*

**cajole** : *influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering*

**calisthenics** : *light exercises designed to promote general fitness*

**cant** : *a slope in the turn of a road or track*

**caprice** : *a sudden desire*

**captor** : *a person who entraps and holds someone else*

**castigate** : *inflict severe punishment on*

**catalyst** : *substance that initiates or accelerates a chemical reaction*

**caustic** : *capable of destroying or eating away by chemical action*

**cavern** : *a large cave or a large chamber in a cave*

**censor** : *a person authorized to suppress unacceptable material*

**censure** : *harsh criticism or disapproval*

**cessation** : *a stopping*

**charter** : *a document creating an institution and specifying its rights*

**chary** : *characterized by great caution*

**chicanery** : *the use of tricks to deceive someone*

**circumlocution** : *an indirect way of expressing something*

**circumspect** : *careful to consider potential consequences and avoid risk*

**claim** : *assert or affirm strongly*

**clot** : *a lump of material formed from the content of a liquid*

**clumsy** : *lacking grace in movement or posture*

**coagulant** : *an agent that produces coagulation*

**coerce** : *cause to do through pressure or necessity*

**cogent** : *powerfully persuasive*

**cognizance** : *the state or act of having knowledge of*

**coherent** : *marked by an orderly and consistent relation of parts*

**collusion** : *secret agreement*

**commensurate** : *corresponding in size or degree or extent*

**commentator** : *an expert who observes and remarks on something*

**complacent** : *contented to a fault with oneself or one's actions*

**complaisant** : *showing a cheerful willingness to do favors for others*

**composure** : *steadiness of mind under stress*

**concede** : *give over*

**conceit** : *the trait of being unduly vain*

**concession** : *the act of yielding*

**conciliatory** : *making or willing to make concessions*

**concoct** : *make something by mixing*

**concur** : *happen simultaneously*

**condescend** : *behave in a patronizing manner*

**conductive** : *tending to bring about; being partly responsible for*

**confidential** : *given in secret*

**confine** : *place limits on*

**conflagration** : *a very intense and uncontrolled fire*

**conflate** : *mix together different elements*

**confound** : *be confusing or perplexing to*

**confrontation** : *discord resulting from a clash of ideas or opinions*

**congruent** : *corresponding in character or kind*

**conifer** : *a type of tree or shrub bearing cones*

**conjecture** : *believe especially on uncertain or tentative grounds*

**conjure** : *summon into action or bring into existence*

**conscript** : *enroll into service compulsorily*

**consensus** : *agreement in the judgment reached by a group as a whole*

**consign** : *give over to another for care or safekeeping*

**console** : *give moral or emotional strength to*

**conspicuous** : *obvious to the eye or mind*

**conspire** : *act in agreement and in secret towards a deceitful purpose*

**consternation** : *sudden shock or dismay that causes confusion*

**contend** : *compete for something*

**contentious** : *showing an inclination to disagree*

**contingent** : *determined by conditions or circumstances that follow*

**contrite** : *feeling or expressing pain or sorrow*

**controversial** : *marked by or capable of causing disagreement*

**convoke** : *call together*

**convoluted** : *highly complex or intricate*

**corporal** : *affecting the body as opposed to the mind or spirit*

**corroborate** : *give evidence for*

**covert** : *secret or hidden*

**covet** : *wish, long, or crave for*

**cower** : *crouch or curl up*

**coy** : *affectedly shy especially in a playful or provocative way*

**crave** : *have an appetite or great desire for*

**craven** : *lacking even the rudiments of courage; abjectly fearful*

**crease** : *an angular indentation made by folding*

**credulity** : *tendency to believe readily*

**crockery** : *ceramic dishes used for serving food*

**culpable** : *deserving blame or censure as being wrong or injurious*

**curb** : *the act of restraining power or action or limiting excess*

**dabble** : *bob under so as to feed off the bottom of a body of water*

**dampen** : *lessen in force or effect*

**dangle** : *hang freely*

**dazzle** : *cause to lose clear vision, especially from intense light*

**dearth** : *an insufficient quantity or number*

**debacle** : *a sudden and complete disaster*

**debilitate** : *make weak*

**decorous** : *characterized by propriety and dignity and good taste*

**decorum** : *propriety in manners and conduct*

**decree** : *a legally binding command or decision*

**decry** : *express strong disapproval of*

**dedication** : *complete and wholehearted fidelity*

**defer** : *yield to another's wish or opinion*

**deference** : *courteous regard for people's feelings*

**defiance** : *a hostile challenge*

**defiant** : *boldly resisting authority or an opposing force*

**deft** : *skillful in physical movements; especially of the hands*

**delineate** : *represented accurately or precisely*

**deluge** : *a heavy rain*

**demote** : *assign to a lower position; reduce in rank*

**demur** : *politely refuse or take exception to*

**denounce** : *speak out against*

**denunciation** : *a public act of condemnation*

**deposition** : *the act of putting something somewhere*



**deprivation** : *the disadvantage that results from losing something*

**deprive** : *take away*

**descry** : *catch sight of*

**desiccate** : *lacking vitality or spirit; lifeless*

**desperate** : *a person who is frightened and in need of help*

**despicable** : *morally reprehensible*

**detached** : *no longer connected or joined*

**deter** : *turn away from as by fear or persuasion*

**devoid** : *completely wanting or lacking*

**diatribe** : *thunderous verbal attack*

**dichotomy** : *a classification into two opposed parts or subclasses*

**diffident** : *showing modest reserve*

**digress** : *wander from a direct or straight course*

**dilettante** : *an amateur engaging in an activity without serious intention*

**diligent** : *quietly and steadily persevering in detail or exactness*

**din** : *a loud, harsh, or strident noise*

**dirge** : *a song or hymn of mourning as a memorial to a dead person*

**disabuse** : *free somebody from an erroneous belief*

**disassemble** : *take apart*

**disburse** : *expend, as from a fund*

**discomfit** : *cause to lose one's composure*

**discourse** : *an extended communication dealing with some particular topic*

**discreet** : *marked by prudence or modesty and wise self-restraint*

**discrete** : *constituting a separate entity or part*

**disdain** : *lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike*

**disguise** : *any attire that conceals the wearer's identity*

**disinterested** : *unaffected by concern for one's own welfare*

**dislodge** : *remove or force from a position previously occupied*

**disparate** : *fundamentally different or