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GRE SENTENCE COMPLETION

Of all the GRE Verbal question types, sentence completions are probably the most student friendly. Unlike analogies and antonyms, sentence completions provide you with a context to help you figure out tough vocabulary. And unlike reading comprehension questions, they only require you to read one sentence at a time. As the name suggests, sentence completion questions test your ability to complete sentences that are missing one or two key words by selecting the appropriate answer choice.

The directions for this section look like this:

> Directions: This sentence has one or more blank spaces. Each blank indicates that a word or phrase has been omitted. Of the five following words or sets of words, choose the one word or set that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the entire sentence.

The difficulty of the sentence completions you will see on the GRE depends on how many questions you get right. If you perform well on the Verbal section, you will find that the later sentence completions you encounter involve tougher vocabulary and more convoluted logic.

THE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS

To improve your skill in answering GRE sentence completions, you'll need to familiarize yourself with the basic principles for approaching them — and you'll need some practice. The Four Fundamentals below will help you to increase your skills and confidence as you approach test day. And with skills and confidence, you'll be able to earn points on the GRE!

Every Clue Is Right in Front of You

Each sentence contains a few crucial clues that help you to determine the meaning of the missing word(s). Clues in the sentence limit the possible answers, and finding these clues will guide you to the correct answer.

What are the important clues in the following question?

1. Although she earned her fame for her striking murals, the artist felt that her sculpture merited greater _____.
   - ◯ disdain
   - ◯ acclaim
   - ◯ deliberation
   - ◯ viewing
   - ◯ publicity

Here, the word *although* is a classic structural clue. It tells you that you can expect a change of direction in the sentence. The first half tells you that the artist became famous as a muralist, but that she thought her sculpture deserved more BLANK. The word ***although*** tells you that she must think her sculptures are even better than her murals, and that they merit more praise, or ***acclaim.***

Look for What's Directly Implied and Expect Cliches

We're not dealing with poetry here. These sentences aren't excerpted from the works of Toni Morrison or William Faulkner. The correct answer is the one most directly implied by the meanings of the words in the sentence. Very often, for example, the definition of the missing word is provided in the sentence:

2. Because Gould's theory has been neither completely rejected nor completely accepted by the scientific community, its status remains _____ .
   - ◯ repudiated
   - ◯ sanctioned
   - ◯ quizzical
   - ◯ preferable
   - ◯ debatable

Here, choice (5), ***debatable,*** means "neither completely rejected nor completely accepted."

Sometimes you can choose the correct answer because the missing words are part of familiar-sounding phrases or because they simply sound right in the context of the sentence:

3. The increasing acceptance of the notion that the news media is not a(n) _____ commentator upon events, but rather, a mouthpiece for the vested interests of its powerful owners, demonstrates the public's growing_____ large corporations.
   - ◯ disinterested...mistrust of
   - ◯ meddlesome...suspicion of
   - ◯ official...apprehension of
   - ◯ impartial...satisfaction with
   - ◯ manipulative...confusion with

In the above example, the correct answer, choice (1), works because the phrases *disinterested commentator* and *growing mistrust of* simply *sound* correct.

Look for "Structural Road Signs"

Some words such as *since, however,* or *because--give* clues to the structure of the sentence that will point you to the right answer. The following are road signs found in GRE CAT sentence completions:

Straight-Ahead Road Signs

These make one part of the sentence support or elaborate on another part. They continue the sentence in the same direction. Examples include: *and, similarly, in addition, since, also, thus, because,; (semicolon),* and *likewise.*

Detour Road Signs

These words indicate a change in the direction of the sentence. They make one part of the sentence contradict or qualify another part. Examples include: *but, despite, yet, however, unless, rather, although, while, unfortunately,* and *nonetheless.*

Watch Out for Common Wrong-Answer Types

If you get stumped on any GRE CAT sentence completion, you **can** still earn points by using the process of elimination. Do this by ruling out as many wrong answer choices as you can, and then picking from the remaining choices. Here are some common wrong answer types to look out for:

Half-Right/Half-Wrong

In a sentence that contains two blanks, one of the two words provided in a given answer choice fits while the other one doesn't. Make sure that both words fit the context of the sentence!

Au Contraire

In a sentence that contains one blank, the word in the given answer choice means exactly the opposite of the word you're looking for.

Clunkers

The word(s) in a given answer choice simply do not sound right in the context of the sentence.

FILL IN THE BLANK

When working through a sentence completion question:

- *Look for clues in the sentence*
- *Focus on what's directly implied*
- *Pay attention to 'structural road signs"*

Drill

In the following examples, test your knowledge of sentence completion road signs by selecting the word that most correctly completes the sentence.

1. The singer's lyrics were quite lovely, but her vocal tone was extremely (harsh, melodious).

2. Fred was so annoyed with his publicist that he repeatedly (praised, lambasted) him in public.

3. Because Mabel had the reputation of being a mediocre cook, most believed her chances of winning the bake-off were (good, slim).

4. Despite the fact that the racehorse's performance in recent competitions had been disappointing, the oddsmakers were predicting a (win, disappointment) at the Derby.

5. Many felt the rules for the scholarship competition had been unfair and, furthermore, the judges were (biased, fair).

6. Although they appear quite cuddly, brown bears actually pose a large (threat, attraction) to tourists.

THE KAPLAN FOUR-STEP METHOD

Now that you have learned the basics, you're ready to learn Kaplan's strategic approach to sentence completions on the GRE CAT. Approaching sentence completions in a systematic manner is the best way to avoid common pitfalls and improve your score.

❶ Read the Whole Sentence

- Look for road signs to help you determine what type of word you're looking for.
- If the sentence is long or clumsy, rephrase the sentence in your own words.

❷ Predict an Answer

- In two-blank questions, try to predict for both blanks.
- Use the road signs and logic you found in Step 1 to determine the direction in which the sentence is heading.

Scan the Answer Choices, Choosing the One That Best Fits Your Prephrase

- Look for those that match your prediction.
- Eliminate answer choices that don't come close to your prediction.
- On two-blank sentences, work with one blank at a time, eliminating answer choices as you go.

❹ Read Your Selected Answer Choice Back into the Sentence

- If it makes sense, you have a winner.
- If it doesn't make sense, go back to the answer choices and find one that works better.
- If you get stuck, eliminate answer choices that you know are wrong and guess among the remaining choices.

Try It Out

Let's apply the Kaplan Four-Step Method for sentence completions to an example.

4. We will face the idea of old age with _____ as long as we believe that it invariably brings poverty, isolation, and illness.
   - ◯ regret
   - ◯ apprehension
   - ◯ enlightenment
   - ◯ veneration
   - ◯ reverence

❶ Let's begin by reading the whole sentence strategically. Immediately note the structural clue ***as long as.*** This phrase will tell us what to expect when we prepare to fill in the blank. The sentence tells us that old age bringspoverty, ***isolation,*** and ***illness.*** Naturally, therefore, we would face it with something like "fear."

❷ Now it's time to predict our answer. As we decided in Step 1, we should look in the answer choices for a word that means ***fear.***

❸ Here's where we scan the answer choices and look for one that best fits our predicted answer. ***Apprehension*** means "fear," so choice (2) is our best answer. But let's eliminate some answers that we know are wrong, just to be sure. Choice 1, ***regret,*** is tempting, but you feel regret for something that has already happened, not for something you will face in the future. ***Veneration*** and ***reverence*** both mean "great respect," so we can eliminate choices 4 and 5, too.

❹ Now we'll plug our answer into the sentence: ***We will face the idea of old age with apprehension as long as we believe that it invariably brings poverty, isolation, and illness.*** This sentence certainly makes sense, ***so*** we have found our winner!

PRACTICE SET

Now try the following sentence completion questions on your own, using the Kaplan Four-Step Method. Time yourself: Give yourself a maximum of 30–45 seconds to do each example.

1. Despite much informed _____, the relationship between sunspot cycles and the earth's weather remains _____

   ○ argument ... decisive
   ○ confusion ... tenuous
   ○ conjecture ... ambiguous
   ○ evidence ... clear
   ○ analysis ... systematic

2. As a consequence of the Antarctic's _____ climate, the only forms of plant life to be found in the continent's interior are a few _____ lichens and mosses that cling to the frozen rocks.

   ○ frigid ... hardy
   ○ extreme ... mysterious
   ○ harsh ... luxuriant
   ○ freezing ... complex
   ○ changing ... tiny

3. Conflict between generations may be a problem that has persisted for centuries, but the nature and intensity of the conflict obviously _____ in response to changes in social and economic conditions.

   ○ increases
   ○ disappears
   ○ declines
   ○ varies
   ○ wanes

Think about how you solved these sentence completion questions. To maximize your score, it's important to start practicing the techniques we covered in this chapter. On the pages that follow, you'll find sets of GRE sentence completion practice questions that will help you to hone your skills with this question type. Try these practice sets under testlike conditions, moving from one question to the next at a rapid pace. Complete, strategic explanations to all of these questions follow so that you can check your answers and learn the most efficient means for completing each question correctly.

Chapter 3

GRE ANALOGIES

The first step towards testing your best on GRE analogies is to get familiar with the format. Analogies test your vocabulary and your ability to figure out the relationships between pairs of words. You're given a pair of capitalized words (for example, POTATO:VEGETABLE), and you're asked to determine their relationship, then identify the answer choice that has the same relationship.

The directions for this question type look like this:

> **Directions:** In this question, a related pair of words is followed by five lettered pairs of words. Choose the one pair that best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed in the original pair.

On the GRE, the more questions you get right, the more difficult the analogies you encounter will become. If you perform well on GRE Verbal, you can expect to see analogies towards the end of the test that feature quite difficult, esoteric vocabulary.

THE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS

To improve your skill in answering GRE analogy questions, you'll need to familiarize yourself with the basic principles for approaching them—and you'll need some practice. The Four Fundamentals below will help you to increase your skills and confidence as you approach the day of the test. And with skills and confidence, you'll be able to earn points on test day!

GRE Analogy Questions Consist of Two Words

The two words, called the stem **pair,** are followed by five answer choices, each consisting of two words that are also separated by colons. Analogy questions on the GRE CAT look like this:

1. LITER : VOLUME ::
   - ◯ bottle : can
   - ◯ knob : radio
   - ◯ scale : height
   - ◯ gram : weight
   - ◯ juice : vitamin

There Will Always Be a Direct and Necessary Relationship between the Words in the Stem Pair

You can express the relationship between the two stem words by making a short sentence that we call a ***bridge.*** Your goals when you build an analogy bridge should be to keep it as short and as clear as possible.

For the analogy above, as strong bridge would be:

A LITER is by definition a measure of VOLUME.

> ***WHAT'S A STEM PAIR?***
> *Analogy questions consist of two words—the stem pair—that are separated by a colon. Stem pairs look like this:*
> *PREPARATION : SUCCESS ::*

Try to Build a "Bridge" before Looking at the Answer Choices

Because the GRE CAT is a standardized test, you'll find that certain kinds of bridges appear on the test over and over again. At Kaplan, we call these frequently appearing bridges Classic Bridges. Getting familiar with Classic Bridges now will help you quickly recognize these relationships when you encounter them on the GRE CAT.

> ***WHAT'S A BRIDGE?***
> *A bridge is a short sentence that connects the two words in the stem pair. You should always build a bridge before you look at the answer choices.*

The Five Classic Bridges

1. ***Definition*** ("is always" or "is never")
2. ***Function or Purpose***
3. ***Lack***

4. ***Characteristic Actions or Items***

5. ***Degree*** (sometimes to the point of excess)

Each of the five classic bridges are illustrated below.

The Definition Bridge
CYGNET : SWAN — **A** CYGNET is a young SWAN.

The Function or Purpose Bridge
TRUSS : SUPPORT — **A** TRUSS is used as a SUPPORT.

The Lack Bridge
LOUT : GRACE — **A** LOUT lacks GRACE.

The Characteristic Actions or Items Bridge
SKUNK : SCENT — **A** SKUNK defends itself with its SCENT.

The Degree Bridge (sometimes to the point ofexcess)
INTEREST : ENTHRALL — To INTEREST greatly is to ENTHRALL.

Remember the five classic bridges and keep them in mind as you practice for the GRE.

> ***WHAT MAKES A STRONG BRIDGE?***
> *You might think that the words* apple *and* pie *have a strong bridge. Don't be fooled. You can make many things other than pies out of apples, such as apple juice and apple sauce. And there are many different types of pies.* Apple *and fruit, on the other hand, do have a strong bridge. An apple is a type of fruit. This is always true: It's a strong, definite relationship.*

Watch Out for Common Wrong Answer Types

Because the bridges on GRE analogies are predictable, wrong answer types to these questions are also predictable. If you get stumped on any GRE analogy, you can earn points by ruling out as many wrong answer choices as you can and then picking from the remaining choices. Here are some of the typical wrong answer choices that appear on GRE analogies:

Unrelated Words

A pair of words with no strong relationship is a common wrong answer.

Same Subject Trap

The words in the answer choice are in the same fields (or have the same subject) as the words in the stem pair, but don't have the same bridge.

"Both Are" Bridges

This involves words that aren't related to each other, but are both related to a third word. For instance, the words ***bracelet: necklace*** refer to pieces of jewelry. Yet a ***bracelet*** has no necessary connection to a ***necklace.***

Context Traps

Words that often appear together in context, but don't have any relationship. For instance, ***mitigating : circumstance.***

Reverse Analogy

The bridge would be right if the order of the words were reversed.

Au Contraire or Opposite Bridge

The bridge is the exact opposite of the bridge between the words in the stem pair.

Irrelevant Bridge

The bridge is strong, but it doesn't have anything to do with the bridge in the stem pair.

Drill

Identify the Classic Bridges in the following stem pairs.

1. MISER : CHEAP _____
2. BOOR : TACT _____
3. RULER : MEASURE _____
4. ELATED : HAPPY _____
5. BEAK: BIRD _____

Now build a bridge for each of the following stem pairs.

1. CHICKEN : POULTRY _____
2. [illegible] _____
3. LOOM : WEAVE _____
4. RECLUSE : SOLITARY _____
5. LANGUID : ENERGY _____

THE KAPLAN FOUR-STEP METHOD

Now that you have learned the basics for tackling analogies questions, you're ready for Kaplan's strategic approach to analogies on the GRE. Approaching analogies in a systematic manner is the best way to avoid common pitfalls and improve your score.

