

Hit-parade Group 1

aberrant	deviating from the norm
alacrity	eager and enthusiastic willingness
anomaly	deviation from the normal order, form, or rule; abnormality
approbation	an expression of approval or praise
assuage	to ease or lessen; to appease or pacify
audacious	daring and fearless; recklessly bold
capricious	inclined to change one's mind impulsively; erratic; unpredictable
censure	to criticize severely; to officially rebuke
chicanery	trickery or subterfuge
connoisseur	an informed and astute judge in matters of taste; expert
discordant	conflicting; dissonant or harsh in sound
disparate	fundamentally distinct or dissimilar
eloquent	well-spoken; expressive; articulate
enervate	to weaken; to reduce in vitality
ennui	dissatisfaction and restlessness resulting from boredom or apathy
equivocate	to use ambiguous language with a deceptive intent
exculpate	exonerate; to clear of blame
exigent	urgent; pressing; requiring immediate action or attention
filibuster	intentional obstruction, esp. using prolonged speechmaking to delay legislative action
ingenuous	artless; frank and candid; lacking in sophistication
inured	accustomed to accepting something undesirable
irascible	easily angered; prone to temperamental outbursts
laud	to praise highly
magnanimity	the quality of being generously noble in mind and heart, esp. in forgiving
martial	associated with war and the armed forces
mundane	of the world; typical of or concerned with the ordinary
nascent	coming into being; in early developmental stages
nebulous	vague; cloudy; lacking clearly defined form
neologism	a new word, expression, or usage; the creation or use of new words or senses
noxious	harmful; injurious
obtuse	lacking sharpness of intellect; not clear or precise in thought or expression
obviate	to anticipate and make unnecessary
onerous	troubling; burdensome
parody	a humorous imitation intended for ridicule or comic effect, esp. in literature and art
perennial	recurrent through the year or many years; happening repeatedly
perfunctory	cursory; done without care or interest
prattle	to babble meaninglessly; to talk in an empty and idle manner
prescience	foreknowledge of events; knowing of events prior to their occurring

prevaricate	to deliberately avoid the truth; to mislead
refute	to disprove; to successfully argue against
relegate	to forcibly assign, esp. to a lower place or position
solicitous	concerned and attentive; eager
sporadic	occurring only occasionally, or in scattered instances
static	not moving, active, or in motion; at rest
stupefy	to stun, baffle, or amaze
tortuous	winding; twisting; excessively complicated
truculent	fierce and cruel; eager to fight
voracious	having an insatiable appetite for an activity or pursuit; ravenous
waver	to move to and fro; to sway; to be unsettled in opinion

Hit-parade Group 2

abscond	to depart clandestinely; to steal off and hide
ameliorate	to make better or more tolerable
arduous	strenuous; taxing; requiring significant effort
ascetic	one who practices rigid self-denial, esp. as an act of religious devotion
austere	without adornment; bare; severely simple; ascetic
axiom	a universally recognized principle
axiomatic	taken as a given; possessing self-evident truth
bucolic	rustic and pastoral; characteristic of rural areas and their inhabitants
canonical	following or in agreement with accepted, traditional standards
contentious	argumentative; quarrelsome; causing controversy or disagreement
convoluted	complex or complicated
culpable	deserving blame
disabuse	to undeceive; to set right
eclectic	composed of elements drawn from various sources
effrontery	extreme boldness; presumptuousness
ephemeral	brief; fleeting
erudite	very learned; scholarly
eulogy	a speech honoring the dead
extemporaneous	improvised; done without preparation
facetious	playful; humorous
fulminate	to loudly attack or denounce
hyperbole	an exaggerated statement, often used as a figure of speech
lucid	clear; easily understood
oscillation	the act or state of swinging back and forth with a steady, uninterrupted rhythm