distinct in quality or kind*

**disparity** : *inequality or difference in some respect*

**dispassionate** : *unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice*

**dispel** : *cause to separate and go in different directions*

**disprove** : *show to be false*

**disrobe** : *get undressed*

**dissemble** : *behave unnaturally or affectedly*

**dissent** : *a difference of opinion*

**distend** : *cause to expand as if by internal pressure*

**distract** : *draw someone's attention away from something*

**distraught** : *deeply agitated especially from emotion*

**divest** : *take away possessions from someone*

**divulge** : *make known to the public information previously kept secret*

**docile** : *easily handled or managed*

**dogmatic** : *pertaining to a code of beliefs accepted as authoritative*

**doleful** : *filled with or evoking sadness*

**dormant** : *inactive but capable of becoming active*

**drab** : *a dull greyish to yellowish or light olive brown*

**drawl** : *a slow speech pattern with prolonged vowels*

**droll** : *comical in an odd or whimsical manner*

**drone** : *make a monotonous low dull sound*

**drought** : *a shortage of rainfall*

**dubious** : *fraught with uncertainty or doubt*

**dumbfound** : *be a mystery or bewildering to*

**dupe** : *fool or hoax*

**dwarf** : *a person who is markedly small*

**dwindle** : *become smaller or lose substance*

**ebullient** : *joyously unrestrained*

**eclectic** : *selecting what seems best of various styles or ideas*

**efface** : *remove by or as if by rubbing or erasing*

**efficacious** : *giving the power to produce an intended result*

**effrontery** : *audacious behavior that you have no right to*

**egalitarian** : *favoring social equality*

**egregious** : *conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible*

**elicit** : *call forth, as an emotion, feeling, or response*

**eloquence** : *powerful and effective language*

**elucidate** : *make clear and comprehensible*

**elusive** : *skillful at evading capture*

**embellish** : *make more attractive, as by adding ornament or color*

**embrace** : *squeeze tightly in your arms, usually with fondness*

**emissary** : *someone sent to represent another's interests*

**emollient** : *a substance with a soothing effect when applied to the skin*

**enchant** : *cast a spell over someone or something*

**encomium** : *a formal expression of praise*

**encroach** : *advance beyond the usual limit*

**encumber** : *hold back, impede, or weigh down*

**endeavor** : *attempt by employing effort*

**endorse** : *approve of*

**enervate** : *weaken physically, mentally, or morally*

**engender** : *call forth*

**engrossed** : *giving or marked by complete attention to*

**enigma** : *something that baffles understanding and cannot be explained*

**enlist** : *join the military*

**ensign** : *a person who holds a commissioned rank in the U.S. Navy*

**enthral** : *hold spellbound*

**entrenched** : *dug in*

**ephemeral** : *anything short-lived, as an insect that lives only for a day*

**epistemology** : *the philosophical theory of knowledge*

**epistle** : *a specially long, formal letter*

**epithet** : *descriptive word or phrase*

**epitome** : *a standard or typical example*

**equivocate** : *be deliberately ambiguous or unclear*

**equivocation** : *intentional vagueness or ambiguity*

**eradicate** : *destroy completely, as if down to the roots*

**erratic** : *liable to sudden unpredictable change*

**erudite** : *having or showing profound knowledge*

**eschew** : *avoid and stay away from deliberately*

**esoteric** : *understandable only by an enlightened inner circle*

**espouse** : *choose and follow a theory, idea, policy, etc.*

**espy** : *catch sight of*

**ethos** : *the distinctive spirit of a culture or an era*

**euphemism** : *an inoffensive expression substituted for an offensive one*

**euphoria** : *a feeling of great elation*

**evanescent** : *short-lived; tending to vanish or disappear*

**evict** : *expel or eject without recourse to legal process*

**evoke** : *call forth, as an emotion, feeling, or response*

**exacerbate** : *make worse*

**exculpate** : *pronounce not guilty of criminal charges*

**exemplary** : *worthy of imitation*

**exemplify** : *be characteristic of*

**exhort** : *spur on or encourage especially by cheers and shouts*

**exigent** : *demanding immediate attention*

**exonerate** : *pronounce not guilty of criminal charges*

**exorbitant** : *greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation*

**expend** : *use up or consume fully*

**expiate** : *make amends for*

**explicit** : *precisely and clearly expressed or readily observable*

**exploit** : *use or manipulate to one's advantage*

**extant** : *still in existence; not extinct or destroyed or lost*

**extempore** : *with little or no preparation or forethought*

**extensive** : *large in spatial extent or range or scope or quantity*

**extent** : *the point or degree to which something extends*

**extol** : *praise, glorify, or honor*

**extravagant** : *recklessly wasteful*

**exuberant** : *joyously unrestrained*

**facetious** : *cleverly amusing in tone*

**faddish** : *intensely fashionable or popular for a short time*

**fallacious** : *containing or based on incorrect reasoning*

**fallacy** : *a misconception resulting from incorrect reasoning*

**falter** : *move hesitatingly, as if about to give way*

**fanatical** : *marked by excessive enthusiasm for a cause or idea*

**fathom** : *a linear unit of measurement for water depth*

**fawn** : *a young deer*

**feckless** : *generally incompetent and ineffectual*

**feign** : *make believe with the intent to deceive*

**felicitate** : *express congratulations*

**felon** : *someone who has been legally convicted of a crime*

**fervent** : *characterized by intense emotion*

**fervid** : *characterized by intense emotion*

**fervor** : *feelings of great warmth and intensity*

**feud** : *a bitter quarrel between two parties*

**fickle** : *liable to sudden unpredictable change*

**fidget** : *move restlessly*

**finicky** : *fussy, especially about details*

**malapropism** : *misuse of a word by confusion with one that sounds similar*

**polymath** : *a person of great and varied learning*

**parquetry** : *a patterned wood inlay used to cover a floor*

**limerick** : *a humorous rhymed verse form of five lines*

**orotund** : *overly formal and pompous in style*

**onomatopoeia** : *using words that imitate the sound they denote*

**malingerer** : *someone shirking duty by feigning illness or incapacity*

**optometrist** : *a person skilled in testing for defects of vision*

**ligneous** : *consisting of or resembling wood*

**offertory** : *the offerings of the congregation at a religious service*

**nonplused** : *filled with bewilderment*

**mollycoddle** : *treat with excessive indulgence*

**quotidian** : *found in the ordinary course of events*

**homeopathy** : *a method of treating disease with small amounts of remedies that, in large amounts in healthy people, produce symptoms similar to those being treated*