❶ Find a Strong Bridge between the Stem Words

- In most cases, the more precisely you can express the connection between the two words, the better. A precise formulation is more likely to help you find the right answer.

❷ Plug the Answer Choices into the Bridge

- Look for the answer choice pair that has the same relationship as the stem pair.
- Immediately eliminate answer choices that don't fit the bridge.
- Always try all the answer choices; you might find that more than one answer choice works with the bridge that you built.
- If only one answer choice works with the bridge you built, select that answer choice.

❸ Adjust the Bridge, if Necessary

- If more than one answer choice works, you'll have to narrow your bridge (make it more precise).
- If none of the answer choices work, you probably need to expand it (make it more general).
- Consider alternate definitions for the stem words. Perhaps your bridge uses the wrong definition of a word.

❹ If Stuck, Build Bridges between Answer Choice Pairs and Work Backwards

- Eliminate all answer choices that have no strong bridge.
- Eliminate all answer choices that have an identical bridge to another answer choice.
- Beware of answer choices that reverse the bridge.

Try It Out

Let's apply the Kaplan Four-Step Method for Analogies to an example.

2. HANGAR : AIRCRAFT : :
   - ◯ orchestra : music
   - ◯ vault : money
   - ◯ hand : fingers
   - ◯ farm : trees
   - ◯ ecosystem : insect

❶ Begin by building a bridge: A HANGAR is a place built to keep AIRCRAFT.

❷ Now plug each of our answer choices into our bridge "a BLANK is a place to keep BLANK."

Is an orchestra a place built to keep *music*? No. Eliminate choice (1).

Is a vault a place built to keep *money*? Yes, so keep choice (2).

Is a *hand* a place built to keep a *fingers*? No, so eliminate this choice as well.

Is a farm a place built to keep a *trees*? Maybe, maybe not. Eliminate choice (4).

Is an ecosystem a place built to keep insects? No. Eliminate choice **(5).**

O There is no need to adjust the bridge, since only answer choice (2) worked.

❹ If we needed to work backwards, we could have eliminated choices (4) and (5), since there is no strong bridge between the words in these pairs.

PRACTICE SET

Now try the following analogy questions on your own, using the Kaplan Four-Step Method. Give yourself a maximum of 30-45 seconds to do each example.

1. LUCID : OBSCURITY ::
   - ⬭ ambiguous : doubt
   - ⬭ provident : planning
   - ⬭ furtive : legality
   - ⬭ economical : extravagance
   - ⬭ secure : violence

2. ATTENTIVE : RAPT ::
   - ⬭ loyal : unscrupulous
   - ⬭ critical : derisive
   - ⬭ inventive : innovative
   - ⬭ jealous : envious
   - ⬭ kind : considerate

3. CLEAVER : BUTCHER ::
   - ⬭ palette : artist
   - ⬭ stage : dancer
   - ⬭ dictionary : poet
   - ⬭ lock : burglar
   - ⬭ chisel : sculptor

Think about how you solved these analogies questions. To maximize your score, it's important to start practicing these skills now. On the pages that follow, you'll find sets of GRE analogies practice questions that will help you to hone your skills with this question type. Try these practice sets under timed conditions, moving from one question to the next at a rapid pace. Complete, strategic explanations to all of these questions follow so that you can check your answers and learn the most efficient means for completing each question correctly.

The answers to this section appear on the next page.

Answer Key

Testlike Questions

1. (4)
2. (2)

Drill

1. Definition
2. Lack
3. Function
4. Degree
5. Characteristic Items/Actions

1. A CHICKEN is by definition a type of POULTRY.
2. To experience extreme FEAR is by definition to experience TERROR.
3. The purpose of a LOOM is by definition to WEAVE.
4. A RECLUSE is by definition SOLITARY.
5. Someone who's LANGUID is by definition lacking in EXERGY.

Chapter 4

GRE ANTONYMS

Antonyms make up about one fourth of the GRE verbal section. They are also the Verbal question type that many students find the most difficult to improve their performance on. Antonym questions are designed to test your vocabulary, so your first step in preparing for this question type is to start building your knowledge by using the GRE Vocabulary Builder section of this book. In this chapter, we'll give you some vocabulary skill-building pointers and show you how to answer Antonym questions strategically. If you approach antonyms strategically, you'll find that you'll get many questions right even if you don't know the exact definitions of the tested words.

The directions for these questions look like this:

> Directions: This question consists of a capitalized word that is followed by five words or phrases. Choose the lettered word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly opposite to the meaning of the capitalized word. Because some questions require you to distinguish fine shades of meaning, it is advisable to consider all the choices before deciding on the best choice.

On the GRE, the more questions you get right, the harder the antonym questions you'll see. If you perform well on GRE Verbal, you'll find that using Kaplan's vocabulary strategies becomes increasingly important on later antonyms.

THE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS

To improve your skills in answering GRE antonyms, you'll need to familiarize yourself with the basic principles for approaching them—and you'll need some practice. The Four Fundamentals below will help you to increase your skills and confidence as you approach the day of the test. And with the skills and confidence, you'll be able to earn points on test day!

Use Kaplan's Strategies for Decoding Difficult Vocabulary Words.

On hard antonyms, it might seem at first glance as if you don't know anything about the stem word. However, you need only a little bit of information to guess at a word's meaning. The following techniques can give you enough of an idea about what the stem word means to get solve the question.

Think of a Context in which You've Heard the Word Before

You might be able to figure out the meaning of a word from a familiar context: For example, "crimes and misdemeanors,""mitigating circumstances:' or "abject poverty."

Look at Word Roots, Stems, and Suffixes

If you don't know what a particular word means, you might be able to guess its meaning based on your knowledge of one or more of the word's parts. If you don't know the meaning of benediction, for example, its prefix (bene, which means good) tells you that its opposite is likely to be something bad. Perhaps the answer will begin with *mal,* as in *malefaction.*

Use Your Knowledge of a Romance Language

You might be able to guess a word's meaning because it sounds like a word you might have learned in foreign language class. You might guess at the word credulous, for instance, because you know the Italian word *credere;* or you might notice that *moratorium* sounds like the French word morte or that the word mundane sounds like the Spanish word mundo.

Use the Positive or Negative "Charges" of Words to Help You to Guess an Answer.

When all other vocabulary decoding strategies fail, use your ear. If you know a stem word sounds positive, for example, you know that its antonym must be negatively charged—and vice versa! This strategy can work wonders on harder questions. Here's a sample tough antonym question.

1. SCABROUS:
   - ◯ thorny
   - ◯ unblemished
   - O perplexing
   - ◯ blank
   - ◯ examined

Notice that SCABROUS sounds harsh—it has a negative (–) charge. Now let's check out the charges of the answer choices. Both thorny and perplexing are negatively charged, so choices (1) and (3) cannot be antonyms of the stem word. The words blank and examined are neutral, they are neither positive or negative. The only positively charged word her is choice (2), unblemished. This is our answer; SCABROUS means rough or covered with unwholesome patches

BE STRATEGIC
Antonyms are designed to test your vocabulary, but if you attack these questions strategically, you'll get many questions right even if you don't know the exact definition.

Watch Out for Common Wrong-Answer Types.

Even if you have no idea what the word in the stem means, don't panic! Eliminating answer choices that you know are wrong will give you a good chance of guessing the right answer. Typical wrong answer types on GRE antonyms are:

Words That Have No Clear Opposites

Such words as birthright and priority, and deserve, for example, can't be antonyms for any stem word!

Any Answer Choices That Have the Same Opposites as Each Other

If two or more of the answer choices have the same antonym, that choice can't be an antonym for the stem word because then there would be more than one correct answer to the question!

Au Contraire, or Opposite, Answers

These answers mean exactly the opposite of the word you're looking for. In other words, they are synonyms, rather than antonyms, for the stem word.

Drill

Each of the word lists below relates to two concepts that are opposite in meaning. Practice categorizing words relating to these opposites as a means for preparing for GRE antonyms. If you are unfamiliar with the meaning of any word, use the strategies for decoding tough vocabulary to decipher its meaning.

Write "harsh" next to those words that are harsh-sounding; write "pleasant" next to those words that are pleasant sounding.

CACOPHONOUS _____

DISCORDANT _____

DULCET _____

FRACAS _____

RAUCOUS _____

SONOROUS _____

STRIDENT _____

Label each word according to its general meaning. Write either "caring" or "indifferent" in the lines provided.

APATHETIC _____

CONCERN _____

DESULTORY _____

DISINTEREST _____

REGARD _____

IMPASSIVITY _____

INQUISITIVE _____

INTRIGUE _____

[illegible] _____

THE KAPLAN FOUR-STEP METHOD

Now that you have learned the basics, you're ready to learn Kaplan's strategic approach to antonyms on the GRE CAT. Approaching antonyms in a systematic manner is the best way to avoid common traps on the test and improve your score.

❶ Define the Stem Word

- Even if you don't know the precise definition of the word, a general knowledge of the words is usually sufficient.
- Use Kaplan vocabulary strategies, such as looking for familiar roots, to try to get a rough definition of the word.

❷ Define Its Opposite and Prephrase an Answer

- Whenever possible, you should have an idea of what you're looking for before checking any answer choices.
- Consciously prephrasing an answer will reduce the chance that you'll select a choice that's a synonym.

❸ Find the Answer Choice That Best Matches Your Prephrase

- Sometimes one or more answer choices will be close to your prephrase. Check all the answer choices for the best fit.

  Consider alternate definitions for the stem words. Perhaps you're using the wrong definition of a word.

❹ Use Guessing Strategies, If Necessary

- Eliminate any answer choices that have no clear opposite.
- Eliminate answer choices that are synonyms of one another.
- Use word charge and answer choice patterns to avoid other probable wrong answers.

Try It Out

Let's apply the Kaplan Four-Step Method for antonyms to an example.

2. TRAIL:
   - ◯ age
   - ◯ depress
   - ◯ rule
   - ◯ wander
   - ◯ precede

❶ Begin by defining our stem word, TRAIL. What does TRAIL mean? You will notice in this context that trail is a verb. It has to be, because choices (2), (3) and (4) can only be verbs, and the answer choices and the stem word must be the same part of speech. As a verb TRAIL means "to follow".

❷ Since TRAIL means "to follow': we need a word that means "to lead" or "come before."

❸ Choice (5), precede, means "to come before" so it is the best answer.

❹ If you had to guess, you could have eliminated age and rule, since they have no clear opposite.

PRACTICE SET

Now try the following Antonym questions on your own, using the Kaplan Four-Step Method. Time yourself: Give yourself a maximum of 30–45 seconds to do each example.

1. AMIABLE:
   - ◯ faithful
   - ◯ insulted
   - ◯ distasteful
   - ◯ indecent
   - ◯ unfriendly

2. ACUTE:
   - ◯ conspicuous
   - ◯ relevant
   - ◯ aloof
   - ◯ dull
   - ◯ distant

3. RECANT:
   - ◯ affirm
   - ◯ rectify
   - ◯ offend
   - ◯ ignore
   - ◯ withdraw

Think about how you attacked these antonym questions. To maximize your score, it's important to start practicing the techniques we covered in this chapter. On the pages that follow, you'll find sets of GRE Antonyms practice questions that will help you to hone your skills with this question type. Try these practice sets under testlike conditions, moving from one question to the next at a rapid pace. Complete, strategic explanations to all of these questions follow so that you can check your answers and learn the most efficient means for completing each question correctly.

Answer Key

Testlike Questions

1. (2)

2. (5)

Drill

CACOPHONOUS	harsh
DISCORDANT	harsh
DULCET	pleasant
FRACAS	harsh
RAUCOUS	harsh
SONOROUS	pleasant
STRIDENT	harsh

APATHETIC	indifferent
CONCERN	caring
DESULTORY	indifferent
DISINTEREST	indifferent
REGARD	caring
IMPASSIVITY	indifferent
INQUISITIVE	caring
INTRIGUE	caring
LASSITUDE	indifferent

Practice *Set*

1. (5)
2. (4)
3. (1)

Chapter 5

GRE READING COMPREHENSION

Reading Comprehension is the only question type that appears on all major standardized tests, and the reason for this isn't too surprising. No matter what academic area you pursue, you'll have to make sense of some dense, unfamiliar material. The topics for GRE Reading Comp passages are taken from three areas: social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities. So in a way, Reading Comp is the most realistic of all the question types on the test. And right now is a good time to start. shoring up your critical reading skills, both for the test and for future study in your field.

The directions for this question type look like this:

> Directions: This passage in this test is accompanied by questions based on its content. After reading a selection, choose the best response to each question. Your replies are to be based on what is actually stated or implied in the passage.

On the GRE CAT you will see two to four Reading Comp passages, each with two to four questions. You will have to tackle the passage and questions as they are given to you.

THE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS

To improve your Reading Comprehension skills, you'll need a lot of practice—and patience. You may not see dramatic improvement after only one drill. But with ongoing practice, the basic principles below will help you to increase your skill and confidence on this section by the day of the test.

> ***ZOOM** IN!*
> *As you read the **first** third of the passage, try to zoom in on the main idea of the passage, first by getting a sense of the general topic, and then by pinning down the scope of the passage. Finally, zero in on the author's purpose in writing the passage.*

Read Actively: Don't Just "Read" the Passage

To do well on this section of the test, you'll need to do more than just read the words on the page. You'll need to read actively. Active reading involves keeping your mind working at all times, while trying to anticipate where the author's points are leading. It means thinking about what you're reading as you read it. It means paraphrasing complicated-sounding ideas and jargon. Here are some pointers on reading a GRE passage actively.

- Identify the topic.
- Narrow it down to the precise scope that the author includes.
  Make a hypothesis about why the author is writing and where he or she is going with it.
- As you're reading, ask yourself: "Why did the author include this paragraph?" "What shift did the author have in mind when moving on to this paragraph?" "What bearing does this paragraph have on the author's main idea?" "What's the author's main point here?" "What's the purpose of this paragraph? Of this sentence?"

> ***DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME!***
> *You don't have to memorize or understand every little thing as you read the passage. Remember, you can always refer back to the passage to clarify the meaning of any specific detail.*

Read for Structure: Your Goal Is Not to Memorize Every Detail!