paean	a song or hymn of praise and thanksgiving
penurious	penny-pinching; excessively thrifty; ungenerous
perfidy	intentional breach of faith; treachery
pernicious	extremely harmful; potentially causing death
perspicacious	acutely perceptive; having keen discernment
pious	extremely reverent or devout; showing strong religious devotion
precipitate	acting with excessive haste or impulse
precipitate	to cause or happen before anticipated or required
precursor	one that precedes and indicates or announces another
predilection	a disposition in favor of something; preference
prolific	producing large volumes or amounts; productive
qualms	misgivings; reservations; causes for hesitancy
quiescence	stillness; motionlessness; quality of being at rest
recant	to retract, esp. a previously held belief
redoubtable	awe-inspiring; worthy of honor
reticent	quiet; reserved; reluctant to express thoughts and feelings
satire	a literary work that ridicules or criticizes a human vice through humor or derision
sordid	characterized by filth, grime, or squalor; foul
squalid	sordid; wretched and dirty as from neglect
squander	to waste by spending or using irresponsibly
stoic	indifferent to or unaffected by pleasure or pain; steadfast
stymie	to block; thwart
supplant	to take the place of; supersede
synthesis	the combination of parts to make a whole
torpid	lethargic; sluggish; dormant
torque	a force that causes rotation
ubiquitous	existing everywhere at the same time; constantly encountered; widespread
veracity	truthfulness; honesty
vilify	to defame; to characterize harshly
virulent	extremely harmful or poisonous; bitterly hostile or antagonistic

Hit-parade Group 3

abate	to lessen in intensity or degree
accolade	an expression of praise
adulation	excessive praise; intense adoration
aesthetic	dealing with, appreciative of, or responsive to art or the beautiful
avarice	greed, esp. for wealth
burgeon	to grow rapidly or flourish
cacophony	harsh, jarring, discordant sound; dissonance
canon	an established set of principles or code of laws, often religious in nature
castigation	severe criticism or punishment

catalyst	a substance that accelerates the rate of a chemical reaction without itself changing
catalyst	a person or thing that causes change
caustic	burning or stinging; causing corrosion
chary	wary; cautious; sparing
cogent	appealing forcibly to the mind or reason; convincing
complaisance	the willingness to comply with the wishes of others
contrite	regretful; penitent; seeking forgiveness
dearth	smallness of quantity or number; scarcity; a lack
demur	to question or oppose
didactic	intended to teach or instruct
discretion	cautious reserve in speech; ability to make responsible decisions
disinterested	indifferent; free from self-interest
dogmatic	stubbornly opinionated
ebullience	the quality of lively or enthusiastic expression of thoughts and feelings
elegy	a mournful poem, esp. one lamenting the dead
emollient	soothing, esp. to the skin; making less harsh
empirical	based on observation or experiment
enigmatic	mysterious; obscure; difficult to understand
esoteric	intended for or understood by a small, specific group
exonerate	to remove blame
fallacy	an invalid or incorrect notion; a mistaken belief
furtive	marked by stealth; covert; surreptitious
gregarious	sociable; outgoing; enjoying the company of other people
harangue	to deliver a pompous speech or tirade
heretical	violating accepted dogma or convention
impecunious	lacking funds; without money
incipient	beginning to come into being or to become apparent
inert	unmoving; lethargic; sluggish
innocuous	harmless; causing no damage
intransigent	refusing to compromise
inveigle	to obtain by deception or flattery
morose	sad; sullen; melancholy
odious	evoking intense aversion or dislike
opaque	impenetrable by light; not reflecting light
peruse	to examine with great care
preen	to dress up; to primp; to groom oneself with elaborate care
prodigious	abundant in size, force, or extent; extraordinary
putrefy	to rot; to decay and give off a foul odor
quaff	to drink deeply
sanction	authoritative permission or approval; a penalty intended to enforce compliance
urbane	sophisticated; refined; elegant
viscous	thick; sticky

Hit-parade Group 4

acerbic	having a sour or bitter taste or character
amalgamate	to combine several elements into a whole
amenable	agreeable; responsive to suggestion
bolster	to provide support or reinforcement
bombast	self-important or pompous writing or speech
bombastic	pompous; grandiloquent
credulous	tending to believe too readily; gullible
diatribe	a harsh denunciation
fawn	to flatter or praise excessively
fervent	greatly emotional or zealous
flout	to demonstrate contempt for, as in a rule or convention
fortuitous	happening by fortunate accident or chance
garrulous	pointlessly talkative; talking too much
germane	relevant to the subject at hand; appropriate in subject matter
glib	marked by ease or informality; nonchalant; lacking in depth; superficial
halcyon	calm and peaceful
hubris	arrogant presumption or pride
idolatrous	given to intense or excessive devotion to something
imminent	about to happen; impending
imperturbable	marked by extreme calm, impassivity and steadiness
impetuous	hastily or rashly energetic; impulsive and vehement
implacable	not capable of being appeased or significantly changed
indifferent	having no interest or concern; showing no bias or prejudice
intrepid	steadfast and courageous
laconic	using few words; terse
malleable	capable of being shaped or formed; tractable; pliable
maverick	an independent individual who does not go along with a group or party
mendacity	the condition of being untruthful; dishonesty
mercurial	characterized by rapid and unpredictable change in mood
meticulous	characterized by extreme care and precision; attentive to detail
mollify	to calm or soothe; to reduce in emotional intensity
obdurate	unyielding; hardhearted; intractable
obfuscate	to deliberately obscure; to make confusing
obsequious	exhibiting a fawning attentiveness
obstinate	stubborn; hardheaded; uncompromising
opprobrium	disgrace; contempt; scorn
ostentatious	characterized by or given to pretentiousness
pedantic	the parading of learning; excessive attention to minutiae and formal rules
pervade	to permeate throughout

