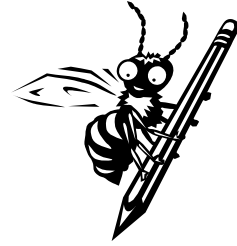
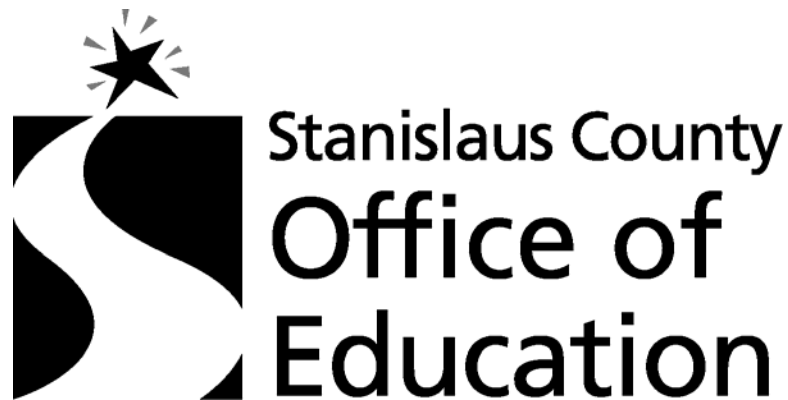


Stanislaus County Junior High Spelling Championship

Word List



(Note: No revisions were made –
For the past three years)



Level I

abaft	at or toward the stern or rear of a ship; behind; back of <i>"The garbage was thrown overboard abaft the ship."</i>
abase	to humble or humiliate <i>"He will abase himself."</i>
abate	to make less in amount, degree, force <i>"The weatherman said that the storm would abate."</i>
abhor	to shrink from in fear; disgust or hatred; detest <i>"I abhor baiting my fishhook with worms."</i>
absorb	to suck up or drink in; assimilate; to take in and not reflect <i>"The paper towel will absorb the spilled milk."</i>
absurd	so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous <i>"It was absurd to say the baby could reach the counter."</i>
almond	the edible, nutlike kernel of the small, dry peachlike fruit of a tree <i>"Modesto is known as an almond growing region."</i>
amend	to make better; improve <i>"The government tries to amend the laws."</i>
appoint	to name or select officially for an office, position <i>"We will appoint a chairman."</i>
arbor	a place shaded by trees or shrubs <i>"The children played in the cool arbor."</i>
arid	lacking enough water for things to grow; dry and barren <i>"The arid soil did not produce."</i>
assure	to give confidence to <i>"As I mounted the wild horse, my friends tried to assure me that I could stay on it."</i>
ballot	a ticket or paper by which a vote is registered; act or method of voting <i>"The class president was elected by a written ballot."</i>
balsa	a tropical American tree that yields an extremely light and buoyant wood used for airplane models, rafts <i>"The balsa provides wood for models."</i>
bankrupt	a person legally declared unable to pay his debts <i>"The store's owner was bankrupt and had to go out of business."</i>
banter	to tease or make fun of in a playful, good-natured way <i>"The children banter with each other."</i>

barge	a large boat, usually flat-bottomed, for carrying heavy freight on rivers, canals <i>"The barge was loaded with timber."</i>
barley	a cereal grass; grain used in making soups, malts and as feed for animals <i>"My mother added barley to the soup to thicken it."</i>
barren	not bringing useful results, unproductive; unprofitable <i>"The barren field was eroding."</i>
basalt	a dark, tough, fine to dense-grained, extrusive volcanic rock commonly occurring in sheetlike lava flows <i>"The basalt was discovered in the mountain."</i>
basin	a washbowl or sink <i>"The dishes were set in the basin."</i>
biceps	muscles having two heads, especially the large muscles in front of the upper arm or the corresponding muscles in the back of the thigh <i>"He photographed the body builder flexing the biceps of his arms."</i>
boggle	to confuse or overwhelm <i>"Her idea would boggle your mind."</i>
bolster	to prop up as with a bolster, support, strengthen, or reinforce <i>"The coach tried to bolster the team's spirit."</i>
caboose	the trainmen's car on a freight train, usually at the rear <i>"The caboose was the last car."</i>
caldron	a large kettle or boiler <i>"The stew simmered in the caldron."</i>
candid	very honest or frank in what one says or writes <i>"The doctor was very candid with her patient."</i>
canny	careful and shrewd in one's actions and dealings; clever and cautious <i>"The canny engineer designed the road."</i>
canter	a smooth, easy pace like a moderate gallop <i>"The horse began to canter."</i>
capstone	the uppermost stone of a structure <i>"The capstone was granite."</i>
caption	a heading or title, as of a newspaper article <i>"He read the caption carefully."</i>
carafe	a bottle of glass or metal for water, coffee <i>"He filled the carafe with water."</i>

career	one's progress through life or in a particular vocation <i>"She chose her career carefully."</i>
carp	To complain or find fault in a petty or nagging way <i>"It is easy to carp about another's decisions."</i>
cashier	an officer in a bank or company responsible for receipts and disbursements <i>"The cashier collected the receipts and recorded them for the bank."</i>
chorus	music written for group singing <i>"The group joined together for the chorus."</i>
cluster	a number of persons, animals, or things grouped together <i>"There was a cluster of flowers in the yard."</i>
coffers	chests or strongboxes in which money or valuables are kept <i>"After a successful fund raiser the coffers were full."</i>
commit	to give in charge of trust; to deliver for safekeeping; entrust; to do or perpetrate an offense or crime <i>"The politician will usually commit himself on an issue."</i>
compel	to enforce or constrain; as to do something; to get by force <i>"Hunger will compel animals to follow a scent."</i>
compress	to squeeze together <i>"The machine will compress the cotton bales."</i>
concern	to draw in; to engage or involve; cause to feel uneasy or anxious <i>"His lateness in coming home caused his parents concern."</i>
control	to govern; to direct; restraint; regulate <i>"The Board of Directors will control communication."</i>
convert	to change from one form to another <i>"We learned how to convert fractions from our teacher."</i>
convoy	a protecting escort, as for ships or troops; a group traveling together <i>"Destroyers will convoy the troopships."</i>
copra	the source of coconut meat or coconut oil <i>"Hawaii produces a great amount of copra."</i>
corral	an enclosure for holding or capturing horses or other livestock; pen; to confine <i>"The wild horses were penned in the corral on the ranch."</i>
corrupt	spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound <i>"The corrupt official accepted a bribe."</i>
costly	expensive; at the cost of great effort <i>"The diamond ring was a costly piece of jewelry."</i>

crabby	cross; ill-tempered; complaining <i>"He was crabby because he did not feel well."</i>
crick	a painful muscle spasm or cramp in the neck or back, etc. <i>"Watching the tennis match gave her a crick in the neck."</i>
crimson	deep red color <i>"The sky, at sunset, became beautifully crimson."</i>
crisis	a turning point in the course of anything; decisive or crucial time, stage of event <i>"His fever reached its crisis at three in the morning."</i>
crisp	stiff and brittle; easily broken; fresh and firm; easily crumbled <i>"Bacon, cooked in our microwave oven, is very crisp and delicious."</i>
current	of the present day; passing or flowing of water <i>"Reading of current events is part of our homework."</i>
cursive	flowing; not disconnected; writing, in which the strokes of each letter are joined in each word <i>"They did not learn cursive writing until the third grade."</i>
curtain	pieces of cloth or lace covering or decorating a window; large drape or hanging screen at the front of a stage <i>"As night came on, the curtain was drawn across the window."</i>
cushy	easy; comfortable, soft <i>"We sat on the floor on cushy pillows."</i>
custom	usual practice of behaving; habit; duties or taxes imposed by a government on imported or exported goods <i>"Having parties at Halloween was the custom of the neighborhood."</i>
dabble	to do something superficially, not seriously <i>"My aunt likes to dabble in art."</i>
dampen	to make moist; to deaden, depress or lessen <i>"She was asked to dampen the clothes so they could be ironed later."</i>
dapper	small and neat; trim; active and smart <i>"He looked dapper in the new suit from his tailor."</i>
dazzle	to confuse, surprise, or overpower with brilliant qualities, display <i>"His ability to debate will dazzle his opponent."</i>
deafen	overwhelm with noise <i>"The volume of the loudspeaker will deafen the audience."</i>
debark	to unload from or leave a ship or aircraft <i>"We will proceed to debark the material as soon as the plane stops."</i>

decent	proper and fitting; not immodest; conforming to approved social standards <i>"Father provided for a decent, comfortable standard of living."</i>
defect	lack of something for completeness; deficiency; forsake one's cause and join the opposition <i>"It was on sale because of a defect in the pattern."</i>
defend	to guard from attack; repel; support, protect, maintain or justify <i>"The soldiers will defend the fortress to the last man."</i>
deflect	to turn or make bend to one side; swerve <i>"They used their shields to deflect the arrows."</i>
defrost	to remove ice by thawing <i>"It was time to defrost the freezer."</i>
deft	skillful in a quick, sure and easy way; dexterous <i>"With deft fingers, she continued knitting the sweater."</i>
delay	to put off to a future time; postpone; to make late; slow up <i>"The delay in getting started caused them to be late."</i>
demand	to ask for boldly or urgently; order to appear or summon <i>"The subpoena is a demand by the court."</i>
demon	devil, evil spirit; a person or thing regarded as evil or cruel <i>"He was a demon at golf."</i>
dental	of or for the teeth or dentistry <i>"Using dental floss is a help in avoiding tooth problems."</i>
depress	to press down; push or pull down; lower <i>"If you depress this button, water comes out."</i>
depth	distance from the top downward; deepness; intensity, as of colors <i>"They dropped a stone in the well to try to determine its depth."</i>
desist	to cease; stop; abstain from action <i>"The librarian urged them to desist their discussion so others could study and concentrate."</i>
dessert	usually the sweet course of a dinner; pie; cake, puddings, etc. <i>"Lemon pie is my favorite dessert."</i>
destroy	to tear down; demolish; to break up; ruin; crush <i>"The demolition crew will destroy the whole building."</i>
detect	to discover or discern the existence, or fact of; find out the true nature of <i>"It was almost impossible to detect anything wrong with the cup."</i>

detest	to dislike intensely; hate; abhor <i>"They detest listening to some of the same old lectures."</i>
detract	to take something desirable away from <i>"Frowning will detract from the beauty of her face."</i>
devoid	completely without; empty or destitute <i>"Crippled badly from the accident, he was devoid of any way to resume his former occupation."</i>
different	not alike; dissimilar; distinct; separate; other <i>"We went to the city by different routes."</i>
digest	a book or periodical; condensed information; absorb; tolerate <i>"The book was a digest on astronomical data."</i>
digit	a finger or toe; any numeral from 0 to 9 <i>"It had to be correct to the last digit."</i>
disarm	to deprive of the ability to hurt; to take away weapons, make friendly <i>"The police asked the robbers to disarm, promising no one would be hurt."</i>
discord	lack of agreement; conflict; inharmonious combination of tones <i>"The sense of discord in the committee made us nervous."</i>
dismal	causing gloom; depressing; bleak; dreary <i>"It was a dark and dismal day."</i>
dismiss	send away; cause to leave; put out of one's mind; discontinue or reject a claim <i>"Because of lack of evidence, the judge will probably dismiss the case."</i>
disrupt	to break up; rend asunder; to disturb or interrupt <i>"Bringing up the subject will disrupt the orderliness of this meeting."</i>
distant	having a gap of space between; separated; far away, remote; cool in manner; faraway or dreamy look <i>"London, England is many miles distant from California."</i>
distinct	clearly perceived or marked off; plain, well-defined; individual <i>"The medal he received showed a distinct and special honor."</i>
distract	to draw the mind away in another direction; divert <i>"In order to take it from the child, we had to distract his attention by allowing him to pet the cat."</i>
distress	to cause sorrow or misery; pain; suffering <i>"Arthritic pain causes distress in her stiff knee when she walks."</i>
dither	to be nervously excited or confused <i>"Before the curtain rose, she was all in a dither."</i>

dizzy	feeling giddy or unsteady; confused, bewildered <i>"The motion of the ferris wheel made them dizzy."</i>
dogged	not giving in readily; persistent; stubborn <i>"He showed a dogged resistance to all arguments."</i>
donor	a person who donates or gives <i>"She volunteered to be a donor of blood for the transfusion."</i>
dormant	sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive <i>"Some plants and animals are dormant during the cold weather."</i>
dosage	the system to be followed in taking doses, as of medicine <i>"He forgot to take his dosage of cough medicine."</i>
doting	foolishly fond; excessively <i>"Sometimes a doting parent can cause problems for the child."</i>
dowdy	not neat or stylish in dress or appearance; shabby <i>"Many of the candidates appeared dowdy."</i>
drastic	acting with force; having a violent effect; harsh; extreme <i>"We sometimes have to take drastic steps to get someone to listen."</i>
drawer	a sliding box in a table, bureau, chest that can be drawn out and then pushed back into place. <i>"The wooden drawer slid smoothly into place."</i>
dreadful	inspiring dread; terrible or awesome <i>"The volcano's eruption was dreadful."</i>
drizzle	a fine, mistlike rain <i>"The drizzle dampened the pavement."</i>
dual	of two; having or composed of two parts or kinds; double <i>"He had a dual personality, sometimes very kind, sometimes very aloof and severe."</i>
duplex	double or twofold; two units operating in the same way <i>"They lived in one half of a duplex."</i>
eclipse	the partial or total obscuring of the sun when the moon comes between it and the earth; or of the moon when the earth's shadow is cast upon it. <i>"We studied the lunar eclipse in class."</i>
edict	an official proclamation or public order made by authority or decree <i>"The edict issued by the King had to be obeyed by all."</i>
efface	to rub out, as from a surface; erase; wipe out; obliterate <i>"They tried to efface the memory."</i>

effort	the using of energy to get something done; attempt; endeavor <i>"Though he did not want to, he made an effort to be friendly."</i>
eject	to throw out; cast out; expel; emit <i>"The safety net will catch the stuntman when he pushes the lever to eject himself from the plane."</i>
elate	to raise the spirits of; make very proud, happy, or joyful <i>"The surprise party should elate our friend."</i>
elude	to avoid or escape from by quickness, cunning, evade <i>"We will try to elude the traffic congestion."</i>
embark	to board a ship, airplane; to begin a journey, an enterprise <i>"We embark on our journey to Europe at 7:00 p.m."</i>
emblem	a visible symbol of a thing, class of people; a sign <i>"The cross is an emblem of Christianity."</i>
emboss	to cover or decorate with designs; to carve, raise or print a design so it is above the surface; embellish; ornament <i>"She asked her sister to emboss the new chair."</i>
emerge	to develop or evolve as something new, improved <i>"A new town will emerge after construction."</i>
enact	to make a bill into law; pass a decree; ordain <i>"The President would like Congress to enact the new tax law."</i>
encamp	to set up a campsite; to put in a camp <i>"The meadow along the river looked like a good site to encamp."</i>
enchant	to charm; bewitch; set a spell on as by magic; delight <i>"Her acting will enchant all who see the play."</i>
enclose	to shut in all around; hem in; fence in; surround <i>"We plan to enclose the play area."</i>
endless	having no finish; going on forever; infinite <i>"An endless chain was formed by joining the ends that can move continuously over the wheels."</i>
endorse	to give approval to; support; sanction <i>"The community will endorse the candidate."</i>
endow	provide with money, talent, quality or property, etc. <i>"In her will, she will endow the hospital with a permanent income."</i>
enfold	to wrap up; embrace <i>"The mother's loving arms will enfold her child."</i>

engage	to employ or keep busy; occupy <i>"The assignment will engage his extra time."</i>
engorge	to devour greedily <i>"The hungry man seemed to engorge his meal."</i>
engrave	to cut or etch into a metal plate, wooden block, etc. <i>"We will watch her engrave the initials."</i>
engross	to occupy one's whole attention <i>"This book will thoroughly engross him."</i>
engulf	to swallow up; overwhelm <i>"The raging river will engulf the house."</i>
enjoin	to urge or impose with authority; order, enforce <i>"The police will enjoin the crowd to disperse."</i>
enlist	to enroll for service, as in the armed forces; to get help, support, aid, etc. <i>"She went to the recruitment office to enlist in the Air Force."</i>
enrich	to give greater value, importance, effectiveness, etc., to <i>"The new class will enrich the curriculum."</i>
enroll	enlist; to record in a list; register; become a member <i>"We are both going to enroll in the choir."</i>
epic	long narrative poem about the traditional and heroic deeds of a hero; poem having style, dignity and importance in relating a story <i>"The Iliad is a familiar epic poem."</i>
equal	of the same quantity, size, number, degree, intensity, quality, etc. <i>"He has courage and ability equal to the challenge."</i>
error	state of believing what is incorrect or wrong; mistake <i>"She has an error on her math paper."</i>
erupt	burst forth or out; to break out in a rash <i>"Lava will erupt from the volcano."</i>
escort	one or more persons or cars, ships, etc., accompanying another for protection or to show honor or courtesy <i>"The class treasurer will be her escort to the prom."</i>
ethnic	designating any, or of any, of the basic groups or divisions of mankind, having the same customs, characteristics, history or language <i>"His ethnic background was Italian."</i>
excel	to be better or greater than; superior to <i>"Tests showed he would excel in Social Studies."</i>

facet	any of a number of sides or aspects, as of a personality <i>"They had never seen the generous facet of his personality."</i>
facile	not hard to do or achieve <i>"After years of practice, her violin playing appeared facile."</i>
faddish	having the nature of a fad <i>"The couple's clothing was very faddish."</i>
faithful	having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility; conscientious <i>"She was very faithful to her club."</i>
famine	any acute shortage <i>"The people were suffering from the famine."</i>
fashion	to make in a certain way; give a certain form to; shape; mold <i>"The potter will fashion the clay to resemble a lion."</i>
feeble	without force or effectiveness <i>"His feeble attempt was not successful."</i>
femur	thighbone <i>"Her X-ray showed no break in the femur."</i>
fervent	having or showing great warmth of feeling; intensely devoted or earnest; ardent <i>"The children showed a fervent devotion to their pet."</i>
fiction	anything made up or imagined, as a statement, story, etc. <i>"She was a great author of fiction."</i>
fifteen	the cardinal number between 14 and 16 <i>"Fifteen boys belong to the scout troop."</i>
finite	having measurable or definable limits; not infinite <i>"There was a finite number of beads in the bowl."</i>
fitful	spasmodic; restless <i>"In the morning he was still tired, having spent the night in fitful sleep."</i>
flagrant	glaringly bad; notorious; outrageous <i>"The performance was flagrant, and the audience left."</i>
fluent	moving or flowing smoothly; able to write or speak easily, expressively <i>"The teacher was fluent in three languages."</i>
forbid	to rule against; not permit; prohibit <i>"Father may forbid me to go."</i>
format	a plan for the organization and arrangement of a specified production <i>"He gave us a copy of the format for the TV show."</i>

forty	cardinal number between 39 and 41; four times ten <i>"The shoes will cost more than forty dollars."</i>
fracas	noisy fight or loud quarrel; brawl <i>"They were having a fracas in the hall."</i>
frolic	playful trick or game; merriment, gaiety, fun; lively party <i>"The small children frolic about in a happy, carefree way."</i>
froth	to cause to foam; whitish mass of bubbles <i>"Shaking the drink will make froth in it."</i>
fuel	any material such as wood, gas or coal, burned to supply heat or power <i>"We bought a cord of logs for fuel for the fireplace."</i>
furnish	supply, provide or equip; to put furniture into a room <i>"They decided to furnish the den with modern pieces."</i>
gallant	stately; imposing <i>"The gallant ship cruised into the harbor."</i>
gamut	the entire range or extent, as of emotions <i>"The actress demonstrated the gamut of emotions."</i>
garble	to confuse or mix up unintentionally <i>"Although she had studied the poem, she started to garble it when it was her turn to recite."</i>
garnish	to trim, adorn, decorate; embellish <i>We often see parsley used as a garnish."</i>
geode	a globular stone having a cavity lined with inward growing crystals or layers of silica <i>"The miner discovered the geode."</i>
global	round like a ball; globe-shaped <i>"The weatherman reported the forecast on a global map."</i>
glisten	to shine or sparkle with reflected light, as a wet or polished surface <i>"The new car did glisten in the sunlight."</i>
glossy	having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish <i>"The glossy cat was sleeping in the window."</i>
glower	a sullen, angry stare; scowl <i>"A glower covered his face when he discovered that he was late."</i>
gobble	to eat quickly and greedily <i>"The chickens gobble the grain."</i>
govern	to exercise authority over; rule, administer; direct or control <i>"The officials will govern in an orderly manner."</i>

grammar	the system of word structures and word arrangements of a given language at a given time <i>"In order to speak the language, an understanding of grammar is helpful."</i>
granite	a very hard, crystalline, plutonic rock, gray to pink in color, consisting of feldspar, quartz, and smaller amounts of other minerals <i>"The polished granite shone in the sunlight."</i>
grateful	feeling or expressing gratitude <i>"He was very grateful for being remembered on his birthday."</i>
grater	scraper; to use to rub skin from vegetables, etc. <i>"She used the grater on the lemon peel for the pie."</i>
gratis	a favor without a charge or fee <i>"The printing of the tickets for the fund raiser were given gratis."</i>
graze	to feed on (growing grass, herbage, a pasture, etc.) <i>"The cattle will graze on the slopes all winter."</i>
gritty	of, like, or containing sand; brave; plucky <i>"Water from the creek left a gritty substance in the bottom of the cup."</i>
gruel	thin, easily digested broth made of meal with water or milk <i>"The hot, tasty gruel did not hurt her sore throat as she swallowed."</i>
habit	habitual or characteristic condition of mind or body; disposition <i>"It was his habit to have cereal every morning for breakfast."</i>
harbor	a place of refuge, safety, retreat; a protected inlet, branch of the sea, etc., used as shelter and anchorage for ships <i>"Ships lay at anchor in the broad sunny harbor."</i>
heckle	to annoy or harass by interrupting with questions or taunts <i>"The audience began to heckle the speaker."</i>
hermit	a person who lives by himself in a lonely or secluded spot, often from religious motives; recluse <i>"No one had seen the hermit for twenty years."</i>
hobble	to walk lamely or awkwardly; limp <i>"The horse tried to hobble to the corral."</i>
hollow	empty or worthless; not real or meaningful <i>"They knew that the praise was hollow."</i>
honor	to respect greatly; regard highly; esteem <i>"The family met to honor the visiting grandparents."</i>
hostile	having or showing ill will; unfriendly; antagonistic <i>"The lion appeared hostile as the hunter approached."</i>