In their efforts to understand what the author says, test takers often ignore the less glamorous but important structural side of the passage—namely, how the author says it. One of the keys to success with reading comprehension is to understand not only the passage's purpose but also the structure of each passage. Why? Because the questions at the end of the passage ask both what the author says and how he or she says it. To ensure that you read for structure, remember to do the following:

- Always look for Keywords, the structural signals that authors use to indicate logical connections between sentences.
- Don't try to memorize details! Skim them until the questions demand them.
- Look for topic sentences to help you to determine the function of each paragraph.
- Be alert for comparisons and contrasts between:
  - Two thinkers or theories
  - Different points in time
  - The author's view and other views
  - What's known and what's unknown
- Remember, GRE Reading Comp passages usually do one of the following:
  - Argue a position
  - Discuss a specific subject
  - Explain new findings or research

ATTACK THE PASSAGE!

You can be an active reader by:

- ***Thinking about what you're reading***
- ***Paraphrasing the complicated parts***
- ***Asking yourself questions about the passage***
- ***Jotting down notes***

Recognize the Most Common Question Types

GRE Reading Comprehension questions are predictable. The test writers put the same types of questions on the test year after year. Practicing identifying and answering the following question types will help you get ready for them on test day.

Global: Ask you to identify the central idea or primary purpose of the passage

Explicit Detail/Text: Ask you to find what is true "according to the passage" or what the passage states

Inference: Ask you to determine what the passage suggests, what it implies, what conclusion it supports, or a statement the author would be most likely to agree with

Logic: Ask why the author includes a particular example sentence or phrase, or ask you to determine the function of a paragraph

Vocabulary-in-Context: Ask you to define a word or phrase as it is used in the passage

Watch Out for Wrong Answer Types

Because the GRE Reading Comprehension question types are predictable, wrong answer types to these questions are also predictable. If you get stumped on any GRE Reading Comp question, you should rule out as many wrong answer choices as you can and then pick from the remaining choices. Typical wrong answers to look for on GRE Reading Comp are:

Au Contraire: Sounds very similar to the correct answer but directly contradicts the passage

Outside the Scope: Raises a topic that's never mentioned in the passage

Distortion: Distorts or twists the facts or the main idea; sounds superficially plausible because it incorporates words or phrases from the passage, but actually confuses the author's intended meaning

Faulty Use of Detail: Mentions true points not relevant to the question (often from the wrong paragraph)

Extreme: Sounds too positive or too negative; uses exaggerated-sounding language, e.g., *only,* never, or *always*

Half-Right, Half-Wrong: Present some information that is correct and some that is incorrect

WHERE DO THE PASSAGES COME FROM?
Topics for Reading Comp passages come from:
- The social sciences
- The natural sciences
- The humanities

Drill

The correct answers to GRE Reading Comp questions must be irrefutable. For this reason, answer choices that are extreme or too emotional tend to be wrong. Decide whether each of the following sentences sounds Extreme or Moderate.

1. Reporters tend to focus on news stories which they believe will improve ratings. — Extreme / Moderate
2. It is impossible that one person could have authored all of the plays we currently consider to have been written by Shakespeare. — Extreme / Moderate
3. Scientists who refrain from making bold statements to their peers about the significance of their experiments often employ far less technical language in news releases. — Extreme / Moderate
4. The melting of Antarctic ice sheets is one of several potential threats to the stability of the Earth's climate. — Extreme / Moderate
5. Though Copernicus is generally associated with the discovery of the sun-centered universe, Aristarchus may have conceived of the idea in 200 B.C. — Extreme / Moderate

Now, read the following GRE-like sentence:

Marathon running has become increasingly popular as people have become more and more concerned about their health.

Remember that on GRE Reading Comp, some answer choices will sound like they fit the passage, but will actually distort the author's point. Decide which of the three statements below agrees with the GRE-like sentence above.

1. Marathon running has become an international event that promotes friendship between cultures.
2. The fact that more people are running in marathons highlights the public's increasing interest in pursuing healthy activities.
3. The majority of people who take up marathon running do so because they are concerned about their health.

THE KAPLAN FOUR-STEP METHOD

Now that you have the basics for tackling Reading Comprehension questions, you're ready to learn Kaplan's strategic approach to Reading Cornp on the GRE CAT. As is the case with all other GRE question types, approaching Reading Cornp in a systematic manner is the best way to avoid common pitfalls and improve your score.

❶ Read the First Third

Identify topic and scope, zero in on the purpose of the passage, and predict where the passage will go.

Topic: The broad concept or idea addressed in the passage

Scope: The more narrow and specific area of the topic that is being discussed

Purpose: A hypothesis about why the author is writing and where he or she is going with the passage.

Here's a hypothetical example. Suppose you encounter a reading passage about the Battle of Gettysburg on the GRE. The broad topic of "The Battle of Gettysburg, " for example, would be a lot to cover in a Reading Comp passage. So if you encountered such a passage, you would also need to ask yourself, "What is the scope of this author's passage?" or, in this case, "What specific aspect of the battle does the author address?" Whatever that chunk is—the prebattle scouting, how the battle was fought—is the passage's scope. Finally, you should also consider why the author is writing. For example, is the author writing to refute an established point of view (a common format on the GRE), or to contrast two interpretations of why the battle occurred? Being able to answer this question will tell you how the passage is organized.

❷ Read the Remaining Two Thirds

Create a brief "road map"—jot down some brief notes—as you read.

❸ Review Your "Road Map"

Confirm topic, scope and purpose.

❹ Attack the Questions

- Use the stem to plan your attack!
- Reread any relevant text.
- Predict an answer.
- Choose an answer.

PRACTICE SET

Now that you've got the fundamentals of GRE reading comp under your belt and you've had some practice in identifying reading comp wrong answer types, let's put your knowledge to use on the following testlike passage and questions.

Tsunamis are huge, fast-moving waves that are capable of causing enormous destruction and loss of life if they broach the shoreline on a populated coast. To communities that have been devastated by such an event, the tsunami often seems to come out of nowhere, and survivors are mystified as to why such a huge wave could appear with so little warning. The terrifying suddenness of a tsunami's arrival is a consequence of where and how they are created.

When submarine tectonic activity distorts the sea floor, it vertically displaces the overlying sea water. As the displaced water seeks equilibrium under the influence of gravity, waves form, and when the distortion is of sufficient magnitude, a tsunami can result. If the earthquake occurs near the shore, the tsunami may take only minutes to reach a populated coast.

Tsunamis attain their enormous heights through a process of decreasingspeed and increasing height. The energy flux of a tsunami is constant, which leads to an inversely proportional relationship between the wave's speed and its height. Since speed is directly proportional to water depth, as the wave approaches shallower water, its speed decreases, causing its height to increase to compensate for the loss and thus maintain the wave's energy flux. Through this process, a barely perceptible deep ocean wave formed by an earthquake far from shore can rapidly transform into a tsunami that can exceed 30 meters at its final runup height, which it attains onshore above sea level.

1. The author is primarily concerned with
   - ◯ establishing that tsunamis are formed by submarine tectonic activity.
   - ◯ explaining why tsunamis can appear so suddenly and with so little warning.
   - ◯ arguing that a tsunami's energy flux results in its great height and destructive capacity.
   - ◯ demonstrating that devastating tsunamis must be formed by earthquakes close to shore.
   - ◯ challenging long held beliefs about the formation of deep ocean waves.

2. It may be inferred from the passage that a tsunami that entered deeper water would experience an increase in
   - ◯ destructive power.
   - ◯ speed.
   - ◯ energy flux.
   - ◯ visibility.
   - ◯ height

Think about how you attacked these Reading Comprehension questions. To maximize your score, it's important to start practicing the techniques we've covered in this chapter now. On the pages that follow, you'll find sets of GRE Reading Comp passages and practice questions that will help you to hone your skills with this question type. Try these practice sets under test-like conditions, moving from one question to the next at a rapid pace. Complete, strategic explanations to all of these questions follow so that you can check your answers and learn the most efficient means for completing each question correctly.

Answer Key

Drill

1. Moderate
2. Estreme
3. Moderate
4. Moderate
5. Moderate

Distortion Exercise

1. Distortion
2. Inference
3. Distortion

Practice Set

1. (2)
2. (2)

INCREASING YOUR GRE VOCABULARY

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

A strong vocabulary is the greatest asset that you can bring to the GRE verbal section. Antonyms, which make up a quarter of the verbal section, are a direct test of your vocabulary skills. The other types of short verbal questions (analogies and sentence completions) also require you to understand the meanings of a large number of words.

So, how do you start improving your vocabulary? Don't say to yourself, "I'm going to get ready for the GRE by opening the dictionary and starting on page 1." In real life, the dictionary is the single most useful verbal tool there is. But the GRE is not real life, and for the purposes of preparing for the GRE, the dictionary is overkill. It includes a lot more words than you need to look at, including all those everyday words you already know and all those esoteric words that will never appear on the GRE.

Building up a good vocabulary takes time, a lifetime for most people. However, you can increase your GRE vocabulary quickly. There are a couple of reasons for this.

1. The GRE tests the same words over and over again.

If you know the words that the GRE loves, you have a big head start in increasing your GRE vocabulary, We have included the words that appear most often on the GRE in chapter 10, "Top GRE Words." Start learning the meanings of these words as soon as you can.

2. The GRE does not test the exact definitions of words. If you have some idea of what the word means, you can usually get to the answer.

You don't need to know the exact definitions of words to get a good verbal score on the GRE. It's better to know something about ten words than everything about one word. This is why learning words in groups is such a powerful technique. We have included common word groups for the GRE in chapter 9, "GRE Word Groups."

Knowing the meanings of common word roots can be helpful in two ways. First of all, knowing the meaning of word roots can help you guess at the meanings of unfamiliar words you

encounter on the GRE. Second, when you're learning new vocabulary, it's more effective to study words in groups rather than one by one. Learning groups of words that are related by a common root will help you to learn more words faster. We have included a list of common GRE word roots in chapter 10.

Once you've looked over the top GRE words and the chapters on word roots and word groups, you can hone your skills using our opposite drills in chapter 11. Finally, we've included a mini-dictionary that gives you the definitions of thousands of GRE words. Use it whenever you encounter an unfamiliar word in your study.

BASICS OF VOCABULARY BUILDING

The way most people build their vocabulary is by reading words in context. Reading is ultimately the best way to increase your vocabulary, although it also takes the most time. Of course, some types of reading material contain more GRE vocabulary words than others. You should get into the habit of reading high-level publications, such as the *Wall* Street Journal, the Economist, and the *New* York Times. (Because you'll have to read from the computer screen on Test Day, we recommend that you read these publications online, if possible. And if you read lengthy articles that require scrolling through, so much the better.)

When you come across words you don't know and can't figure out from the context, look them up in the dictionary and make a note of them. It sounds tedious, but it's definitely worth the time and effort come Test Day. The words you encounter during your prep can be found in the GRE Minidictionary in chapter 12. This handy reference tool contains thousands of words that you might find on the GRE.

Note that you will find nothing on pronunciation in the Minidictionary. Pronunciation is not tested on the GRE, so we don't recommend spending study time learning how to pronounce words. Some people, however, find it much easier to remember the meaning of a word if they have the sound of the word in their heads. If you're such a person, then use the dictionary to figure out how to pronounce words you're not familiar with.

PARTS OF SPEECH

The GRE never directly tests your ability to classify words by part of speech, but you'll do better if you can distinguish nouns, adjectives, and verbs.

Nouns

A noun names a person, place, or thing. A noun answers the questions "who," "where," or "what." A noun can function as the subject ("The soliloquy was eloquent") or object of a verb ("He wrote an eloquent soliloquy").

If you know the meaning of the word, you can tell if it's a noun by thinking about the way it would be used in a sentence.

- If the word can function as the subject of a sentence, it's a noun.
- If it can be replaced by a pronoun like ***he, she, it,*** or ***they,*** it's a noun.
- If you can put an article like ***the,*** a, an, or ***some*** in front of it, it's a noun.
- If it has a plural form (usually the ending ***-s*****),** it's a noun. If it has a possessive form (usually the ending ***-'s*****),** it's a noun.
- If you don't know the meaning of a word, but it has one of the following **suffixes,** then it's probably a noun.

-ACY
-AGE
-ANCE
-ANCY
-DOM
-ENCE
-ENCY
-ERY

Adjectives

An adjective describes a noun, answering the questions "what kind," "which one," or "how many." In a sentence, you will generally find adjectives right in front of the nouns they describe ("The book is full of ***sophomoric*** humor") or after a form of the verb be or some other linking verb ("The book's humor is ***sophomoric").***

If you know the meaning of a word, you can tell if it's an adjective by thinking about the way the word would be used in a sentence. If the word **can** be used to describe a noun, it's an adjective. Most adjectives have comparative and superlative forms ***(rife, rifer, rifest*** and ***sanguine, more sanguine, most sanguine).*** Most adjectives **can** be turned into adverbs by adding ***-ly (intemperately.)***

If you don't know the meaning of a word, but it has one of the following suffixes, then it's probably an adjective.

-OUS
-FUL
-IBLE
-IC
-ILE
-INE
-ISH
-IVE
-LESS
-OSE

Verbs

A verb is a word that represents an action or state of being. Every sentence must have at least one verb. The main verb usually comes right after the subject (*"They* squander their fortunes"), but sometimes is separated from the subject ("The contestant with the second highest vote total wins the consolation prize") and sometimes even precedes the subject ("Quickly *flow* the years.")

If you know the meaning of the word, you can tell if it's a verb by thinking about the way the word would be used in a sentence. If, with the addition of an *-s,* it can follow a pronoun like he or *it* and make a sentence, it's a verb ("Hepanders"). If it has a past form ending in -ed (pandered) and a progressive form ending in *-ing* (pandering), it's a verb.

If you don't know the meaning of a word, but it has one of the following suffixes, then it's probably a verb.

-EN	-IFY
-ESCE	-IZE

Split-Personality Words

Remember that many words in the English language can function as more than one part of speech. Here's a single word used as a noun, adjective, and verb:

> As the test tube rested overnight, some precipitate formed. (noun)
>
> It would be better to proceed with caution than to take precipitate action. (adjective)
>
> Passage of the resolution could well precipitate rebellion. (verb)

When you see a word all by itself in an analogy or an antonym, with no sentence to show you the word in use, you may not be able to tell at first what part of speech it is. For example, if you see the word brook out of context, don't assume you're looking at a noun. It can also be a verb, as in: "She would brook no interference with her intentions." Instead, look at the answer choices or the other word in an analogy's stem. They should make it pretty clear what meaning they are testing.

TOP GRE WORDS

Some words appear on the GRE more than others. The following words all turn up regularly on the test, although some turn up more than others. You should start by learning these words, and the groups of words that have similar meanings to them.