**misogynist** : *a misanthrope who dislikes women in particular*

**syncopated** : *stressing a normally weak beat*

**ossified** : *set in a rigidly conventional pattern of behavior or beliefs*

**truculence** : *stubborn and defiant aggressiveness*

**mettlesome** : *having a proud, courageous, and unbroken spirit*

**molt** : *cast off hair, skin, horn, or feathers*

**vituperative** : *marked by harshly abusive criticism*

**obfuscate** : *make obscure or unclear*

**objurgation** : *rebuking a person harshly*

**oaf** : *an awkward, foolish person*

**objurgate** : *censure severely*

**optician** : *a worker who makes glasses for remedying defects of vision*

**rotundity** : *the roundness of a 3-dimensional object*

**mendacious** : *given to lying*

**obsidian** : *glass formed by the cooling of lava without crystallization*

**foppish** : *overly concerned with extreme elegance in dress and manner*

**macerate** : *soften and cause to disintegrate as a result*

**omnivorous** : *feeding on both plants and animals*

**outmoded** : *no longer in fashion*

**obstetrician** : *a physician specializing in childbirth*

**inchoate** : *only partly in existence; imperfectly formed*

**ostracize** : *expel from a community or group*

**improvidence** : *a lack of prudence, care, or foresight*

**peccadillo** : *a petty misdeed*

**gauche** : *lacking social polish*

**tangential** : *of superficial relevance if any*

**turpitude** : *a corrupt or depraved or degenerate act or practice*

**oculist** : *a person skilled in testing for defects of vision*

**opalescent** : *having a play of lustrous rainbow colors*

**posit** : *take as a given; assume as a postulate or axiom*

**suborn** : *incite to commit a crime or an evil deed*

**interregnum** : *the time between two reigns or governments*

**minuscule** : *very small*

**ornithologist** : *a scientist who studies birds*

**insatiate** : *impossible to satisfy*

**orison** : *reverent petition to a deity*

**misnomer** : *an incorrect or unsuitable name*

**onus** : *a burdensome or difficult concern*

**quiescence** : *a state of quiet but possibly temporary inaction*

**intransigent** : *impervious to pleas, persuasion, requests, or reason*

**opportunist** : *a person who places expediency above principle*

**quintessential** : *representing the perfect example of a class or quality*

**martinet** : *someone who demands exact conformity to rules and forms*

**odoriferous** : *emitting a smell, especially an unpleasant smell*

**inauspicious** : *boding ill*

**gullible** : *naive and easily deceived or tricked*

**impecunious** : *not having enough money to pay for necessities*

**herbaceous** : *characteristic of a nonwoody herb or plant part*

**quenching** : *the act of extinguishing; causing to stop burning*

**ostracism** : *the act of excluding someone from society by general consent*

**olfactory** : *of or relating to the sense of smell*

**stickler** : *someone who insists on something*



**misanthrope** : *someone who dislikes people in general*

**veracious** : *habitually speaking the truth*

**opprobrious** : *expressing offensive reproach*

**obliquity** : *the quality of being deliberately vague or deceptive*

**gaffe** : *a socially awkward or tactless act*

**obstreperous** : *noisily and stubbornly defiant*

**squelch** : *suppress or crush completely*

**lackluster** : *not having brilliance or vitality*

**heterodox** : *characterized by departure from accepted standards*

**gavel** : *a small mallet used by a presiding officer or a judge*

**preen** : *clean with one's bill*

**tyro** : *someone new to a field or activity*

**overweening** : *presumptuously arrogant*

**offal** : *viscera and trimmings of a butchered animal*

**paucity** : *an insufficient quantity or number*

**zephyr** : *a slight wind*

**jamb** : *a vertical side piece of a door or window frame*

**recondite** : *difficult to understand*

**oblation** : *the act of contributing to the funds of a church or charity*

**zealot** : *a fervent and even militant proponent of something*

**saturnine** : *bitter or scornful*

**neuralgia** : *acute spasmodic pain along the course of one or more nerves*

**iconoclast** : *someone who attacks cherished ideas or institutions*

**fracas** : *a noisy quarrel*

**nadir** : *the lowest point of anything*

**prescience** : *the power to foresee the future*

**predisposition** : *an inclination to interpret statements in a particular way*

**refurbish** : *improve the appearance or functionality of*

**volubility** : *the quality of being facile in speech and writing*

**lethargic** : *deficient in alertness or activity*

**striate** : *marked with stripes*