huckster	an aggressive or haggling merchant, esp. one who uses questionable methods <i>"The huckster at the fair was making a fortune."</i>
idler	person who does no work; wastes time; lazy person <i>"No one ever saw him doing things, so they thought him an idler."</i>
ignite	to set fire to; cause to burn <i>"They will ignite the trees with a torch."</i>
ignore	to disregard deliberately; pay no attention to; refuse to consider <i>"The driver appeared to ignore the road signs."</i>
impact	to force tightly together; pack; wedge; hit with force; violent contact <i>"The two cars collided with violent impact."</i>
impede	to bar or hinder the progress of; obstruct or delay <i>"Some members tried to impede the program."</i>
impish	mischievous <i>"The child gave him an impish grin and then ran down the street."</i>
impose	to force on another or others without right or invitation; obtrude <i>"Although she did not receive an invitation, she tried to impose on the family."</i>
impulse	a sudden inclination to act, without conscious thought <i>"They could not resist the impulse to walk in the rain."</i>
incite	to set in motion, to urge to action; stir up, rouse <i>"The news of the riot may incite others to act."</i>
inert	having few or no active properties <i>"The inert gas is not considered to be a danger."</i>
infect	to contaminate with a disease-producing organism or matter <i>"Germs infect the air we breathe."</i>
infirm	weak; feeble, as from old age; frail; shaky <i>"Some senior citizens are infirm; others seem hale and hearty."</i>
inflect	to vary or change the tone or pitch of (the voice); modulate <i>"When giving a speech, the leader will inflect her voice."</i>
influx	the point where a river joins another body of water <i>"They found good fishing at the influx of the rivers."</i>
ingrate	an ungrateful person <i>"The ingrate refuses to thank anyone for help."</i>
inkling	a vague idea or notion; suspicion <i>"She had an inkling that the biggest present was for her."</i>

innate	existing naturally rather than acquired; possessed at birth, inherent <i>"He has an innate talent for math."</i>
inset	to insert into something else; a map set inside the border of a larger one; a piece of material sewed into a garment <i>"The inset shows the downtown section of the city."</i>
inspire	to fill with high or reverent emotion; stimulate to creativity or action <i>"The concert did inspire him to be a musician."</i>
intact	with nothing missing; kept or left whole; sound; entire <i>"He found his missing wallet intact - even the money was still in it."</i>
item	separate things; one piece of news or information <i>"Bread was an item on their grocery list."</i>
jabber	fast, incoherent, nonsensical talk; gibberish <i>"No one could understand the jabber of the twins."</i>
jargon	incoherent speech; gibberish; specialized vocabulary and idioms of those in their own line of work <i>"She recognized the jargon of classmates taking computer classes."</i>
jitney	formerly old slang for five cents, a nickel; small car or bus which travels a regular route and charges a low fare for passengers to ride <i>"The driver of the jitney now charges passengers a dollar."</i>
jostle	to bump or push, as in a crowd; elbow or shove roughly <i>"As the number increased, the crowd began to jostle the players."</i>
juror	a person who is a member of a jury or a jury panel; taker of an oath <i>"He was sworn in as a juror in case one of the panel became ill."</i>
justice	reward or penalty as deserved <i>"The defendant protested the justice he was receiving in the court."</i>
kapok	fiber used for stuffing mattresses, sleeping bags, pillows, etc. <i>"After such a long time of use, the kapok had to be replaced."</i>
kelp	large, coarse brown seaweed; ashes of seaweed from which iodine is obtained <i>"The water was so clear we could see long beds of kelp floating."</i>
kindling	bits of dry wood or other easily-lighted material for starting a fire <i>"The campers gathered kindling for the fire."</i>
kinship	close relation, family; close connection <i>"The two cousins kept up a warm kinship all their lives."</i>
kosher	loosely, prepared according to traditional Jewish recipes <i>"The kosher pickles were very tasty."</i>

label	identifying card or paper; to classify; descriptive word or phrase <i>"The label on the bottle was too old to be deciphered."</i>
lament	an outward expression of sorrow; lamentation; wail <i>"A long lament was heard in the garden."</i>
lawful	legal; permitted by law; just or valid <i>"He always conformed in a lawful manner."</i>
lecture	an informative talk given before an audience, class, etc., and usually prepared beforehand <i>"The history lecture was very interesting."</i>
legume	any of a large family of herbs, shrubs, and trees, including the peas, beans, vetches, clovers, etc., with usually compound leaves, flowers having a single carpel, and fruit that is a dry pod splitting along two sutures <i>"Lima beans are a member of the legume family."</i>
license	a document, printed tag, permit, etc., indicating that such permission had been granted <i>"The officer asked to see the man's license."</i>
lightning	a flash of light in the sky caused by the discharge of atmospheric electricity from one cloud to another or between a cloud and the earth <i>"The lightning flashed in the sky."</i>
linkage	a linking or being linked <i>"The investigator studied the linkage between the clues."</i>
listless	having no interest in what is going on about one, as a result of illness, weariness, dejection, etc., spiritless; languid <i>"The listless dog lay on the floor by the fire."</i>
litter	the young borne at one time by a dog, cat, or other animal which normally bears several young at a delivery <i>"The litter of kittens was guarded by the mother."</i>
lively	full of life; active; vigorous <i>"No one wanted to leave the lively party."</i>
livid	grayish-blue; lead-colored <i>"The slanderous article made him livid with rage."</i>
lonely	alone; solitary <i>"The lonely dog missed his master by the end of the day."</i>
loose	not confined or restrained; free; unbound <i>"The sails were loose in the breeze."</i>

lucid	clearheaded; rational <i>"The lucid thinker explained the axiom."</i>
magnet	a person or thing that attracts; piece of iron or steel that attracts metal <i>"A magnet is often fastened to a potholder to be attached to the stove."</i>
major	greater in size, importance, number or rank; designating a specific field of study in which a student specializes and receives his degree <i>"She had to choose between math and English as her major course of study."</i>
malice	active ill will; desire to harm another or to do mischief; spite <i>"The book had been torn with malice."</i>
mangle	to spoil; botch; mar; garble <i>"The writer began to mangle the translation."</i>
margin	the blank space around the printed or written area on a page or sheet <i>"Many notes were written in the margin."</i>
marvel	a wonderful or astonishing thing; prodigy or miracle <i>"We all admired the marvel of travel in space."</i>
massive	large or imposing or impressive; of considerable magnitude <i>"The new bank was massive."</i>
mature	fully or highly developed, perfected, worked out, considered, etc. <i>"As the plans mature, we will better know the instructions."</i>
matzo	the unleavened bread eaten by Jews during the Passover <i>"The matzo was prepared very carefully."</i>
medic	a physician or surgeon <i>"The medic quickly provided assistance to the sick child."</i>
medley	a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works <i>"The chorus performed the medley very well."</i>
melon	any of several large, juicy, thick-skinned, many-seeded fruits of certain trailing plants of the gourd family, as the watermelon, muskmelon, etc. <i>"We all enjoyed eating the melon."</i>
mental	of or for the mind or intellect; without using written symbols <i>"He had a mental image of how she would worry if he were so late."</i>
merely	no more than; and nothing else; only <i>"We merely know the address."</i>
message	a communication passed or sent between persons by speech, in writing, by signals, etc. <i>"Everyone listened to the President's message on radio."</i>

method	a way of doing anything; process; definite procedure <i>"He learned the method of vulcanizing rubber."</i>
metric	a theory or a system of measurement <i>"The United States may adopt the metric system."</i>
mileage	aggregate distance in miles or total number of miles traveled <i>"The salesman bought a new car each year because he had such high mileage on his current one."</i>
milling	circular or random motion of or as a herd or crowd <i>"The ducks were milling around the bread crumbs."</i>
mimic	imitative; inclined to copy; to ape; make believe; mock <i>"The actor could mimic many of his fellow artists."</i>
mindful	having in mind; aware; heedful, or careful <i>"The children were mindful of the danger of playing in the street."</i>
minute	the sixtieth part of any of certain units <i>"As we watched the clock, the minute went very slowly."</i>
mishap	an unlucky or unfortunate accident <i>"The doctor wanted to avoid the mishap."</i>
misspell	to spell incorrectly <i>"The class did not misspell a single word."</i>
modern	up-to-date; of recent times; period of history after the middle ages <i>"They disagreed in preference of modern or period furnishings."</i>
musty	having a stale, moldy taste or smell; worn out; antiquated <i>"The dampness seemed to linger in the basement, giving it a musty smell."</i>
narrate	to tell in writing or speech <i>"The teacher began to narrate the story."</i>
narrow	close; careful; not liberal; prejudiced <i>"We all try to avoid having a narrow mind."</i>
native	belonging to a locality or country by birth, production, or growth; indigenous <i>"The native did not want to leave his home country."</i>
nectar	any very delicious drink; sweetish liquid in flowers gathered by bees to make honey <i>"The icy cold lemonade was like nectar."</i>
neglect	not to heed; leave undone; lack of sufficient or proper care <i>"If you neglect to water the plants, they will die."</i>

nerve	strength; energy; vigor <i>"The football player's nerve was impressive."</i>
nestle	to settle or house as in a nest; shelter <i>"The birds would nestle in the tree house."</i>
nibble	to eat with quick bites, taking only a small amount at a time <i>"The kittens began to nibble on the food."</i>
noble	having or showing high moral qualities or ideals, or greatness of character; lofty <i>"The noble leader made a hard decision for his country."</i>
nomad	member of a tribe of people having no permanent home; wanderer <i>"Like a nomad, he roamed all over the world."</i>
nubby	covered with small nubs, or lumps; having a rough, knotted surface <i>"The nubby fabric was rough to touch."</i>
oblong	longer than broad; elongated, specif., (a) rectangular and longer in one direction than in the other, esp. longer horizontally, (b) elliptical <i>"They wondered what was in the oblong box."</i>
observe	to celebrate or keep (a holiday, etc.) according to custom <i>"They observe the holiday in July."</i>
occur	to take place; happen <i>"The celebration will occur next week."</i>
odor	a smell, whether pleasant or unpleasant; fragrance, stench, etc. <i>"The odor of baking bread filled the home."</i>
offend	break a law; commit a crime or sin; to create anger or displeasure <i>"He spoke rudely unintentionally and did not mean to offend her."</i>
offense	the condition of being offended, esp. of feeling hurt, resentful, or angry; umbrage <i>"His friend took offense from the joke."</i>
oleo	combining form meaning oleomargarine <i>"I prefer oleo to butter on my bread."</i>
omit	to fail to include; leave out <i>"He reminded the campers to not omit their tent."</i>
optic	of the eyes; sense of sight <i>"The optic nerve was not damaged."</i>
orbit	the path taken by a heavenly body during its periodic revolution around another body <i>"The orbit of the earth is being measured."</i>

ornate	heavily ornamented or adorned, often to excess <i>"The ornate window was filled with jewels."</i>
ostrich	a large, swift-running bird of Africa and the Near East, the largest and most powerful of living birds: it has a long neck, very long legs with two toes on each foot, and small, useless wings; the white tail and wing feathers of the male are used in millinery and as trimming <i>"The white ostrich feather adorned her new hat."</i>
owing	due; unpaid; because of <i>"The balance owing was ten dollars."</i>
ozone	an unstable, pale-blue gas, with a penetrating odor; it is an allotropic form of oxygen <i>"The ozone layer is very important for man's survival."</i>
package	a wrapped or boxed thing or group of things; parcel <i>"The postman delivered the package."</i>
padlock	a removable lock with a hinged or pivoted link to be passed through a staple, chain, or eye <i>"He had forgotten the combination number for the padlock."</i>
palace	any large, magnificent house or building <i>"Her dream is to live in a palace."</i>
pampas	the extensive treeless plains of Argentina and some other parts of South America <i>"Cattle raising is an important industry on the pampas."</i>
parcel	a small, wrapped bundle; package <i>"The parcel was lost in the mail."</i>
pardon	release from further punishment; cancel; forgive; excuse; overlook <i>"He asked pardon for his clumsiness."</i>
parlor	a small, semiprivate sitting room apart from the main lounges in a hotel, inn, etc. <i>"We plan to meet our friends in the parlor."</i>
passage	permission, right, or a chance to pass <i>"The hunters received passage through the field."</i>
passive	offering no opposition or resistance; submissive; yielding; patient <i>"The passive cat was carried to the store."</i>
pastry	dough made of flour and shortening, used for the crust of pies, tarts; all fancy baked goods, including cakes, sweet rolls, etc. <i>"I like cooking and making pastry."</i>
pasture	to graze or feed on (grass, etc.) <i>"The cattle will pasture in the meadow."</i>

peddler	person going from place to place selling small articles <i>"The peddler always had fresh vegetables to sell."</i>
pennant	long, narrow flag; banner, usually triangular in shape <i>"The sailboat flew a pennant under the national flag."</i>
pensive	thinking deeply or seriously, often of sad or melancholy things <i>"The pensive woman forgot her appointment."</i>
perfume	a pleasing smell or odor; sweet scent, as of flowers; fragrance <i>"The gardener enjoyed the perfume of the flowers."</i>
persist	refuse to give up; continue; remain; prevail; endure <i>"In the face of opposition, we must persist on this measure."</i>
perturb	to cause to be alarmed, agitated, or upset; disturb or trouble greatly <i>"The loudspeaker may perturb the musician in the adjoining room."</i>
picture	to form a mental picture or impression of; imagine <i>"The football player tried to picture the coming game."</i>
pigment	coloring matter, usually insoluble powder, mixed with oil or water, etc., to make paints; coloring matter in the cells, tissues of plants, animals <i>"Pigment in some plants is increased when they grow in full sun."</i>
pilgrim	person who wanders; traveler to shrine or holy place; any member of the English Puritans who founded Plymouth colony in 1620 <i>"Priscilla was the bride of a pilgrim."</i>
pity	sorrow felt for another's suffering; compassion; sympathy <i>"Our pity for her moved us to offer our sincere help."</i>
placid	undisturbed; tranquil; calm; quiet <i>"There was no wind to disturb the placid waters."</i>
plunder	to rob or despoil by force, esp. in warfare <i>"The military will plunder the village after the battle."</i>
plural	of or including more than one; involving or being one of <i>"The plural of this noun is formed according to the principle listed."</i>
polar	opposite in character, nature, direction, etc. <i>"The twins were polar in their taste in music."</i>
portion	share; part of <i>"They were willing to give up a portion of their food."</i>
portly	large and heavy in a dignified, stately way; stout; corpulent <i>"He bought his clothing in the section for portly men."</i>
possess	to have as an attribute, quality, faculty, etc. <i>"The man is known to possess wisdom."</i>

posture	the position or carriage of the body in standing or sitting; bearing <i>"Good posture is important for good health."</i>
predict	foretell a future event or happening; tell what one believes may happen <i>"Sometimes it is possible to predict when there will be an earthquake."</i>
preview	a restricted showing, as of a movie, before exhibition to the public generally <i>"We were delighted to see the preview of the film."</i>
prior	preceding in time; earlier; previous <i>"References from a prior employer were needed."</i>
proceed	to advance or go on; to move along or to be carried on; come forth <i>"After answering this question, please proceed to the next."</i>
product	made by nature or by human industry; result <i>"The product is obtained by multiplying two or more numbers together."</i>
profess	make an open declaration of; affirm; claim to have an interest, etc. <i>"They profess to know the road; so we will follow them."</i>
progress	moving forward or onward; development; advance; goal <i>"Their progress shows when they devote enough time to study."</i>
prompt	quick to act or do; ready; punctual; done, spoken, without delay <i>"A good example will help to prompt him to turn in his homework."</i>
prosper	succeed; thrive; grow vigorously; wealth; good fortune <i>"Having found the right soil conditions, his crop began to prosper."</i>
protect	shield from injury; guard; defend <i>"His bulletproof vest will protect him."</i>
prying	improperly curious or inquisitive <i>"Someone was prying into her personal affairs."</i>
pulpit	raised platform or lectern from which the clergy preaches in a church <i>"From the pulpit, the speaker spoke into a microphone."</i>
punish	to cause to undergo pain or loss; to penalize; to treat harshly <i>"They will punish him to make him pay for his crime."</i>
raft	flat structure of logs, boards fastened together, floated on water <i>"They pulled the raft behind their speed boat."</i>
ragged	shabby or torn from wear; tattered; uneven; rough; not finished <i>"Their clothing was ragged and dirty."</i>
rally	to summon or bring together for a common purpose; assist; support a cause <i>"He was sent to rally the retreating troops."</i>

rampant	growing luxuriantly; flourishing <i>"The roses were rampant in the garden."</i>
random	lacking aim or purpose; without careful choice; haphazard <i>"The afghan was knit in a random pattern."</i>
rapt	carried away with joy; enraptured; engrossed with love <i>"The artist's painting showed the rapt expression of her eyes."</i>
rating	a placement in a certain rank or class <i>"The program received the top rating."</i>
razor	sharp-edged cutting instrument for shaving or cutting off hair <i>"No one was allowed to use his razor."</i>
react	to act in return or reciprocally <i>"The director did not expect the actress to react that way."</i>
recess	to halt temporarily <i>"The court will recess until afternoon."</i>
reckless	careless; heedless <i>"The reckless driver was arrested."</i>
recur	to return, as in thought or memory; happen or occur again <i>"The eclipse of the sun will recur shortly."</i>
redeem	to get back; recover, as by paying a fee <i>"The renter wants to redeem his deposit."</i>
reduce	to lessen in any way, as in size, weight, amount, value, price, etc., diminish <i>"During the winter, the family will reduce its food supply."</i>
reflect	to bend or throw back light, heat or sound; mirror; reproduce an image <i>"His skills reflect years of training."</i>
refuge	a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat <i>"The deer sought a refuge from the hunters."</i>
regret	to feel sorry or mourn for; troubled or remorseful <i>"We regret to announce the death of a favorite professor."</i>
reject	refuse to accept; throw away, discard; rebuff <i>"We felt we had to reject his very low offer to buy our house."</i>
rejoin	to come into the company of again; reunite <i>"We were happy to have him rejoin and become a member again."</i>
relent	to soften in temper; become less severe, stern, stubborn <i>"Perhaps he will relent and allow you to go if you promise to return early."</i>

remark	notice; observe; perceive; say or write in comment; say briefly <i>"He made a remark about her beautiful clothes."</i>
remnant	what is left over; remainder; residue <i>"The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a remnant."</i>
render	to give, hand over, submit, as for approval; to give in return <i>"When you finish shopping, the clerk will render a bill for payment."</i>
renew	to make fresh, strong again; bring back into good condition <i>"An efficient cleaning will renew the look of the fabric."</i>
repress	to keep down or hold back <i>"He modestly tried to repress his delight in winning."</i>
rescue	to free or save from danger, imprisonment, evil, etc. <i>"He was a hero because the rescue had been a success."</i>
reserve	to hold over to a later time <i>"We will reserve the dessert."</i>
respect	to show honor or esteem for; show consideration for; deference, dutiful regard; reference; show politeness by visiting or presenting oneself <i>"Though we may not always agree, we respect his opinions."</i>
retain	to keep in mind <i>"After studying the words for six weeks, we should retain most of them."</i>
revenge	to inflict damage, injury, or punishment in return for an injury, insult, etc. <i>"The leaders plotted revenge for the bombing."</i>
risky	hazardous; dangerous <i>"Shopping during that sale was risky because it drew such immense crowds."</i>
rival	person who tries to compete with another; try to equal or surpass <i>"One's sibling is a natural rival."</i>
roost	perch for birds to rest or sleep; stay or settle down for the night <i>"Our parrot will almost always roost on the highest perch in his cage."</i>
ruin	the remains of a fallen building, city, etc., or something destroyed, devastated, decayed, etc. <i>"The explorer discovered the ruin deep within the jungle."</i>
rumor	definite talk not based on knowledge; hearsay; gossip <i>"We have heard a rumor that there will be no test tomorrow."</i>
rustle	to make or cause to make an irregular succession of soft sounds <i>"The leaves rustle in the wind."</i>