The top **12** words on the GRE are:

ANOMALY	ASSUAGE	ENIGMA
EQUIVOCAL	ERUDITE	FERVID
LUCID	OPAQUE	PLACATE
PRECIPITATE	PRODIGAL	ZEAL

The next **20** most popular words are:

ABSTAIN	ADULTEIWTE	APATHY
AUDACIOUS	CAPRICIOUS	CORROBORATE
DESICCATE	ENGENDER	EPHEMERAL
GULLIBLE	HOMOGENOUS	LACONIC
LAUDABLE	LOQUACIOUS	MITIGATE
PEDANT	PRAGMATIC	PROPRIETY
VACILLATE	VOLATILE	

The next 20 most popular words after these are:

ADVOCATE	ANTIPATHY	BOLSTER
CACOPHONY	DERIDE	DISSONANCE
ENERVATE	EULOGY	GARRULOUS
INGENUOUS	LETHARGIC	MALLEABLE
MISANTHROPE	OBDURATE	OSTENTATION
PARADOX	PHILANTHROPIC	PREVARICATE
VENERATE	WAVER	

200 TOP GRE WORDS IN CONTEXT

ABATE: to reduce in amount, degree, or severity

As the hurricane's force ABATED, the winds dropped and the sea became calm.

Words with similar meanings:

EBB	LAPSE	LET UP
MODERATE	RELENT	SLACKEN
SUBSIDE	WANE	

ABSCOND: to leave secretly

The patron ABSCONDED from the restaurant without paying his bill by sneaking out the back door.

Words with similar meanings:

FLEE	DECAMP	ESCAPE

ABSTAIN: to choose not to do something:

During Lent, practicing Catholics ABSTAIN from eating meat.

Words with similar meanings:

FORBEAR	REFRAIN	WITHHOLD

ABYSS: an extremely deep hole

The submarine dove into the ABYSS to chart the previously unseen depths.

Related words:

ABYSSAL: pertaining to great depth

ABYSMAL: extremely bad

Words with similar meanings:

CHASM	VOID

ADULTERATE: to make impure

The restaurateur made his ketchup last longer by ADULTERATING it with water.

Related words:

UNADULTERATED: pure

ADULTERY an illicit relationship; an affair

Words with similar meanings:

DOCTOR

ADVOCATE: to speak in favor of

The vegetarian ADVOCATED a diet containing no meat.

Related words:

ADVOCACY: active support for

Words with similar meanings:

BACK	CHAMPION	SUPPORT

AESTHETIC: concerning the appreciation of beauty

Followers of the AESTHETIC Movement regarded the pursuit of beauty as the only true purpose of art.

Related words:

AESTHETE: someone unusually sensitive to beauty

AESTHETICISM: concern with beauty

Words with similar meanings:

ARTISTIC	TASTEFUL

AGGRANDIZE: to increase in power, influence, and reputation

The supervisor sought to AGGRANDIZE himself by claiming that the achievements of his staff were actually his own.

Words with similar meanings:

AMPLIFY	APOTHEOSIZE	AUGMENT
DIGNIFY	ELEVATE	ENLARGE
ENNOBLE	EXALT	GLORIFY
MAGNIFY	SWELL	UPLIFT
WAX		

ALLEVIATE: to make more bearable:

Taking aspirin helps to ALLEVIATE a headache.

Words with similar meanings:

ALLAY	ASSUAGE	COMFORT
EASE	LESSEN	LIGHTEN
MITIGATE	PALLIATE	RELIEVE

AMALGAMATE: to combine; to mix together

Giant Industries AMALGAMATED with Mega Products to form Giant-Mega Products Incorporated.

Related Words:

AMALGAM: a mixture, especially of two metals

Words with similar meanings:

ADMIX	BLEND	COMBINE
COMMINGLE	COMMIX	COMPOUND
FUSE	INTERMINGLE	INTERMIX
MERGE	MINGLE	MIX

AMBIGUOUS: doubtful or uncertain; able to be interpreted several ways

The directions he gave were so AMBIGUOUS that we disagreed on which way to turn.

Related Words:

AMBIGUITY: the quality of being ambiguous

Words with similar meanings:

CLOUDY	DOUBTFUL	DUBIOUS
EQUIVOCAL	NEBULOUS	INDETERMINATE
OBSCURE	UNCLEAR	VAGUE

AMELIORATE: to make better; to improve

The doctor was able to AMELIORATE the patient's suffering using painkillers.

Words with similar meanings:

AMEND	BETTER	IMPROVE
PACIFY	UPGRADE	

ANACHRONISM: something out of place in time

The aged hippie used ANACHRONISTIC phrases like *groovy* and far out that had not been popular for years.

Words with similar meanings:

ARCHAISM	INCONGRUITY

ANALOGOUS: similar or alike in some way; equivalent to

In a famous argument for the existence of God, the universe is ANALOGOUS to a mechanical timepiece, the creation of a divinely intelligent "clockmaker."

Related word..

ANALOGY: a similarity between things that are otherwise dissimilar

ANALOGUE: something that is similar in some way to something else

Words with similar meanings:

ALIKE	COMPARABLE	CORRESPONDING
EQUIVALENT	HOMOGENEOUS	PARALLEL
SIMILAR		

ANOMALY: deviation from what is normal

Albino animals may display too great an ANOMALY in their coloring to attract normally colored mates.

Related words:

ANOMALOUS: deviating from what is normal

Words with similar meanings:

ABERRANCE	ABERRATION	ABNORMALITY
DEVIANCE	DEVIATION	IRREGULARITY
PRETERNATURALNESS		

ANTAGONIZE: to annoy or provoke to anger

The child discovered that he could ANTAGONIZE the cat by pulling its tail.

Related Words:

ANTAGONISTIC: tending to provoke conflict

ANTAGONIST: someone who fights another

Words with similar meanings

CLASH	CONFLICT	INCITE
IRRITATE	OPPOSE	PESTER
PROVOKE	VEX	

ANTIPATHY: extreme dislike

The ANTIPATHY between the French and the English regularly erupted into open warfare.

Words with similar meanings:

ANIMOSITY	ANIMUS	ANTAGONISM
AVERSION	ENMITY	HOSTILITY
REPELLENCE		

APA . lack of interest or emotion

The APATHY of voters is so great that less than half the people who are eligible to vote actually bother to do so.

Words with similar meanings:

COOLNESS	DISINTEREST	DISREGARD

IMPASSIVITY	INDIFFERENCE	INSENSIBILITY
LASSITUDE	LETHARGY	LISTLESSNESS
PHLEGM	STOLIDITY	UNCONCERN
UNRESPONSIVENESS		

ARBITRATE: to judge a dispute between two opposing parties

Since the couple could not come to agreement, a judge was forced to ARBITRATE their divorce proceedings.

Related words:

ARBITRATION: a process by which a conflict is resolved

ARBITRATOR: a judge

Words with similar meanings:

ADJUDGE	ADJUDICATE	DECIDE
DETERMINE	JUDGE	MODERATE
REFEREE	RULE	

ARCHAIC: ancient, old-fashioned

Her ARCHAIC Commodore computer could not run the latest software.

Related words:

ARCHAISM: an outdated word or phrase

Words with similar meanings:

ANCIENT	ANTEDILUVIAN	ANTIQUE
BYGONE	DATED	DOWDY
FUSTY	OBSOLETE	OLD-FASHIONED
OUTDATED	OUTMODED	PASSÉ
PREHISTORIC	STALE	SUPERANNUATED
SUPERSEDED	VINTAGE	

ARDOR: intense and passionate feeling

Bishop's ARDOR for landscape was evident when he passionately described the beauty of the scenic Hudson Valley.

Related words:

ARDENT: expressing ardor; passionate

Words with similar meanings:

DEVOTION	ENTHUSIASM	FERVENCY
FERVIDITY	FERVIDNESS	FERVOR
FIRE	PASSION	ZEAL
ZEALOUSNESS		

ARTICULATE: able to speak clearly and expressively

She is such an ARTICULATE defender of labor that unions are among her strongest supporters.

Words with similar meanings

ELOQUENT	EXPRESSIVE	FLUENT
LUCID	SILVER-TONGUED	SMOOTH-SPOKEN

ASSUAGE: to make something unpleasant less severe

Like many people, Philip Larkin used alcohol to ASSUAGE his sense of meaninglessness and despair.

Words with similar meanings:

ALLAY	ALLEVIATE	APPEASE
COMFORT	CONCILIATE	EASE
LIGHTEN	MITIGATE	MOLLIFY
PACIFY	PALLIATE	PLACATE
PROPITIATE	RELIEVE	SOOTHE
SWEETEN		

ATTENUATE: to reduce in force or degree; to weaken

The Bill of Rights ATTENUATED the traditional power of government to change laws at will.

Words with similar meanings:

DEBILITATE	DEVITALIZE	DILUTE
ENERVATE	ENFEEBLE	RAREFY
SAP	THIN	UNDERMINE
UNDO	UNNERVE	WATER
WEAKEN		

AUDACIOUS: fearless and daring

"And you, your majesty, may kiss my bum!" replied the AUDACIOUS peasant.

Related words:

AUDACITY: the quality of being audacious

Words with similar meanings:

ADVENTURESOME	AGGRESSIVE	ASSERTIVE
BOLD	BRAVE	COURAGEOUS
DARING	DAUNTLESS	DOUGHTY
FEARLESS	GALLANT	GAME
HEROIC	INTREPID	METTLESOME
PLUCKY	STOUT	STOUTHEARTED

UNAFRAID	UNDAUNTED	VALIANT
VALOROUS	VENTURESOME	VENTUROUS

AUSTERE: severe or stern in appearance; undecorated

The lack of decoration makes Zen temples seem AUSTERE to the untrained eye.

Related words:

AUSTERITY: severity, especially poverty

Words with similar meanings:

BLEAK	DOUR	GRIM
HARD	HARSH	SEVERE

BANAL: predictable, cliched, boring

He used BANAL phrases like Have a nice day, or Another day, another dollar.

Related words:

BANALITY: the quality of being banal

Words with similar meanings:

BLAND	BROMIDIC	CLICHED
COMMONPLACE	FATUOUS	HACKNEYED
INNOCUOUS	INSIPID	JEJUNE
MUSTY	PLATITUDINOUS	PROSAIC
QUOTIDIAN	SHOPWORN	STALE
STEREOTYPIC	THREADBARE	TIMEWORN
TIRED	TRITE	VAPID
WORN-OUT		

BOLSTER: to support; to prop up

The presence of giant footprints BOLSTERED the argument that Sasquatch was in the area.

Words with similar meanings:

BRACE	BUTTRESS	PROP
SUPPORT	SUSTAIN	UNDERPIN
UPHOLD		

BOMBASTIC: pompous in speech and manner

Mussolini's speeches were mostly BOMBASTIC; his boasting and outrageous claims had no basis in fact.

Related words:

BOMBAST: pompous speech or writing

Words with similar meanings:

BLOATED	DECLAMATORY	FUSTIAN
GRANDILOQUENT	GRANDIOSE	HIGH-FLOWN
MAGNILOQUENT	OROTUND	PRETENTIOUS
RHETORICAL	SELF-IMPORTANT	

CACOPHONY: harsh, jarring noise

The junior high orchestra created an almost unbearable CACOPHONY as they tried to tune their instruments.

Words with similar meanings:

DISCORD	CHAOS	DISHARMONY
NOISE	CLAMOR	DIN

CANDID: impartial and honest in speech

The observations of a child can be charming since they are CANDID and unpretentious.

Words with similar meanings:

DIRECT	FORTHRIGHT	FRANK
HONEST	OPEN	SINCERE
STRAIGHT	STRAIGHTFORWARD	UNDISGUISED

CAPRICIOUS: changing one's mind quickly and often

Queen Elizabeth I was quite CAPRICIOUS; her courtiers could never be sure which of their number would catch her fancy.

Related words:

CAPRICE: whim, sudden fancy

Words with similar meanings:

ARBITRARY	CHANCE	CHANGEABLE
ERRATIC	FICKLE	INCONSTANT
MERCURIAL	RANDOM	WHIMSICAL
WILLFUL		

CASTIGATE: to punish or criticize harshly

Americans are amazed at how harshly the authorities in Singapore CASTIGATE perpetrators of what would be considered minor crimes in the United States.

Words with similar meanings:

ADMONISH	CHASTISE	CHIDE
REBUKE	REPRIMAND	REPROACH

REPROVE	SCOLD	TAX
UPBRAID		

CATALYST: something that brings about a change in something else

The imposition of harsh taxes was the CATALYST that finally brought on the revolution.

Related Words:

CATALYZE: to bring about a change in something else

CAUSTIC: biting in wit

Dorothy Parker gained her reputation for CAUSTIC wit from her cutting, yet clever, insults.

Words with similar meanings:

ACERBIC	BITING	MORDANT
TRENCHANT		

CHAOS: great disorder or confusion

In most religious traditions, God created an ordered universe from CHAOS.

Related Words:

CHAOTIC: jumbled, confused

Words with similar meanings:

CLUTTER	CONFUSION	DISARRANGEMENT
DISARRAY	DISORDER	DISORDERLINESS
DISORGANIZATION	JUMBLE	MESS
MUDDLE	SCRAMBLE	SNARL
TOPSY-TURVINESS	TURMOIL	

CHAUVINIST: someone prejudiced in favor of a group to which he or she belongs

The attitude that men are inherently superior to women and therefore must be obeyed is common among male CHAUVINISTS.

Words with similar meanings:

PARTISAN

CHICANERY: deception by means of craft or guile

Dishonest used car salesmen often use CHICANERY to sell their beat-up old cars.

Words with similar meanings:

ARTIFICE	CONNMNG	CRAFTINESS

DECEPTION	DEVIOUSNESS	MISREPRESENTATION
PETTIFOGGERY	SHADINESS	SNEAKINESS
SOPHISTRY	SUBTERFUGE	UNDERHANDEDNESS

COGENT: convincing and well reasoned

Swayed by the COGENT argument of the defense, the jury had no choice but to acquit the defendant.

Related words:

COGITATE: to think deeply

Words with similar meanings:

CONVINCING	PERSUASIVE	SOLID
SOUND	TELLING	VALID

CONDONE: to overlook, pardon, or disregard

Some theorists believe that failing to prosecute minor crimes is the same as CONDONING an air of lawlessness.

