

<u>Words</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Usage</u>
Abstemious	sparing in eating and drinking; temperate	We believe it protects us from the shameful indulgence of too many books by insisting on a rigorous, abstemious diet. Critiques of publishing often focus on its corporate or capitalist nature, arguing that the profit motive retards decisions that would otherwise be based on pure literary merit.
Ambiguous	unclear or doubtful in meaning	
Ameliorate	improve	For a time, those changes helped ameliorate some of the prison system's worst failings. But it wasn't long before those modest reforms were swamped in the surging tide of new prisoners swept into the system by the draconian new drug statutes that Rockefeller introduced in 1973 in one more bid to be accepted by national leaders of his party as a true law and order Republican.
Apprise	inform	He has been apprised of any institution
Approbation	approval	
Ascetic	practicing self denial; austere	Considering that he invented Twitter and is about to launch another potential game changer with his new company, Square, Jack Dorsey has one of the lowest profiles in tech. But from his childhood obsession (city maps) to his dream job (mayor of New York City), Dorsey's eclectic, ascetic vision has focused on the flow of human interaction. David Kirkpatrick gets the press-shy visionary talking about his taxicab inspiration, his ejection as Twitter's C.E.O., and his ambition to make Square the payment network of the future.
Assiduous	diligent	
Austere	forbiddingly stern; severely simple and unornamented	
Autonomous	self governing; independent	
Bombastic	pompous; using inflated language	So you have to understand, when Robert Jeffress says things like "Mitt Romney is not a Christian," or "Islam is a false religion based on the teachings of a false prophet," or that Oprah Winfrey is "a tool of Satan," he's not just trying to say something bombastic because he likes the attention. He says it out of love. He truly believes the culture is in decline and that he is slowing the decay and that this could prevent you personally from spending forever with your flock on fire.

Burgeon	grow forth; send out buds	As the Yellowstone wildlife managers discovered, removing the wolves not only allowed the elk population to burgeon, not having wolves also affected their behavior.
Catalyst	agent that increases the pace of a chemical action	
Caustic	burning; sarcastically biting	Armed with a digital camera and a machine-gun delivery of baiting, rhetorical questions, usually directed at cleanup workers ('What do you think of Enbridge covering up oil? Who do you think should pay for killing our fish and poisoning our river?'), Bolenbaugh's caustic style has made him a divisive figure among locals — a selfless hero to some, a self-aggrandizing crusader to others. Enbridge claims that Bolenbaugh has had no effect on its cleanup efforts, but his picture (square-jawed with wild blue eyes and wearing an orange vest) hung for months inside the security box at the entrance to the Enbridge staging site under the heading: 'All Personnel Be Alert.'
Chicanery	trickery; deception	Emily and Anne were not well served by their publisher, and the copies of Wuthering Heights and Agnes Grey that arrived just before Christmas proved to be cheaply produced and full of errors uncorrected from the proofs. Worse still, Newby had indulged in some chicanery in his advertising of the book, suggesting that it was by the author of Jane Eyre.
Coda	concluding section of a musical or literary composition; summarizes or concludes	It's a story that contains plenty of gumption, innovation, and aspiration, but also a disturbing coda. Brooklyn now boasts a splendid population of postindustrial and creative-class winners—but in the far reaches of the borough, where nary a hipster can be found, it is also home to the economy's many losers.
Complaisant	trying to please; overly polite; obsequious	While satire often calls for dark comedy effected by one-note characters, Kidman's rendering of Suzanne is, I'd venture, satirical, yes, but mostly: woman. She's multitudes, instinct, intention, and body. She's all those things and then, just as swiftly, none of those things. She's a pair of shoulders pushed back the second the camera operator says, "You're on!" She provokes not for the sake of it—or maybe, a little—but mainly out of obligation. Terrified of being ordinary, of its complaisance or worse, of a life on layaway, Suzanne will do whatever she can to avoid such a fate. As the film's