safety	the quality or condition of being safe; freedom from danger; injury, or damage; security <i>"The spy's safety depended upon his quick wit."</i>
saga	any long story of adventure or heroic deeds <i>"The full saga of the State Spelling Bee will be known this spring."</i>
scaffold	temporary wood or metal framework to support workmen and/or material <i>"They worked from the scaffold easily."</i>
scald	to burn or injure with hot liquid or steam; heat almost to the boiling point <i>"He was careful not to scald his hand with the boiling water."</i>
scant	inadequate in size or amount; not enough; meager; short ration <i>"The recipe called for a scant cup of sugar."</i>
scarlet	very bright red with a slightly orange tone <i>"The scarlet car captured everyone's attention."</i>
scary	causing alarm; frightening <i>"Being alone in the dark is sometimes scary."</i>
scorch	to damage, char or discolor the surface by burning; parch; wither by heat <i>"The hot sun will scorch the plants if they're not covered."</i>
scorn	extreme, often indignant contempt for someone or something; utter disdain <i>"The scorn she felt was clearly shown in both manner and voice."</i>
scribble	illegible or careless handwriting; scrawl <i>"The doctor's scribble was hard to read."</i>
scurry	to run hastily; scamper <i>"The rabbits will scurry through the woods."</i>
secure	free from fear, care, doubt, or anxiety; not worried, troubled, or apprehensive <i>"Within the fort, the cavalry felt secure."</i>
session	a school term or period of study, classes, etc. <i>"The fall session of school was about to end."</i>
shampoo	the act of washing hair, a rug, etc. <i>"The beautician will shampoo your hair next."</i>
shepherd	a person who herds and takes care of sheep <i>"The shepherd guarded the flock during the night."</i>
shiny	full of, or reflecting, light; bright; shining <i>"The shiny car caught our attention."</i>
skeptic	person who habitually doubts, questions or suspends judgment on generally accepted matters <i>"He was such a skeptic that he was known as 'Doubting Thomas'."</i>

skillful	having or showing skill; accomplished; expert <i>"The skillful musician performed flawlessly."</i>
skirmish	a brief encounter between small groups, usually an incident of a battle <i>"The skirmish was quickly forgotten after the peace treaty was signed."</i>
slacken	to become less active, intense, brisk <i>"The runners began to slacken their pace."</i>
sluggish	slow or slow-moving; not active; dull <i>"The engine was sluggish and difficult to start."</i>
snorkel	to move or swim under water using a snorkel <i>"We plan to snorkel when we are in Hawaii."</i>
spectrum	a continuous range or entire extent <i>"The newspaper reported a wide spectrum of opinion."</i>
splendid	worthy of high praise; grand; glorious; illustrious <i>"The teacher praised her splendid accomplishment."</i>
stubborn	person who refuses to comply; resisting unreasonably; obstinate <i>"Donkeys are said to be stubborn like some people I know."</i>
submit	to refer to others for decisions; to yield to the control of another <i>"We will submit our plan to the committee."</i>
tactics	any method used to gain an end; esp., skillful methods or procedure <i>"Although successful, his tactics were questioned."</i>
tarnish	to dull or discolor the surface of a metal object; to spoil, mar or debase a memory; lose luster from oxidation <i>"Silver needs to be polished often or it will tarnish."</i>
tariff	duty or tax placed by a government on imports and some exports; any list or scale of prices, charges etc. <i>"We felt the tariff was too high."</i>
terrace	a small, usually roofed balcony, as outside an apartment <i>"Flowerpots lined the terrace outside the apartment."</i>
thicket	a thick growth of shrubs, underbrush, or small trees <i>"Several deer were spotted in the thicket."</i>
transform	to change the form or outward appearance of <i>"The potter will transform the clay into a beautiful bowl."</i>
translate	to put in different words; rephrase or paraphrase in explanation <i>"The tutor tried to translate the assignment."</i>
tremor	a trembling, shaking, or shivering <i>"Everyone in town felt the tremor of the earthquake."</i>

tribute	something given, done, or said, as a gift, testimonial, etc., to show gratitude, respect, honor, or praise <i>"Their success was a tribute to his leadership."</i>
truly	in a true manner; accurately, genuinely, faithfully, factually, etc. <i>"They discovered that he had reported the facts truly."</i>
tunnel	an animal's burrow <i>"The rabbits live in the tunnel behind the barn."</i>
twang	a quick, sharp, vibrating sound, as of a taut string <i>"The guitar twang signaled the beginning of the concert."</i>
uproar	loud, confused noise; din <i>"The uproar was very difficult to quiet."</i>
useful	that can be used to advantage; serviceable; helpful <i>"The fork is a useful utensil."</i>
vacant	having no occupant <i>"The apartment next to us is vacant."</i>
vaccine	any preparation of killed microorganisms, living weakened organisms, etc., introduced into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease by causing the formation of antibodies <i>"The polio vaccine was a tremendous advance in medicine."</i>
vigil	watchful staying awake; a watch kept for a period of time <i>"While others slept, he kept his lonely vigil."</i>
volume	the quantity, strength, or loudness of sound <i>"The volume of the music was deafening."</i>
vowel	a letter, as a, e, i, o, u and sometimes y, representing such a sound <i>"A vowel is found usually in every word."</i>
warbler	a bird which sings in trills, runs or quavers; songster <i>"Though we could not see him, we heard the melodious song of the warbler."</i>
warmth	state of giving off moderate degree of heat; moderate, mild heat <i>"We could feel the warmth of the sun on our faces."</i>
welfare	the state of being or doing well; condition of health, happiness, and comfort; well-being, prosperity <i>"We are interested in her welfare."</i>
whistle	to make a clear, shrill cry; said of some birds and animals <i>"We heard the birds whistle in the trees."</i>
whittle	to reduce, destroy, or get rid of gradually, as if by whittling away with a knife <i>"We hope to whittle down the cost of the project."</i>

whoosh	to make a quick, hissing or rushing sound of something moving swiftly through the air <i>"At takeoff, the rocket will whoosh by the airport."</i>
width	distance from side to side; breadth <i>"We have to measure the width of the shelf to make sure it will fit the space."</i>
wiring	the action of a person or thing that wires <i>"The electrician did the wiring very quickly."</i>
witness	a person who saw, or can give a firsthand account of, something <i>"The next witness was called to testify."</i>
wobble	move unsteadily from side to side, as in walking <i>"The baby took one step and then began to wobble."</i>
worth	wealth; possessions; riches <i>"No one could estimate the owner's worth."</i>
yearling	an animal one year old or in its second year <i>"The rancher brought the yearling into the barn."</i>

LEVEL II

abacus	frame with beads or balls sliding back and forth on wires or in slots for doing or teaching arithmetic <i>"The Chinese use an abacus like we use a calculator."</i>
abandoned	give up something forever; wild or uncontrolled <i>"The child in the orphanage was abandoned by its parents."</i>
abdicate	to give up formally (a high office, authority, throne, etc.) <i>"The king plans to abdicate his throne."</i>
abdominal	lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, on or for the abdomen <i>"The abdominal bandage seemed too tight."</i>
abduction	carrying off a person by force or fraud; kidnapping <i>"He was shocked to find that his uncle aided in the abduction."</i>
aberration	a departure from what is right, true, correct <i>"Her rude behavior was an aberration from her friendly nature."</i>
aborning	while being born or created <i>"The idea died aborning."</i>
abrading	scraping; wearing off by rubbing against <i>"Gripping the handle was abrading the shine of the leather."</i>
abrogate	to cancel or repeal by authority <i>"Congress must abrogate the new tax law."</i>
abscess	swollen and inflamed area of the body tissues <i>"The sting of the bee on her hand caused an abscess."</i>
absconded	went hastily and secretly away; left and hid to escape the law <i>"They absconded with the stolen money."</i>
accentuate	to emphasize; heighten the effect of <i>"The purple pillow should accentuate the room."</i>
acclamation	loud applause, approval, or welcome <i>"The Presidential candidate was nominated by acclamation."</i>
acetylene	a colorless, poisonous, highly flammable gaseous hydrocarbon <i>"This most brilliant of the illuminating gases is acetylene."</i>
achromatic	refracting light without spectra color separation <i>"The camera lens was achromatic."</i>
acknowledge	admit to be true or as stated; recognize or accept <i>"I acknowledge that the signature is mine."</i>
acquittal	discharge of duty; being set free by the court <i>"From lack of evidence submitted, the judge decreed an acquittal."</i>

acrid	sharp, bitter, or stinging, or irritating to the taste or smell <i>"She scowled at the acrid taste."</i>
addendum	thing added or to be added; an appendix or supplement <i>"The name of the second speaker is an addendum to the program."</i>
addressee	person to whom mail, etc. is addressed <i>"His name is that of the addressee on the envelope."</i>
admonition	a mild rebuke; reprimand <i>"The children remembered their mother's admonition and returned home on time."</i>
adolescence	the time of life between puberty and maturity; youth <i>"During adolescence, one is often uncertain."</i>
aesthetic	sensitive to art and beauty <i>"In order to help develop their children's aesthetic tastes, many family trips to art galleries were planned."</i>
affinity	close relationship <i>"Fish have an affinity with water."</i>
afflatus	artist's or poet's inspiration or powerful impulse <i>"What was the afflatus behind the artist's new painting?"</i>
agglomeration	a jumbled heap, mass, etc. <i>"The agglomeration of articles for the rummage sale was staggering."</i>
aghast	feeling great horror or dismay <i>"Upon seeing a ghost, he was aghast."</i>
agriculture	work of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock <i>"California is a leader in agriculture."</i>
alabaster	a translucent, whitish, fine-grained variety of gypsum, used for statues, vases, etc. <i>"She had a fine collection of alabaster ornaments and decorations."</i>
allotment	portion <i>"The meeting continued beyond the time allotment."</i>
ambiguous	not clear <i>"The treaty is very ambiguous."</i>
anachronism	anything that is or seems to be out of its proper time in history <i>"A black and white television is an anachronism today."</i>
anathema	a thing or person greatly detested <i>"Censorship is anathema to Americans."</i>
annulment	to do away with; invalidate; put an end to <i>"Ann was given an annulment of her marriage when Jim disappeared."</i>

anonymous	no name known or acknowledged; name withheld <i>"The poem read was written by an anonymous poet."</i>
antidote	a remedy to counteract a poison <i>"She went to the doctor for an antidote to the snake bite."</i>
antiquated	no longer used or useful; obsolete <i>"The old cabin contained some antiquated relics of the olden days."</i>
antithesis	a contrast or opposition of thoughts <i>"Love is the antithesis of hate."</i>
apocryphal	spurious; counterfeit <i>"The apocryphal memories of the countess cannot be admitted as evidence."</i>
apothecary	a pharmacist or druggist <i>"Run down to the apothecary to get a refill on that prescription."</i>
apparition	a strange figure appearing suddenly and thought to be a ghost <i>"After hearing the spooky story, the children thought they saw an apparition."</i>
appendix	additional or supplementary material at the end of a book <i>"The appendix contained an alphabetized list of terms used."</i>
appetizing	stimulating; savory; delicious <i>"The appetizing smells in the kitchen made us long for dinnertime."</i>
appraisal	evaluation of price by an expert for sale, taxes, duty, etc. <i>"The customs officer quickly made an appraisal of the jewelry."</i>
appropriation	money set aside for a specific use <i>"Since the appropriation was cut by Congress, our radar defense is reduced."</i>
aqueduct	large pipe made for bringing water from a distant source <i>"The aqueduct provided the farmers with the much needed water for crops."</i>
archetype	the perfect example of a type or group <i>"Mickey Mouse is the archetype for cartoon characters."</i>
arrogance	self-importance; overbearing pride; haughty <i>"His arrogance was difficult to put up with."</i>
artifact	any object made by human work <i>"The African mask is a prized artifact."</i>
artillery	guns of large caliber, too heavy to carry; cannon or missile launchers <i>"The artillery was slower in reaching the top of the hill."</i>
ascension	the act of ascending <i>"We watched the balloon's ascension into the clouds."</i>

asceticism	religious doctrine where self-denial is practiced to reach a higher spiritual state <i>"Trappist monks practice asceticism."</i>
asinine	stupid, silly, obstinate, etc. <i>"It's asinine to build a house on such a poor foundation."</i>
aspire	to be ambitious <i>"Each contestant will aspire to win."</i>
assign	to set apart or mark for specific purpose; place or set a task or duty <i>"The teacher will assign the lesson for the next class."</i>
atrophy	a wasting away of body tissue, organ, or the failure of an organ or part to grow or develop, as because of insufficient nutrition <i>"Without proper nutrition, the muscles will atrophy."</i>
avuncular	of, like, or in the relationship of, an uncle <i>"Avuncular advice is apt to be kindly and indulgent."</i>
axiom	statement accepted as true; maxim; self-evident <i>"Euclid's axiom that things equal to the same thing are equal to each other is universally known."</i>
baccalaureate	an address or sermon delivered to a graduating class at commencement <i>"The graduating seniors and their families will attend the baccalaureate."</i>
bailiwick	one's particular area of authority, activity, interest <i>"The coach's bailiwick is tennis."</i>
balustrade	a railing <i>"The balustrade was made of cedar."</i>
barrage	a heavy, prolonged attack of words, blows <i>"Suddenly the speaker was under a barrage of questions."</i>
bassoon	double-reed bass woodwind instrument having a long mouthpiece attached <i>"In the school band, he played a bassoon."</i>
battalion	a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle; any large group joined in some activity <i>"He had command of a battalion during World War II."</i>
belligerent	of war; fighting; seeking war or a fight; readiness to quarrel <i>"Germany was a belligerent nation."</i>
benevolent	doing or inclined to do good; kindly; charitable <i>"He was known as a benevolent despot."</i>
biennial	happening every two years <i>"The reunion is held on a biennial basis."</i>

bilingual	of or in two languages; capable of using two languages with equal skill <i>"He was offered the position because he was bilingual in English and Spanish."</i>
bizarre	marked by extreme contrasts and incongruities of color, design, or style <i>"Her purple and orange hair was bizarre."</i>
bracelet	ornamental band or chain worn on the wrist, arm, or ankle <i>"She wore a gold bracelet on her wrist and a chain on her ankle."</i>
braggadocio	a braggart <i>"You are handsome, but you don't have to be such a braggadocio."</i>
buffoon	person who is funny and always clowning around <i>"He is a buffoon at every party."</i>
bumptious	disagreeably conceited, arrogant, or forward <i>"The bumptious tax assessor listened to no one."</i>
cacophony	jarring sound <i>"The cacophony in the freshman dining room was horrendous to the ears."</i>
cadence	any rhythmic flow of sound <i>"The radio announcer had a hypnotic cadence."</i>
calligraphy	beautiful handwriting; penmanship <i>"Calligraphy is an art – a talent to be thankful for."</i>
camaraderie	loyalty and warm, friendly feeling among comrades <i>"Within the Girl Scout troop, there was great camaraderie."</i>
camouflage	disguise or concealment of this kind <i>"The tanks' camouflage prevented enemy planes from seeing them."</i>
cannibal	person who eats human flesh; animal which eats its own kind <i>"The missionary taught the cannibal how to stop the practice."</i>
canonical	according to or ordered by church law <i>"These regulations are canonical."</i>
capacious	roomy, spacious <i>"The woman's new handbag was capacious."</i>
capitulation	statement of the main parts of a subject; conditional surrender <i>"Their leader decided that capitulation was best."</i>
carbonaceous	of, consisting of, or containing carbon <i>"Coat tar is carbonaceous."</i>
carburetor	a device in which air is mixed with gasoline spray to make an explosive mixture in an internal combustion engine <i>"The carburetor in the truck had to be replaced."</i>

cardinal	of main importance; principal; chief <i>"In case of emergency, the cardinal thing to do is to call the police."</i>
caricature	picture of imitation of person in which certain mannerisms or features are exaggerated for effect <i>"He drew an easily recognizable caricature of the teacher."</i>
carousel	a merry-go-round <i>"The children were riding on the carousel."</i>
casserole	earthenware or glass baking dish; the food baked and served in this dish <i>"We decided to make a casserole of lasagna."</i>
cataclysm	any great upheaval that causes sudden and violent changes <i>"The weakened government could not withstand another cataclysm."</i>
cataplexy	a condition in which consciousness and feeling are suddenly and temporarily lost, and the muscles become rigid <i>"The man on the flying trapeze could not be subject to cataplexy."</i>
catastrophe	the culminating event of a drama, tragedy; disastrous end; any great and sudden calamity or failure <i>"The sudden earthquake in Mexico City was a tragic catastrophe."</i>
caveat	a warning <i>"The caveat on the pack of cigarettes says that smoking can be harmful to your health."</i>
centennial	100 years; happening once in 100 years; celebration of 100th anniversary <i>"This year will be their city's centennial."</i>
cerebellum	the section of the brain behind and below the cerebrum; functions as the coordinating center for muscular movement <i>"In the accident, the cerebellum was injured."</i>
cessation	ceasing or stopping, either forever or for a period of time <i>"Shutting the heavy door caused a cessation of all the noise."</i>
chagrin	mortification <i>"There was chagrin by Mary's parents over her behavior at the concert."</i>
chamois	a soft leather made from the hide of a chamois, deer or sheep <i>"The gloves were made of chamois leather."</i>
chandelier	lighting fixture hanging from a ceiling, with branches for candles or bulbs <i>"The chandelier swayed, and we hurried out from under it."</i>
chaotic	completely confused or disordered condition <i>"The era of the Hundred Years' War was very chaotic."</i>

charlatan	fake <i>"The phony scientist was a charlatan."</i>
chiffon	sheer, lightweight fabric of silk, nylon, etc.; cooking made light and porous, by the addition of stiffly beaten egg whites <i>"The bridesmaids' dresses were made of chiffon."</i>
chimerical	imaginary <i>"Her fears are as chimerical as the hallucinations of insanity."</i>
chivalry	the noble qualities a medieval knight was supposed to have; courage, honor and readiness to help the weak, and to protect women <i>"We loved his chivalry, seemingly borrowed from the knights of old."</i>
choreography	the art of devising dances, especially ballets <i>"The choreography for the dance scenes in 'The Turning Point' was quite good."</i>
chronic	continuing indefinitely; perpetual; constant <i>"A chronic problem is difficult to face."</i>
cinematographer	a motion-picture cameraman <i>"Cecil B. DeMille was a great cinematographer."</i>
cinnamon	yellowish-brown spice, popular in fruit pies or quick breads <i>"Cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger were all measured carefully for the pie filling."</i>
circuitous	roundabout; indirect; devious <i>"We took a circuitous path up the mountain."</i>
clairvoyance	keen perception or insight <i>"His clairvoyance with a crystal ball was amazing."</i>
clique	a small, exclusive group of people <i>"She refused to join the clique of students."</i>
coercive	of coercion or tending to coerce <i>"During the American Revolution, the colonists fought against the coercive government of Great Britain."</i>
collate	to compare in order to consolidate; to gather together in proper order, such as pages of a book, for printing or for a binder <i>"We spent a few hours in the library to collate the roster pages."</i>
colleague	associate in office <i>"His colleague is going to attend the same workshop."</i>
colloquial	conversational <i>"The politician's colloquial language endeared him to small town voters."</i>

comatose	as if in a coma; lethargic; torpid <i>"The patient remained in a comatose condition."</i>
commingle	to mingle together; intermix, blend <i>"The separate tribes began to commingle through marriage."</i>
commission	authorization to perform duties or tasks; percentage of money taken in on sales given as pay; group with authority to act <i>"They were a commission authorized to work for the people."</i>
community	all the people living in the district, city, etc.; similarity, likeness of taste; the condition of living with others <i>"The Christmas Parade was a community affair."</i>
compassionate	feeling or showing compassion <i>"The compassionate nurse listened to the patient's tale."</i>
competition	rivalry; contest; official participation in organized sport <i>"They met in order to consider the kind of fixed rules needed for the competition."</i>
concurrent	happening at the same time; existing together; converging <i>"The judge gave the defendant concurrent sentences."</i>
condescend	to make concessions; agree; assent <i>"She would not condescend to take his advice."</i>
condign	deserved; suitable <i>"The punishment was condign."</i>
conditional	containing, implying, or dependent on a condition or conditions; qualified; not absolute <i>"The team received a conditional award pending the completion of the float."</i>
condolence	expression of sympathy with another in grief <i>"A note of condolence is appropriate at time of death."</i>
confabulation	to talk together in an informal way; chat <i>"The students met for a confabulation before going to class."</i>
conjecture	an inference, theory, or prediction based on guesswork; guess <i>"After hearing the facts, she knew that her conjecture was wrong."</i>
connoisseur	a person who has expert knowledge and keen discrimination in some field, especially in the fine arts or in matters of taste <i>"His discerning taste buds made him a connoisseur of good wine."</i>
consensus	an opinion held by all or most <i>"The consensus of party professionals was sought."</i>

constitutional	of or in the constitution of a person or thing; basic; essential <i>"Everyone in the United States has constitutional rights."</i>
contemplate	to think about intently <i>"The scientists will contemplate the new theory."</i>
contemptuous	full of contempt; scornful; disdainful <i>"The speaker was very contemptuous of the hecklers."</i>
contumacy	insubordinate resistance to authority; stubbornness <i>"The smokers displayed great contumacy by ignoring requests not to smoke."</i>
convoluted	extremely involved; intricate <i>"The convoluted plot was difficult to understand."</i>
cooperate	to act or work together; to combine to produce an effect <i>"The children were asked to cooperate by remaining in their seats."</i>
corridor	long passageway or hall <i>"The corridor was lengthy with several rooms opening from it."</i>
corsair	a pirate ship <i>"He commanded a corsair along the Barbary Coast."</i>
coruscate	to give off flashes of light; glitter; sparkle <i>"The gemstones did coruscate in the sunlight."</i>
countervail	to make up for; compensate <i>"Long hours of practice in tennis may countervail natural talent."</i>
critique	the act or art of criticizing; criticism <i>"The director did not like the critique of his movie."</i>
croissant	a crescent roll <i>"A hot, buttery croissant was enjoyed by each one attending the festive brunch."</i>
crucifixion	a crucifying or being crucified <i>"The punishment of crucifixion was practiced in ancient times."</i>
currency	medium of exchange; circulation; common acceptance; general use; paper money in circulation in any country <i>"The currency of other countries is sometimes larger in size than ours."</i>
debacle	an overwhelming defeat or rout <i>"His resignation from power caused the greatest debacle in the history of his country."</i>
decelerate	to reduce speed; slow down <i>"The driver began to decelerate as he rounded the bend."</i>