Words with similar meanings:

EXCULPATE	EXCUSE	PARDON
REMIT		

CONVOLUTED: intricate and complicated

Although many people bought ***A Brief History of Time,*** few could follow its CONVOLUTED ideas and theories.

Words with similar meanings:

BYZANTINE	COMPLEX	ELABORATE
INTRICATE	KNOTTY	LABYRINTHINE
PERPLEXING	TANGLED	

CORROBORATE: to provide supporting evidence

Fingerprints CORROBORATED the witness's testimony that he saw the defendant in the victim's apartment.

Words with similar meanings:

AUTHENTICATE	BACK	BEAR OUT
BUTTRESS	CONFIRM	SUBSTANTIATE
VALIDATE	VERIFY	

Vocabulary Builder

CREDULOUS: too trusting; gullible

Although some 4-year-olds believe in the Easter Bunny, only the most CREDULOUS 9-year-olds also believe in him.

Related words:

CREDULITY the quality of being credulous

Words with similar meanings:

NAIVE	SUSCEPTIBLE	TRUSTING

CRESCENDO: steadily increasing volume or force

The CRESCENDO of tension became unbearable as Evel Knievel prepared to jump his motorcycle over the school buses.

DECORUM: appropriateness of behavior or conduct; propriety

The countess complained that the vulgar peasants lacked the DECORUM appropriate for a visit to the palace.

Related words:

DECOROUS: conforming to acceptable standards

Words with similar meanings:

CORRECTNESS	DECENCY	ETIQUETTE
MANNERS	MORES	PROPRIETY
SEEMLINESS		

DEFERENCE: respect, courtesy

The respectful young law clerk treated the Supreme Court justice with the utmost DEFERENCE.

Related words:

DEFER: to delay; to show someone deference

DEFERENT: courteous and respectful

Words with similar meanings:

COURTESY	HONOR	HOMAGE
OBEISANCE	RESPECT	REVERENCE
VENERATION		

DERIDE: to speak of or treat with contempt; to mock

The awkward child was often DERIDED by his "cooler" peers.

Related words:

DERISION: mockery and **taunts**

DERISIVE: in a mocking manner

Words with similar meanings:

GIBE	JEER	MOCK
RIDICULE	SCOFF	SNEER
TAUNT		

DESICCATE: to dry out thoroughly

After a few weeks of lying on the desert's baking sands, the cow's carcass became completely DESICCATED.

Related words:

DESICCANT: something that removes water from another substance

Words with similar meanings:

DRY	PARCH	DEHYDRATE

DESULTORY: jumping from one thing to another; disconnected

Diane had a DESULTORY academic record; she had changed majors 12 times in 3 years.

Words with similar meanings:

AIMLESS	DISCONNECTED	ERRATIC
HAPHAZARD	INDISCRIMINATE	OBJECTLESS
PURPOSELESS	RANDOM	STRAY
UNCONSIDERED	UNPLANNED	

DIATRIBE: an abusive, condemnatory speech

The trucker bellowed a DIATRIBE at the driver who had cut him off.

Words with similar meanings:

FULMINATION	HARANGUE	INVECTIVE
JEREMIAD	MALEDICTION	OBLOQUY
TIRADE		

DIFFIDENT: lacking self-confidence

Steve's DIFFIDENT manner during the job interview stemmed from his nervous nature and lack of experience in the field.

Words with similar meanings:

BACKWARD	BASHFUL	COY
DEMURE	MODEST	RETIRING
SELF-EFFACING	SHY	TIMID

DILATE: to make larger; to expand

When you enter a darkened room, the pupils of your eyes DILATE to let in more light.

Words with similar meanings:

AMPLIFY	DEVELOP	ELABORATE
ENLARGE	EXPAND	EXPATIATE

DILATORY: intended to delay

The congressman used DILATORY measures to delay the passage of the bill.

Words with similar meanings:

DRAGGING	FLAGGING	LAGGARD
LAGGING	SLOW	SLOW-FOOTED
SLOW-GOING	SLOW-PACED	TARDY

DILETTANTE: someone with an amateurish and superficial interest in a topic

Jerry's friends were such DILETTANTES that they seemed to have new jobs and hobbies every week.

Words with similar meanings:

AMATEUR	DABBLER	SUPERFICIAL
TYRO		

DIRGE: a funeral hymn or mournful speech

Melville wrote the poem A DIRGE for James McPherson for the funeral of a Union general who was killed in 1864.

Words with similar meanings:

ELEGY	LAMENT

DISABUSE: to set right; to free from error

Galileo's observations DISABUSED scholars of the notion that the Sun revolved around the Earth.

Words with similar meanings:

CORRECT	UNDECEIVE

DISCERN: to perceive; to recognize

It is easy to DISCERN the difference between butter and butter-flavored topping.

Related words:

DISCERNMENT: taste and cultivation

Words with similar meanings:

CATCH	DESCRY	DETECT
DIFFERENTIATE	DISCRIMINATE	DISTINGUISH
ESPY	GLIMPSE	KNOW
SEPARATE	SPOT	SPY
TELL		

DISPARATE: fundamentally different; entirely unlike

Although the twins appear to be identical physically, their personalities are DISPARATE.

Words with similar meanings:

DIFFERENT	DISSIMILAR	DIVERGENT
DIVERSE	VARIANT	VARIOUS

DISSEMBLE: to present a false appearance; to disguise one's real intentions or character

The villain could DISSEMBLE to the police no longer—he admitted the deed and tore up the floor to reveal the body of the old man.

Words with similar meanings:

ACT	AFFECT	ASSUME
CAMOUFLAGE	CLOAK	COUNTERFEIT
COVER UP	DISGUISE	DISSIMULATE
FAKE	FEIGN	MASK
MASQUERADE	POSE	PRETEND
PUT ON	SHAM	SIMULATE

DISSONANCE: a harsh and disagreeable combination, often of sounds

Cognitive DISSONANCE is the inner conflict produced when long-standing beliefs are contradicted by new evidence.

Words with similar meanings:

CLASH	CONTENTION	DISCORD
DISSENSION	DISSENT	DISSIDENCE
FRICTION	STRIFE	VARIANCE

DOGMA: a firmly held opinion, often a religious belief

Linus' central DOGMA was that children who believed in the Great Pumpkin would be rewarded.

Words with similar meanings:

CREED	DOCTRINE	TEACHING
TENET		

DOGMATIC: dictatorial in one's opinions

The dictator was DOGMATIC—he, and only he, was right.

Words with similar meanings:

AUTHORITARIAN	BOSSY	DICTATORIAL
DOCTRINAIRE	DOMINEERING	IMPERIOUS
MAGISTERIAL	MASTERFUL	OVERBEARING
PEREMPTORY		

DUPE: to deceive; a person who is easily deceived

Bugs Bunny was able to DUPE Elmer Fudd by dressing up as a lady rabbit.

Words with similar meanings:

BEGUILE	BETRAY	BLUFF
COZEN	DECEIVE	DELUDE
FOOL	HOODWINK	HUMBUG
MISLEAD	TAKE IN	TRICK

ECLECTIC: selecting from or made up from a variety of sources

Budapest's architecture is an ECLECTIC mix of eastern and western styles.

Words with similar meanings:

SELECTIVE	CATHOLIC	BROAD

EFFICACY: effectiveness

The EFFICACY of penicillin was unsurpassed when it was first introduced; the drug completely eliminated almost all bacterial infections for which it was administered.

Related Words:

EFFICACIOUS: effective; productive

Words with similar meanings:

DYNAMISM	EFFECTIVENESS	EFFICIENCY
FORCE	POWER	PRODUCTIVENESS
PROFICIENCY	STRENGTH	VIGOR

ELEGY: a sorrowful poem or speech

Although Thomas Gray's "ELEGY Written in a Country Churchyard" is about death and loss, it urges its readers to endure this life, and to trust in spirituality.

Related Words:

ELEGIAC: like an elegy; mournful

Words with similar meanings:

DIRGE	LAMENT

ELOQUENT: persuasive and moving, especially in speech

The Gettysburg Address is moving not only because of its lofty sentiments but also because of its ELOQUENT words.

Words with similar meanings:

ARTICULATE	EXPRESSIVE	FLUENT
MEANINGFUL	SIGNIFICANT	SMOOTH-SPOKEN

EMULATE: to copy; to try to equal or excel

The graduate student sought to EMULATE his professor in every way, copying not only how she taught, but also how she conducted herself outside of class.

Words with similar meanings:

APE	IMITATE	SIMULATE

ENERVATE: to reduce in strength

The guerrillas hoped that a series of surprise attacks would ENERVATE the regular army.

Related Words:

UNNERVE: to deprive of strength or courage

Words with similar meanings:

DEBILITATE	ENFEEBLE	SAP
WEAKEN		

ENGENDER: to produce, cause, or bring about

His fear and hatred of clowns was ENGENDERED when he witnessed the death of his father at the hands of a clown.

Words with similar meanings:

BEGET	GENERATE	PROCREATE
PROLIFERATE	REPRODUCE	SPAWN

Vocabulary Builder

ENIGMA: a puzzle; a mystery

Speaking in riddles and dressed in old robes, the artist gained a reputation as something of an ENIGMA.

Words with similar meanings:

CONUNDRUM PERPLEXITY

ENUMERATE: to count, list, or itemize

Moses returned from the mountain with tablets on which the commandments were ENUMERATED.

Words with similar meanings:

CATALOG INDEX TABULATE

EPHEMERAL: lasting a short time

The lives of mayflies seem EPHEMERAL to us, since the flies' average life span is a matter of hours.

Words with similar meanings:

EVANESCENT FLEETING MOMENTARY
TRANSIENT

EQUIVOCATE: to use expressions of double meaning in order to mislead

When faced with criticism of his policies, the politician EQUIVOCATED and left all parties thinking he agreed with them.

Related Words:

EQUIVOCAL: undecided; trying to deceive

EQUIVOCATION: the act or state of equivocating

Words with similar meanings:

AMBIGUOUS EVASIVE WAFFLING

ERRATIC: wandering and unpredictable

The plot seemed predictable until it suddenly took a series of ERRATIC turns that surprised the audience.

Related Words:

ERRANT: straying, mistaken, roving

Words with similar meanings:

CAPRICIOUS INCONSTANT IRRESOLUTE
WHIMSICAL

ERUDITE: learned, scholarly, bookish

The annual meeting of philosophy professors was a gathering of the most ERUDITE, well-published individuals in the field.

Related Words:

ERUDITION: extensive knowledge or learning

Words with similar meanings:

SCHOLASTIC	LEARNED	WISE

ESOTERIC: known or understood by only a few

Only a handful of experts are knowledgeable about the ESOTERIC world of particle physics.

Words with similar meanings:

ABSTRUSE	ARCANE	OBSCURE

ESTIMABLE: admirable

Most people consider it ESTIMABLE that Mother Teresa spent her life helping the poor of India.

Related Words:

ESTEEM: high regard

Words with similar meanings:

ADMIRABLE	COMMENDABLE	CREDITABLE
HONORABLE	LAUDABLE	MERITORIOUS
PRAISEWORTHY	RESPECTABLE	VENERABLE
WORTHY		

EULOGY: speech in praise of someone

His best friend gave the EULOGY, outlining his many achievements and talents.

Words with similar meanings:

COMMEND	EXTOL	LAUD

EUPHEMISM: use of an inoffensiveword or phrase in place of a more distasteful one

The funeral director preferred to use the EUPHEMISM "sleeping" instead of the word "dead."

Words with similar meanings:

CIRCUMLOCUTION	WHITEWASH

EXACERBATE: to make worse

It is unwise to take aspirin to try to relieve heartburn; instead of providing relief, the drug will only EXACERBATE the problem.

Words with similar meanings:

ANNOY	AGGRAVATE	INTENSIFY
IRRITATE	PROVOKE	

EXCULPATE: to clear from blame; prove innocent

The adversarial legal system is intended to convict those who are guilty and to EXCULPATE those who are innocent.

Words with similar meanings:

ABSOLVE	ACQUIT	CLEAR
EXONERATE	VINDICATE	

EXIGENT: urgent; requiring immediate action

The patient was losing blood so rapidly that it was EXIGENT to stop the source of the bleeding.

Words with similar meanings:

CRITICAL	IMPERATIVE	NEEDED
URGENT		

EXONERATE: to clear of blame

The fugitive was EXONERATED when another criminal confessed to committing the crime.

Words with similar meanings:

ABSOLVE	ACQUIT	CLEAR
EXCULPATE	VINDICATE	

EXPLICIT: clearly stated or shown; forthright in expression

The owners of the house left a list of EXPLICIT instructions detailing their house-sitters' duties, including a schedule for watering the house plants.

Related Words:

EXPLICABLE: capable of being explained

EXPLICATE: to give a detailed explanation

Words with similar meanings:

CANDID	FRANK	STRAIGHTFORWARD
UNEQUIVOCAL		

FANATICAL: acting excessively enthusiastic; filled with extreme, unquestioned devotion

The stormtroopers were FANATICAL in their devotion to the Emperor, readily sacrificing their lives for him.

Words with similar meanings:

EXTREMIST	FIERY	FRENZIED
ZEALOUS		

FAWN: to grovel

The understudy FAWNED over the director in hopes of being cast in the part on a permanent basis.

Words with similar meanings:

BOOTLICK	GROVEL	TOADY
PANDER		

FERVID: intensely emotional; feverish

The fans of Maria Callas were particularly FERVID, doing anything to catch a glimpse of the great opera singer.

Related Words:

FERVENT: enthusiastic

FERVOR: passion

Words with similar meanings:

BURNING	IMPASSIONED	PASSIONATE
VEHEMENT		ZEALOUS

FLORID: excessively decorated or embellished

The palace had been decorated in an excessively FLORID style; every surface had been carved and gilded.

Words with similar meanings:

BAROQUE	ELABORATE	FLAMBOYANT
ORNATE	OSTENTATIOUS	ROCOCO

FOMENT: to arouse or incite

The protesters tried to FOMENT feeling against the war through their speeches and demonstrations.

Words with similar meanings:

AGITATE	IMPASSION	INFLAME
INSTIGATE	KINDLE	

FRUGALITY: a tendency to be thrifty or cheap

Scrooge McDuck's FRUGALITY was so great that he accumulated enough wealth to fill a giant storehouse with money.

Words with similar meanings:

ECONOMICAL PARSIMONY PRUDENCE
SPARING

GARRULOUS: tending to talk a lot

The GARRULOUS parakeet distracted its owner with its continuous talking.