**obloquy** : *state of disgrace resulting from public abuse*

**plethora** : *extreme excess*

**sketchy** : *giving only major points; lacking completeness*

**impugn** : *attack as false or wrong*

**profundity** : *the quality of being physically deep*

**fulminate** : *cause to explode violently and with loud noise*

**quash** : *declare invalid*

**inopportune** : *not suitable for a purpose*

**loafer** : *a person who is idle and does no work*

**recalcitrant** : *stubbornly resistant to authority or control*

**prevaricate** : *be deliberately ambiguous or unclear*

**hackneyed** : *repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse*

**optimum** : *most desirable possible under a restriction*

**mercurial** : *liable to sudden unpredictable change*

**proclivity** : *a natural inclination*

**shunt** : *a conductor diverting a fraction of current from a device*

**ingrained** : *deeply rooted; firmly fixed or held*

**pusillanimous** : *lacking in courage, strength, and resolution*

**flustered** : *thrown into a state of agitated confusion*

**outgrowth** : *the gradual beginning or coming forth*

**vertigo** : *a reeling sensation; a feeling that you are about to fall*

**loquacious** : *full of trivial conversation*

**noisome** : *causing or able to cause nausea*

**mace** : *a ceremonial staff carried as a symbol of office*

**ornithology** : *the branch of zoology that studies birds*

**rarefy** : *lessen the density or solidity of*

**vituperate** : *spread negative information about*

**pugnacious** : *ready and able to resort to force or violence*

**penchant** : *a strong liking or preference*

**lasso** : *a long noosed rope used to catch animals*

**petulance** : *an irritable feeling*

**opiate** : *a narcotic drug*

**trenchant** : *having keenness and forcefulness and penetration in thought*

**stigmatize** : *condemn or openly brand as disgraceful*

**innocuous** : *not injurious to physical or mental health*

**vilify** : *spread negative information about*

**hyperbole** : *extravagant exaggeration*

**inept** : *generally incompetent and ineffectual*

**prodigality** : *the trait of spending extravagantly*

**iniquitous** : *characterized by injustice or wickedness*

**simper** : *smile in an insincere, unnatural, or coy way*

**gossamer** : *a gauze fabric with an extremely fine texture*

**onerous** : *burdensome or difficult to endure*

**overwrought** : *deeply agitated especially from emotion*

**orthography** : *representing the sounds of a language by written symbols*

**fortuitous** : *lucky; occurring by happy chance*

**phlegmatic** : *showing little emotion*

**orientation** : *the act of determining one's position*

**nefarious** : *extremely wicked*

**forthright** : *directly and without evasion; not roundabout*

**opprobrium** : *a state of extreme dishonor*

**inured** : *made tough by habitual exposure*

**gregarious** : *temperamentally seeking and enjoying the company of others*

**nondescript** : *lacking distinct or individual characteristics*

**foolhardy** : *marked by defiant disregard for danger or consequences*

**odorous** : *having a characteristic aroma*

**omnipresent** : *existing everywhere at once*

**pedantry** : *an ostentatious and inappropriate display of learning*

**rescind** : *cancel officially*

**incidence** : *the relative frequency of occurrence of something*

**fledgling** : *young bird that has just become capable of flying*

**putrefy** : *decay with an offensive smell*

**probity** : *complete and confirmed integrity*

**ogle** : *stare or look at, especially with amorous intentions*

**lugubrious** : *excessively mournful*

**oratorio** : *a musical composition for voices and orchestra*

**gouge** : *an impression in a surface, as made by a blow*

**paragon** : *a perfect embodiment of a concept*

**inimical** : *tending to obstruct or cause harm*

**pristine** : *immaculately clean and unused*

**leviathan** : *the largest or most massive thing of its kind*

**inflammable** : *easily ignited*

**sedulous** : *marked by care and persistent effort*

**irascible** : *quickly aroused to anger*

**idolatrous** : *relating to or practicing idolatry*

**tirade** : *a speech of violent denunciation*

**irate** : *feeling or showing extreme anger*

**fluke** : *a stroke of luck*

**libertine** : *unrestrained by convention or morality*

**ramification** : *a consequence, especially one that causes complications*

**quaff** : *swallow hurriedly or greedily or in one draught*

**torpid** : *in a condition of biological rest or suspended animation*

**shuck** : *material consisting of seed coverings and small pieces of stem or leaves that have been separated from the seeds*