		title suggests, the cost is of zero consequence. Until of course it is.
Conciliatory	reconciling; soothing	
Connoisseur	person competent to act as a judge of art; a lover of art	As a mature researcher, somewhat scarred from my forays into that embattled terrain known as the cult wars, I am now ready to make a confession. I do see myself as a connoisseur. For me, NRMs are beautiful life forms, mysterious and pulsating with charisma.
Daunt	intimidate; frighten	
Default	failure to act	
Delineate	portray; depict; sketch	
Desiccate	dry up	
Diatribes	bitter scolding; invective	In his response to Maya, Jones launched into a diatribe, the essence of which was captured in one sentence: "I think a healthy person has to think through his death, or he may sell out."
Dichotomy	split; branching into two parts (especially contradictory ones)	They feature such unusual tales as: the band simultaneously using three rooms to record and mix and the various bandmembers overdubbing in the different studios with people running around with tapes from room to room; last minute overdubs during or even after the final mix; nightly flights home straight after European gigs to complete Zooropa; the filling of 180 2-hour DAT tapes with a procedure called 'fatting', complete disregard for standard recording objectives such as separation and low noise levels, and last but not least the interesting dichotomy between the intense 11 months that it took to complete Achtung Baby, endlessly sculpting the songs into perfect shape, and the attitude of 'recklessness' and 'performance first' encouraged by Daniel Lanois."
Disabuse	correct a false impression; undeceive	And yet I too was guilty of a sort of fetishization, for I had my own foolish, romantic notions of the neighborhood, tinged with a nostalgia for a home I had never had. Eating dumplings wasn't just a meal — it was embracing my culture. During the four years that I worked in the neighborhood, these notions were quickly disabused by the everyday life and reality that I saw around me. I began to understand that Chinatown was a vibrant neighborhood of the present, the kind that urban planning writer and activist Jane Jacobs described as displaying the "exuberant diversity" that she

		believed characterized the best cities, the ones that thrived.
Discrete	separate; unconnected; consisting of distinct parts	
Disjointed	lacking coherence; separated at the joints	
Dismiss	eliminate from consideration; reject	Prince Andrew rose hastily, listened to the business they had come about, gave them some further instructions, and was about to dismiss them when he heard a familiar, lisping, voice behind the shed.
Disparate	basically different; unrelated	
Document	provide written evidence	
Dupe	someone easily fooled	
Efficacy	power to produce desired effect	
Effrontery	impudence; shameless boldness; sheer nerve; presumptuousness	At the panel on the Beat Generation and Censorship, I had the effrontery to point out — amidst the general eulogizing of Kerouac — that while books like Allen's Howl had been busted for what can broadly be called political reasons (writing that threatened the establishment or made people see deeper into themselves than they wanted to see, etc.), Jack's writing — except for some trouble over The Subterraneans (black-white relations) — was never busted.
Embellish	adorn; ornament; enhance, as a story	
Euphemism	mild expression in place of an unpleasant one	What is the euphemism for people who do the work properly for which they are paid?
Extrapolation	projection; conjecture	
Facilitate	help bring about; make less difficult	
Flag	droop; grow feeble	
	reject; mock; show	The modern pet shop first appeared in American cities in the 1890s; and with it began the mass importation of exotic animals from Asia and South America. Pet-keeping in the United States exploded in the economic boom following World War II and, by the 1970s, had become a multi-billion dollar industry.