Words with similar meanings:

EFFUSIVE LOQUACIOUS

GREGARIOUS: outgoing, sociable

She was so GREGARIOUS that when she found herself alone she felt quite sad.

Words with similar meanings:

AFFABLE CONGENIAL COMMUNICATIVE
SOCIABLE

GUILE: deceit or trickery

Since he was not fast enough to catch the roadrunner on foot, the coyote resorted to GUILE in an effort to trap his enemy.

Related Words:

GUILELESS: innocent, without trickery

Words with similar meanings:

ARTIFICE CHICANERY CONNIVERY
DUPLICITY

GULLIBLE: easily deceived

The con man pretended to be a bank officer so as to fool GULLIBLE bank customers into giving him their account information.

Related Words:

GULL: a person who is easily tricked

Words with similar meanings:

CREDULOUS EXPLOITABLE NAIVE

HOMOGENOUS: of a similar kind

The class was fairly HOMOGENOUS, since almost all of the students were senior journalism majors.

Related Words:

HOMOGENIZED: thoroughly mixed together

Words with similar meanings:

CONSISTENT STANDARDIZED UNIFORM
UNVARYING

ICONOCLAST: one who opposes established beliefs, customs, and institutions

His lack of regard for traditional beliefs soon established him as an ICONOCLAST.

Words with similar meanings:

MAVERICK NONCONFORMIST REBEL
REVOLUTIONARY

IMPERTURBABLE: not capable of being disturbed

The counselor had so much experience dealing with distraught children that she seemed IMPERTURBABLE, even when faced with the wildest tantrums.

Related Words:

PERTURB: to disturb greatly

Words with similar meanings:

COMPOSED DISPASSIONATE IMPASSIVE
SERENE STOICAL

IMPERVIOUS: impossible to penetrate; incapable of being affected

A good raincoat will be IMPERVIOUS to moisture.

Words with similar meanings:

RESISTANT IMPREGNABLE

IMPETUOUS: quick to act without thinking

It is not good for an investment broker to be IMPETUOUS, since much thought should be given to all the possible options.

Related Words:

IMPETUS: impulse

Words with similar meanings:

IMPULSIVE	PRECIPITATE	RASH
RECKLESS	SPONTANEOUS	

IMPLACABLE: unable to be calmed down or made peaceful

His rage at the betrayal was so great that he remained IMPLACABLE for weeks.

Related Words:

PLACATE: to make peaceful

Words with similar meanings:

INEXORABLE	INTRANSIGENT	IRRECONCILABLE
RELENTLESS	REMORSELESS	UNFORGIVING
UNRELENTING		

INCHOATE: not fully formed; disorganized

The ideas expressed in Nietzsche's mature work also appear in an INCHOATE form in his earliest writing.

Words with similar meanings:

AMORPHOUS	INCOHERENT	INCOMPLETE
UNORGANIZED		

INGENUOUS: showing innocence or childlike simplicity

She was so INGENUOUS that her friends feared that her innocence and trustfulness would be exploited when she visited the big city.

Related Words:

INGENUE: a naive girl or young woman

DISINGENUOUS: giving a false impression of innocence

Words with similar meanings:

ARTLESS	GUILELESS	INNOCENT
NAIVE	SIMPLE	UNAFFECTED

INIMICAL: hostile, unfriendly

Even though a cease-fire had been in place for months, the two sides were still INIMICAL to each other.

Words with similar meanings:

ADVERSE	ANTAGONISTIC	DISSIDENT
RECALCITRANT		

INNOCUOUS: harmless

Some snakes are poisonous, but most species are INNOCUOUS and pose no danger to humans.

Words with similar meanings:

BENIGN	HARMLESS	INOFFENSIVE

INSIPID: lacking interest or flavor

The critic claimed that the painting was INSIPID, containing no interesting qualities at all.

Words with similar meanings:

BANAL.	BLAND	DULL
STALE	VAPID	

INTRANSIGENT: uncompromising; refusing to be reconciled

The professor was INTRANSIGENT on the deadline, insisting that everyone turn the assignment in at the same time.

Words with similar meanings:

IMPLACABLE	INEXORABLE	IRRECONCILABLE
OBDURATE	OBSTINATE	REMORSELESS
RIGID	UNBENDING	UNRELENTING
UNYIELDING		

INUNDATE: to overwhelm; to cover with water

The tidal wave INUNDATED Atlantis, which was lost beneath the water.

Words with similar meanings:

DELUGE	DROWN	ENGULF
FLOOD	SUBMERGE	

IRASCIBLE: easily made angry

Attila the Hun's IRASCIBLE and violent nature made all who dealt with him fear for their lives.

Related Words:

IRATE: angry

Words with similar meanings:

CANTANKEROUS	IRRITABLE	ORNERY
TESTY		

LACONIC: using few words

She was a LACONIC poet who built her reputation on using words as sparingly as possible.

Words with similar meanings:

CONCISE	CURT	PITHY
TERSE	TACITURN	

LAMENT: to express sorrow; to grieve

The children continued to LAMENT the death of the goldfish weeks after its demise.

Words with similar meanings:

BEWAIL	DEPLORE	GRIEVE
MOURN		

LAUD: to give praise; to glorify

Parades and fireworks were staged to LAUD the success of the rebels.

Related Words:

LAUDABLE: worth of praise

LAUDATORY: expressing praise

Words with similar meanings:

ACCLAIM	APPLAUD	COMMEND
COMPLIMENT	EXALT	EXTOL
HAIL	PRAISE	

LAVISH: to give unsparingly (v.); extremely generous or extravagant (adj.)

She LAVISHED the puppy with so many treats that it soon become overweight and spoiled.

Words with similar meanings:

BESTOW	CONFER	EXUBERANT
EXTRAVAGANT	OPULENT	PROFUSE
PRODIGAL,	LUXURIANT	SUPERABUNDANT

LETHARGIC: acting in an indifferent or slow, sluggish manner

The clerk was so LETHARGIC that, even when the store was slow, he always had a long line in front of him.

Words with similar meanings:

APATHETIC	LANGUID	LACKADAISICAL
LISTLESS	TORPID	

LOQUACIOUS: talkative

She was naturally LOQUACIOUS, which was a problem in situations in which listening was more important than talking.

Related Words:

ELOQUENCE: powerful, convincing speaking

LOQUACITY: the quality of being loquacious

Words with similar meanings:

EFFUSIVE	GARRULOUS	VERBOSE

LUCID: clear and easily understood

The explanations were written in a simple and LUCID manner so that students were immediately able to apply what they learned.

Related Words:

LUCIDITY: clarity

LUCENT: glowing with light

Words with similar meanings:

CLEAR	COHERENT	EXPLICIT
INTELLIGIBLE	LIMPID	

LUMINOUS: bright, brilliant, glowing

The park was bathed in LUMINOUS sunshine which warmed the bodies and the souls of the visitors.

Related Words:

ILLUMINATE: to shine light on

LUMINARY: an inspiring person

Words with similar meanings:

INCANDESCENT	LUCENT	LUSTROUS
RADIANT	RESPLENDENT	

MALINGER: to evade responsibility by pretending to be ill

A common way to avoid the draft was by MALINGERING—pretending to be mentally or physically ill so as to avoid being taken by the Army.

Related Words:

LINGER: to be slow in leaving

Words with similar meanings:

SHIRK	SLACK

MALLEABLE: capable of being shaped

Gold is the most MALLEABLE of precious metals; it can easily be formed into almost any shape.

Words with similar meanings:

ADAPTABLE	DUCTILE	PLASTIC
PLIABLE	PLIANT	

METAPHOR: a figure of speech comparing two different things; a symbol

The METAPHOR "a sea of troubles" suggests a lot of troubles by comparing their number to the vastness of the sea.

Related Words:

METAPHORICAL: standing as a symbol for something else

Words with similar meanings:

ANALOGY	COMPARISON

METICULOUS: extremely careful about details

To find all the clues at the crime scene, the investigators METICULOUSLY examined every inch of the area.

Words with similar meanings:

CONSCIENTIOUS	PRECISE	SCRUPULOUS

MISANTHROPE: a person who dislikes others

The character Scrooge in ***A Christmas*** Carol is such a MISANTHROPE that even the sight of children singing makes him angry.

MITIGATE: to soften; to lessen

A judge may MITIGATE a sentence if she decides that a person committed a crime out of need.

Words with similar meanings:

ALLAY	ALLEVIATE	ASSUAGE
EASE	LIGHTEN	MODERATE
MOLLIFY	PALLIATE	TEMPER

MOLLIFY: to calm or make less severe

Their argument was so intense that is was difficult to believe any compromise would MOLLIFY them.

Words with similar meanings:

APPEASE ASSUAGE . CONCILIATE
PACIFY

MONOTONY: lack of variation

The MONOTONY of the sound of the dripping faucet almost drove the research assistant crazy.

Related Words:

MONOTONE: a sound that is made at the same tone or pitch

Words with similar meanings:

DRONE TEDIUM

NAIVE: lacking sophistication or experience

Having never traveled before, the hillbillies were more NAIVE than the people they met in Beverly Hills.

Related Words:

NAIVETÉ: the state of being naive

Words with similar meanings:

ARTLESS CREDULOUS GUILELESS
INGENUOUS SIMPLE UNAFFECTED

OBDURATE: hardened in feeling; resistant to persuasion

The President was completely OBDURATE on the issue, and no amount of persuasion would change his mind.

Words with similar meanings:

INFLEXIBLE INTRANSIGENT RECALCITRANT
TENACIOUS UNYIELDING

OBSEQUIOUS: overly submissive and eager to please

The OBSEQUIOUS new associate made sure to compliment her supervisor's tie and agree with him on every issue.

Related Words:

OBEISANCE: a physical show of respect or submission, such as a bow

Words with similar meanings:

COMPLIANT DEFERENTIAL SERVILE
SUBSERVIENT

OBSTINATE: stubborn, unyielding

The OBSTINATE child could not be made to eat any food that he disliked.

Words with similar meanings:

INTRANSIGENT	MULISH	PERSISTENT
PERTINACIOUS	STUBBORN	TENACIOUS

OBVIATE: to prevent; to make unnecessary

The river was shallow enough to wade across at many points, which OBVIATED the need for a bridge.

Words with similar meanings:

FORESTALL	PRECLUDE	PROHIBIT

OCCLUDE: to stop up; to prevent the passage of

A shadow is thrown across the Earth's surface during a solar eclipse, when the light from the sun is OCCLUDED by the moon.

Words with similar meanings:

BARRICADE	BLOCK	CLOSE
OBSTRUCT		

ONEROUS: troublesome and oppressive; burdensome

The assignment was so extensive and difficult to manage that it proved ONEROUS to the team in charge of it.

Words with similar meanings:

ARDUOUS	BACKBREAKING	BURDENSOME
CUMBERSOME	DIFFICULT	EXACTING
FORMIDABLE	HARD	LABORIOUS
OPPRESSIVE	RIGOROUS	TAXING
TRYING		

OPAQUE: impossible to see through; preventing the passage of light

The heavy buildup of dirt and grime on the windows almost made them OPAQUE.

Related Words:

OPACITY the quality of being obscure and indecipherable

Words with similar meanings:

OBSCURE

OPPROBRIUM: public disgrace

After the scheme to embezzle the elderly was made public, the treasurer resigned in utter OPPROBRIUM.

Words with similar meanings:

DISCREDIT	DISGRACE	DISHONOR
DISREPUTE	IGNOMINY	INFAMY
OBLOQUY	SHAME	

OSTENTATION: excessive showiness

The OSTENTATION of the Sun King's court is evident in the lavish decoration and luxuriousness of his palace at Versailles.

Related Words:

OSTENSIBLE: apparent

Words with similar meanings:

CONSPICUOUSNESS	FLASHINESS	PRETENTIOUSNESS
SHOWINESS		

PARADOX: a contradiction or dilemma

It is a PARADOX that those most in need of medical attention are often those least able to obtain it.

Words with similar meanings:

INCONGRUITY	AMBIGUITY

PARAGON: model of excellence or perfection

She is the PARAGON of what a judge should be: honest, intelligent, hardworking, and just.

Words with similar meanings:

APOTHEOSIS	IDEAL	QUINTESSENCE
STANDARD		

PEDANT: someone who shows off learning

The graduate instructor's tedious and excessive commentary on the subject soon gained her a reputation as a PEDANT.

Related Words:

PEDANTIC: making an excessive display of learning

PERFIDIOUS: willing to betray one's trust

The actress's PERFIDIOUS companion revealed all of her intimate secrets to the gossip columnist.

Related Words:

PERFIDY: deceit, treachery

Words with similar meanings:

DISLOYAL FAITHLESS TREACHEROUS
TRAITOROUS

PERFUNCTORY: done in a routine way; indifferent

The machinelike bank teller processed the transaction and gave the waiting customer a PERFUNCTORY smile.

Words with similar meanings:

APATHETIC AUTOMATIC MECHANICAL

PERMEATE: to penetrate

This miraculous new cleaning fluid is able to PERMEATE stains and dissolve them in minutes!

Related Words:

IMPERMEABLE: unable to be permeated

Words with similar meanings:

IMBUE INFUSE SUFFUSE

PHILANTHROPY: charity; a desire or effort to promote goodness

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art owes much of its collection to the PHILANTHROPY of private collectors who willed their estates to the museum.

Related Words:

PHILANTHROPIST: someone who is generous and desires to promote goodness

Words with similar meanings:

HUMANITARIANISM ALTRUISM

PLACATE: to soothe or pacify

The burglar tried to PLACATE the snarling dog by saying, "Nice doggy," and offering it a **treat**

Related Words:

PLACID: tolerant; calm

IMPLACABLE: unable to be made peaceful

Words with similar meanings:

APPEASE CONCILIATE MOLLIFY

PLASTIC: able to be molded, altered, or bent

The new material was very PLASTIC and could be formed into products of vastly different shape.

Words with similar meanings:

ADAPTABLE DUCTILE MALLEABLE
PLIANT

PLETHORA. excess

Assuming that more was better, the defendant offered the judge a PLETHORA of excuses.

Words with similar meanings:

GLUT OVERABUNDANCE SUPERFLUITY
SURFEIT

PRAGMATIC: practical as opposed to idealistic

While daydreaming gamblers think they can get rich by frequenting casinos, PRAGMATIC gamblers realize that the odds are heavily stacked against them.