**redoubtable** : *inspiring fear*

**spendthrift** : *someone who spends money freely or wastefully*

**opulence** : *wealth as evidenced by sumptuous living*

**rationale** : *an explanation of the fundamental reasons*

**guileless** : *innocent and free of deceit*

**quibble** : *evade the truth of a point by raising irrelevant objections*

**recant** : *formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief*

**tepid** : *moderately warm*

**hoax** : *something intended to deceive*

**savant** : *a learned person*

**torpor** : *a state of motor and mental inactivity*

**voracious** : *devouring or craving food in great quantities*

**welter** : *a confused multitude of things*

**obelisk** : *a stone pillar tapering towards a pyramidal top*

**insular** : *relating to or characteristic of or situated on an island*

**untenable** : *incapable of being defended or justified*

**omniscient** : *knowing, seeing, or understanding everything*

**ranger** : *an official responsible for managing an area of forest*

**wheedle** : *influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering*

**inextricable** : *incapable of being disentangled or untied*

**fluffy** : *like down or as soft as down*

**subpoena** : *a writ issued to compel the attendance of a witness*

**orifice** : *an opening, especially one that opens into a bodily cavity*

**gist** : *the central meaning or theme of a speech or literary work*

**foible** : *a minor weakness or peculiarity in someone's character*

**incorrigible** : *impervious to correction by punishment*

**mundane** : *found in the ordinary course of events*

**mollify** : *cause to be more favorably inclined*

**flamboyant** : *tending to attract attention; marked by ostentatious display*

**penury** : *a state of extreme poverty or destitution*

**holster** : *a sheath for carrying a handgun*

**polemic** : *a verbal or written attack, especially of a belief or dogma*

**meticulous** : *marked by precise accordance with details*

**sloppy** : *lacking neatness or order*

**sporadic** : *recurring in scattered or unpredictable instances*

**platitude** : *a trite or obvious remark*

**perfidious** : *tending to betray*

**impervious** : *not admitting of passage or capable of being affected*

**heretical** : *departing from accepted beliefs or standards*

**idiosyncrasy** : *a behavioral attribute peculiar to an individual*

**untoward** : *not in keeping with accepted standards of what is proper*

**overt** : *open and observable; not secret or hidden*

**obligatory** : *required by compulsion or convention*

**obeisance** : *bending the head or body in reverence or submission*

**jocular** : *characterized by jokes and good humor*

**precursor** : *something indicating the approach of something or someone*

**slur** : *utter indistinctly*

**garrulous** : *full of trivial conversation*

**obituary** : *a notice of someone's death*

**gainsay** : *take exception to*

**panegyric** : *formally expressing praise*

**flout** : *treat with contemptuous disregard*

**infiltrate** : *pass through an enemy line in a military conflict*

**trepidation** : *a feeling of alarm or dread*

**lope** : *run easily*

**insignia** : *a badge worn to show official position*

**imposture** : *pretending to be another person*

**qualm** : *uneasiness about the fitness of an action*

**viable** : *capable of life or normal growth and development*

**oligarchy** : *a political system governed by a few people*

**plummet** : *drop sharply*

**ornate** : *marked by complexity and richness of detail*

**officious** : *intrusive in a meddling or offensive manner*

**preamble** : *a preliminary introduction, as to a statute or constitution*

**perfunctory** : *hasty and without attention to detail; not thorough*

**predilection** : *a predisposition in favor of something*

**pundit** : *an expert who publicly gives opinions via mass media*

**quarantine** : *isolation to prevent the spread of infectious disease*

**foment** : *try to stir up*

**foment** : *try to stir up*

**refractory** : *stubbornly resistant to authority or control*

**grovel** : *show submission or fear*

**obdurate** : *stubbornly persistent in wrongdoing*

**incipient** : *only partly in existence; imperfectly formed*

**vagary** : *an unexpected and inexplicable change in something*

**obtuse** : *of an angle, between 90 and 180 degrees*

**recluse** : *one who lives in solitude*

**specious** : *plausible but false*

**opus** : *a musical work that has been created*

**mettle** : *the courage to carry on*

**obviate** : *do away with*

**vacillate** : *be undecided about something*

**unequivocal** : *admitting of no doubt or misunderstanding*

**tantalize** : *harass with persistent teasing or baiting*

**meager** : *deficient in amount or quality or extent*

**loll** : *be lazy or idle*

**incursion** : *the act of entering some territory or domain*

**impromptu** : *with little or no preparation or forethought*

**insipid** : *lacking interest or significance or impact*

**laconic** : *brief and to the point*

**pucker** : *gather something into small wrinkles or folds*

**glib** : *artfully persuasive in speech*

**mosaic** : *design made of small pieces of colored stone or glass*

**obsequious** : *attempting to win favor from influential people by flattery*



**gloat** :  *dwell on with satisfaction*

**flippant** :  *showing an inappropriate lack of seriousness*

**lustrous** :  *reflecting light*

**immutable** :  *not subject or susceptible to change or variation*

**spurious** :  *plausible but false*

**indelible** :  *not able to be forgotten, removed, or erased*

**taut** :  *pulled or drawn tight*

**piquant** :  *having an agreeably pungent taste*

**taciturn** :  *habitually reserved and uncommunicative*

**tenable** :  *based on sound reasoning or evidence*

**florid** :  *elaborately or excessively ornamented*

**maverick** :  *someone who exhibits independence in thought and action*

**malevolent** :  *wishing or appearing to wish evil to others*

**hypocritical** :  *professing feelings or virtues