		time in history, more American households have pets than don't, including some 86 million cats and 78 million dogs. But no one knows how many "exotics" there are, not least because no one agrees how to define an exotic pet. Does a native but wild animal like a skunk count? What about a potbellied pig? Further complicating matters, much of the trade operates underground, flouting state and federal laws.
Futile	useless; hopeless; ineffectual	
Gainsay	deny	It takeschutzpah to gainsay Richard Hoggart, especially on class and pop culture. But when he wrote in The Uses of Literacy (1957) that "the finest period in English . . . popular song seems to have been between 1880 and 1910" he was wrong, or at least premature. Hoggart believed this was the era when working-class performers and audiences held greatest sway, dominating British music.
Garrulous	loquacious; talkative; wordy	Later, in California, he called them: "dirty," "garrulous as jays," "superstitious," "lazy." Such denigration is particularly surprising, as Muir's spiritual embrace of nature could have been taken right out of a Native American mind.
Grandiloquent	pompous; bombastic; using high sounding language	
Gregarious	sociable	Though the gregarious sperm whales have their regular seasons for particular grounds, yet in general you cannot conclude that the herds which haunted such and such a latitude or longitude this year, say, will turn out to be identically the same with those that were found there the preceding season; though there are peculiar and unquestionable instances where the contrary of this has proved true.
Iconoclastic	attacking cherished traditions	In Der Spiegel, Claudia Voigt looks at the life of Astrid Lindgren, a Swedish author best known for her Pippi Longstocking books. If you haven't revisited the books recently, the exuberant Pippi lives on her own, does as she pleases, and describes herself as "the strongest girl in the world." In short, she's a radically independent, fabulously liberated leading lady, particularly for a children's book published in 1945. But what inspired Lindgren to create such an iconoclastic protagonist?
Idolatry	worship of idols	

	excessive admiration	
Impair	injure; hurt	
Impassive	without feeling; imperturbable; stoical	He was evidently distressed, and breathed painfully, but could not restrain the wild laughter that convulsed his usually impassive features.
Inchoate	recently begun; rudimentary; elementary	Those who did express sympathy for Occupy Wall Street tended to pat it on the head before going on to fault it for being leaderless, disorganized, and inchoate in its agenda.
Innocuous	Harmless	Three years ago, I quit my job in New York to go backpacking in South America. It was a blessed time, full of postcard travel highs: swimming in mirror
Intractable	unruly; stubborn; unyielding	Three years ago, facing huge debt problems, the company suspended the lucrative stock dividend that once flowed quarterly to the family's 40-plus members, intensifying the need to solve the intractable advertising problems of the newspaper in the digital age and figure out a way to turn the family's cash spigot back on. Janet Robinson, the company's advertising brains, found herself caught between her increasingly remote boss and a frustrated family worried over the future of its 116-year-old fortune."
Irascible	irritable; easily angered	Profile of "Jersey Shore"'s Mike "the Situation" Sorrentino. "Sure, they all got shithouse drunk and screamed bleeped curse words in one another's faces and flashed their thongs and referred to girls who didn't meet their rigorous physical
Lassitude	languor; weariness	
Laud	praise	
Levity	lack of seriousness or steadiness; frivolity	These stories offer a little breadth, a little curiosity, and a little levity to the idea of artificial life.
Lucid	easily understood; clear; intelligible	
Magnanimity	Generosity	
Mendacious	lying; habitually dishonest	Once the darling of Silicon Valley, vegan foods startup Hampton Creek has come crashing down on founder Josh Tetrick's mendacious head. And as stories about eggless mayo go, they don't get much crazier than this.
Metamorphosis	change of form	The ciliated larva escapes from the egg into the water and enters an intermediate host (leech, mollusc, arthropod, batrachian or fish) where it undergoes a metamorphosis into a second stage in which most of the adult organs are present.