deciduous	shedding leaves annually <i>"The fall colors on the deciduous trees are beautiful."</i>
deductible	that can be deducted <i>"The expenses involved with the party were not a deductible business expense."</i>
dehydrate	to lose water; become dry <i>"Long distance running can dehydrate a runner."</i>
deign	to condescend to give <i>"I would not deign to comment on such disgusting behavior."</i>
delicacy	pleasing in taste, odor, texture; fragile beauty or graceful slightness <i>"Caviar is considered a delicacy by many."</i>
demagogue	a person who obtains power by appealing to the emotions and prejudice of the populace <i>"The demagogue gained power very quickly and ruthlessly."</i>
description	the art, process or technique of picturing in words; sort or variety <i>"Her description of the cathedral made us feel as if we'd been there."</i>
designate	to point or mark out; specify; appoint <i>"I will designate one of my friends to chair this committee."</i>
dexterity	skill in using one's mind; cleverness <i>"Her mental dexterity was amazing."</i>
diagnostic	of or constituting a diagnosis <i>"Diagnostic procedures, such as X-rays, may save someone's life."</i>
dialysis	the separation of crystalloids from colloids as the elimination of impurities from the blood during kidney failure <i>"One of our child movie stars has to be hospitalized for dialysis."</i>
diaphanous	so fine or gauzy in texture as to be transparent or translucent <i>"The diaphanous curtains made the room light."</i>
differentiate	distinguish between <i>"The shopper tried to differentiate between the two sweaters."</i>
dilapidated	broken down; shabby and neglected <i>"We bought a dilapidated house and tried to repair it."</i>
dilemma	predicament; a situation in which one must choose between alternatives <i>"His dilemma was in having to decide on which color paint to use."</i>
dirge	a funeral hymn <i>"The natives chanted a weird dirge when their chief died."</i>
discern	to perceive or recognize <i>"In the fog, she tried to discern the outline."</i>

discipline	training that develops self-control, character or orderliness and efficiency; acceptance of or submission to authority <i>"Sometimes the act of discipline is harder for the trainer than the trainee."</i>
discombobulate	to upset the composure of; disconcert <i>"Having Steve Martin for a brother would discombobulate anyone."</i>
disproportionate	not in proportion <i>"The harsh punishment was disproportionate to the infraction."</i>
dissatisfied	not pleased <i>"They were angry and dissatisfied with the given explanation."</i>
disseminate	to scatter seed; to sow widely; spread abroad <i>"When the dandelion becomes that feathery little puffball, the breezes cause it to disseminate."</i>
dissent	differ in belief or opinion; the act of disagreeing; nonconformity <i>"He made known his very definite dissent concerning the decision."</i>
dissertation	a formal and lengthy discourse or treatise on some subject <i>"The student completed her dissertation for the degree of doctor."</i>
divination	a successful guess; clever conjecture <i>"Her divination of the winner was accurate."</i>
doddering	shaky, tottering or senile <i>"We had the tree topped and pruned; but in its doddering state, it was still a hazard."</i>
doggerel	trivial, poorly constructed verse; jingle <i>"The doggerel he composed is strikingly funny."</i>
ebullient	overflowing with enthusiasm, high spirits <i>"After winning the game, the fans were ebullient."</i>
eccentric	not having the same center; deviating from the norm, as in conduct; unconventional <i>"I didn't think she was too eccentric."</i>
ecclesiastical	of the church <i>"His writings were based on ecclesiastical discipline."</i>
echelon	any of the levels of responsibility or importance in an organization <i>"She worked in the echelon where major decisions were made."</i>
ecstatic	subject to ecstasy <i>"The student was ecstatic at being accepted at the university."</i>
eczema	an inflammatory, itching disease of the skin <i>"A victim of eczema, she could not wear makeup on her face."</i>

effectuate	to bring about; cause to happen; effect <i>"The team members are trying to effectuate change in spring training rules."</i>
effrontery	unashamed boldness; impudence; audacity; presumption <i>"The actress was insulted by the critic's effrontery."</i>
egalitarian	advocating, or characterized by the belief that all men should have equal political, social and economic rights <i>"The country's government was egalitarian."</i>
ellipsis	the omission of a word or words necessary for complete grammatical construction but understood in the context <i>"Add ellipsis where I have indicated on the rough draft of the legal pleading."</i>
emanate	to emit; come forth; issue, as from a source <i>"The only light seemed to emanate from the far end of the tunnel."</i>
embellish	to decorate or improve by adding detail <i>"The artist will embellish the vase."</i>
eminence	a high or lofty place, thing, etc., as a hill <i>"The spectators watched the battle from an eminence."</i>
emulate	to try to equal or surpass; to rival successfully <i>"The baby birds strutted back and forth trying to emulate the actions of their parents."</i>
encapsulate	to put in concise form; condense <i>"We tried to encapsulate the week's news in five minutes."</i>
encyclopedic	comprehensive in scope; giving information about many things <i>"The people appearing on the TV show need to have an encyclopedic memory."</i>
endeavor	try to achieve; an earnest attempt; effort <i>"We will endeavor to find our way out of the maze without help."</i>
ensemble	all the parts considered as a whole <i>"She planned to purchase a summer ensemble to wear."</i>
epitaph	an inscription on a tomb or gravestone in memory of the person buried there <i>"His epitaph was a fitting memorial to his work."</i>
epithet	an adjective, noun, or phrase used to characterize some person or thing, often specifically a disparaging one <i>"He screamed an epithet into the phone and slammed down the receiver."</i>
epitome	a short statement of the main points of a book, report, incident; abstract; summary; representative or typical of a class <i>"He was the epitome of jockeys everywhere – slim, wiry and brisk."</i>

equable	not varying or fluctuating much <i>"The equable climate was boring."</i>
equivocal	two or more meanings; purposely vague; misleading; ambiguous <i>"Her answer was equivocal, but we couldn't get a definite opinion."</i>
esoteric	beyond the understanding or knowledge of most people <i>"Few people attended the esoteric lecture on holography."</i>
etymology	The origin and development of a word, affix, phrase, etc. <i>"The origin and development of words is a branch of linguistics called etymology."</i>
eulogy	speech or writing in praise of a person, event or thing; commendation <i>"We listened with full hearts to the eulogy on President Kennedy."</i>
euphoria	a feeling of vigor, well-being, or high spirits <i>"The team had the euphoria that comes from winning."</i>
evanescent	tending to fade from sight; vanishing; ephemeral <i>"We momentarily saw the evanescent rainbow."</i>
exacerbate	to exasperate; annoy; irritate; embitter <i>"He intended to exacerbate the already tense situation by making an exorbitant demand."</i>
excusable	free from blame; justifiable; pardonable <i>"His illness was an excusable reason for not attending class."</i>
exiguous	scanty; meager <i>"She was disappointed by the exiguous amount of rations handed out."</i>
exonerate	to relieve of a burden; unload; free from guilt; absolve <i>"This alibi would prove his innocence and exonerate him of the crime."</i>
exotic	foreign, not native; strange in a different way; fascinating <i>"We grow exotic orchids in our greenhouse."</i>
expedient	useful for effecting a desired result <i>"It was expedient for him to alter the facts."</i>
expletive	an oath or exclamation <i>"She shouted an expletive when the car would not start."</i>
extensive	wide scope; covering a large area; great extent <i>"The areas of cultivation were extensive."</i>
facetious	joking, or trying to be jocular, esp. at an inappropriate time <i>"His mother could not tolerate his facetious remarks."</i>

facsimile	an exact reproduction or copy <i>"The painting was a facsimile of the original."</i>
factitious	forced or artificial <i>"Speculators were responsible for the factitious value of some stocks."</i>
fallacy	aptness to mislead; false or mistaken; deceptive; incorrect <i>"The fallacy of his argument was very plain to be seen."</i>
fascination	strong attraction; charm; allure <i>"The kitten's fascination with the ball of yarn was a delight to watch."</i>
fastidious	not easy to please; very critical or discriminating <i>"With fastidious attention to detail, the musician practiced the piece again."</i>
febrifuge	any substance for reducing fever <i>"Aspirin is a popular febrifuge."</i>
felicitous	well-chosen; appropriate; apt; yielding great pleasure <i>"He was a felicitous choice for the new position."</i>
ferocious	fierce; savage; violently cruel <i>"The lion has a ferocious growl."</i>
fictitious	imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended; assumed for disguise <i>"Some novelists use a fictitious name under which they write."</i>
filibuster	legislative body member who obstructs the passage of a bill by making long speeches, introducing irrelevant issues, etc. <i>"The senator carried out his filibuster, ignoring remarks from the floor."</i>
finesse	adroitness and delicacy of performance <i>"The hockey player's finesse won the game."</i>
firmament	the sky, viewed poetically as a solid arch or vault <i>"The sun and the moon are both seen in the firmament at that time."</i>
fissure	long, narrow, deep cleft or crack; dividing or breaking into parts <i>"The ice, breaking up, opened a wide fissure between the floes."</i>
flabbergast	to make speechless with amazement; astonish <i>"Seeing a dog climb a tree may flabbergast you."</i>
flannelette	soft, cotton cloth, light in weight <i>"She used yards of flannelette to make nightgowns for the children."</i>
fleecy	soft and light <i>"In Hawaii, we saw fleecy clouds drifting in a deep azure sky."</i>
flippant	glib; talkative; frivolous and disrespectful; saucy <i>"Her flippant manner was a disguise for how she really felt."</i>

fluctuate	to move back and forth, up and down; to be continually changing <i>"Bank interest rates fluctuate from time to time."</i>
foppery	actions or dress of a vain person <i>"His foppery of dress called attention wherever he walked."</i>
forfeit	to lose, give up, or be deprived of <i>"You forfeit privileges by not registering."</i>
fractious	peevish; irritable <i>"The fractious attitude of some of the participants clouded the otherwise enjoyable event."</i>
fraudulent	deceitful; based on trickery; intentional deception <i>"The investigation proved the papers to be fraudulent."</i>
fuchsia	shrubby plants of the evening primrose family; purplish red color <i>"The fuchsia were in bloom—a riot of pink, white and red color!"</i>
fuliginous	full of smoke or soot <i>"The chimney sweepers' coats had a fuliginous color."</i>
galleon	large Spanish ship of the 15th/16th century <i>"The galleon had four decks at the stern."</i>
garnishee	to attach a debtor's property, wages, etc. by the authority of a court, so it can be used to pay a debt <i>"The employer had to honor the garnishee on his worker's paycheck."</i>
garrulous	talking too much; loquacious <i>"The elderly prospector was an interesting though garrulous person."</i>
genuine	purebred; not counterfeit or artificial; real; true <i>"The jeweler confirmed that the stone was a genuine emerald."</i>
ghastly	horrible; frightful; ghostlike; very bad or unpleasant <i>"There was a ghastly smile on the dead man's face."</i>
gimlet	a small boring tool with a handle at right angles to a shaft having at the other end a spiral, pointed cutting edge <i>"The district attorney's gimlet eyes bored through witnesses like a power drill."</i>
gladiolus	any of the genus of plants of the iris family; a flower <i>"The garden was filled with gladiolus of many colors."</i>
gnash	to grind or strike together, as in anger or pain <i>"He began to gnash his teeth as the dentist drilled."</i>
gorgeous	brilliantly colored; magnificent; beautiful; wonderful <i>"She wore a gorgeous necklace of matched pearls."</i>

grammatical	conforming to the prescribed rules of grammar <i>"His essay was concise and grammatical."</i>
grandiloquent	using high-flown, pompous, bombastic words and expressions <i>"His grandiloquent speech caused many individuals to have second thoughts about his sincerity."</i>
grievance	circumstance thought to be unjust; resentment or complaint <i>"Many thought she had reason for her grievance."</i>
grueling	extremely trying; exhausting; harsh treatment <i>"To some, working in the mine seemed a grueling punishment."</i>
guileless	candid, frank; open <i>"His guileless smile made instant friendships."</i>
gymnasium	room equipped for physical training and games of sport <i>"In the gymnasium, the stands were filled with cheering fans."</i>
habilitate	clothe, equip, outfit; education or train mentally or physically handicapped <i>"Teachers were needed to habilitate the mentally ill patients."</i>
handkerchief	small piece of cloth, usually rectangular, for wiping the nose, eyes or face; cloth carried or worn for ornament <i>"Her handkerchief was edged with fine lace."</i>
harmonize	to be in accord; agree; pleasing arrangement of singing <i>"She brought golden chrysanthemums to harmonize with the brown, orange and white decorations."</i>
hazardous	involving chance; risky; dangerous <i>"They loved mountain climbing even though they knew it to be hazardous."</i>
heartily	friendly, sincere, cordial way; with zest, enthusiasm <i>"He laughed heartily, thoroughly enjoying the play."</i>
hegemony	leadership or dominance, especially that of one state or nation over others <i>"The Chinese say the Soviets are establishing military hegemony over the free world."</i>
hemorrhage	heavy bleeding <i>"Jim had a bad hemorrhage in his arm after the auto accident."</i>
heroism	quality of brave action; nobility; valor <i>"His heroism in rescuing the child from the water was recognized."</i>
hibernate	to spend the winter in a dormant state <i>"Bears hibernate in dens and caves or hollow trees for the winter."</i>
hilarity	noisy merriment; boisterous gaiety <i>"Smiling ourselves, we listened to the hilarity from the party next door."</i>

historical	concerned with history as a science; based on people or events of the past <i>"At the library, he almost always chose historical literature."</i>
honesty	refraining from lying, cheating or stealing; being truthful <i>"Her glowing references from former employers proved her honesty."</i>
hospitable	friendly, kind and solicitous toward guests; favoring comfort of new arrivals; receptive or open to new ideas <i>"Southern people are said to be most hospitable even to strangers."</i>
humanity	human; human characteristics or nature; mankind; people <i>"Humanity everywhere does not always have the same kindness or sympathy."</i>
humorous	funny; amusing; comical <i>"His speech was humorous as well as interesting."</i>
hybrid	anything of mixed origin, unlike parts <i>"Rock and roll is a hybrid of blues and jazz."</i>
hydrophyte	a plant growing only in water or very wet earth <i>"Each hydrophyte was a different color."</i>
hygiene	science of health and its maintenance; sanitary practices; cleanness <i>"We are taught hygiene for the preservation of health and prevention of disease."</i>
hymeneal	a wedding song <i>"The song, 'ALWAYS' has become a hymeneal solo for people who sing at weddings."</i>
hypochondriac	a person who has hypochondria <i>"The hypochondriac made his tenth visit to the hospital in ten days."</i>
hypocrisy	a pretending to be what one is not, or to feel what one does not feel <i>"The senator showed his hypocrisy by saying he was for the bill and then voting against it."</i>
ideology	the doctrines, opinions, or way of thinking of an individual class, etc. <i>"Democracy is the American ideology."</i>
idiosyncrasy	personal peculiarity or mannerism <i>"It was her idiosyncrasy to wear earmuffs in warm weather."</i>
idolize	to love or adore exceedingly; to worship <i>"He appeared to idolize his only child."</i>
ignominy	shame and dishonor <i>"What he did brought ignominy to his friends and family."</i>
ignorant	having little knowledge; inexperienced; uneducated <i>"They were ignorant of the facts of the case and could not judge."</i>

illicit	not allowed by law; prohibited; unauthorized <i>"They plotted together at an illicit meeting."</i>
illuminate	light up; make clear; to brighten; elucidate <i>"They strung more lights to illuminate the pool area."</i>
illustrate	make clear by examples; to furnish with explanatory drawings, pictures <i>"The architect made a drawing to illustrate his concept."</i>
imaginary	fanciful; unreal; visionary <i>"Being an only child, he created an imaginary playmate."</i>
immature	not ripe; not completely grown or developed incomplete <i>"The oranges are immature and will not be fully ripe until January."</i>
immediate	having nothing coming between; in direct contact; not separated <i>"All of her immediate family were present at her graduation."</i>
immunity	resistance to disease; protection against disease <i>"Having a childhood disease does not always develop an immunity to it."</i>
impasse	deadlock <i>"Russia and the United States reached an impasse in their negotiations."</i>
impatience	annoyance because of delay; restless eagerness to go or do <i>"She sat tapping her foot with impatience for the delay."</i>
impecunious	having no money <i>"I am sorry to announce that the school board is in an impecunious situation as a result of Proposition 13."</i>
imperialism	the policy and practice of seeking to dominate the economic or political affairs of underdeveloped areas or weaker countries <i>"A policy of imperialism hinders the growth of underdeveloped countries."</i>
impertinent	not showing proper respect or manners <i>"The impertinent child must be taught some manners."</i>
imperturbable	that cannot be disconcerted, disturbed, or excited; impassive <i>"The imperturbable cat sat in the midst of the moving."</i>
impulsive	sudden inclination to act; acting spontaneously <i>"She greeted them with an impulsive friendliness."</i>
incandescence	white hot <i>"The metal was heated to a state of incandescence."</i>
incongruous	lacking harmony or agreement <i>"Hiking boots were incongruous to the wet suit outfit."</i>

incorrigible	that cannot be corrected, improved, or reformed <i>"They held out little hope for the prisoner because he was incorrigible."</i>
incredulous	showing doubt or disbelief <i>"Their eyes were large with incredulous joy."</i>
incubator	artificially heated container for hatching eggs <i>"The chicks hatched in the incubator were downy and soft to touch."</i>
incumbent	currently in office <i>"The incumbent president has an advantage in the next election."</i>
indefinite	not precise or clear in meaning; vague; blurred; uncertain <i>"An indefinite amount of money was to be spent."</i>
individual	existing as a single separate thing or being; particular; unique <i>"The individual was distinguished from others by special characteristics."</i>
indomitable	not easily discouraged <i>"Even after three attempts, the new skier was indomitable."</i>
inducement	motive; incentive; persuasion <i>"As an inducement for entering into the contract, she would receive a percentage of sales."</i>
indurate	to make callous, unfeeling, or stubborn <i>"The country's leaders developed an indurate attitude toward the citizens."</i>
inertia	a tendency to remain in a fixed condition without change <i>"The nation was declining due to inertia."</i>
infatuated	lacking sound judgment; foolish <i>"He was infatuated by the John Wayne movie and decided to become a cowboy."</i>
infirmity	feebleness; weakness; frailty or ailment; defect <i>We realized his infirmity kept him a captive of a wheelchair."</i>
inimical	unfriendly; hostile <i>"The inimical participants at the rally prevented the audience from having fun."</i>
initiate	introduce; start; to admit a new member <i>"The teacher will initiate the students by teaching them the fundamentals."</i>
innovation	something newly introduced <i>"Americans are always interested in innovation."</i>
inquiry	question; query; an investigation or examination <i>"The new neighbor made inquiry of several householders concerning the customs of the neighborhood."</i>

insatiable	constantly wanting more; that cannot be satisfied or appeased <i>"After two banana splits, we knew he had an insatiable appetite."</i>
inscrutable	that cannot be easily understood <i>"Charley Chan was often inscrutable."</i>
insinuation	sly hint or suggestion <i>"Your insinuation of unfairness on my part is unjust."</i>
intermittent	stopping and starting again at intervals; periodic <i>"Heavy traffic forced us into intermittent driving."</i>
intravenous	in, or directly into, a vein or veins <i>"The doctor prescribed intravenous feeding for the patient."</i>
intrepid	not afraid; bold; fearless <i>"The intrepid pioneers forged across the mountains."</i>
intrinsic	belonging to the real nature of a thing <i>"Mel Brooks' intrinsic humor captures our attention."</i>
inveigle	to lead on with deception <i>"The salesman intended to inveigle me into buying the car."</i>
irascible	easily angered; quick-tempered <i>"The irascible old man is constantly picking fights."</i>
iridescent	having or showing shifting changes in color or an interplay of rainbowlike colors, as when seen from different angles <i>"The iridescent gemstone glowed with warm colors in the lamplight."</i>
irreparable	not reparable; that cannot be repaired, mended, remedied <i>"If the condors disappear, that will be an irreparable loss."</i>
jettison	throwing overboard goods to lighten a ship or airplane in an emergency <i>"The pilot ordered the crew to jettison some of the cargo because he had to conserve fuel."</i>
judicious	having, applying, or showing sound judgment; wise and careful <i>"The judicious driver stopped at the crosswalk."</i>
kohlrabi	a garden vegetable related to the cabbage: the edible part is a bulbous portion of the stem just above the ground <i>"The kohlrabi grew very well in the fertile soil."</i>
lackadaisical	listless; languid <i>"Tom was lackadaisical in the hot, humid weather."</i>
languid	sluggish <i>"She was a languid person, lacking force and quickness."</i>

languish	to lose vigor or vitality <i>"Without regular exercise, the body will languish."</i>
larghetto	relatively slow, but faster than largo <i>"The section of the sonata must be played larghetto."</i>
lassitude	state of being weary; tired and listless <i>"The dry desert heat caused a feeling of lassitude in all of us."</i>
laureate	worthy of honor; distinguished; pre-eminent, especially among poets <i>"Rudyard Kipling was a poet laureate of England."</i>
lavalier	an ornament hanging from a chain, worn around the neck <i>"She wore the lavalier on a chain around her neck."</i>
legation	a diplomatic minister and his staff collectively, representing his government in a foreign country <i>"The French legation provided travel information."</i>
leisurely	without haste; deliberate; slow; unhurried <i>"He strolled leisurely along the boardwalk."</i>
liaison	a linking up or connecting of the parts of the whole <i>"The negotiator acted as a liaison between players and management."</i>
literally	exactly; not imaginatively; actually in fact <i>"The house literally burned to the ground."</i>
lobbyist	representative of a special interest group trying to influence the introduction of or voting on legislation <i>"He was a lobbyist for the oil companies."</i>
luminary	any famous or well-known person <i>"The luminary stopped to sign an autograph."</i>
luminous	giving off light; shining; bright <i>"The moon was luminous in the night."</i>
maleficent	harmful; hurtful; evil <i>"Most people view terrorists as maleficent individuals."</i>
malingering	to pretend to be ill or otherwise incapacitated in order to escape duty or work <i>"My brother will malingering whenever there are dishes to do."</i>
malleable	capable of being changed, molded, trained, etc. <i>"Tin is a very malleable metal."</i>
maneuver	any movement or procedure intended as a skillful or shrewd step toward some objective <i>"The large ship's maneuver brought it closer to port."</i>