one does not have*

**squalid** :  *foul and run-down and repulsive*

**oscillate** :  *move or swing from side to side regularly*

**flimsy** :  *a thin strong lightweight translucent paper*

**provocative** :  *serving or tending to excite or stimulate*

**invective** :  *abusive language used to express blame or censure*

**nonchalant** :  *marked by casual unconcern or indifference*

**pith** :  *spongelike central cylinder of the stems of flowering plants*

**lethargy** :  *inactivity; showing an unusual lack of energy*

**laudable** :  *worthy of high praise*

**flaunt** :  *display proudly*

**rampant** :  *occurring or increasing in an unrestrained way*

**forestall** :  *keep from happening or arising; make impossible*

**levee** : *an embankment built to prevent a river from overflowing*

**morose** : *showing a brooding ill humor*

**verdant** : *characterized by abundance of vegetation and green foliage*

**narcotic** : *a drug that produces numbness or stupor*

**opaque** : *not transmitting or reflecting light or radiant energy*

**salvage** : *rescuing a ship or its crew from a shipwreck or a fire*

**propitiate** : *make peace with*

**inadvertent** : *happening by chance or unexpectedly or unintentionally*

**shirk** : *avoid one's assigned duties*

**somber** : *serious and gloomy in character*

**impregnable** : *incapable of being attacked or tampered with*

**magnanimity** : *nobility and generosity of spirit*

**pungent** : *strong and sharp to the sense of taste or smell*

**grudging** : *petty or reluctant in giving or spending*

**presumptuous** : *going beyond what is appropriate, permitted, or courteous*

**nocturnal** : *belonging to or active during the night*

**ineffable** : *defying expression or description*

**hallucinate** : *have illusions; perceive what is not actually there*

**imbibe** : *take in liquids*

**reverberate** : *ring or echo with sound*

**imbue** : *spread or diffuse through*

**prosaic** : *lacking wit or imagination*

**veracity** : *unwillingness to tell lies*

**philanthropist** : *someone who makes charitable donations*

**skiff** : *a small boat propelled by oars or by sails or by a motor*

**obsession** : *an unhealthy and compulsive preoccupation with something*

**invigorate** : *give life or energy to*

**zenith** : *the highest point of something*

**leaven** : *a substance used to produce fermentation in dough*

**onslaught** : *an offensive against an enemy*

**voluptuous** : *displaying luxury and furnishing gratification to the senses*

**reinstate** : *bring back into original existence, function, or position*

**tamp** : *press down tightly*

**impassive** : *having or revealing little emotion or sensibility*

**stockade** : *fortification consisting of a fence set firmly for defense*

**obtrusive** : *sticking out; protruding*

**vagrant** : *a wanderer with no established residence or means of support*

**precedence** : *status established in order of importance or urgency*

**grill** : *a framework of metal bars used as a partition or a grate*

**foreclosure** : *proceedings initiated to repossess the collateral for a loan*

**tarnish** : *make or become dirty or dull, as by exposure to air*

**preclude** : *make impossible, especially beforehand*

**garner** : *assemble or get together*

**obnoxious** : *causing disapproval or protest*

**pathology** : *the branch of medical science that studies diseases*

**quack** : *the sound made by a duck*

**moat** : *ditch dug as a fortification and usually filled with water*

**petulant** : *easily irritated or annoyed*

**goad** : *stab or urge on as if with a pointed stick*

**leash** : *restraint consisting of a rope used to restrain an animal*

**profligate** : *unrestrained by convention or morality*

**squander** : *spend thoughtlessly; throw away*

**pique** : *call forth, as an emotion, feeling, or response*

**perfidy** : *an act of deliberate betrayal*

**hapless** : *unfortunate and deserving pity*

**implacable** : *incapable of being appeased or pacified*

**forgery** : *criminal falsification by making or altering an instrument*

**supplant** : *take the place or move into the position of*

**inundate** : *fill or cover completely, usually with water*

**occult** : *supernatural forces and events and beings collectively*

**strut** : *walk in a proud, confident way*

**precipitous** : *extremely steep*

**impediment** : *something immaterial that interferes with action or progress*

**nausea** : *the state that precedes vomiting*

**ostentatious** : *intended to attract notice and impress others*

**malign** : *speak unfavorably about*

**flounder** : *move clumsily or struggle to move, as in mud or water*

**flop** : *fall loosely*

**impunity** : *exemption from punishment or loss*

**pedestrian** : *a person who travels by foot*

**obese** : *excessively large*

**illicit** : *contrary to accepted morality or convention*

**practitioner** : *someone who carries out a learned profession*

**sate** : *fill to contentment*

**harangue** : *a loud bombastic declamation expressed with strong emotion*

**swindle** : *(offensive) deprive of by deceit*

**mistrust** : *regard with suspicion*

**indigenous** : *originating where it is found*

**plaintiff** : *a person who brings an action in a court of law*

**jeopardy** : *a source of danger*

**mediocre** : *moderate to inferior in quality*

**tacit** : *implied by or inferred from actions or statements*

**perennial** : *lasting an indefinitely long time*

**guile** : *shrewdness as demonstrated by being skilled in deception*

**jovial** : *full of or showing high-spirited merriment*

**intrepid** : *invulnerable to fear or intimidation*

**pernicious** : *exceedingly harmful*

**grazing** : *the act of grazing*

**topple** : *fall down, as if collapsing*

**propensity** : *a natural inclination*

**reticent** : *reluctant to draw attention to yourself*

**plod** : *walk heavily and firmly, as when weary, or through mud*

**plumb** : *exactly vertical*

**pedant** : *a person who pays too much attention to formal rules*

**stigma** : *a