pervasive	having the tendency to permeate or spread throughout
phlegmatic	calm; sluggish; unemotional
pirate	to illegally use or reproduce
plethora	an overabundance; a surplus
polemical	controversial; argumentative
pragmatic	practical rather than idealistic
rancorous	characterized by bitter, long-lasting resentment
rhetoric	the art or study of effective use of language for communication and persuasion
salubrious	promoting health or well-being
sedulous	diligent; persistent; hard-working
solvent	able to meet financial obligations; able to dissolve another substance
soporific	causing drowsiness; tending to induce sleep

Hit-parade Group 5

aggrandize	to increase in intensity, power, or prestige
alchemy	a medieval science aimed at the transmutation of metals, esp. base metals into gold
anachronism	something or someone out of place in terms of historical or chronological context
astringent	having a tightening effect on living tissue; harsh; severe
contiguous	sharing a border; touching; adjacent
convention	a generally agreed-upon practice or attitude
cynicism	an attitude or quality of belief that all people are motivated by selfishness
decorum	polite or appropriate conduct or behavior
derision	scorn; ridicule; contemptuous treatment
desiccate	to dry out or dehydrate; to make dry or dull
dilettante	one with an amateurish or superficial interest in the arts or a branch of knowledge
disparage	to slight or belittle
divulge	to disclose something secret
immutable	not capable of change
inimical	damaging; harmful; injurious
intractable	not easily managed or directed; stubborn; obstinate
neophyte	a recent convert; a beginner; novice
presumptuous	overstepping due bounds (as of propriety or courtesy); taking liberties
pristine	pure; uncorrupted; clean
probity	adherence to highest principles; uprightness
proclivity	a natural predisposition or inclination
profligate	excessively wasteful; recklessly extravagant

propensity	a natural inclination or tendency; penchant
prosaic	dull; unimaginative
pungent	characterized by a strong, sharp smell or taste
quixotic	foolishly impractical; marked by lofty romantic ideals
quotidian	occurring or recurring daily; commonplace
rarefy	to make or become thin, less dense; to refine
recondite	hidden; concealed; difficult to understand; obscure
refulgent	radiant; shiny; brilliant
renege	to fail to honor a commitment; to go back on a promise
shard	a piece of broken pottery or glass
sparse	thin; not dense; arranged at widely spaced intervals
spendthrift	one who spends money wastefully
subtle	not obvious; elusive; difficult to discern
tacit	implied; not explicitly stated
terse	brief and concise in wording
tout	to publicly praise or promote
trenchant	sharply perceptive; keen; penetrating
unfeigned	genuine; not false or hypocritical
untenable	indefensible; not viable; uninhabitable
vacillate	to waver indecisively between one course of action or opinion and another; to waver
variegated	multicolored; characterized by a variety of patches of different color
vexation	annoyance; irritation
vigilant	alertly watchful
vituperate	to use harsh condemnatory language; to abuse or censure severely or abusively; to berate
volatile	readily changing to a vapor; changeable; fickle; explosive

Hit-parade Group 6

acumen	quick, keen, or accurate knowledge or insight
adulterate	to reduce purity by combining with inferior ingredients
archaic	outdated; associated with an earlier, perhaps more primitive, time
aver	to state as a fact; to confirm or support
dissemble	to disguise or conceal; to mislead
eccentric	departing from norms or conventions
endemic	characteristic of or often found in a particular locality, region, or people
evanescent	tending to disappear like vapor; vanishing