mangy	shabby and filthy; sordid; squalid <i>"They drove through a mangy neighborhood of dilapidated row houses."</i>
manifest	make clear or evident; itemized list of cargo or bill of lading <i>"The manifest showed a number of things they had not expected."</i>
marshmallow	confection or candy made from sugar, starch, corn syrup and gelatin <i>"Marshmallow candy was not my favorite."</i>
maudlin	foolishly and tearfully or weakly sentimental <i>"Their maudlin sympathy angered me."</i>
maximize	to increase to the maximum; raise to the highest possible degree; enlarge, intensify <i>"Companies are trying to maximize profits."</i>
meaningful	having significance or purpose <i>"He gave a meaningful nod, letting me know he was ready to leave."</i>
meddlesome	interfering; mixing in affairs without being asked <i>"Her meddlesome ways made no friends for her."</i>
mellifluous	sounding sweet and smooth; honeyed <i>"She was possessed of a mellifluous voice."</i>
merriment	gaiety; fun; mirth; something that amuses or entertains <i>"The clowns brought much merriment to the small children."</i>
metallic	having the nature of metal; containing or producing metal <i>"The new car was a bright, metallic green."</i>
metamorphosis	change of form, shape, structure, or substance <i>"The metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly is one of nature's miracles."</i>
miasma	an unwholesome or befogging atmosphere, influence <i>"The miasma created by the factories was unhealthy."</i>
miscreant	an evil person; criminal; villain <i>"The miscreant was imprisoned for stealing."</i>
minimum	smallest possible quantity, number or degree; lowest point <i>"The minimum number for the committee was five."</i>
mnemonic	helping, or meant to help, the memory <i>"The computer is a great mnemonic development."</i>
molasses	thick, dark brown syrup produced during the refining of sugar <i>"We enjoyed the newly baked bread spread with molasses."</i>

monologue	a play, skit, or recitation for one actor only <i>"The guest artist at the testimonial dinner gave a very humorous monologue."</i>
mucilage	gum or glue, etc. used as an adhesive <i>"Snapshots used to be stuck in our old albums with mucilage."</i>
mulligatawny	an East Indian soup of meat, etc., flavored with curry <i>"Mother had a very special recipe for mulligatawny."</i>
munificence	very generous in giving; lavish <i>"The president thanked the donor for her munificence."</i>
muumuu	a full, long, loose garment for women, usually worn by Hawaiians <i>"In Hawaii, she bought a beautiful, brightly printed muumuu."</i>
mystify	to puzzle or perplex <i>"When they don't see the radio, the sound will mystify them."</i>
narrative	in story form; a story, account, tale <i>"Between the scenes of the play, one student read narrative passages."</i>
necessary	essential; indispensable; mandatory <i>"The increase in dues made it necessary for us to amend the bylaws."</i>
nominee	candidate for election; one chosen or appointed <i>"There were several candidates on the ballot, but only one nominee for the office treasurer."</i>
novelette	short fictional story <i>"The novelette was made into a movie script."</i>
numismatist	coin collector <i>"The woman was a well-known numismatist."</i>
oasis	fertile place in the desert; welcome relief from difficulty <i>"The oasis had a good water well and was fringed with welcome shade."</i>
obsession	persistent idea, desire, emotion <i>"He had an obsession about spending money."</i>
occurrence	happening; event; something that takes place <i>"The second occurrence of the conference will not be until next year."</i>
official	holding position of authority; authorized <i>"The umpire was the official supervising the athletic contest."</i>
ogle	to stare at boldly in an impertinent, provocative way <i>"The variety of cookies in the bakery window caused the children to ogle them."</i>

oligarchy	a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few persons <i>"Political office was restricted to those who knew a member of the oligarchy."</i>
omission	failure to include; left out; failure to do as one should <i>"The omission of the word changed the context of the sentence."</i>
omniscient	having infinite knowledge <i>"Goethe was omniscient in his era."</i>
onomatopoeia	formation of a word by imitating the natural sound associated with the object or action involved <i>"He used onomatopoeia to create sounds in his poetry."</i>
opaque	not letting light pass through; not transparent or translucent <i>"The window shade was opaque, emitting no light at all."</i>
opponent	person against one; adversary <i>"The candidate's opponent waged a clean campaign."</i>
opulent	very wealthy or rich <i>"The car's interior was opulent."</i>
oread	a mountain nymph <i>"She glided through the misty forest like an oread."</i>
ostracize	to banish, bar, exclude <i>"Cheating caused his friends to ostracize him."</i>
pageantry	gorgeous display <i>"Behind the pageantry and politicking, the negotiators worked hard."</i>
parallel	extending in the same direction, at the same distance, never to meet <i>"Fern Avenue and Cypress Avenue run parallel to each other."</i>
paramount	ranking higher than any other, as in power or importance; chief; supreme <i>"The paramount goal was to save the Union."</i>
paraphernalia	personal belongings; articles used in a particular activity <i>"Bring along your fishing paraphernalia when we go camping next week."</i>
parody	a poor or weak imitation <i>"The play was a parody of the Broadway hit."</i>
parsimonious	miserly <i>"Scrooge was a parsimonious man."</i>
passable	can be circulated as genuine; can be traveled, crossed over; adequate <i>"The mountain road was winding and narrow but looked passable."</i>

pedagogue	a teacher <i>"Only a great pedagogue could have taught that complex course."</i>
perceptive	able to perceive quickly and easily <i>"The driver was perceptive and avoided the accident."</i>
perennial	lasting or continuing for a long time <i>"Billie Jean King was a perennial champion."</i>
perforate	to make a hole or holes through, as by punching or boring; pierce <i>"You must perforate the ballot to record your selections."</i>
pejorative	disparaging or derogatory <i>"Her pejorative comment discouraged me from trying."</i>
permeable	that which can be permeated <i>"The skin is a semi-permeable membrane."</i>
pernicious	fatal; deadly <i>"The common cold is usually not a pernicious disease."</i>
perpetuity	the state or quality of being perpetual <i>"Perpetuity is implied in the fundamental law of all national governments."</i>
persiflage	light, frivolous or flippant style of writing or speaking <i>"Comedians commonly use persiflage in their acts."</i>
persuade	urge to do something; to convince <i>"It was not easy to persuade him to go with the crowd."</i>
pertinent	having a connection with; to the point; relevant <i>"We thought the action was pertinent for the results we desired."</i>
phenomenal	highly remarkable <i>"Abraham Lincoln had a phenomenal memory."</i>
phenomenon	any extremely unusual or extraordinary thing or occurrence <i>"Haley's Comet is a phenomenon to remember."</i>
phlegm	thick, stringy mucus discharged from the throat, as during a cold <i>"The mixture of honey and lemon helped to rid his throat of phlegm."</i>
pinion	to confine or shackle <i>"The police threatened to pinion the suspect."</i>
pittance	small amount or share, such as money <i>"The pittance received for his labor was not enough to live on."</i>
pixilated	eccentric, daft, whimsical, puckish <i>"Walt Disney's pixilated characters entertain everyone."</i>

plagiarize	to take (ideas, writings, etc.) from (another) and pass them off as one's own <i>"The teacher told the class not to plagiarize any work."</i>
platitude	a commonplace or trite remark, especially one uttered as if it were fresh or original <i>"An original remark when repeated over and over again may become a platitude."</i>
plausible	seemingly true; seemingly honest, trustworthy, etc. <i>"The story he gave us sounded plausible."</i>
plebeian	vulgar, coarse, or common <i>"She has such a plebeian taste in home decorating."</i>
plebiscite	a direct vote by the entire people to accept or refuse the measure or program <i>"It was decided by plebiscite to continue with the old form of government."</i>
plenary	for attendance by all members <i>"The plenary session of the association was called to order by the president."</i>
plurally	several; more than one <i>"So many songs were played plurally that it was difficult to hear when one ended and the other began."</i>
potpourri	a medley, miscellany, or anthology <i>"A mixture of various meats and vegetables is called a potpourri."</i>
practically	in a workable way; almost; nearly <i>"He had practically finished all the tasks he had been given."</i>
precipitate	to cause to happen before expected <i>"The jolt may precipitate an explosion."</i>
precursor	a person or thing that goes before <i>"Elvis was the precursor of rock and roll."</i>
premiere	to exhibit (a play, movie, etc.) for the first time <i>"The audience was filled with anticipation while waiting for the premiere performance to commence."</i>
prestigious	having or imparting prestige or distinction <i>"The prestigious writer had a great following."</i>
privilege	a right, advantage, favor or immunity granted to one; option to buy or sell <i>"That privilege is held by only a certain group."</i>
prodigy	a person, thing or act so extraordinary as to inspire wonder <i>"Mozart was a child prodigy."</i>

profligate	extremely wasteful; recklessly extravagant <i>"The profligate spender was soon penniless."</i>
progeny	children, descendants, or offspring collectively <i>"The old man's progeny gathered at his home to celebrate."</i>
proliferate	to multiply rapidly <i>"As nuclear weapons proliferate, we are all concerned."</i>
propitiate	appease or conciliate <i>"His action will propitiate the striking union members."</i>
propriety	conformity with what is proper or fitting <i>"An etiquette book gives rules of propriety."</i>
proscenium	the apron of a stage <i>"The curtain closed behind her as she stepped forward to speak to the audience from the proscenium."</i>
pseudo	sham; false; spurious; pretended; counterfeit <i>"He was a pseudo expert in karate."</i>
psychosomatic	designating or of a physical disorder of the body originating in or aggravated by the psychic or emotional processes of the individual <i>"The psychosomatic patient was receiving therapy for his emotional problems."</i>
publicly	open to all; commonly known or observed <i>"It was publicly announced that there would be a merger of the companies."</i>
pursuit	try to overtake or catch; an occupation, career to which one devotes time and energy; striving for <i>"The pursuit of her career left little time for a social life."</i>
qualms	sudden brief feelings of sickness, faintness, nausea; feelings of doubt <i>"He had qualms about having cheated on the test."</i>
quarrel	cause for dispute or disagreement; to find fault; complain heatedly <i>"A quarrel can break up friendly relations."</i>
quasi	having a likeness to something; resembling <i>"The quasi scholar carried many books, but never read them."</i>
questionnaire	form used for gathering information; set of questions <i>"The questionnaire was lengthy but fun to do."</i>
quixotic	extravagantly chivalrous or romantically idealistic <i>"Patrolling the streets with knights in white armor is the quixotic method of solving crime."</i>
raillery	light, good-natured ridicule or satire <i>"Sir Winston Churchill's raillery often provoked laughter."</i>

rapport	relationship, esp. a close one; agreement; harmony <i>"She and her sister enjoyed a friendly rapport."</i>
rapscallion	a rascal; rogue <i>"The rapscallion ran off with the money."</i>
ratiocinate	to reason logically and methodically <i>"Fred needed to ratiocinate in order to win the debate."</i>
rebellion	act or state of armed resistance; defiance of authority <i>"The rebellion was well armed and organized."</i>
receipt	written acknowledgement; to mark paid <i>"The receipt showed the invoice had been paid in full."</i>
receptacle	container; vessel to hold something <i>"The antique hall stand had a metal receptacle for wet umbrellas."</i>
recipe	a list of ingredients and directions for preparing a dish; procedure <i>"The recipe for carrot cake was one of her grandmother's favorites."</i>
reconnaissance	an exploratory survey or examination <i>"The corporal led a special squad on a reconnaissance mission."</i>
redolence	the quality or state of being redolent, fragrant, aromatic <i>"I liked the redolence of the pine boughs."</i>
rejuvenate	to make seem fresh or new again <i>"A long vacation will rejuvenate him."</i>
relegate	to refer, commit, or hand over for decision, action <i>"The director will relegate the problem to the committee."</i>
relieve	lessen pressure; lighten or reduce pain; free or send help <i>"They played games to relieve the monotony of the trip."</i>
reminisce	to think, talk or write about remembered events or experiences <i>"We sat at the table to reminisce about our childhood experiences."</i>
repartee	a quick, witty reply <i>"The first rule of repartee is better never than late."</i>
repatriate	to send back or return to the country of birth, citizenship, or allegiance <i>"We hope they will repatriate our prisoners of war."</i>
repertoire	the stock of special skills, devices, techniques of a particular person or particular field of endeavor <i>"The ball player's repertoire was amazing."</i>
replicate	to repeat or duplicate <i>"The scientist will try to replicate the experiment."</i>

repository	a box, chest, closet, or room in which things may be placed for safe keeping <i>"The jewels were missing from the repository."</i>
repossess	reclaim; get back <i>"The buyer failed to make payment, so the furniture was available for the seller to repossess."</i>
reprehensible	deserving to be reprehended <i>"Assassination is a reprehensible crime."</i>
rescind	to revoke, repeal, or cancel <i>"The officers of the company will rescind the ruling."</i>
resilient	recovering strength, spirits, good humor, etc., quickly; buoyant <i>"The American people are very resilient; they bounce back no matter what happens."</i>
resistance	act of opposing, withstanding; ability to ward off disease <i>"It is hoped that flu shots will increase our resistance to colds."</i>
resonance	the sound produced in the percussion of some part of the body, especially of the chest. <i>"The deep resonance of his voice was his radio trademark."</i>
responsibility	obligation; accountability; dependability <i>"Getting her homework in was her responsibility."</i>
restitution	a making good for loss or damage <i>"The settlement was a fair restitution for the accident."</i>
retaliate	to return like for like <i>"The government plans to retaliate for the terrorism."</i>
retroactive	having application to or effect on things prior to its enactment <i>"The retroactive pay increase was appreciated by all of the workers."</i>
reverie	a dreamy, fanciful, or visionary notion or daydream <i>"Her reverie was broken by his loud arrival."</i>
rheostat	a device for varying the resistance of an electric circuit without interrupting the circuit <i>"A light dimmer is a rheostat."</i>
righteous	just, upright manner of acting; morally justifiable <i>"The minister stormed in righteous anger from the pulpit."</i>
rigmarole	a foolishly involved, fussy, or time-wasting procedure <i>"Registration for school is full of rigmarole."</i>
rosette	ornament made of ribbons gathered in the shape of a rose <i>"He wore a rosette in the buttonhole of his lapel."</i>

rudiment	a first principle, element, or fundamental, as of a subject to be learned <i>"One rudiment of singing is proper breathing."</i>
sacrosanct	very sacred, holy, or inviolable <i>"The congregation felt the church was sacrosanct."</i>
salient	noticeable; conspicuous <i>"Major Richard outlined briefly the salient feature of the new recruiting plan."</i>
sanguinary	bloodthirsty <i>"Some corsairs were very sanguinary."</i>
sapphire	hard, transparent precious stone of deep blue color <i>"My sapphire had a six-pointed star in it."</i>
scallion	variety of onion; long stem and almost bulbless root <i>"We prefer the scallion rather than the large white or yellow onion."</i>
scarcity	inadequate supply; rarity; uncommonness <i>"During the hot spell of summer, we had a scarcity of water."</i>
scathing	searing; withering; harsh or caustic <i>"The Prince of Wales launched a scathing attack on British industrialists."</i>
schism	a split or division in an organized group or society <i>"The selection of a new minister caused a schism in the church."</i>
schooner	a ship with two or more masts rigged fore and aft <i>"The schooner stood well out in the bay but was easily seen."</i>
scintilla	a particle; the least trace: used only figuratively <i>"Wild charges flourished without a scintilla of evidence."</i>
sciolism	superficial knowledge <i>"His sciolism was in keeping with his character as a charlatan."</i>
scissors	a cutting instrument; having two blades which work against each other <i>"The scissors used by the kindergarteners have blunt ends."</i>
scrimmage	rough and tumble fight; confused struggle; football play <i>"The two teams lined up to take part in the scrimmage."</i>
scrumptious	very pleasing, attractive esp. to the taste; delicious <i>"Not a crumb of the scrumptious cake was left."</i>
semaphore	an apparatus or system for signaling <i>"The Navy often uses a semaphore system to send messages between ships at sea."</i>
sepulcher	tomb <i>"Many thousands of pilgrims visited the sepulcher of Saint Thomas Becket."</i>

seraglio	the palace of a Turkish sultan <i>"The crown jewels were located in the seraglio."</i>
serene	not disturbed or troubled <i>"The serene lake did not have a ripple on the surface."</i>
serviette	a table napkin <i>"A serviette depicting Christmas scenes was at everyone's place."</i>
shibboleth	any phrase, custom, etc., distinctive of a particular party, class, etc. <i>"The Piedmont accent along the east coast is the shibboleth of the landed gentry."</i>
shrubbery	place of low-growing, woody plantings <i>"We lost the ball when it went into the shrubbery."</i>
silhouette	an outline of a figure, garment, etc. <i>"Jean's face was a silhouette against the screen."</i>
smidgen	a small amount; a bit <i>"A smidgen of pepper should be added next."</i>
solicitor	one who seeks contributions or trade <i>"He came to the door as a solicitor for the Heart Fund."</i>
solicitous	showing care, attention, or concern <i>"The parents were solicitous about the child's health."</i>
solstice	either of two points on the sun's ecliptic at which it is farthest north or south of the equator <i>"In the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice comes just before Christmas."</i>
somnolent	sleepy; drowsy <i>"The somnolent truck driver stopped for coffee."</i>
sophomoric	of, like, or characteristic of a sophomore or sophomores, often regarded as self-assured, opinionated, though immature <i>"The sophomoric antics of our government were exposed."</i>
spasmodic	having an involuntary contraction, temporarily or intermittently <i>"She had a spasmodic tic in her right eyelid."</i>
spectroscopy	the use of the spectroscope to study optics <i>"The study of optics is aided by spectroscopy."</i>
statute	established rule; legislation passed <i>"The statute was passed by the state legislative body."</i>
strategic	favorable planning; maneuvering advantageously <i>"Winning at chess consists of strategic moves."</i>

stymie	to block; impede <i>"Bad weather may stymie our picnic plans."</i>
subcutaneous	being, used, or introduced beneath the skin <i>"He located the sliver in the subcutaneous part of his finger."</i>
substantive	of considerable amount or quantity; substantial <i>"His donation of \$5000 was substantive."</i>
succinct	clearly and briefly stated <i>"The commander's orders to his men were succinct."</i>
succumb	give away to; yield or submit <i>"We expected him to succumb to persuasion."</i>
superfluous	not needed, unnecessary, irrelevant <i>"I have cut down every superfluous expense."</i>
superintendent	person in charge; supervisor, custodian <i>"The superintendent was found to be honest and trustworthy."</i>
surreptitious	acting in a secret, stealthy way <i>"The conspirators held a surreptitious meeting."</i>
surveillance	supervision or inspection <i>"The police kept the prisoners under constant surveillance."</i>
sycophant	a person who seeks favor by flattering people of wealth or influence <i>"A sycophant will try to attach himself to a celebrity."</i>
syllipsis	a grammatical construction <i>"A syllipsis is used to modify two or more words in the same sentence."</i>
sympathize	to share or understand another's feelings; express pity <i>"They could sympathize with their neighbors who had been robbed."</i>
synthesis	the putting together of parts or elements so as to form a whole <i>"A good composition is the synthesis of many skills."</i>
syzygy	either of two opposing points in the orbit of a heavenly body at which it is in conjunction to or in opposition to the sun <i>"We studied the condition of syzygy in astronomy."</i>
technical	technical arts or applied sciences; the practical arts <i>"Only a technical expert would be aware of the meaning of those terms."</i>
tenacious	persistent, stubborn <i>"He had tenacious courage as he faced the endless pile of papers on his desk."</i>
tenuous	not substantial, slight, flimsy <i>"The tenuous bridge was washed away in the storm."</i>

therapeutic	<p>serving to cure or heal; curative</p> <p><i>"The therapeutic treatment hastened his recovery."</i></p>
tranquilizer	<p>a person or thing that tranquilizes</p> <p><i>"The doctor gave his nervous patient a tranquilizer."</i></p>
transmission	<p>something transmitted</p> <p><i>"The radio transmission was received in Brazil."</i></p>
unctuous	<p>oily or greasy</p> <p><i>"His manner was unctuous as he tried to talk her out of the car keys."</i></p>
unprecedented	<p>unheard-of; novel</p> <p><i>"The president took unprecedented steps toward peace."</i></p>
unscathed	<p>not hurt, uninjured, unharmed</p> <p><i>"She was unscathed by their criticism."</i></p>
utilitarian	<p>of or having to do with utility; usefulness</p> <p><i>"A garbage can is a very utilitarian gift."</i></p>
vengeance	<p>revenge</p> <p><i>"The family sought vengeance for the loss."</i></p>
verdigris	<p>a green or greenish-blue coating that forms like rust on brass, bronze, or copper</p> <p><i>"The verdigris on the city hall dome must be removed."</i></p>
verisimilitude	<p>the appearance of being true or real</p> <p><i>"The color treatment of black and white movies has a verisimilitude."</i></p>
vertigo	<p>a subjective sensation of dizziness in which an individual feels that he, or his surrounding, is whirling about sickeningly</p> <p><i>"With too much stress, she suffered from vertigo."</i></p>
vicissitude	<p>shifting circumstances</p> <p><i>"A vicissitude of public life is the election process."</i></p>
vignette	<p>a short, delicate literary sketch</p> <p><i>"The vignette was a great work by the promising author."</i></p>
xenophobia	<p>fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything foreign or strange</p> <p><i>"Xenophobia limits people from learning about others."</i></p>
zealot	<p>a person who is zealous to an extreme degree; fanatic</p> <p><i>"The zealot was dedicated to the cause."</i></p>