symbol of disgrace or infamy*

**protracted** : *relatively long in duration*

**omnipotent** : *having unlimited power*

**ostensible** : *appearing as such but not necessarily so*

**prune** : *cultivate, tend, and cut back the growth of*

**gaudy** : *tastelessly showy*

**vindictive** : *disposed to seek revenge or intended for revenge*

**lucrative** : *producing a sizeable profit*

**ingenuous** : *lacking in sophistication or worldliness*

**obsolete** : *no longer in use*

**varnish** : *a coating that provides a hard, lustrous finish to a surface*

**vehemence** : *intensity or forcefulness of expression*

**pillage** : *steal goods; take as spoils*

**stifled** : *held in check with difficulty*

**tentative** : *hesitant or lacking confidence; unsettled in mind or opinion*

**provocation** : *a means of arousing or stirring to action*

**stint** : *supply sparingly and with restricted quantities*

**tremor** : *an involuntary vibration, as if from illness or fear*

**reciprocal** : *concerning each of two or more persons or things*

**profuse** : *produced or growing in extreme abundance*

**lizard** : *relatively long-bodied reptile with legs and a tapering tail*

**obtrude** : *push to thrust outward*

**mercenary** : *a person hired to fight for another country than their own*

**vogue** : *a current state of general acceptance and use*

**incongruous** : *lacking in harmony or compatibility or appropriateness*

**invert** : *turn inside out or upside down*

**ponderous** : *having great mass and weight and unwieldiness*

**peremptory** : *putting an end to all debate or action*

**precarious** : *not secure; beset with difficulties*

**gird** : *bind with something round or circular*

**inquisitive** : *given to questioning*

**overture** : *orchestral music at the beginning of an opera or musical*

**pestilence** : *any epidemic disease with a high death rate*

**whimsical** : *determined by chance or impulse rather than by necessity*

**intact** : *undamaged in any way*

**placate** : *cause to be more favorably inclined*

**flinch** : *draw back, as with fear or pain*

**improvise** : *manage in a makeshift way; do with whatever is at hand*

**recompense** : *make payment to*

**prodigal** : *recklessly wasteful*

**oblique** : *slanting or inclined in direction or course or position*

**tout** : *advertise in strongly positive terms*

**parasite** : *an animal or plant that lives in or on a host*

**perpetuate** : *cause to continue or prevail*

**wan** : *pale, as of a person's complexion*

**sordid** : *foul and run-down and repulsive*

**prerogative** : *a right reserved exclusively by a person or group*

**succumb** : *give in, as to overwhelming force, influence, or pressure*

**veritable** : *not counterfeit or copied*

**vigilance** : *the process of paying close and continuous attention*

**obliterate** : *remove completely from recognition or memory*

**furtive** : *secret and sly*

**tapestry** : *a wall hanging of heavy fabric with pictorial designs*

**plaintive** : *expressing sorrow*

**supplicate** : *ask for humbly or earnestly, as in prayer*

**wardrobe** : *a piece of furniture that provides storage space for clothes*

**mitigate** : *lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or extent of*

**jeer** : *laugh at with contempt and derision*

**tangible** : *perceptible by the senses, especially the sense of touch*

**skeptical** : *marked by or given to doubt*

**infuse** : *fill, as with a certain quality*

**ludicrous** : *inviting ridicule*

**outset** : *the time at which something is supposed to begin*

**recourse** : *act of turning to for assistance*

**wile** : *the use of tricks to deceive someone*

**martial** : *suggesting war or military life*

**stipulate** : *make an express demand or provision in an agreement*

**lucid** : *transparently clear; easily understandable*

**overhaul** : *make repairs, renovations, revisions or adjustments to*

**imperious** : *having or showing arrogant superiority*

**prone** : *having a tendency*

**odious** : *extremely repulsive or unpleasant*

**frenzy** : *state of violent mental agitation*

**stark** : *severely simple*

**metaphysics** : *the philosophical study of being and knowing*

**sip** : *drink in sips*

**heretic** : *a person whose religious beliefs conflict with church dogma*

**lull** : *make calm or still*

**transgress** : *act in disregard of laws, rules, contracts, or promises*

**frivolous** : *not serious in content, attitude, or behavior*

**hamper** : *prevent the progress or free movement of*

**impair** : *make worse or less effective*

**imperative** : *requiring attention or action*

**truce** : *a state of peace agreed to between opponents*

**flirt** : *talk or behave amorously, without serious intentions*

**insinuate** : *suggest in an indirect or covert way; give to understand*

**rigor** : *excessive sternness*

**temperate** : *not extreme*



**sinister** : *wicked, evil, or dishonorable*

**luminous** : *softly bright or radiant*

**uproar** : *a state of commotion and noise and confusion*

**posture** : *the arrangement of the body and its limbs*

**vindicate** : *show to be right by providing justification or proof*

**meddle** : *intrude in other people's affairs or business*

**intricate** : *having many complexly arranged elements; elaborate*

**pebble** : *a small smooth rounded rock*

**odium** : *hate coupled with disgust*

**shun** : *avoid and stay away from deliberately*

**vulnerable** : *capable of being wounded or hurt*

**susceptible** : *yielding readily to or capable of*

**smother** : *deprive of oxygen and prevent from breathing*

**pan** : *shallow container made of metal*

**oblivion** : *the state of being disregarded or forgotten*

**usurp** : *seize and take control without authority*

**steadfast** : *marked by firm determination or resolution; not shakable*

**prodigious** : *great in size, force, extent, or degree*

**foster** : *providing nurture though not related by blood or legal ties*

**presumption** : *a premise that is taken for granted*

**impede** : *be