exacerbate	to make worse or more severe
grandiloquence	pompous speech or expression
hackneyed	rendered trite or commonplace by frequent usage
hedonism	devotion to pleasurable pursuits, esp. to the pleasures of the senses
hegemony	the consistent dominance of one state or ideology over others
iconoclast	one who attacks or undermines traditional conventions or institutions
impassive	revealing no emotion
impunity	immunity from punishment or penalty
inchoate	in an initial stage; not fully formed
infelicitous	unfortunate; inappropriate
insipid	without taste or flavor; lacking in spirit; bland
loquacious	extremely talkative
luminous	characterized by brightness and the emission of light
malevolent	having or showing often vicious ill-will, spite, or hatred
misanthrope	one who hates all other humans
mitigate	to make or become less severe or intense; to moderate
occlude	to obstruct or block
pedagogy	the art or profession of training, teaching, or instructing
penury	poverty; destitution
pine	to yearn intensely; to languish; to lose vigor
pith	the essential or central part
pithy	precise and brief
placate	to appease; to calm by making concessions
platitude	a superficial remark, esp. one offered as meaningful
plummet	to plunge or drop straight down
prodigal	recklessly wasteful; extravagant; profuse; lavish
profuse	given or coming forth abundantly; extravagant
proliferate	to grow or increase swiftly and abundantly
queries	questions; inquiries; doubts in the mind; reservations
querulous	prone to complaining or grumbling; quarrelsome
recalcitrant	obstinately defiant of authority; difficult to manage
repudiate	to refuse to have anything to do with; to disown
rescind	to invalidate; to repeal; to retract
reverent	marked by, feeling, or expressing a feeling of profound awe and respect
specious	seeming true, but actually being fallacious; misleadingly attractive
spurious	lacking authenticity or validity; false; counterfeit
subpoena	a court order requiring appearance and/or testimony
succinct	brief; concise
superfluous	exceeding what is sufficient or necessary
surfeit	excess; overindulgence
tenacity	the quality of adherence or persistence to something valued
tenuous	having little substance or strength; flimsy; weak
tirade	a long and extremely critical speech; a harsh denunciation
transient	fleeting; passing quickly; brief

zealous	fervent; ardent; impassioned
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Beyond Hit-parade Group 1

alloy	(v) to commingle; to debase by mixing with something inferior
appropriate	(v) to take for one's own use; confiscate
arrest	(v) to suspend; to engage; holding one
august	(adj) majestic, venerable
bent	(n) leaning, inclination, proclivity, tendency
broach	(v) bring up, announce, begin to talk about
brook	(v) to tolerate, endure, countenance
cardinal	(adj) major
chauvinist	(n) a blindly devoted patriot
color	(v) to change as if by dyeing, i.e., to distort, gloss or affect
consequential	(adj) pompous, self-important (primary definitions are: logically following; important)
damp	(v) to diminish the intensity or check the vibration of a sound
die	(n) a tool used for shaping
essay	(v) to test or try; attempt, experiment
exact	(v) to demand, call for; require, take
fell	(v) to cause to fall by striking
fell	(adj) inhumanly cruel
flag	(v) to sag or droop, to become spiritless, to decline
flip	(adj) sarcastic, impertinent
ford	(v) to wade across the shallow part of a stream or river
grouse	(v) to complain or grumble
guy	(n/v) a rope, cord or cable attached to something as a brace or guide; to steady or reinforce using a guy (think "guide")
intimate	(v) to imply, suggest or insinuate
list	(v) to tilt or lean to one side
lumber	(v) to move heavily and clumsily
meet	(adj) fitting, proper
milk	(v) to exploit, to squeeze for every last ounce of
mince	(v) pronounce or speak affectedly, euphemize, speak too carefully
nice	(adj) exacting, fastidious, extremely precise
obtain	(adj) to be established, accepted, or customary
occult	(adj) hidden, concealed, beyond comprehension
pedestrian	(adj) commonplace, trite, unremarkable, quotidian
pie	(adj) multicolored, usually in blotches
pine	(v) to lose vigor (as through grief); to yearn
plastic	(adj) moldable, pliable, not rigid
pluck	(n) courage, spunk, fortitude
prize	(v) to pry; to press or force with a lever
rail	(v) to complain about bitterly

rent	(v/n) torn; past of red/an opeing or a tear caused by such
quail	(v) to lose courage; turn frightened
qualify	(v) to limit
sap	(n) a fool or nitwit
scurvy	(adj) contemptible, despicable
singular	(adj) exceptional, unusual, odd
stand	(n) a group of trees
steep	(v) to saturate or completely soak
strut	(n) the supporting structural cross-part of a wing
table	(v) to remove from consideration
tender	(v) to proffer or offer
waffle	(v) to equivocate; to change one's position
wag	(n) wit; joker