Level III

aardvark	burrowing African mammal; earth pig <i>"The aardvark feeds on ants and termites and is active at night."</i>
abattoir	to beat down; fell; a slaughterhouse <i>"They built a new abattoir on the outskirts of the city."</i>
abecedarian	beginning student; learning the alphabet <i>"The abecedarian in his class had never attended school until now."</i>
abeyance	temporary suspension, as of an activity or function <i>"Due to the rain, the rodeo was in abeyance."</i>
abhorrence	loathing; detestation; something repugnant <i>"She watched with abhorrence as the snakes were fed live mice."</i>
abnegate	deny or refuse; renounce; to give up all claim to <i>"He said he would abnegate all claims to the property."</i>
abolitionist	one who favored giving up slavery <i>"He was from the north and a known abolitionist."</i>
abreact	to relieve emotion by talking about it <i>"She decided to abreact her feelings by talking to her sister."</i>
abscissa	the coordinate representing the distance of a point from the y-axis measured along a line parallel to the x-axis <i>"The abscissa is the value of all x coordinates."</i>
acanthoid	spiny or spiny-shaped <i>"The cactus plant is an acanthoid."</i>
acappella	without instrumental accompaniment <i>"They both sang in the acappella choir in high school."</i>
accelerator	a person or thing that increased the speed of something <i>"A chemical was used as an accelerator in the development of the film."</i>
accumbent	lying down <i>"The gardener planted accumbent ivy that spread over the old brick walk."</i>
accusatorial	of, or in the manner of, an accuser; blamer <i>"Her friend spoke in an accusatorial tone thinking she was to blame."</i>
acidulous	somewhat sarcastic <i>"The comedian's stare of acidulous contempt embarrassed the man in the front row."</i>
acolyte	one who assists in a religious service; follower <i>In the days of the political machine, the party boss and his acolyte ran the city."</i>

acquiescent	agreeing or consenting without protest, but without enthusiasm <i>"Most of the class was acquiescent."</i>
acuate	having a sharp point <i>"The guard dog bared his murderously acuate teeth."</i>
adamant	unyielding <i>"The author's pleas to extend the deadline met with adamant refusal."</i>
adiabatic	involving expansion or compression without loss or gain of heat <i>"The compression and power strokes of a gasoline engine are adiabatic processes."</i>
aeronautics	the science, art, or work of designing, making, and operating aircraft <i>"He specialized in aeronautics in college, because he was fascinated with flying."</i>
aeroneurosis	nervous disorder of airplane pilots caused by the tension of flying <i>"His abdominal pains were suggestive of aeroneurosis."</i>
affectionately	devotedly; lovingly; warmly <i>"His daughter patted him affectionately as she left the room."</i>
affidavit	written statement made before a notary public <i>"She willingly signed the affidavit the same day."</i>
agape	with or as with the mouth wide open, in surprise, wonder, etc. <i>"The news reporters were agape at the President's speech."</i>
agglutinated	stuck together as with glue; joined by adhesion <i>"The blood cells formed an agglutinated mass suspended in the fluid."</i>
aggrieved	offended; wronged; injured in one's legal rights <i>"She felt aggrieved by the treatment she received from her family."</i>
agitprop	of or for agitating and propagandizing <i>"David was a foreign-trained agitprop who infiltrated the trade unions."</i>
agonistic	contesting; combative <i>"A horde of agonistic lawyers stormed the bench."</i>
agoraphobia	abnormal fear of crossing, or of being in, open spaces <i>"The psychiatrist sees patients with severe agoraphobia in their homes since they are too fearful to come to her office."</i>
aiguille	peak of rock shaped like a needle <i>"The aiguille was so high in the air it could be seen for miles."</i>
akimbo	with hands on hip and elbows bent outward <i>"Arms akimbo, the teacher stood waiting for an answer."</i>

alacrity	eager willingness or readiness, often manifested by quick, lively action <i>"Tip in hand, the maitre d' seated the couple with alacrity."</i>
alchemy	early form of chemistry; changing something to something better <i>"The chief aim in the study of alchemy in the Middle Ages was to change baser metals into gold and to discover the elixir of perpetual youth."</i>
algae	group of plants having no true root, stem or leaf <i>"Chemicals help to keep algae from growing in the swimming pool."</i>
alignment	arrangement in a straight line <i>"He was engineering a ground plan of alignment."</i>
allegiance	obligation of support and loyalty <i>"A citizen owes allegiance to his government."</i>
allonym	another name, usually historical, adopted by an author <i>"The writer's allonym was Socrates."</i>
alopecia	loss of hair on the head; baldness <i>"Because he suffered from alopecia, he wore a wig."</i>
altruistic	unselfish <i>"Some thought his campaign donations altruistic, others interpreted them as self-serving."</i>
alyssum	plant in the mustard family <i>"We planted sweet alyssum as a border along the walkway."</i>
amateur	nonprofessional; one who does something for pleasure rather than for pay <i>"He was a very skilled amateur athlete."</i>
amaurosis	partial or total blindness <i>"He walked everywhere through the city though he suffered from amaurosis."</i>
ambiance	an environment or its distinct atmosphere <i>"The ambiance of New Orleans is very European."</i>
ambulatory	able to walk and not confined to bed <i>"He was ambulatory six weeks after surgery."</i>
ameliorate	to make or become better; improve <i>"The children at the orphanage thought the new wing would ameliorate the current conditions."</i>
amenity	pleasant quality; attractiveness <i>"Scarlett O'Hara got what she wanted without forsaking a single amenity of plantation life."</i>
amethyst	a purple or violet variety of quartz used for jewelry <i>"The Greeks believed that the amethyst prevented intoxication."</i>

amoeba	microscopic one-celled animal <i>"The amoeba is found in soil and in water."</i>
amphibious	can live both on land and in water; can operate or travel on land or on water <i>"The seaborne transport made an amphibious landing of troops on shore."</i>
anaglyph	ornament carved in low relief, such as a cameo <i>"The anaglyph sometimes seems three dimensional."</i>
annihilate	to bring to nothing; destroy completely <i>"Nuclear war would annihilate the earth."</i>
anodyne	relieving or lessening pain; soothing <i>"Though said without feeling, her anodyne words comforted his bruised ego."</i>
antediluvian	of or relating to the time before the biblical flood; made or developed a long time ago <i>"Our prospective home is in good condition except for an antediluvian heating system that needs to be replaced."</i>
anthropomorphic	characterized by the ascribing of human characteristics to inanimate objects or animals <i>"The poet wrote an anthropomorphic description of a tree."</i>
applique	applying decorative material to another by sewing or adhesive <i>"We embroidered flowers from a printed cloth to applique on her sweater."</i>
arabesque	a complex and elaborate design of intertwined flowers, foliage, geometrical patterns, etc., painted or carved in low relief <i>"The famous unicorn tapestry, with its intricate floral pattern, is an arabesque."</i>
arachnoid	resembling a spider's web; covered with or made up of thin, soft, entangled hairs <i>"Resorting to feminine wiles, she chose an arachnoid dressing gown for her date with the foreign diplomat."</i>
arboreal	living in trees or adapted for living in trees <i>"Monkeys are arboreal creatures."</i>
archipelago	a group or chain of many islands <i>"We visited the Philippine archipelago last year."</i>
arenaceous	sandy <i>"The cactus grows well in arenaceous soil."</i>
assentation	immediate and usually flattering or hypocritical assent <i>"The junior executive ingratiated himself with his superiors because of his constant assentation."</i>

assiduous	diligent; persevering <i>"Jack's assiduous study habits made up for his notable lack of gray matter."</i>
asthenic	designating or of a constitutional body type of slender physique <i>"The psychologist, Thompson, theorized that the asthenic body type indicated a weak character."</i>
autarky	national policy of getting along without imports <i>"In its disastrous attempt to achieve autarky, the Cambodian government abolished foreign trade."</i>
bacchant	a drunken carouser <i>"The sleeping bacchant lay propped against the column of the hall."</i>
balalaika	stringed instrument like a guitar but with only three strings <i>"The balalaika is a favorite instrument of the Russian people."</i>
barouche	four-wheeled carriage with a collapsible hood, two double seats opposite each other and a box seat in front for the driver <i>"We were able to rent a barouche with a driver to take us through the park."</i>
beneficence	the fact or quality of being kind; doing good; charity <i>"All of the parish knew of his beneficence."</i>
bequeathed	left to another in a will; handed down or passed on <i>"He bequeathed his money to his son."</i>
bevy	any group or collection <i>"A bevy of beautiful maidens caught Frederick's roving eye."</i>
bezique	a card game resembling pinochle <i>"We enjoyed learning how to play bezique."</i>
bibliophile	person who loves or admires books; collector of books <i>"She is a bibliophile and never wants to part with any of her books."</i>
bivouac	temporary encampment, esp. in the open <i>"We decided this would be a good place to bivouac for one night."</i>
blitzkrieg	sudden overwhelming attack <i>"The blitzkrieg resulted in a quick victory."</i>
bolus	a large pill <i>"The vet prepared a bolus of antibiotics for the sick horse."</i>
bourgeois	shopkeeper; member of the middle class; self-employed person <i>"He was happy to be a member of the class known as bourgeois."</i>
boutonniere	flower or flowers worn in a buttonhole <i>"He wore a carnation boutonniere."</i>

bowdlerize	to remove passages considered offensive from (a book, etc.) <i>"The strait-laced teacher tried to bowdlerize Genesis for his Sunday school class."</i>
brachial	of or like an arm; a wing or fin <i>"He swung arm over arm in a brachial movement from one limb to another."</i>
brilliance	brightness; radiance; intensity <i>"The moon shone with almost the brilliance of day."</i>
broccoli	vegetable plant related to the cauliflower <i>"We like broccoli cooked with a cheese sauce."</i>
bromide	a trite saying or statement <i>"He bored everyone with his bromide about pennies saved and foolish pounds."</i>
brumal	of winter; wintry <i>The brumal temperatures produced frost blossoms on the window panes."</i>
buoyancy	ability or tendency to float; cheerfulness <i>"The buoyancy of the life jacket would keep her afloat."</i>
cacography	bad handwriting; incorrect spelling <i>"His cacography always brought his grades down."</i>
cairn	a conical heap of stones built as a monument or landmark <i>"The explorers set up a cairn on the beach to mark the spot where they had first landed."</i>
calcify	to change into a hard, stony substance by the deposit of lime or calcium salts <i>"Bureaucracy and old age have caused the Soviet leadership to calcify its conservatism."</i>
caliginous	dark; gloomy; obscure <i>"We lit candles which really didn't help much in the caliginous cellar."</i>
camelopard	early name for the giraffe <i>"The giraffe was called a camelopard because of its long neck like a camel and spots like a leopard."</i>
campanile	a bell tower, esp. one that stands apart from any other building <i>"The bell in the campanile rang loudly."</i>
cancellous	having a porous or spongy structure; close network of veins <i>"Some plants have cancellous leaves."</i>
canescent	become white or grayish <i>"The leaves of some plants become canescent."</i>

capriciousness	a change without apparent reason; erratic behavior <i>"Her capriciousness was evident as soon as she appeared at dinner."</i>
carillon	a set of stationary bells each producing one tone of the chromatic scale <i>"The church carillon peeled out one melody after another."</i>
carrefour	crossroads or intersection; public square or plaza <i>"We planned to meet in the carrefour when we finished our errands."</i>
cartographer	person who makes maps or charts. <i>"We went to the cartographer to get maps of the islands."</i>
castellated	built with turrets and battlements <i>"In Scotland, we saw many castellated buildings that were centuries old."</i>
catachresis	incorrect use of a word or words <i>"The editor checks for catachresis."</i>
catfalque	temporary wooden framework on which a coffin is placed <i>"Under the coffin, the catfalque was draped in white satin."</i>
catechism	a formal series of questions <i>"The prospective church member studied his catechism."</i>
caterwaul	shrill howling sound like a cat; screech <i>"In the quiet of the night, a caterwaul broke the silence."</i>
catharsis	the purifying of the emotions or relieving of emotional tensions, esp. by art <i>"For Nietzsche, Wagner's Ring cycle triggered a catharsis that led to tears."</i>
celerity	swiftness in acting or moving; speed <i>"Sitting on the tack made him jump up with comic celerity."</i>
chameleon	lizard with the ability to change skin color; changeable person <i>"The chameleon blended so well with its surroundings that it was hard to find."</i>
chancellor	chief secretary of an embassy; university title for executive <i>"The chancellor of the consulate was ordered to return to his country."</i>
charismatic	of, having, or resulting from charisma, the power of winning devotion of large numbers of people <i>"Churchill was a charismatic speaker who captured people's imagination."</i>
chauffeur	driver of a private automobile for someone else <i>"The chauffeur drove her to school each day."</i>
chelicera	the first pair of appendages of spiders <i>"The spider uses its chelicera to grasp and crush with."</i>

chiaroscuro	the treatment of light and shade in a painting, drawing, etc., to produce the illusion of depth, a dramatic effect <i>"Many painters use chiaroscuro to heighten the drama in their paintings."</i>
chignon	a knot or coil of hair worn at the back of the neck <i>"She kept her hair from her eyes by knotting it into a chignon."</i>
chinoiserie	ornate style of decoration for furniture, textiles, ceramics, etc. <i>"In 18th century Europe, chinoiserie was very popular."</i>
chlorophyll	the green pigment found in plants <i>"The chlorophyll in plants is deeper in those that grow in bright sunlight."</i>
choleric	having or showing a quick temper or irascible nature <i>"His editor was prone to choleric fits provoked by spelling errors."</i>
chortle	to make, or utter with, a gleeful clucking or snorting sound <i>"When his horse finished in first place, he began to chortle in delight."</i>
chronological	in order of occurrence <i>"I'm trying to achieve a chronological album of snapshots."</i>
cicerone	a guide who explains the history and chief features of a place to sightseers <i>"In Rome, they hired a cicerone to show them the Colosseum."</i>
circumlocution	in a roundabout, indirect, or lengthy way of expressing something <i>"When asked where she had been, their daughter responded with an outrageous circumlocution."</i>
circumspect	cautious; careful <i>"Eisenhower's circumspect attitude toward the presidency guaranteed a quiet decade."</i>
cirriped	subclass saltwater crustaceans such as barnacles <i>"We hauled the cruiser out of the water to scrape the cirriped from the keel."</i>
coalesce	to grow together; to unite or merge into a single body, group, etc. <i>"The splint would help the broken bones to continue to coalesce."</i>
coetaneous	contemporary <i>"We selected the coetaneous furniture."</i>
colloquialism	conversational style or usage; informal idiom <i>"Colloquialism is mistakenly thought to be substandard which it is not."</i>
comestible	edible <i>"Although the soldiers were on the road, they prepared a meal that was very comestible."</i>

commensurable	two quantities having a common measure; properly proportioned <i>"In the union of the commensurable organisms, one is benefited, and the other neither benefits nor is harmed."</i>
commodious	offering plenty of room; spacious <i>"The commodious office building housed twelve thousand workers."</i>
contumelious	insulting and humiliating <i>"Oscar Wilde bore the contumelious remarks of his critics with admirable dignity."</i>
corroborate	confirm; bolster; support; prove validity <i>"The evidence will corroborate her testimony."</i>
costermonger	a person who sells fruits or vegetables from a cart or street stand <i>"A costermonger is not renowned for his delicacy."</i>
crenelated	furnished with crenelations, in the manner of a battlement <i>"The crenelated molding gave the living room ceiling a solid, fortified look."</i>
cromlech	an ancient monument of monoliths, arranged in a circle and surrounding a mound or dolmen <i>"Stonehenge, the most famous cromlech, rises from the Salisbury plain."</i>
cryptic	mysterious; baffling <i>"From his cryptic replies, she could never tell what he did for a living."</i>
crystallize	to give definite form to; to coat with sugar <i>"Some long-used customs crystallize into laws."</i>
cybernetics	a science dealing with the comparative study of the operations of complex electronic computers and the human nervous system <i>"The application of cybernetics to manufacturing has replaced many workers with machines."</i>
cynosure	one that serves to direct or guide; a center of attraction or attention <i>"For centuries, Paris has been the political, cultural, and economic cynosure for all of France."</i>
deglutition	the act or process of swallowing <i>"Painful deglutition is one of the after-effects of a tonsillectomy."</i>
deleterious	harmful to health; injurious <i>"Eating too much of the wrong foods can be deleterious."</i>
denouement	any final revelation or outcome <i>"The hero's death provided a moving denouement of the novel."</i>
desuetude	discontinuance from use or exercise <i>"Some families have allowed the traditions of Passover to fall into desuetude."</i>

dichotomy	division into two parts, groups, or classes, esp. when these are sharply distinguished or opposed <i>"The universities and the armed forces represented a dichotomy of purpose in pre-1914 German society."</i>
dilettante	a person who follows an art or science only for amusement and in a superficial way <i>"The needs of the dilettante were satisfied by the Los Angeles artistic community."</i>
dudgeon	anger or resentment <i>"Offended by the rebuke, he left the house in high dudgeon."</i>
dyslexia	impairment of the ability to read <i>"The problem of dyslexia can be overcome."</i>
eclecticism	using or upholding a chosen system or method <i>"The professor's eclecticism of his philosophy was easily understood."</i>
effervescent	bubbling up; foaming; vivacious <i>"Her happy and effervescent mood made all of us happier, too."</i>
efficiency	ability to produce with a minimum of effort, expense or waste <i>"His secretary's efficiency was more than welcome in the latest project."</i>
eidolon	an image without real existence; apparition <i>"The horse and rider appeared out of the fog like an eidolon."</i>
embrocate	to moisten and rub with an oil liniment, etc. <i>"The coach used rubbing alcohol to embrocate the runner's leg."</i>
emollient	something that has a softening or soothing effect <i>"An aggressive ad campaign touted the cream's emollient powers."</i>
empyrean	the highest heaven, the abode of God; the sky <i>"We were flying in the empyrean, yet it seemed endless above us."</i>
encaustic	painted with wax colors fixed with heat, or with any process in which colors are burned in <i>"The ancient encaustic portraits still looked newly painted."</i>
enchiridion	handbook, manual <i>"We expected the librarian would be able to help locate an enchiridion for us."</i>
encomiastic	of, belonging to, or bestowing praise; eulogistic <i>"The dinner in honor of Dr. King featured encomiastic addresses by several local dignitaries."</i>
ennui	weariness and dissatisfaction resulting from inactivity or lack of interest <i>The typists fought ennui by doing whatever they could to alter their daily routine."</i>

ephemeral	short-lived; transitory <i>"Since current fashion trends are ephemeral, I select more classic styles."</i>
epistemology	the study or theory of the origin, nature, methods, and limits of knowledge <i>"According to Kant's epistemology, all knowledge is shaped by preexisting categories in the human mind."</i>
eponym	a real or mythical person from whose name the name of a nation, institution, etc., is derived <i>"Romulus is the eponym for the city of Rome."</i>
equanimity	the quality of remaining calm and undisturbed <i>"During the stock market crash of 1929, few people maintained their equanimity."</i>
equilibrist	performer who does tricks of balancing <i>"The equilibrist on the tightrope high above us held us enthralled."</i>
equipoise	state of balance or equilibrium <i>"The nuclear arms race has produced a perilous equipoise in Soviet-American relations."</i>
equipollent	equal in power, effectiveness or significance <i>"The weights had to be equipollent on the scales."</i>
escritoire	a writing desk or table <i>"The escritoire in the museum was very old and well preserved."</i>
espionage	the act of spying <i>"James Bond's films showed the glamorous side of espionage."</i>
etiolate	to blanch or bleach by depriving of sunlight <i>"The blockage of light by the newly erected building next door caused Mary's geraniums to etiolate."</i>
euphemism	use of a word considered less distasteful even though less direct <i>"Instead of referring to the body as a corpse, they used the euphemism, 'remains'."</i>
euphony	the quality of having a pleasant sound <i>"Oscar Hammerstein is noted for his graceful euphony."</i>
exigency	a situation calling for immediate action or attention <i>"The gasoline shortage was the exigency that drove the Europeans to manufacture small cars."</i>
extrapolate	to arrive at conclusions or results by hypothesizing from known facts or observations <i>"From odd comments in the office, he was able to extrapolate the onset of a major power struggle."</i>

