

★ Prod

A teacher might use a verbal *prod* when students aren't participating in class. A *prod* is an encouragement, like the threat of a quiz. Just hope the teacher doesn't use the kind of *prod* a rancher uses to keep cattle moving! *Prod* can also be a verb that refers to a soft poke or a nudge, like when you prod someone in the ribs with your finger.

They know what they will get: prodding doctors, endless tests, baffling jargon, rising costs and, above all, long waits.

★ Baffle

To *baffle* is to confuse. If you are completely puzzled as to what *baffle* means, you might say that this word *baffles* you.

★ Stoicism

If you rarely show emotion or feeling, that's *stoicism*. Your *stoicism* helps you endure physical or emotional discomfort without complaint, a helpful trait for long car trips with annoying people.

Some *stoicism* will always be needed, because health care is complex and diligence matters.

★ Venture

A *venture* is a risky undertaking. If your latest *venture* is a dog food store, you hope there are some hungry dogs around. Also, to *venture* is to go somewhere possibly dangerous, like if you *venture* out into a snowstorm. *Venture* is a shortened form of *adventure*. While the two words are similar in meaning, when you subtract the "ad," you lose a teaspoon or two of fun, and add a heaping tablespoon of risk. ...announced a new *venture* to provide better, cheaper health care for their employees.

★ Bestow

When you present an honor or gift to someone, you *bestow* it, which is the same as giving it, but often classier and more respectful.

Access to data can *bestow* both.

★ Vying (vie)

To *vie* for something means to compete for it. Two teams may *vie* for the gold medal, but one will have to go home with silver.

Apps are *vying* to see if they can diagnose everything from skin cancer and concussion to Parkinson's disease.

★ Pore

But when used as a verb, to pore means to concentrate your attention on or devote hours of focus to something: like *poring* over the overwhelming choices in the antiperspirant aisle.

Data can be *pored* over by those who are interested, while those who are not can opt to share data automatically with trusted providers.

有兴趣的人可以钻研数据，那些没有兴趣的人可以选择把数据自动分享给信任的医疗人员。

★ **Trawl**

a long fishing line with many shorter lines and hooks attached to it (usually suspended between buoys)

Cityblock Health will *trawl* data to spot where care is needed.

★ **Hale**

If you're *hale*, you're strong and in good health. Think "*hale* and hearty," the well-known phrase to describe someone who can lift a piano or work ten hours in a field without blinking an eye.

Greater transparency may encourage the *hale* and hearty not to take out health insurance.

★ **Breach**

A *breach* is a violation of a law, duty, or promise. If you'd contracted to mow your neighbor's lawn and don't do it, he can sue you for *breach* of contract. Or he can mow the lawn himself.

Almost a quarter of all data *breaches* America happen in health care.

★ **Slapdash**

If you just slapped something together and then dashed when you were done, it was *slapdash*. The paint job was *slapdash*: it looked like they did it in an hour, without brushes.

Health firms should face stringent penalties if they are *slapdash* about security, but it is naïve to expect that breaches will never happen.