	careful; painstaking; scrupulous	
Neophyte	recent convert; beginner	“I try to approach the whiteness of the page, the pale judgment, as if I were a neophyte priest, and the paper is the host,” Tenn confessed to me. “I approach it gingerly and ask it to be patient. I see upon it the darting leaves in my brain, and I pray they will alight on the page and have some meaning. Or I touch it gently, a frightened queer faced with his first female breast, a nipple that seeks attention and ministration. ‘Forgive me,’ I say to it, ‘I don’t know my way around these parts.’
Obdurate	stubborn	The obduracy of the Sisi regime on human rights has undoubtedly been compounded by a new economic reality. Today, the annual American subsidy to Egypt is less than \$1.3 billion, down from more than \$2 billion in Mubarak’s heyday. At the same time, Saudi Arabia and other gulf states have subsidized the Egyptian government with an estimated \$30 billion since Sisi took power, and given the Saudis’ own record on such matters, they seem unlikely to pester their client state over issues like political prisoners or freedom of expression. The simple fact is that the West in general, and the United States in particular, now has less influence over the Egyptian state than at any time since the early 1970s.
Paragon	model of perfection	Cooper became a hero to many, even as he developed a reputation as one of the most notorious philanderers in Hollywood. He had stiff competition — Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, the list goes on — but Cooper may or may not have slept with EVERY. SINGLE. CO-STAR. No matter his age, no matter their age, he was insatiable, before and during his marriage. How to reconcile his moral righteousness onscreen with his philandering offscreen? That was the work of Fixers, gossip magazines, and the studio system at large, which ensured that Cooper was never caught, never denounced, and held up as a paragon of American values. Of course, the way he looked in pants didn’t hurt.
Pedantic	showing off learning; bookish	With access afforded to few journalists, she saw both sides of the narrative made flesh: the stiff, loud, pedantic arena performer and the engaged, relaxed (yes, relaxed!), nose-to-the-grindstone public servant
Perfidious	treacherous	The Manchester Guardian had been very strongly

	disloyal	opposed to war, and frankly isolationist. No one was more insistent on the need to keep out of a European war than the paper's chief leader writer and deputy editor, CE Montague. But when war was declared, he was so appalled by German perfidy that he enlisted, aged 47, dying his grey hair to conceal his age.
Perfunctory	superficial; not thorough; lacking interest, care, or enthusiasm	Many prison systems have a hearing process, but such hearings are seldom more than perfunctory. Prison officials serve as prosecutors, judges, and juries, and the incarcerated are rarely permitted representation by defense attorneys. Unsurprisingly, in most prison systems, they are nearly always found guilty.
Placate	pacify; conciliate	I tried to placate the officer, a young Asian man, promising we would be quiet. After that, he left, and we continued our meeting; this would happen two more times in the following months.
Plasticity	ability to be molded	Emotional flexibility means that we could spread our feelings around promiscuously, extending them to our fellow humans in general and sustaining loyalties over great expanses of time. By comparison, other animals seem strictly concerned with specific threats and benefactors. We might have evolved our emotional plasticity in part because our brains keep developing for so long after our birth, and so the social environment constitutes a huge part of our mental and emotional formation. Our emotional systems had to be fluid, flexible, and general; they couldn't just fasten on one animal or action pattern. But these stretchable emotions probably helped our social evolution as much as language and symbol manipulation ever did.
Plethora	excess; overabundance	There's no shortage of drama at Twitter these days: Besides the CEO shuffles, there are secret board meetings, executive power struggles, a plethora of coaches and consultants, and disgruntled founders. (Like Evan Williams. The day after Jack Dorsey announced his return to the company -- via tweet, naturally -- Williams quit his day-to-day duties at the company, although he remains a board member and Twitter's largest shareholder, with an estimated 30% to 35% stake.) These theatrics, which go well beyond the usual angst at a new venture, have contributed to a growing perception that innovation has stalled and management is in turmoil at one of Silicon Valley's most promising startups.



Pragmatic	practical (as opposed to idealistic); concerned with the practical worth or impact of something	
Precipitate	rash, premature, hasty, sudden	
Presumptuous	arrogant; taking liberties	The word "polymath" teeters somewhere between Leonardo da Vinci and Stephen Fry. Embracing both one of history's great intellects and a brainy actor, writer, director and TV personality, it is at once presumptuous and banal. Djerassi doesn't want much to do with it.
Propensity	natural inclination	In the child the physical, intellectual and moral peculiarities which afterwards distinguished the man were plainly discernible: great muscular strength accompanied by much awkwardness and many infirmities; great quickness of parts, with a morbid propensity to sloth and procrastination; a kind and generous heart, with a gloomy and irritable temper.
Propitiate	appease	I suspect that Oskar probably still believes that it was just something in my nature: that somebody needed to be sacrificed on the altar on the way to propitiate whatever, and that that was him. That may be the case.
Propriety	fitness; correct conduct	
Proscribe	ostracize; banish; outlaw	Other more explicitly magical spells, powders, or potions—some of them officially proscribed—promised recovery from illness or protection from enemies.
Pungent	stinging; sharp in taste or smell; caustic	
Quiescent	at rest; dormant; temporarily inactive	Two guards brought Darius in. In his jumpsuit he looked lumpy and quiescent. We shook hands—Darius's handshake was bonelessly indifferent—and sat down. The guards left, one whispering to the other, "He's pretty docile."
Rarefied	made less dense (of a gas)	
Recluse	hermit; loner	He must have assumed that these "wayward" poems would be buried overnight. But "An Open Portfolio" had helped create the legend of the recluse in her inland village who could weave her verses "out of the heart's own atoms." Higginson's