exuviae	castoff coverings of animals <i>"The students studying the exuviae of the snake found it fragile and almost transparent."</i>
facetiae	witty sayings <i>"Woody Allen's facetiae are happy combinations of slapstick comedy and literary satire."</i>
facultative	left to one's option or choice; optional <i>Royalty regarded most of the laws as facultative."</i>
fanfaronade	empty boasting; bluster <i>"Once the fight began, the heavyweight contender's prediction of a quick victory was exposed as the usual fanfaronade."</i>
farrago	a confused mixture; jumbles; hodgepodge <i>"The new play was an agreeable farrago of ballet, song, and poetry."</i>
fasciate	marked by broad colored bands <i>"The raccoon is easily spotted by its mask-like markings and black fasciate."</i>
flageolet	small fipple flute, similar to a recorder <i>"The musical instrument, the flageolet, is not a popular one today."</i>
flexuous	winding or weaving <i>"A flexuous goat path led down the steep cliff."</i>
fremitus	a vibration esp. one felt in a palpitation of the chest <i>"The bass' low C triggered a fremitus that buckled his ribs."</i>
fructiferous	producing fruit; fruit bearing <i>"We were pleased that the new property we purchased has several fructiferous trees growing on it."</i>
fumarole	a vent in a volcanic area, from which smoke and gases arise <i>"Near the crater's edge, the scientist came upon a small, steaming fumarole."</i>
funambulist	a tightrope walker <i>"The crowd gasped as the funambulist walked a wire stretched between two skyscrapers."</i>
fusillade	an outburst of gunfire; a vigorous outburst especially of criticism <i>"The administration was unprepared for the fusillade that greeted the announcement of its latest tax hike."</i>
fustigate	to beat with a stick; cudgel <i>"Each spring, it was her practice to fustigate her carpets."</i>
gadfly	a person who annoys others or rouses them from complacency <i>"The gadfly pestered Hollywood producers to buy his documentary."</i>

galimatias	meaningless talk; gibberish <i>"A baby's galimatias is understood only by the mother."</i>
gasconade	boastful or blustering talk <i>"The gasconade of the athlete stopped with his defeat."</i>
gibbous	designating the moon or a planet in that phase in which more than half, but not all, of the disk is illuminated <i>"The moon turned gibbous and lost the brilliance of its full phase."</i>
girandole	revolving cluster of fireworks, water jet; branched candleholder <i>"The Fourth of July girandole lasted about ten minutes."</i>
gratuitous	given or received without charge or payment; free <i>"I reject offers of so-called gratuitous merchandise, as some kind of later payment is often expected."</i>
gregarious	living in herds or flocks <i>"Baboons are gregarious animals, seldom found in isolation."</i>
grosgrain	closely woven silk or rayon fabric used for ribbons, trimming <i>"The blue of the grosgrain ribbons on her bonnet matched her eyes in color."</i>
guerrilla	member of small defensive force of irregular soldiers <i>"He volunteered to be a guerrilla and take part in the surprise raids behind enemy lines."</i>
habiliments	trappings, gear; the dress characteristic of an occupation or occasion <i>"To this day, the Swiss Guards of the Vatican are attired in the colorful Renaissance habiliments fashioned by Michelangelo."</i>
habitually	frequently; often used; customarily; continually <i>"The president habitually worked until a very late hour."</i>
hagiology	literature dealing with venerated persons; a list of venerated figures <i>"The librarian directed me to a hagiology as a reference for my paper on the lives of saints."</i>
harangue	long, blustery, noisy, scolding; tirade <i>The bosun began to harangue the slow-moving stevedores."</i>
heinous	outrageously wicked or evil; abominable <i>"Everyone was appalled at the heinous crime."</i>
hibernaculum	a structure in which a dormant animal passes the winter <i>"The bear retreated to his hibernaculum in a North Woods cave."</i>
hierarchy	a group of persons or things arranged in order of rank, grade, class, etc. <i>"The corporation has a top-heavy hierarchy, with more vice-presidents than line workers."</i>

hieroglyphical	picture or symbol representing word, syllable or sound used by ancient people instead of an alphabet of letters; picture writing <i>"The ancient Egyptians' hieroglyphical pictures are continuing to be found and translated."</i>
homiletics	the branch of theology dealing with the writing and preaching of sermons <i>"His inspired and instructive manner of communicating helped him excel at homiletics."</i>
homogenize	make more uniform by breaking down and blending; to process milk so that fat particles are finely blended and the cream does not separate <i>"Before they began to homogenize milk, our quarts of it, left by the milkman, used to freeze, and the cream would be pushed up out of the bottle."</i>
homunculus	a little man; a dwarf; manikin <i>"We talked with the homunculus in the supermarket."</i>
hypaethral	open to the sky; roofless <i>"The new stadium was still hypaethral, but a roof was planned for later."</i>
hypnagogic	of, relating to, or associated with the drowsiness preceding sleep <i>"The professor's rambling lecture had the whole class nodding and yawning in a hypnagogic lull."</i>
hypotenuse	the side of a right angled triangle opposite the right angle <i>"Our property line extended along the hypotenuse of the triangle."</i>
iconoclast	a person who attacks or ridicules traditional or venerated institutions or ideas regarded by him as erroneous or based on superstition <i>"She was an iconoclast for her rebellious ideas."</i>
idyllic	pleasing and simple; pastoral or picturesque <i>"We spent an idyllic vacation in the country."</i>
imbricate	overlapping evenly, as tiles or fish scales <i>"The imbricate pattern of the large woman's dress made her look like a house."</i>
imbroglio	involved and confusing situation; confused misunderstanding <i>"Things were so totally mixed up it became an imbroglio."</i>
immutable	never changing or varying; unchangeable <i>"We could set our clocks by his immutable daily walking schedule."</i>
impecunious	having no money; penniless; poor <i>"In this impecunious state, he was forced to seek help from his family."</i>
imperceptible	not plain or distinct to the eye or mind; not easily seen <i>"The scar on her face had healed so well it was almost imperceptible."</i>

inchoate	just begun; in the early stages; not completely formed <i>"The proposed city ordinance was inchoate, therefore not in effect."</i>
incoherent	lacking cohesion; disjointed; rambling <i>"During her attack of fever, she became incoherent and rambling in her speech."</i>
incommensurate	without a common standard of comparison <i>"A college education may cost a great deal, but it is incommensurate in personal value."</i>
inconspicuous	attracting little attention <i>"The spy attempted to enter the room in an inconspicuous manner."</i>
indigenous	existing, growing or produced naturally in a region or country; inborn <i>"The cactus plant is indigenous to the desert areas of California."</i>
inexplicable	cannot be explained, understood or accounted for <i>"We tried to discover the reason for his inexplicable terror of the dark."</i>
infrastructure	a substructure of underlying foundation <i>"The system of economic production is the infrastructure on which a society is built."</i>
innuendo	an indirect remark, gesture, or reference, usually implying something derogatory <i>"He has been criticizing me through innuendo, which I didn't realize until later."</i>
insectivore	generally small mammals, mainly active at night, that feed on insects <i>"Moles, shrews, hedgehogs are some of the insectivore order."</i>
intaglio	a design or figure carved, incised, or engraved into a hard material so that it is below the surface <i>"The ring, set with an ornate intaglio, doubles as a seal."</i>
interlard	to intersperse <i>"The President will interlard his address to the nation with quips and smiles."</i>
interregnum	interval between two successive reigns; period without the usual ruler <i>"Queen Anne of England had no heirs and died without naming her successor, so there was a short interregnum before King James was crowned."</i>
interrogatory	expressing or implying a question; set of questions <i>"The interview included a long interrogatory section."</i>
intumesce	to swell, bubble up, as with heat <i>"The tar used along the pavements for repair will intumesce with the heat of the sun."</i>

inveigh	to make a violent verbal attack; talk or write bitterly against <i>"At the City Council meeting, one man began to inveigh all his thoughts against the planning that changed the zoning of his property."</i>
irenic	promoting peace; peaceful <i>"Despite the king's irenic efforts, the treaty went unsigned."</i>
iridescence	a play of lustrous, changing colors <i>"Sunlight turned the oil-slick road into a streak of iridescence."</i>
irreconcilable	that cannot be brought into agreement; incompatible; conflicting <i>"Both persons refused to compromise their irreconcilable differences."</i>
irremissible	cannot be excused or pardoned; cannot be shirked <i>"His was an irremissible crime, and we expected him to receive a very long sentence of punishment."</i>
isoseismal	of equal intensity of earthquake shock; connecting or showing points of such intensity <i>"He had a map of the Earth's surface showing the isoseismal lines where an earthquake might be expected."</i>
jambalaya	a Creole stew made of rice and shrimp, oysters, crabs, ham, chicken, etc., with spices and, often, vegetables <i>"The Creole chef served the jambalaya every Friday."</i>
jodhpurs	riding breeches; boots high enough to cover the ankle <i>"His jodhpurs were made loose and full above the knees."</i>
juxtaposition	side by side; close together <i>"The diamond and the sapphire lay in juxtaposition on the velvet covered tray."</i>
kaleidoscope	anything that constantly changes, as in color and pattern <i>"The scenery, through the rain-streaked train window, becomes a kaleidoscope of color."</i>
kinesiology	study of the principles of mechanics and anatomy in relation to human movement <i>"Her talk on the kinesiology of African dance was highlighted by films of tribal ceremonies."</i>
labile	liable to change; unstable <i>"Oxygen is a highly labile gas that readily forms compounds with other elements."</i>
labyrinth	hard to follow passages; maze; complicated arrangement <i>"A labyrinth of mirrors was fun but scary."</i>
lachrymator	a substance that irritates the eyes and produces tears <i>"The SWAT team used tear gas as a lachrymator to force the men out."</i>
lamentation	the act of lamenting; outward expression of grief <i>"The Indian made a lamentation as he was forced to leave his land."</i>

lanate	having a woolly or hairy covering or appearance <i>"He wore a tightly curled, lanate beard."</i>
laryngitis	inflammation of the larynx <i>"His temporary loss of voice was caused by laryngitis."</i>
latifundium	large landed estate <i>"He owned a latifundium somewhere in Latin America which was worked by the natives under an overseer."</i>
legalese	conventional language of legal forms, documents, etc. <i>"The special vocabulary or legalese is often thought of as incomprehensible to the layman."</i>
leguminous	of the family of plants bearing legumes or pods <i>"Peas and beans belong to the leguminous family."</i>
lenity	the quality or condition of being lenient; mildness <i>"The lenity of his boss's reprimand surprised him."</i>
leprechaun	Irish folklore fairy in the form of a little old man <i>"The story went that if you could catch a leprechaun, he could show you a buried crock of gold."</i>
linguistics	science of language; study of the structure, etc. of languages <i>"Linguistics are usually divided into descriptive, historical, comparative and geographical."</i>
litigious	quarrelsome <i>"His litigious nature involved him in five lawsuits at the same time."</i>
loquacious	very talkative; fond of talking <i>"The two students were both loquacious, so we had to assign one of them to a different seat."</i>
lotic	designating, of, or living in flowing water <i>"The slick hair of an otter is typical of lotic creatures."</i>
lucubration	laborious work, study or writing; learned and elaborated work <i>"His literary composition was a lucubration chiefly written late at night."</i>
macabre	grim and horrible <i>"During the famine, the people faced a macabre death."</i>
magnanimity	quality of being high of mind, rising above pettiness <i>"The Sister was continuously striving for magnanimity."</i>
magniloquent	boastful or bombastic <i>"Joe McCarthy's magniloquent delivery could not hide the absurdity of his accusations."</i>

mahlstick	long light stick used by painters <i>"Using the mahlstick to rest and steady his hand, the artist was able to work longer."</i>
maladroitly	awkwardly; clumsily; badly handled <i>"She came to the rescue with a remedy for the situation which she could see was being maladroitly handled."</i>
malapropos	at an awkward or improper time or place; inopportune <i>"His malapropos manner in school caused many problems."</i>
maneuverable	controlled or planned strategy; can be moved by skilled or shrewd plan <i>"The specific aircraft strategy was maneuverable with prearranged signals."</i>
mannequin	woman or man used for modeling clothing; model of a human <i>"The window dresser was busy dressing the mannequin in the store window."</i>
mansuetude	gentleness, tameness <i>"Ghandhi's unflagging mansuetude turned nonviolence into an effective political tool."</i>
manumission	liberation; emancipation <i>"After Harriet Tubman's manumission, she helped runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad."</i>
marinara	tomato sauce, seasoned with garlic and spices <i>"The waitress served us some marinara to eat with our pasta."</i>
marionette	puppet; little jointed doll moved by strings or wires <i>"On a miniature stage the puppeteer manipulated the marionette through a short ballet scene."</i>
marsupial	mammal having a pouch in which newborn young are carried and nourished <i>"The kangaroo, opossum, wombat and bandicoot are of the marsupial family."</i>
masquerade	ball or party where one wears fancy costumes and masks; disguise <i>"The masquerade was a popular form of party during the 16th and 17th centuries among the aristocracy in England."</i>
matronymic	derived from the name of the mother or a female ancestor <i>"From way back there had always been a 'Rebecca' in the family, so the newborn child was christened 'Rebecca', a matronymic name."</i>
matutinal	of or in the morning; early <i>"Watching the sun come up was part of the reason for his preference of a matutinal walk."</i>
mayonnaise	creamy salad dressing made of egg yolks, oil, lemon juice, and seasonings <i>"Mayonnaise is sometimes made with vinegar instead of lemon juice."</i>

medallion	large medal; a relief carving resembling a medal; architectural decoration <i>"She wore the medallion on a gold chain around her neck."</i>
medieval	characteristic of the Middle Ages; suggestive of <i>"He was a devoted student of medieval customs, beliefs and history."</i>
meerschaum	soft, white, heat-resisting clay-like mineral <i>"His favorite pipe was of meerschaum."</i>
megalopolis	extensive, heavily populated area, including any number of cities <i>"Los Angeles, with a population of about three million, is the largest city in the megalopolis."</i>
megillah	long or involved explanation or story <i>"The megillah, he began to tell us, was a 'shaggy-dog' story which we became bored with before he was half finished."</i>
meliorate	to make or become better <i>"Their efforts to meliorate the conditions of the homeless were successful."</i>
mendacious	not truthful; lying or false <i>"We were suspicious of some of the information he gave us because we knew he could be mendacious."</i>
meretricious	vulgar; enticing <i>"San Francisco's Broadway section of entertainment is often considered a meretricious place."</i>
metalliferous	containing, yielding or producing metal or ore <i>"He studies metallography since his was the metalliferous business."</i>
methoxychlor	insecticide used against flies and mosquitoes <i>"The mosquitoes were especially bad at night, and we were glad to find we had methoxychlor in spray bottles in our supplies."</i>
microfiche	small sheet of microfilm on which a number of pages of microcopy can be recorded <i>"Lloyds of London kept records of casualties on a microfiche."</i>
mignonette	annual plant bearing spikes of small greenish white or reddish flowers <i>"We always had borders of mignonette in our flower garden."</i>
millennium	any period of 1000 years; of great happiness, peace or prosperity <i>"The looked-for millennium is the so-called Golden Age."</i>
mimetic	of or characterized by imitation <i>"The child's mimetic action of the care of her doll is that of a mother with her child."</i>
miscellaneous	various; mixed; many sided <i>"The drawer contained a miscellaneous collection of odds and ends."</i>

mischievous	prankish; teasing; full of tricks <i>"The mischievous child was hiding in the closet."</i>
misogamy	hatred of marriage <i>"The strong feeling of misogamy kept him a happy bachelor for thirty years."</i>
mollify	pacify; appease <i>"Would a billion dollar contract finally mollify their star quarterback?"</i>
monosyllabic	having only one syllable; to seem terse; uncommunicative <i>"He seemed dazed, and his answers to questions were monosyllabic."</i>
moquette	carpet or upholstery fabric with a thick, soft, napped surface <i>"The carpet moquette was warm in color and comfortable to walk on."</i>
morphology	form and structure of animals and plants; of physical geography <i>"Linguistic morphology deals with the internal structure and forms of words."</i>
mozzarella	soft, white Italian cheese <i>"Mozzarella cheese is incorporated in many recipes and has a mild flavor."</i>
muliebrity	womanliness; womanhood; femininity <i>"The small girl was already exhibiting the qualities characteristic of muliebrity."</i>
multifarious	numerous and varied; manifold <i>"The conglomerate's multifarious divisions employ thousands."</i>
multitudinous	very numerous; many; manifold; crowded <i>"The multitudinous group filled the small auditorium to capacity."</i>
munificent	very generous in giving; lavish <i>"The company was commended for its munificent attitude toward employees."</i>
myriad	a great number of persons or things <i>"The defense raised a myriad of objections during the prosecutor's examination."</i>
mythopoeia	the making of myths <i>"The events of Washington's lifetime give us a rich base for mythopoeia."</i>
nacreous	iridescent; lustrous <i>"The Rolls-Royce was painted a rich nacreous gray."</i>
nankeen	buff-colored, durable cotton cloth <i>"The farmwomen looked like sunflowers in their nankeen bonnets."</i>
natatorial	of, characterized by, or adapted for swimming <i>"The Australian crawl was her only natatorial skill."</i>

natatorium	an indoor swimming pool <i>"More like a country club than a home, the Vandenburg mansion features a glassed-in putting green, a natatorium, and two indoor tennis courts."</i>
nebulous	unclear; vague; indefinite <i>"Only nebulous differences separated the two parties."</i>
necessarily	unavoidably; inevitably; mandatory <i>"The judging of the parade entries was necessarily eminent within a few minutes."</i>
negus	a beverage of hot water, wine, and juice, sweetened and spiced <i>"On cold nights, they nursed steaming cups of negus by the fire."</i>
neologism	a new word or a new meaning for an established word <i>"Each neologism expands our vocabulary."</i>
nepotism	favoritism shown relatives <i>"The practice of nepotism flourished in Boss Tweed's New York where jobs went from father to son."</i>
nescient	lacking knowledge; ignorant <i>"In religious matters, Voltaire cheerfully proclaimed to be nescient."</i>
neurasthenia	a type of neurosis, usually the result of emotional conflicts, characterized by irritability, fatigue, weakness, anxiety, and often localized pains or distress without apparent physical causes <i>"The nagging pains of neurasthenia kept him out of the office for weeks."</i>
nickeliferous	containing nickel <i>"The ore brought up from the mine was nickeliferous."</i>
nihilism	the general rejection of customary beliefs in morality, religion, etc. <i>"Many see in nuclear weapons a terrifying nihilism."</i>
niveous	snowy; snowlike <i>"We like the cold, brisk, niveous weather."</i>
noctambulism	walking in one's sleep <i>"He was a victim of noctambulism but so far had not come to any harm from walking in his sleep."</i>
obcordate	heart-shaped, with the attachment at the pointed end, as a leaf <i>"It is said that the first valentines were messages penned on obcordate leaves by the imprisoned St. Valentine."</i>
obeisance	homage; deference <i>"The famous paid obeisance to Somerset Maugham by flocking to Villa Mauresque."</i>
obfuscate	cloud over; obscure; unclear <i>"When the darkness began, it was only a small area that began to on the near horizon."</i>

objurgate	to chide; to rebuke; to upbraid sharply <i>"The judge's tirade to objurgate the attorney was suffered in silence."</i>
obsequious	meanly or servilely attentive; overly compliant <i>"General Smith's obsequious staff is good for nothing but fawning and groveling on command."</i>
occasionally	now and then; sometimes <i>"Occasionally the wind would come up, fill the sail, and we would skip merrily along at a fast speed."</i>
ochlocracy	government by the mob; mob rule <i>"An ochlocracy is only popular with the mob."</i>
offal	waste parts; esp. the entrails, etc., of a butchered animal <i>"The offal is used by meat processors for dog food."</i>
olfactory	of the sense of smell <i>"Civilized life has blunted the keen olfactory facilities man once needed to stalk his prey."</i>
oligochaete	class of segmented worms lacking a definite head and few body bristles <i>"The earthworm, an oligochaete, is found chiefly in moist soil and fresh water."</i>
oligopsony	control of the purchase of a commodity or service in a given market by a small number of buyers <i>"The disastrous coffee crop produced a high-priced oligopsony."</i>
olivaceous	of, or like the olive; olive green <i>"The olivaceous color of the carpet did not really appeal to me."</i>
ombudsman	a public official appointed to investigate citizens' complaints against local or national governmental agencies that may be infringing on the rights of individuals <i>"The ombudsman uncovered evidence of widespread bribery at City Hall."</i>
omnivorous	eating any sort of food; indiscriminate, as with the intellect <i>"She was an omnivorous reader."</i>
oneiric	of or having to do with dreams <i>"Dali's surrealist canvases are known for their evocative oneiric quality."</i>
oneiromancy	practice of claiming to tell the future by interpreting dreams <i>"He was fascinated by the study of oneiromancy."</i>
ophiology	branch of zoology dealing with snakes <i>"I had never liked snakes, so my class in ophiology was almost hated."</i>
opprobrious	abusive; disrespectful; disgraceful <i>"His opprobrious conduct at the picnic led to another row with his guardian."</i>

oppugn	to call in question <i>"The strategy was to oppugn all arguments for a new school system."</i>
opuscule	a small or petty work <i>"An obscure opuscule came to light as I did my research."</i>
oriflamme	any symbol of courage or devotion <i>"The demonstrators followed a banner bearing a peace symbol, the oriflamme of the sixties."</i>
origami	the art of folding paper to form flowers, animal figures, etc. <i>"Origami is a traditional art of the Japanese."</i>
orogeny	the formation of mountains through structural disturbance of the earth's crust <i>"The Mesozoic era, called the age of orogeny, spawned the Rockies."</i>
oscitancy	drowsiness, dullness, apathy, etc. <i>"The lecturer stared out at row upon row of students with oscitancy."</i>
osmosis	an apparently effortless absorption of ideas, feelings, attitudes, etc., as if by biological osmosis <i>"The lazy student hoped to learn by osmosis."</i>
ostentation	showy display, as of wealth, knowledge, etc.; pretentiousness <i>"The evident ostentation in some of the rooms was not in good taste."</i>
paduasoy	rich, corded silk cloth <i>"The garments were beautifully tailored of the paduasoy material."</i>
paginate	to number the pages of <i>"It was the clerk's task to paginate the manuscript."</i>
palatable	pleasant or acceptable to taste; acceptable to the mind <i>"The food served, though strange to us, was palatable to both taste and mind."</i>
palpate	to examine by touching, as for medical diagnosis <i>"Suspecting tuberculosis, the doctor began to palpate her patient's back and chest."</i>
paludal	of a marsh or marshes <i>"Mosquitoes breed most rapidly in paludal areas."</i>
pamphlet	small, thin book of stapled or stitched paper, on topic of current interest <i>"The children distributed a pamphlet at each of the houses on the block."</i>
panacea	supposed cure or remedy for all ills; cure-all <i>"The new drug was a panacea for many people."</i>
panegyric	formal speech of praise; laudation; tribute <i>"The speaker made a panegyric presentation to the workers who had all helped in this year's United Fund campaign."</i>