Related Words:

PRAGMATISM: a practical approach to problem solving

Words with similar meanings:

REALISTIC RATIONAL

PRECIPITATE: to throw violently or bring about abruptly; lacking deliberation

Upon learning that the couple married after knowing each other only two months, friends and family members expected such a PRECIPITATE marriage to end in divorce.

Related Words:

PRECIPITOUS: very steep

PRECIPICE: a steep cliff

PRECIPITATION: weather phenomena, like rain or snow, that fall from the sky

Words with similar meanings:

ABRUPT HASTY HEADLONG
HURRIED ILL-CONSIDERED IMPETUOUS
IMPULSIVE PROMPT RASH
RECKLESS SUDDEN

PREVARICATE: to lie or deviate from the truth

Rather than admit that he had overslept again, the employee PREVARICATED and claimed that heavy traffic had prevented him from arriving at work on time.

Words with similar meanings:

EQUIVOCATE	LIE	PERJURE

PRISTINE: fresh and clean; uncorrupted

Since concerted measures had been taken to prevent looting, the archeological site was still PRISTINE when researchers arrived.

Words with similar meanings:

INNOCENT	UNDAMAGED

PRODIGAL: lavish, wasteful

The PRODIGAL Son quickly wasted all of his inheritance on a lavish lifestyle devoted to pleasure.

Related Words:

PRODIGALITY: excessive or reckless spending

Words with similar meanings:

EXTRAVAGANT	LAVISH	PROFLIGATE
SPENDTHRIFT	WASTEFUL	

PROLIFERATE: to increase in number quickly

Although he only kept two guinea pigs initially, they PROLIFERATED to such an extent that he soon had dozens.

Related Words:

PROLIFIC: very productive or highly able to reproduce rapidly

Words with similar meanings:

BREED	MULTIPLY	PROCREATE
PROPAGATE	REPRODUCE	SPAWN

PROPITIATE: to conciliate; to appease

The management PROPITIATED the irate union by agreeing to raise wages for its members.

Related Words:

PROPITIOUS: advantageous, favorable

Words with similar meanings:

APPEASE	CONCILIATE	MOLLIFY
PACIFY	PLACATE	

PROPRIETY: correct behavior; obedience to rules and customs

The aristocracy maintained a high level of PROPRIETY, adhering to even the most minor social rules.

Related Words:

APPROPRIATE: suitable for a particular occasion or place

Words with similar meanings:

DECENCY	DECORUM	MODESTY
SEEMLINESS		

PRUDENCE: wisdom, caution, or restraint

The college student exhibited PRUDENCE by obtaining practical experience along with her studies, which greatly strengthened her résumé.

Related Words:

PRUDE: someone who is excessively concerned with propriety

PRUDISH: prissy and puritanical

Words with similar meanings:

ASTUTENESS	CIRCUMSPECTION	DISCRETION
FRUGALITY	JUDICIOUSNESS	PROVIDENCE
THRIFT		

PUNGENT: sharp and irritating to the senses

The smoke from the burning tires was extremely PUNGENT.

Words with similar meanings:

ACRID	CAUSTIC	PIQUANT
POIGNANT	STINGING	

QUIESCENT: motionless

Many animals are QUIESCENT over the winter months, minimizing activity in order to conserve energy.

Related Words:

QUIESCENCE: state of rest or inactivity

Words with similar meanings:

LATENT	DORMANT

RAREFY: to make thinner or sparser

Since the atmosphere RAREFIES as altitudes increase, the air at the top of very tall mountains is too thin to breathe.

Related Words:

RAREFACTION: the process of making something less dense

Words with similar meanings:

ATTENUATE THIN

REPUDIATE: to reject the validity of

The old woman's claim that she was Russian royalty was REPUDIATED when DNA tests showed she was of no relation to them.

Words with similar meanings:

DENY DISAVOW DISCLAIM
DISOWN RENOUNCE

RETICENT: silent, reserved

Physically small and RETICENT in her speech, Joan Didion often went unnoticed by those upon whom she was reporting.

Words with similar meanings:

COOL INTROVERTED LACONIC
STANDOFFISH TACITURN UNDEMONSTRATIVE

RHETORIC: effective writing or speaking

Lincoln's talent for RHETORIC was evident in his beautifully expressed Gettysburg Address.

Words with similar meanings:

ELOQUENCE ORATORY

SATIATE: to satisfy fully or overindulge

His desire for power was so great that nothing less than complete control of the country could SATIATE it.

Related Words:

SATE: to fully satisfy or overindulge

INSATIABLE:

incapable of being satisfied

Words with similar meanings:

CLOY	GLUT	GORGE
SURFEIT		

SOPORIFIC: causing sleep or lethargy

The movie proved to be so SOPORIFIC that soon loud snores were heard throughout the theater.

Related Words:

SOPOR: deep sleep

Words with similar meanings:

HYPNOTIC	NARCOTIC	SLUMBEROUS
SOMNOLENT		

SPECIOUS: deceptively attractive; seemingly plausible but fallacious

The student's SPECIOUS excuse for being late sounded legitimate, but was proved otherwise when his teacher called his home.

Words with similar meanings:

ILLUSORY	OSTENSIBLE	PLAUSIBLE
SPURIOUS	SOPHISTICAL	

STIGMA: a mark of shame or discredit

In The Scarlet Letter, Hester Prynne was required to wear the letter "A" on her clothes as a public STIGMA for her adultery.

Related Words:

STIGMATIZE: to disgrace; to label with negative terms or reputation

Words with similar meanings:

BLEMISH	BLOT	OPPROBRIUM
STAIN	TAINT	

STOLID: unemotional; lacking sensitivity

The prisoner appeared STOLID and unaffected by the judge's harsh sentence.

Words with similar meanings:

APATHETIC	IMPASSIVE	INDIFFERENT
PHLEGMATIC	STOICAL	UNCONCERNED

SUBLIME: lofty or grand

The music was so SUBLIME that it transformed the rude surroundings into a special place.

Related Words:

SUBLIMATE: to elevate or convert into something of higher worth

SUBLIMINAL: existing outside conscious awareness

Words with similar meanings:

AUGUST	EXALTED	GLORIOUS
GRAND	MAGNIFICENT	MAJESTIC
NOBLE	REGAL	RESPLENDENT
SUPERB		

TACIT: done without using words

Although not a word had been said, everyone in the room knew that a TACIT agreement had been made about which course of action to take.

Related Words:

TACITURN: silent, not talkative

Words with similar meanings:

IMPLICIT	IMPLIED	UNDECLARED
UNSAID	UNUTTERED	

TACITURN: silent, not talkative

The clerk's TACITURN nature earned him the nickname "Silent Bob."

Related Words:

TACIT: done without using words

Words with similar meanings:

LACONIC	RETICENT

TIRADE: long, harsh speech or verbal attack

Observers were shocked at the manager's TIRADE over such a minor mistake.

Words with similar meanings:

DIATRIBE	FULMINATION	HARANGUE
OBLOQUY	REVILEMENT	VILIFICATION

TORPOR: extreme mental and physical sluggishness

After surgery, the patient experienced TORPOR until the anesthesia wore off.

Related Words:

TORPID: sluggish, lacking movement

Words with similar meanings:

APATHY	LANGUOR

TRANSITORY: temporary, lasting a brief time

The reporter lived a TRANSITORY life, staying in one place only long enough to cover the current story.

Related Words:

TRANSIT: to pass through; to change or make a transition

TRANSIENT: passing quickly in and out of existence; one who stays a short time

Words with similar meanings:

EPHEMERAL	EVANESCENT	FLEETING
IMPERMANENT	MOMENTARY	

VACILLATE: to sway physically; to be indecisive

The customer held up the line as he VACILLATED between ordering chocolate chip or rocky road ice cream.

Words with similar meanings:

DITHER	FALTER	FLUCTUATE
OSCILLATE	WAVER	

VENERATE: to respect deeply

In a traditional Confucian society, the young VENERATE their elders, deferring to the elders' wisdom and experience.

Related Words:

VENERABLE: old, worthy of respect

Words with similar meanings:

ADORE	HONOR	IDOLIZE
REVERE		

VERACITY: filled with truth and accuracy

She had a reputation for VERACITY, so everyone trusted her description of events.

Related Words:

VERITY: truth

VERACIOUS: truthful, accurate

Words with similar meanings:

CANDOR	EXACTITUDE	FIDELITY
PROBITY		

VERBOSE: wordy

The professor's answer was so VERBOSE that his student forgot what the original question had been.

Related Words:

VERBALIZE: to put into words

VERBATIM: to quote using the exact words, word for word

VERBIAGE: lots of words that are usually superfluous

Words with similar meanings:

LONG-WINDED	LOQUACIOUS	PROLIX
SUPERFLUOUS		

VEX: to annoy

The old man who loved his peace and quiet was VEXED by his neighbor's loud music.

Related Words:

VEXATION: a feeling of irritation

Words with similar meanings:

ANNOY	BOTHER	CHAFE
EXASPERATE	IRK	NETTLE
PEEVE	PROVOKE	

VOLATILE: easily aroused or changeable; lively or explosive

His VOLATILE personality made it difficult to predict his reaction to anything.

Words with similar meanings:

CAPRICIOUS	ERRATIC	FICKLE
INCONSISTENT	INCONSTANT	MERCURIAL.
TEMPERAMENTAL		

WAVER: to fluctuate between choices

If you WAVER too long before making a decision about which testing site to register for, you may not get your first choice.

Words with similar meanings:

DITHER	FALTER	FLUCTUATE
OSCILLATE	VACILLATE	

WHIMSICAL: acting in a fanciful or capricious manner; unpredictable

The ballet was WHIMSICAL, delighting the chiien with its imaginative characters and unpredictable sets.

Related Words:

WHIM: a fancy or sudden notion

Words with similar meanings:

CAPRICIOUS ERRATIC FRIVOLOUS
FLIPPANT

ZEAL: passion, excitement

She brought her typical ZEAL to the project, sparking enthusiasm in the other team members.

Related Words:

ZEALOT: a fanatic

Words with similar meanings:

ARDENCY FERVOR FIRE
PASSION

Chapter 9

GRE WORD GROUPS

Learning words in groups is an efficient way of increasing your GRE vocabulary, since the GRE often tests only that you have a general sense of what a word means. Say you saw the following question on the test:

DENOUNCE:

- ◯ blaspheme
- ◯ acclaim
- ◯ permit
- ◯ gather
- ◯ assist

If you looked up ***denounce*** in a dictionary, you'd see something like this:

de•nounce (di-nouns') ***transitive verb,*** de•nounced, de•nounc•ing, de•nounc•es [Middle English: ***denouncen, denounsen,*** fr. Latin ***denoncier,*** fr. ***de*** + ***nuntiare*** to report, announce, fr. ***nuntius*** messenger]

1. To declare (a person, an idea, behavior, a philosophy) to be censurable or evil; stigmatize or accuse, especially publicly and indignantly; inveigh against openly
2. ***archaic*** to announce in a public, formal and solemn manner: to declare or publish something disastrous
3. to inform against: declare or expose a lawbreaker to the authorities

4a. ***obsolete*** to indicate or portend

4b. ***archaic*** to announce in a warning or threatening manner

5. to proclaim formally and publicly the ending of a treaty or pact
6. ***Mexican Law*** to offer for record legal notice of a claim for a mining concession on land held by the government

Synonym see CRITICIZE

Do you need to know all this to answer the question? No—all you need to know is that ***denounce*** means something like criticize. And in the time it took you to learn the meaning of denounce from the dictionary, you could have memorized a whole list of other words that also mean something like ***criticize (aspersion, belittle, berate, calumny, castigate, decry, defamation, denounce, deride/derisive, diatribe, rebuke,*** etcetera).

And the answer to the above question? Well, that would be drawn from the list of words that mean ***praise (acclaim, accolade, aggrandize, encomium, eulogize, extol, fawn, laud/laudatory, venerate/veneration,*** etcetera.)

This is why learning words in groups is a better general strategy for beefing up your GRE vocabulary than working slowly through the dictionary.

Just remember, the categories in which these words are listed are GENERAL and not to be taken for the exact definitions of the words.

BOLD

audacious	courageous	dauntless

CHANGING QUICKLY

capricious	mercurial	volatile

HESITATE

dither	oscillate	teeter
vacillate	waver	

ACT QUICKLY

apace	abrupt	headlong
impetuous	precipitate	

INNOCENT/INEXPERIENCED

credulous	gullible	naive
ingenuous	novitiate	tyro

DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

abstruse	ambiguous	arcane
bemusing	cryptic	enigmatic
esoteric	inscrutable	obscure
opaque	paradoxical	perplexing
recondite	turbid	

EASY TO UNDERSTAND

articulate	cogent	eloquent
evident	limpid	lucid
pellucid		

SMART/LEARNED

astute	canny	erudite
perspicacious		

aspersion	belittle	berate
calumny	castigate	decry
defamation	denounce	deridelderisive
diatribe	disparage	excoriate
gainsay	harangue	impugn
inveigh	lambaste	obloquy
objurgate	opprobrium	pillory
remonstrate	rebuke	reprehend
reprove	revile	tirade
vituperate		

CAROUSAL

bacchanalian	depraved	dissipated
iniquity	libertine	libidinous
licentious	reprobate	ribald
salacious	sordid	turpitude

TRUTH

candorlcandid	fealty	frankness
indisputable	indubitable	legitimate
probity	sincere	veracious
verity		

FALSEHOOD

apocryphal	canard	chicanery
dissemble	duplicity	equivocate
erroneous	ersatz	fallacious
feigned	guile	mendacious
mendacity	perfidy	prevaricate
specious	spurious	

BITING (as in wit or temperament)

acerbic	acidulous	acrimonious
asperity	caustic	mordant
mordacious	trenchant	

PRAISE

acclaim	accolade	aggrandize
encomium	eulogize	extol
fawn	laud/laudatory	venerate

HARMFUL

baleful	baneful	deleterious
inimical	injurious	insidious
minatory	perfidious	pernicious

TIMID/TIMIDITY

craven	diffident	pusillanimous
recreant	timorous	trepidation

BORING

banal	fatuous	hackneyed
insipid	mundane	pedestrian
platitude	prosaic	quotidian
trite		

WEAKEN

adulterate	enervate	exacerbate
inhibit	obviate	stultify
undermine	vitiate	

ASSIST

abet
bolster
espouse
proponent
advocate
corroborate
mainstay
stalwart
ancillary
countenance
munificent
sustenance