		article succeeded in ways he couldn't have imagined—the book went through printing after printing and sold eleven thousand copies. The village poet had come right out of the cupboard.
Refractory	stubborn; unmanageable	
Reproach	express disapproval or disappointment	The former head of McKinsey and a trusted consigliere to chief executives around the world, he was that rare businessman whose integrity was considered beyond reproach. Yet if the Securities and Exchange Commission is to be believed, just 11 days before his daughter's wedding celebration, Gupta had done something virtually no one who knew him could have imagined. According to the SEC, it was on the evening of June 10, 2008, that Gupta, in "a flurry" of phone conversations with Raj Rajaratnam, the founder of the Galleon Group of hedge funds, allegedly divulged Goldman Sachs's still secret second-quarter earnings.
Reticent	reserved; uncommunicative; inclined to silence	It's not just etiquette, though. Writers themselves are reticent to reveal, even semi-publicly, what stories they are working on, lest some other reporter try to swoop in and try to steal it.
Reverent	respectful; worshipful	She won her final race in 1977, 60 meters in the masters division at the World Polish Olympics in Krakow, Poland, where she was greeted and celebrated with a reverence that must have reminded her of the 1930s.
Sage	person celebrated for wisdom	One at a time, we went into the front room to be smudged with sage on the wrestling mats by a woman in her sixties with the silver hair and beatific smile of a Latina Mrs. Claus. When she finished waving her smoking sage at me and said, "I hope you have a beautiful journey," I was so moved by her radiant good will that I nearly burst into tears.
Satiate	satisfy fully	
Skeptic	doubter; person who suspends judgment until having examined evidence supporting a point of view	In Sweden the books and their author — who died in an untimely fashion that some conspiracy theorists persist in calling an assassination — have lately become the center of another sort of story, the kind of thing August Strindberg might have written, full of intense, opinionated Swedish characters entwined in a saga involving envy, resentment, a contested legacy and a mysterious manuscript. At least one skeptic has even questioned how Larsson, a middle-aged man with no history of writing crime fiction, and seemingly no flair for it, could have written the Millennium

		books in the first place.
Sporadic	occurring irregularly	The great mass of manufactured commodities were produced in the United Kingdom more cheaply than in foreign countries, and would not have been imported, with duty or without, except in sporadic amounts for some special qualities.
Stigma	token of disgrace; brand	
Stipulate	make express conditions; specify	
Subpoena	writ summoning a witness to appear	There she earned \$800 a month in a comfortable office, which struck her as a joke after years of making far less for grueling work in restaurants and factories. She got bored quickly, typing and filing documents while male coworkers came and went. So when she heard the county subpoena officer for the juvenile court was leaving, she wanted the job.
Transgression	violation of a law; sin	
Veracious	truthful	
Verbose	wordy	
Vituperative	abusive; scolding	What I find particularly troubling is how few are willing to stand up and openly criticize the official policy of the Saudi government. Turkey, and the arch
Volatile	changeable; explosive; evaporation rapidly	
Warranted	justified; authorized	It was bad enough that his actions warranted her decision to leave, but now she actually feared him.
Welter	turmoil; bewildering jumble	This group was in danger of being forgotten in the welter of New Deal initiatives: they lacked the clout or the visibility of more numerous groups of the disadvantaged, especially militant younger men without jobs.
Zealot	fanatic; person who shows excessive zeal	