panjandrum	a self-important, pompous official <i>"We can't help but laugh when he marches through the office with his thumbs in his lapels, the proud panjandrum of all he surveys."</i>
panoptic	including in one view everything within sight <i>"The mountaintop afforded a panoptic perch for the whole region."</i>
paradigm	pattern; example; model <i>"The teacher wrote several examples on the board so we would have a paradigm to follow."</i>
parallelogram	a plane figure with four sides, having the opposite sides parallel and equal <i>"A square is a parallelogram."</i>
paralysis	any condition of helpless inactivity or of inability to act <i>"The winter storm closed the roads and left the townspeople in a state of paralysis."</i>
parfleche	rawhide with hair removed by soaking in water and lye <i>"His warm, heavy robe was made by the Indians of parfleche."</i>
parochial	restricted to a small area of scope; narrow; limited <i>"Frequently, the views of big-city dwellers can be just as parochial as those of people who live in small, rural towns."</i>
parquetry	inlaid woodwork in geometric forms, usually of contrasting wood <i>"The parquetry floor was beautifully polished."</i>
parturient	giving birth or about to give birth to young <i>"As the cat looked for a safe place, we sensed she was soon to be parturient."</i>
patriarchate	position, rank, jurisdiction, territory, etc. of the ruling patriarch <i>"The Bishop's immediate patriarchate was the city of Rome."</i>
pavonine	of or resembling a peacock; rainbow-like in color like a peacock's tail <i>"The peahen does not have the iridescent pavonine beauty of the peacock."</i>
peccadillo	minor or petty sin; fault <i>"The peccadillo she committed by forgetting to back out of the royal presence was forgiven."</i>
peignoir	a woman's loose, full dressing gown, like a negligee but shorter <i>"The peignoir was trimmed with lace and ribbons."</i>
pendulous	hanging or bending downward <i>"The bulldog's pendulous jowls flapped softly as he ran."</i>
penetralia	the innermost parts, as of a temple <i>"The penetralia of corporate decision-making remained closed to him."</i>

penury	extreme poverty, destitution <i>"The Depression reduced many families to penury."</i>
percipient	capable of or characterized by perceptions; discerning <i>"As a keen observer, Mother is a percipient judge of other people's character."</i>
peripeteia	a sudden change of fortune or reversal of circumstances, as in a drama <i>"In 'The Great Gatsby', Myrtle's accidental death is the peripeteia that signals the protagonist's change of fortune."</i>
periphrasis	use of many words where one or a few would do; circumlocution <i>"His flowery speech actually didn't cover much ground but was a periphrasis and a waste of my time."</i>
permutation	any radical alteration; total transformation <i>"Drinking produced an unwelcome permutation in Mike's personality."</i>
peroration	the concluding part of a speech, in which there is a summing up and emphatic recapitulation <i>"In his peroration, the defense attorney highlighted the evidence that supported acquittal."</i>
perspicacious	having keen judgment or understanding <i>"The perspicacious child understood almost everything the adults said."</i>
perspicuity	the quality or state of being clear to the understanding <i>"Most of the essays are vague and confused, but his is a little gem of perspicuity."</i>
pertinacious	hold firmly to some purpose, belief, or action, often stubbornly or obstinately <i>"He remained a pertinacious socialist despite all their attempts to dissuade him."</i>
petroglyph	a rock carving, esp. a prehistoric one <i>"A petroglyph showed how the cavemen hunted bison and deer."</i>
pharmaceutical	of or by drugs or medicine <i>"Aspirin is probably one of the best-known pharmaceutical medicines."</i>
phlegmatic	hard to rouse to action; sluggish; dull; apathetic <i>"He was phlegmatic and seemed to have no enthusiasm for the game."</i>
phyletic	of or pertaining to a phylum or to an evolutionary line of descent <i>"Shockley's theories about a phyletic basis to intelligence have yet to be proven."</i>
phyllophagous	feeding on leaves <i>"Deer, caribou, reindeer and other ruminant animals can be called phyllophagous animals since leaves and greenery are their food source."</i>

pianissimo	music very soft; a passage of music to be played softly <i>"The pianist played a pianissimo passage from his score."</i>
piassava	stiff, elastic palm fiber used in making brooms, brushes <i>"Leopoldinia piassava is a palm from Brazil from which fiber to make brushes and brooms is obtained."</i>
picaresque	designating or of sharp-witted vagabonds and their roguish adventures <i>"He viewed the narrative more as a picaresque romp than a serious treatment."</i>
picayunish	smallness; trivial; petty <i>"Of little value now, the centavo, once like our American penny, worth 1/100 of the peso, is so picayunish as to be almost worthless."</i>
piceous	of or like pitch <i>"The boat had been caulked with a black, piceous substance."</i>
piebald	covered with patches or spots of two colors, esp. with white and black <i>"The piebald racehorse stood out from the rest of the field."</i>
pizzicato	to pluck the strings of musical instruments instead of using the bow <i>"The direction to the musician to play a note or a passage of the score in a pizzicato manner means to pluck the strings."</i>
plausibility	seemingly true; seemingly honest, trustworthy, often implying distrust <i>"We were suspicious of the plausibility of his story."</i>
plenipotentiary	a person, esp. a diplomatic agent, given full authority to act as representative of a government <i>"The union has named me its plenipotentiary for the purpose of this bargaining session."</i>
plenitudinous	abundant; full; stout; obese <i>"The warehouse was stocked with a plenitudinous supply of everything."</i>
pneumonectomy	the surgical removal of an entire lung <i>"His recovery from pneumonectomy was faster than expected."</i>
poignant	sharp smell; sharply painful to the feelings; piercing; biting <i>"Her poignant wit was always sure to hurt the feelings of someone."</i>
pontificate	to speak or act in a pompous or dogmatic way <i>"The professor could pontificate for hours on art."</i>
postiche	a substitute; counterfeit <i>"The jeans were a cheap postiche of designer originals."</i>
precatory	of, having the nature of, or expressing entreaty <i>"Beggars raised precatory hands to the rich tourists."</i>

prehensile	adapted for seizing or grasping <i>"The monkey's long, prehensile tail wraps easily around branches."</i>
prerogative	a prior or exclusive right or privilege, esp. one peculiar to a rank, class, etc. <i>"Seeing the chairman without an appointment was his prerogative."</i>
proboscis	elephant's trunk or a long, tapering snout; person's nose, esp. if large <i>"The elephant's proboscis is used to pick up its food and for sensing."</i>
prodigious	wonderful; amazing <i>"The flight of the Voyager is a prodigious accomplishment."</i>
prolegomenon	speak beforehand; preliminary remark or essay <i>"The prolegomenon by the chairman gave the audience some idea of what to expect of the lecture."</i>
proliferation	growing by multiplying new parts <i>"The proliferation of the buds on the rosebush was truly amazing."</i>
propinquity	nearness in time or place <i>"Among their objections to the proposed site for a chemical plant is its propinquity to a housing development."</i>
prosody	the science or art of versification <i>"Her understanding of prosody was limited to the ode."</i>
protean	very changeable <i>"Lon Chaney's protean face enabled him to assume almost any guise he chose."</i>
ptarmigan	northern or alpine grouse which undergo seasonal color changes <i>"The ptarmigan changes its color to blend in with the landscape."</i>
pulchritude	physical beauty <i>"Many a starlet would prefer to succeed on the basis of talent rather than pulchritude."</i>
pullulate	to sprout out <i>"After the rain, purple and white crocuses began to pullulate in the wild garden."</i>
purulent	of, like, containing or discharging pus <i>"The nurse cleaned the purulent wound with great care."</i>
quaestor	an official in ancient Rome responsible for administration and finance <i>"The quaestor was the state treasurer in ancient Rome."</i>
quandary	a state of uncertainty <i>"Choosing between two suitors left her in a delightful quandary."</i>
quebracho	tropical tree of the cashew family in America <i>"The hard wood of the quebracho yields an extract used in tanning."</i>

querulous	full of complaints; peevish <i>"The diners' querulous comments ceased when their food arrived."</i>
queue	a plait of hair worn hanging from the back of the head <i>"She wore her hair in a queue that reached to her waist."</i>
quiescent	quiet; still; inactive <i>"We languished in the quiescent summer air waiting for a breeze."</i>
quintessence	the pure concentrated essence of anything; the most perfect <i>"He thought she was the quintessence of loveliness in her wedding gown."</i>
quotidian	daily, recurring every day <i>"Occasionally she took a different route to work to vary her quotidian routine."</i>
raconteur	a person who is skilled at telling stories or anecdotes <i>"Bob's talent as a raconteur was helped by his knack for lying."</i>
rambunctious	wild, disorderly, boisterous, unruly, etc. <i>"With a substitute teacher, first-graders are even more rambunctious than usual."</i>
rapparee	plunderer or robber <i>"The rapparee gained entry into the house by an open window."</i>
rebarbative	repellent, unattractive, forbidding, grim, etc. <i>"His rebarbative remarks finally provoked her."</i>
recalcitrant	hard to handle or deal with <i>"Even the most recalcitrant students came to respect the teacher's authority."</i>
recidivism	repeated relapse into crime <i>"Criminal recidivism rates are very high."</i>
reciprocity	mutual action or exchange; interchange of equal value <i>"In the two countries, a reciprocity of the reduction of tariffs would be of mutual advantage."</i>
recrudescence	to break out again after lying latent or relatively inactive <i>"Political violence in Ireland began to recrudescence in 1971."</i>
rejuvenescence	renewal of youthfulness <i>"Her happiness in her marriage was apparent to all who could see the rejuvenescence in her face."</i>
renaissance	a new birth; revival; great revival of art, literature and learning <i>"The renaissance in Europe in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries began in Italy spreading to other countries and marked the transition from medieval to modern."</i>

repetitious	something done or said over and over again; tiring; boring repeatedness <i>"The repetitious admonitions to 'be careful', 'come right home', and 'don't be late', seemed so unnecessary."</i>
resuscitate	to revive, esp. to come back to life or consciousness again <i>"The doctor tried to resuscitate the patient."</i>
reticule	a woman's small handbag, originally made of network and usually having a drawstring <i>"A Raymond Chandler heroine keeps lipstick, a pillbox, and a handgun in her reticule."</i>
rhapsody	a great delight; ecstasy <i>"She was in a rhapsody over her new dress."</i>
rheumatism	painful condition of the joints and muscles <i>"Rheumatism is characterized by inflammation, pain, and swelling of the joints and muscles."</i>
riparian	of, adjacent to, or living on the bank of a river or other body of water <i>"The riparian land of the Nile delta is prized for farming because irrigation is no problem."</i>
riposte	a sharp, swift response or retort <i>"Told of Coolidge's death, Dorothy Parker's reputed riposte was 'How can you tell?'"</i>
risible	causing laughter <i>"After losing thirty pounds, he took on a risible appearance in his roomy suits."</i>
roustabout	an unskilled or transient laborer, as on a ranch or in an oil field <i>"The burly roustabout ran to the gushing well."</i>
rutilant	to have a reddish glow <i>"An autumn sunset transformed the skyscrapers into rutilant towers."</i>
saccharin	sugar substitute; noncaloric sweetener <i>"Saccharin is a coal tar compound about 500 times sweeter than cane sugar."</i>
saponaceous	soapy or soaplike <i>"Glucosides found in soapwort, soapbark, etc., become saponaceous when dissolved in water or used as detergents."</i>
sarcophagus	any stone coffin, esp. one on display, as in a monumental tomb <i>"We visited the famous sarcophagus."</i>
sarsaparilla	dried roots of the Smilax lily family; extract used as flavor for a carbonated drink <i>"Sarsaparilla seemed to be the favorite soft drink in stories of the Old West."</i>

saturnine	having a melancholy or surly disposition, sarcastic <i>"After sleeping twenty years, Rip Van Winkle was saturnine."</i>
scalawag	a scamp; rascal <i>Errol Flynn often played the role of an engaging scalawag whose heart beat true."</i>
scarify	to criticize sharply <i>"After seeing the play, the critic plans to scarify the actors for their sloppy performances."</i>
schismatic	tending to or guilty of causing a split in an organized society or church <i>"Martin Luther was the schismatic force who founded the Lutheran Church."</i>
scullion	a servant doing the rough, dirty work in a kitchen <i>"The sweaty scullion basted the huge turkey."</i>
seigniory	a feudal lord's estate. The power and authority of a feudal lord. <i>"His seigniory extended beyond his castle walls."</i>
seismograph	instrument that records intensity and duration of earthquakes and tremors <i>"The seismograph is a great invention, but we are hoping for the invention that will give enough advance notice for evacuation before the quake."</i>
semidiurnal	coming twice a day, as the tides <i>"The tide's semidiurnal shifting constantly exposed the old shipwreck."</i>
seminal	being an early and influential example <i>"Beethoven's 'Eroica' proved to be a seminal work."</i>
semiotics	a general theory of signs and symbols <i>"The candidates for governor were caught up in the semiotics of popularity polls."</i>
sentient	of, having, or capable of feeling or perception <i>"Mammals are advanced sentient beings with complex nervous systems."</i>
serried	crowded <i>"Like frightened birds, the student protestors were serried into close ranks."</i>
sgraffito	incising the outer coating of slip or glaze to reveal different ground color on ceramics, murals, etc. to produce a design <i>"The effect of sgraffito on the ceramics we bought is really striking."</i>
shenanigans	trickery; mischief <i>"Just before his birthday, Tom stops his shenanigans and becomes very good."</i>
sinistrous	ill-omened; unlucky; disastrous; sinistral <i>"She avoided black cats and ladders for fear of sinistrous influences."</i>

slumgullion	any inexpensive stew or hash <i>"He used last night's pot roast to make a slumgullion."</i>
sociopath	a psychopathic personality whose behavior is aggressively antisocial <i>"A sociopath is rarely noticed until he or she explodes."</i>
solecism	a violation of the conventional usage, grammar, etc. <i>"Between he and I' is an annoying solecism."</i>
somnambulism	sleepwalking <i>"The bungling bureaucrats operated as though in a state of somnambulism."</i>
sovereign	above all others; chief; greatest; ruler; royal; outstanding <i>"A sovereign state is independent of all others."</i>
specious	plausible, but not genuine <i>"Critics found his dazzling arguments specious."</i>
spelunker	a person who explores caves as a hobby <i>"The Mammoth Caves in Kentucky can offer a spelunker 144 miles of passageway to examine."</i>
spontaneous	acting with natural feeling, impulse; without remediation <i>"At the close of the program, the audience erupted in a spontaneous burst of applause."</i>
spoor	the track or trail of an animal, esp. of a wild animal hunted as game <i>"The hunter followed the bloody spoor to the wounded lion's lair."</i>
squamous	like, formed of, or covered with scales <i>"The squamous flesh of fish protects their inner parts."</i>
stertorous	characterized by a harsh snoring or grasping sound <i>"The next time my husband's stertorous breathing wakes me, I'll push him right out of the bed!"</i>
subterranean	beneath the earth's surface; underground <i>"It is necessary to see that there is no wood to earth contact in order to prevent subterranean termite damage to houses."</i>
superannuated	obsolete; old fashioned; outdated; old or worn out <i>"The headquarters would have to be moved soon from this large, superannuated building."</i>
supercilious	disdainful or contemptuous <i>"I could see by his supercilious manner that he considered us unworthy of his company."</i>
superfluity	a quantity or number beyond what is needed <i>"I considered her closetful of furs the worst kind of superfluity."</i>

surrogate	a deputy or substitute <i>"The captain played surrogate for the absent fathers of the men in his command."</i>
susceptibility	capacity for receiving impressions <i>"We carefully selected stories with the child's susceptibility in mind."</i>
susurrant	whispering, murmuring <i>"We sat on the beach and listened to the susurrant lapping of the waves."</i>
surveillance	supervision or inspection; watch kept over a person <i>"The detective arranged for a surveillance to be kept on the suspect."</i>
svelte	slender and graceful <i>"The beach was a composite of svelte bodies, languidly posed on chairs and towels."</i>
synchronous	happening at the same time <i>"Since both concerts were synchronous, it was hard to drive in the traffic around the auditoriums."</i>
tactile	that can be perceived by the touch <i>"At age 40, he still got a tactile thrill from making mudpies."</i>
tangential	diverging or digressing <i>"The issue of cleaning subway cars is tangential to that of making them run."</i>
tantivy	a full gallop <i>"The horsemen rode tantivy through the English countryside."</i>
tautology	needless repetition of an idea in a different word, phrase, or sentence <i>"The call for a 'renaissance of renewal' was the professor's favorite tautology."</i>
tenebrous	shut off from light; dark; hard to understand; causing or marked by gloom <i>"His warning was delivered in a tenebrous tone that filled us with dread."</i>
tergiversate	to desert a cause, party, etc.; become a renegade; equivocate <i>"We were dismayed when our publicity chairman decided to tergiversate in the middle of the campaign."</i>
terpsichorean	having to do with dancing <i>"It was terpsichorean music, not just music to listen to."</i>
terraqueous	consisting of land and water <i>"From our plane we looked down on a beautiful terraqueous area."</i>
tessellated	laid in small square blocks; arranged in a mosaic pattern <i>"The entryway was a mosaic of tessellated ceramics in two colors."</i>
testaceous	of, like or from shells; having a hard shell <i>"The waiter gave us small mallets to crack the testaceous crab."</i>

thalassic	of the sea or ocean <i>"Earth was once a shallow thalassic mass slowly nurturing life."</i>
timbre	the characteristic quality of sound that distinguishes one voice or musical instrument from another or one vowel sound from another <i>"Dvorak relied on the cello's deep timbre for the melancholy in his music."</i>
tincture	an alcoholic or water-alcoholic solution of a medicinal substance <i>"Laudanum, a tincture of opium, was widely used in nineteenth century homes."</i>
topiary	designating or of the art of trimming and training shrubs or trees into unnatural, ornamental shapes <i>"The musician had topiary hedges that looked like giant notes."</i>
triptych	set of three panels or pictures hinged so two side panels fold over the middle <i>"We walked up the aisle of the church to examine the alter piece which was a triptych."</i>
tumid	swollen; bulging <i>"The tumid area around his mouth signaled a dental problem."</i>
ubiquitous	present or seeming to be everywhere at the same time; omnipresent <i>"I knew it was in my mind, but it seemed that everywhere I looked I saw his ubiquitous face."</i>
ululate	to wail or lament loudly <i>"It is natural for coyotes to ululate through the night."</i>
umbrageous	shady; easily offended <i>"The umbrageous pepper tree had a park bench under it."</i>
undulant	moving in or as in waves; undulating <i>"The undulant Blue Hills roll to meet the coast near Boston."</i>
usurious	practicing usury <i>"Usurious loan sharks prey upon people in financial desperation."</i>
vacillating	wavering in motion or opinion <i>"We were inclined to not pay much attention to her vacillating ideas."</i>
valedictory	farewell speech, esp. one delivered at graduation <i>"The president's valedictory speech pointed up the highlights of his term in office."</i>
velleity	a mere wish that does not lead to the slightest action <i>"The valet cheerfully ignored the velleity of his capricious master."</i>
velutinous	soft and velvety <i>"Thick moss turned the tree trunk into a velutinous couch."</i>

verbiage	wordiness <i>"Cutting the verbiage left her with three pages of the original eight."</i>
verdure	green growing plants and trees <i>"After the long winter, the sheep feasted on the pasture's verdure."</i>
vernacular	commonly spoken by the people of a particular country or place <i>"The vernacular of the South is dotted with colorful metaphors."</i>
versatile	competent in many things; many sided; adaptable to many uses <i>"Playing the piano was one of his many versatile accomplishments."</i>
vicarious	shared in or experienced by imagined participation in another's experience <i>"When his son made the majors, the old bush-leaguer felt a vicarious thrill."</i>
vitreous	of, having the nature of, or like glass <i>"Some new windows are made of unbreakable vitreous plastic."</i>
vociferous	characterized by clamor or vehement outcry <i>"The vociferous protests of Liberals could not stop the passage of Proposition 13."</i>
vulnerary	used for healing wounds, as herbs or other remedies <i>"Bread mold derives its vulnerary properties from the presence of penicillin."</i>
wainscot	a wood lining or paneling on the walls of a room <i>"The wainscot in the den was designed in dark oak."</i>
whimsically	oddly out of the ordinary; fanciful; freakish; unpredictable <i>"We were upset to find that although we were expected to stay overnight, he had whimsically decided we should repack the car and drive home."</i>
xerophilous	capable of thriving in a hot, dry climate <i>"The cactus is a xerophilous plant which grows in the desert."</i>
xyloid	of or like wood; woody <i>"The xyloid section of a plant gives the stem its structure."</i>
yeen	to bring forth (young); said of a sheep or goat <i>"The ewe waited until spring to yeen her last lamb."</i>
yttria	a heavy white powder, insoluble in water, used in electronics <i>"Yttria is used in making color television tubes."</i>
zabaglione	a frothy dessert made of eggs, sugar, and wine, typically Marsala, beaten together over boiled water <i>"The waiter tempted us with a delightful zabaglione."</i>