a hindrance or obstacle to*

**pervade** : *spread or diffuse through*

**ordinance** : *an authoritative rule*

**impetuous** : *characterized by undue haste and lack of thought*

**impudent** : *improperly forward or bold*

**spine** : *the series of vertebrae forming the backbone*

**ominous** : *threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments*

**placid** : *calm and free from disturbance*

**judicious** : *marked by the exercise of common sense in practical matters*

**treacherous** : *dangerously unstable and unpredictable*

**wary** : *marked by keen caution and watchful prudence*

**lumber** : *the wood of trees prepared for use as building material*

**ghastly** : *shockingly repellent; inspiring horror*

**invoke** : *request earnestly; ask for aid or protection*

**indict** : *accuse formally of a crime*

**rejoicing** : *a feeling of great happiness*

**pertinent** : *being of striking appropriateness*

**uphold** : *stand up for; stick up for; of causes, principles, or ideals*

**insensible** : *barely able to be perceived*

**subside** : *wear off or die down*

**gravel** : *rock fragments and pebbles*

**premise** : *a statement that is held to be true*

**gorge** : *a deep ravine, usually with a river running through it*

**valiant** : *having or showing heroism or courage*

**withhold** : *hold back; refuse to hand over or share*

**trample** : *tread or stomp heavily or roughly*

**lavish** : *very generous*

**limp** : *walk impeded by some physical injury*

**slack** : *not tense or taut*

**precipitate** : *bring about abruptly*

**waver** : *pause or hold back in uncertainty or unwillingness*

**precipice** : *a very steep cliff*

**venerable** : *profoundly honored*

**vicious** : *having the nature of evil doing*

**prodigy** : *an unusually gifted or intelligent person*

**fret** : *be agitated or irritated*

**mirth** : *great merriment*

**levy** : *impose and collect*

**proclamation** : *a formal public statement*

**grumble** : *make complaining remarks or noises under one's breath*

**perch** : *an elevated place serving as a seat*

**plea** : *a humble request for help from someone in authority*

**propriety** : *correct behavior*

**rash** : *imprudently incurring risk*

**loom** : *a textile machine for weaving yarn into a textile*

**remorse** : *a feeling of deep regret, usually for some misdeed*

**shatter** : *break into many pieces*

**mend** : *restore by putting together what is torn or broken*

**shrill** : *having or emitting a high-pitched and sharp tone or tones*

**stray** : *wander from a direct course or at random*

**latitude** : *an imaginary line around the Earth parallel to the equator*

**traitor** : *a person who says one thing and does another*

**intrigue** : *a crafty and involved plot to achieve your ends*

**linen** : *a fabric woven with fibers from the flax plant*

**forge** : *create by hammering*

**fraud** : *intentional deception resulting in injury to another person*

**formidable** : *extremely impressive in strength or excellence*

**reckless** : *marked by defiant disregard for danger or consequences*

**guarded** : *cautious and reserved*

**prolong** : *lengthen in time; cause to be or last longer*

**venerate** : *regard with feelings of respect and reverence*

**pluck** : *pull lightly but sharply*

**recede** : *pull back or move away or backward*

**indignant** : *angered at something unjust or wrong*

**redeem** : *exchange or buy back for money; under threat*

**subdue** : *put down by force or intimidation*

**gravity** : *the force of attraction between all masses in the universe*

**vex** : *disturb, especially by minor irritations*

**torment** : *intense feelings of suffering; acute mental or physical pain*

**perplex** : *be a mystery or bewildering to*

**quiver** : *shake with fast, tremulous movements*

**ingenious** : *showing inventiveness and skill*

**petition** : *a formal request that something be submitted to an authority*

**vanity** : *feelings of excessive pride*

**sober** : *not affected by a chemical substance, especially alcohol*

**frown** : *a facial expression of dislike or displeasure*

**stoop** : *bend one's back forward from the waist on down*

**substantial** : *real; having a material or factual existence*

**literal** : *limited to the explicit meaning of a word or text*

**harbor** : *a sheltered port where ships can take on or discharge cargo*

**sway** : *move back and forth*

**proposition** : *a suggestion offered for acceptance or rejection*

**jest** : *activity characterized by good humor*

**steep** : *having a sharp inclination*

**flatter** : *praise somewhat dishonestly*

**obscure** : *not clearly understood or expressed*

**pine** : *a coniferous tree*

**stake** : *a strong wooden or metal post driven into the ground*

**scattered** : *lacking orderly continuity*

**peer** : *look searchingly*

**strive** : *attempt by employing effort*

**subsequent** : *following in time or order*

**indulge** : *yield to; give satisfaction to*

**spell** : *write or name the letters that comprise the accepted form of*

**plead** : *appeal or request earnestly*

**stiff** : *incapable of or resistant to bending*

**prudent** : *marked by sound judgment*

**profound** : *situated at or extending to great depth*

**presume** : *take to be the case or to be true*

**vigor** : *forceful exertion*

**precious** : *of high worth or cost*

**startle** : *surprise greatly*

**induce** : *cause to act in a specified manner*

**neglect** : *leave undone or leave out*

**notion** : *a general inclusive concept*

**manifest** : *clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment*

**swift** : *moving very fast*

**pitch** : *the high or low quality of a sound*

**prompt** : *according to schedule or without delay*

**obvious** : *easily perceived by the senses or grasped by the mind*

**strain** : *exert much effort or energy*

**weary** : *physically and mentally fatigued*

**opportune** : *suitable or advantageous especially for a particular purpose*

**note** : *a brief written record*