Beyond Hit-parade Group 2

abjure	(v) to renounce or reject solemnly; to recant; to avoid
adumbrate	(v) to foreshadow vaguely or intimate; to suggest or outline sketchily; to obscure or overshadow
anathema	(n) a solemn or ecclesiastical (religious) curse; accursed or thoroughly loathed person or thing
anodyne	(adj/n) soothing, something that assuages or allays pain or comforts
apogee	(n) farthest or highest point; culmination; zenith
apostate	(n) one who abandons long held religious or political convictions
apotheosis	(n) deification, glorification to godliness, an exalted example, a model of excellence or perfection
asperity	(n) severity, rigor, roughness, harshness, acrimony, irritability
asseverate	(v) to aver, allege, assert
assiduous	(adj) diligent, hardworking
augury	(n) omen, portent
bellicose	(adj) belligerent, pugnacious, warlike
calumniate	(v) to slander, make a false accusation
captious	(adj) disposed to point out trivial faults; calculated to confuse or entrap in argument
cavil	(v) to find fault without good reason
celerity	(n) speed, alacrity (think accelerate)
chimera	(n) an illusion; originally a fire-breathing she-monster
contumacious	(adj) insubordinate, rebellious
debacle	(n) rout, fiasco, complete failure
denouement	(n) an outcome or solution; the unraveling of a plot
descry	(v) to discriminate or discern

desuetude	(n) disuse
desultory	(adj) random; aimless; marked by a lack of plan or purpose
diaphanous	(adj) transparent, gauzy
diffident	(adj) (adj) reserved, shy, unassuming; lacking in self-confidence
dirge	(n) a song of grief or lamentation
encomium	(n) glowing and enthusiastic praise; panegyric, tribute, eulogy
eschew	(v) to shun or avoid
excoriate	(v) to censure scathingly, to upbraid
execrate	(v) denounce, feel loathing for, curse, declare to be evil
exegesis	(n) critical examination, explication
expiate	(v) to atone or make amends for
extirpate	(v) to destroy, exterminate, cut out, excise
fatuous	(adj) silly, inanely foolish
fractious	(adj) quarrelsome, rebellious, unruly, refractory, irritable
gainsay	(v) to deny, dispute, contradict, oppose
heterodox	(adj) unorthodox, heretical, iconoclastic
imbroglio	(n) difficult or embarrassing situation
indefatigable	(adj) not easily exhaustible; tireless; dogged
ineluctable	(adj) certain; inevitable
inimitable	(adj) one of a kind; peerless
insouciant	(adj) unconcerned, carefree, heedless
inveterate	(adj) deep rooted, ingrained, habitual
jejune	(adj) vapid, uninteresting, nugatory, childish, immature, puerile
lubricious	(adj) lewd, wanton, greasy, slippery
mendicant	(n) a beggar, suppliant
meretricious	(adj) cheap, gaudy, tawdry, flashy, showy; attracting by false show
minatory	(adj) menacing, threatening
nadir	(n) low point, perigee
nonplussed	(adj) baffled, bewildered, at a loss for what to do or think
obstreperous	(adj) noisily and stubbornly defiant, aggressively boisterous
ossified	(adj) tending to become more rigid, conventional, sterile, and reactionary with age; literally, turned into bone
palliate	(v) to make something seem less serious, to gloss over, to make less severe or intense
panegyric	(n) formal praise, eulogy, encomium
parsimonious	(adj) cheap, miserly
pellucid	(adj) transparent, easy to understand, limpid
peroration	(n) the concluding part of a speech; flowery, rhetorical speech
plangent	(adj) pounding, thundering, resounding
prolix	(adj) long-winded, verbose
propitiate	(v) to appease, to conciliate
puerile	(adj) childish, immature, jejune, nugatory
puissance	(n) power, strength
pusillanimous	(adj) cowardly, craven
remonstrate	(v) to protest, object

sagacious	(adj) having sound judgment; perceptive, wise; like a sage
salacious	(adj) lustful, lascivious, bawdy
salutary	(adj) remedial, wholesome, causing improvement
sanguine	(adj) cheerful, optimistic, confident
saturnine	(adj) gloomy, dark, sullen, morose
sententious	(adj) aphoristic or moralistic; epigrammatic; tending to moralize excessively
stentorian	(adj) extremely loud and powerful
stygian	(adj) gloomy, dark
sycophant	(n) toady, servile, self-seeking flatterer; parasite
tendentious	(adj) biased; showing marked tendencies
timorous	(adj) timid, fearful, diffident
tyro	(n) novice, greenhorn, rank amateur
vitiate	(v) to corrupt, debase, spoil, make ineffective
voluble	(adj) fluent, verbal, having easy use of spoken language