HOSTILE

antithetic
irascible
truculent
churlish
malevolent
vindictive
curmudgeon
misanthropic

STUBBORN

implacable
intransigent
recalcitrant
untoward
inexorable
obdurate
refractory
vexing
intractable
obstinate
renitent

BEGINNING/YOUNG

burgeoning
inchoate
callow
incipient
engender
nascent

GENEROUS/KIND

altruistic
largess
philanthropic
beneficent
magnanimous
unstinting
clement
munificent

GREEDY

avaricious
miserly
rapacious
covetous
penurious
mercenary
venal

TERSE

compendious
pithy
curt
succinct
laconic
taciturn

OVERBLOWN/WORDY

bombastic	circumlocution	garrulous
grandiloquent	loquacious	periphrastic
prolix	rhetoric	turgid
verbose		

DICTATORIAL

dogmatic	authoritarian	despotic
hegemonic	hegemony	imperious
peremptory	tyrannical	

HATRED

abhorrence	antagonism	anathema
antipathy	detestation	enmity
loathing	malice	odium
rancor		

BEGINNER/AMATEUR

dilettante	fledgling	neophyte
novitiate	proselyte	tyro

LAZYISLUGGISH

indolent	inert	lackadaisical
languid	lassitude	lethargic
phlegmatic	quiescent	slothful
torpid		

PACINISATISN

ameliorate	appease	assuage
defer	mitigate	mollify
placate	propitiate	satiate
slake		

FORGIVE

absolve	acquit	exculpate
exonerate	expiate	palliate
redress	vindicate	

POOR

destitute
impecunious
esurient
indigent

FAVORING/NOT IMPARTIAL

ardor/ardent
partisan
doctrinaire
tendentious
fervid
zealot

DENYING OF SELF

abnegate
Spartan
abstain
stoic
ascetic
temperate

WALKING ABOUT

ambulatory
itinerant
peripatetic

INSINCERE

disingenuous
ostensible
dissemble
unctuous
fulsome

PREVENT/OBSTRUCT

discomfit
forfend
inhibit
encumber
hinder
occlude
fetter
impede

aberrant
eclectic
iconoclast
anomalous
esoteric
anachronism
discrete

FUNNY

chortle
flippant
levity
riposte
droll
gibe
ludicrous
simper
facetious
jocular
raillery

SORROW

disconsolate	doleful	dolor
elegiac	forlorn	lament
lugubrious	melancholy	morose
plaintive	threnody	

DISGUSTING/OFFENSIVE

defile	fetid	invidious
noisome	odious	putrid
rebarbative		

WITHDRAWAL/RETREAT

abeyance	abjure	abnegation
abortive	abrogate	decamp
demur	recant	recidivism
remission	renege	rescind
retrograde		

DEATH/MOURNING

bereave	cadaver	defunct
demise	dolorous	elegy
knell	lament	macabre
moribund	obsequies	sepulchral
wraith		

COPY

counterpart	emulate	facsimile
factitious	paradigm	precursor
quintessence	simulated	vicarious

EQUAL

equitable	equity	tantamount

UNUSUAL

aberration	anomaly	iconoclast
idiosyncrasy		

WANDERING

discursive	expatiate	forage
itinerant	peregrination	peripatetic
sojourn		

GAPS/OPENINGS

abatement	aperture	fissure
hiatus	interregnum	interstice
lull	orifice	rent
respite	rift	

HEALTHY

beneficial	salubrious	salutary

ABBREVIATED COMMUNICATION

abridge	compendium	cursory
curtail	syllabus	synopsis
terse		

WISDOM

adage	aphorism	apothegm
axiom	bromide	dictum
epigram	platitude	sententious
truism		

FAMILY

conjugal	consanguine	distaff
endogamous	filial	fratricide
progenitor	scion	

NOT A STRAIGHT LINE

askance	awry	careen
carom	circuitous	circumvent
gyrate	labyrinth	meander
oblique	serrated	sidle
sinuous	undulating	vortex

INVESTIGATE

appraise	ascertain	assay
descry	peruse	

TIME/ORDER/DURATION

anachronism	antecede	antedate
anterior	archaic	diurnal
eon	ephemeral	epoch
fortnight	millennium	penultimate
synchronous	temporal	

BAD MOOD

bilious	dudgeon	irascible
petulant	pettish	pique
querulous	umbrage	waspish

EMBARRASS

abash	chagrin	compunction
contrition	diffidence	expiate
foible	gaucherie	rue

HARDHEARTED

asperity	baleful	dour
fell	malevolent	mordant
sardonic	scathing	truculent
vitriolic	vituperation	

NAG

admonish	cavil	belabor
enjoin	exhort	harangue
hector	martinet	remonstrate
reproof		

PREDICT

augur	auspice	fey
harbinger	portentous	presage
prescient	prognosticate	

LUCK

adventitious	**amulet**	**auspicious**
fortuitous	**kismet**	**nemesis**
optimum	**portentous**	**propitiate**
propitious	**providential**	**talisman**

NASTY

fetid	**noisome**	**noxious**

HARSH-SOUNDING

assonance	**cacophony**	**din**
dissonant	**raucous**	**strident**

PLEASANT-SOUNDING

euphonious	**harmonious**	**melodious**
sonorous		

Chapter 10

WORD ROOT LIST

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD ROOT LIST

The following list presents some of the commonest word roots—mostly Greek and Latin—that appear in English. Learning to recognize these word roots is a great help in expanding your vocabulary. Many seemingly difficult words yield up their meanings easily when you recognize the word, roots that make them up. ***Excrescence,*** for example, contains the roots **ex-,** meaning out or out of, and ***cresc-,*** meaning to grow; once you know this, the meaning of ***excrescence,*** an outgrowth (whether normal, such as hair, or abnormal, such as a wart) is easily deduced.

The list concentrates on Latin and Greek roots because these are the most frequently used to form compound words in English, and because they tend not to be self-explanatory to the average reader. Each entry gives the root in the most common form or forms in which it appears in English, with a very brief definition. (The definition does not cover all the shades of meaning of the given root, only the most important or the most broadly applicable.) The rest of the entry is a list of some of the common English words derived from this root; this list is only intended to provide a few examples of such words, and not even to come close to being exhaustive. Some words will naturally be found under more than one entry. The words themselves are not defined. We hope the Word Root List will encourage you to turn to the GRE Minidictionary or, better yet, to a good dictionary.

A, AN NOT, WITHOUT
amoral, anarchy, anomalous, anonymous, aseptic, asexual, atheism, atrophy, averse

AB FROM, AWAY, APART
abdicate, abduct, abhor, abject, abnormal, abrupt, absent, abuse

ABLE, IBLE CAPABLE OF, WORTHY OF
changeable, durable, laudable, indubitable, inevitable, infallible, irreducible, tolerable, variable

AC, ACR SHARP, SOUR
acerbic, acetate, acid, acrid, acumen, acute

ACOU HEARING
acoustic

AD, A TO
(Often d is dropped and the first letter to which a is prefixed is doubled.)
adapt, adequate, adumbrate, advocate, accede, adduce, affiliate, aggregate, allocate, annunciation, appall, arrest, assiduous, attract

AMBI, AMPHI BOTH, ON BOTH SIDES, AROUND
ambidextrous, ambient, ambiguous, ambition, ambivalent, amphibian, amphitheater

AMBL, AMBUL WALK
amble, ambulance, ambulatory, perambulator, preamble

ANIM MIND, SPIRIT, BREATH
animadversion, animal, animate, animosity, equanimity, magnanimity, pusillanimous, unanimity,

ANT, ANTE BEFORE
antecedent, antechamber, antediluvian, anterior, anticipate, antiquity, ancient

ANTI, ANT AGAINST, OPPOSITE
anticlimax, antidote, antipathy, antiphony6, antipodes, antithesis, antagonism

AQUA, AQUE WATER
aquamarine, aquarium, aquatic, aquatint, aqueduct, subaqueous

ARD, ASS — **BURN**
ardent, ardor, arson

AUTO, AUT — **SELF**
autobiography, autocracy, autograph, automaton, autonomous, autopsy, autism

BEL, BELL — BEAUTIFUL
belle, embellish

BELL, BELLI — **WAR**
antebellum, bellicose, belligerent, rebellion

BEN, BEN — **WELL,** GOOD
[redacted] benefactor, benevolent, benign

BI, BIN — **TWO**
bicameral, bicycle, bifocals, bifurcate, bilateral, binoculars, binomial, biped, combination, [redacted]

BON, BOUN — **GOOD,** GENEROUS
bonus, bountiful, bounty, debonair

BREW, BRID, — SHORT, SMALL
abbreviate, abridge, brevet, breviary, breviloquent, brevity, brief

BURS — **PURSE, MONEY**
bursar, bursary, disburse, reimburse
[redacted]

CARN — FLESH
carnage, carnal, carnival, carnivorous, charnel, incarnate

CAUS, CAUT — BURN
caustic, cauterize, cautery, encaustic, holocaust

CED, CESS — YIELD, GO
abscess, accede, access, accessory, ancestor, antecedent, cession, concede, exceed, excess, intercede, precede, proceed, recede, recess, recession, secede, succeed

CELER — SPEED
accelerate, celerity, decelerate

CENT HUNDRED, HUNDREDTH
cent, centennial, bicentennial, centigrade, centigram, centiliter, centimeter, centipede, century, percent

CHROM COLOR
chromatic, chrome, chromosome, monochromatic

CHRON TIME
anachronism, chronic, chronicle, chronological, chronometer, synchronize

CIRCUM AROUND
circumference, circumlocution, circumnavigate, circumspect, circumstance

CO, COM, CON WITH, TOGETHER
coeducation, coefficient, coincide, communicate, communist, compare, concert, concubine, conflict, cooperate, correspond

CONTRA, CONTRO, COUNTER AGAINST
contradict, contrary, controversy, counter, counteract, counterattack, counterfeit, countermand, counterpart, counterpoint, encounter

CORD, CARD HEART
accord, cardiac, cardiograph, cardiology, concord, cordial, discord, record

CORP, CORS BODY
corporate, corps, corpse, corpulent, corpus, corpuscle, corset, incorporation

COSM ORDER, UNIVERSE, WORLD
cosmetic, cosmic, cosmology, cosmonaut, cosmopolitan, cosmos, microcosm

CRED TRUST, BELIEVE
accredit, credentials, credible, credit, creditable, credo, credulity, creed, incredible, incredulous

CRYPT HIDE
crypt, cryptic, cryptography, apocryphal

CULP FAULT, **BLAME**
culpable, culprit, inculpate, exculpate

CUMB, CUB LIE DOWN
concubine, cubicle, incubate, incubus, incumbent, recumbent, succubus, succumb

CYN, CAN DOG
canine, cynic

DE DOWN, OUT, AWAY FROM, APART
dehydrate, deject, depend, depress, deport, descend, describe, devalue

DELE ERASE
dele, delete, indelible

DEXT RIGHT HAND, RIGHT SIDE
ambidextrous, dexterity, dexterous

DI DAY
dial, diary, dismal, [redacted] meridian, quotidian

DIA THROUGH, ACROSS
diadem, diagnosis, diagonal, diagram, dialect, dialogue, diameter, diaphanous, diaphragm, diarrhea, diatribe

DIC, DICT, DIT SPEAK
abdicate, addict, benediction, condition, contradict, dedicate, dictate, dictator, diction, dictionary, dictum, ditto, indicate, indict, interdict, malediction, predicament, predicate, predict, valedictorian, verdict

DI, DIS AWAY, APART
disagreeable, discard, discern, disdain, dismay, dismiss, distant, diverge

DOL GRIEVE
condole, condolence, doleful, dolor, indolent

DORM SLEEP
dormant, dormitory

DORS BACK
dorsal, endorse

DUC, DUCT [redacted]
adduce, conduce, conduit, deduce, duct, duke, educate, induction, misconduct, produce, reduce, seduce, traduce, viaduct

DULC SWEET
dulcet, dulcified, dulcimer

[redacted]

DUR — **HARD, LASTING**
dour, durable, duration, duress, during, endure, obdurate, perdurable

EI EX. EC, EF — **OUT**
eliminate, emanate, eradicate, erase, evade, evict, evince, exact, excavate, except, excerpt, excite, exclusive, excommunicate, excrescence, execute, exhale, exile, exit

EGO — **SELF**
ego, egocentric, egoism, egotist

EQU — **EQUAL**
adequate, equable, equal, equation, equator, equilibrium, equinox, equivocate

ERR — **WANDER**
aberration, err, errant, erratic, erroneous, error

EU — **WELL, GOOD**
eugenics, eulogy, euphemism, euphony, euphoria, euthanasia

FAL — **LIABLE TO ERR TO DECEIVE**
default, fail, fallacy false, faux pas, infallible

FATU — **FOOLISH**
fatuity, fatuous, infatuate

FERN — **BOIL**
effervescent, fervent, fervid, fervor

FID, FI — **FAITH**
affiance, affidavit, confidant, fealty, fidelity, fiducial, fiduciary

FLAGR, FULG, FULM — **BURN, SHINE**
conflagration, effulgent, flagrant, fulgent, fulminate, refulgent

FLECT, FLEX — **BEND, TURN**
circumflex, deflect, flex, flexible, inflection, reflect

FUG — **FLEE**
centrifuge, fugitive, fugue, refuge, refugee, subterfuge

FUM — **SMOKE**
fume, fumigate, perfume

GEN BIRTH, CLASS, **KIN**

gender, gene, general, generation, generosity, genesis, genetics, genial, **genital**, genius, gentle, gentile, gentility, gentry, congenital, degenerate, **engender**, eugenics, ingenious, ingenuity, ingenuous, progeny, progenitor, regenerate

GNO, GNI, COGN, CONN **KNOW**

agnostic, cognition, cognizance, diagnosis, gnomic, ignore, incognito, prognosis, quaint, recognize, reconnaissance~econnoiter

GRAM, GRAPH **WRITE, DRAW**

anagram, diagram, epigram, epigraph, grammar, grammarian, gramophone, **graph**, graphic, graphite, phonograph, photograph, program, telegram

GREG **FLOCK**

aggregate, congregate, egregious, gregarious, segregate

HAP **BY CHANCE**

haphazard, hapless, happen, happily, happy, **mayhap**, mishap

HEMI **HALF**

hemiptera, hemisphere, hemistich

HETERO OTHER

heterodox, heterodyne, heterogeneous, heterosexual

HOL WHOLE

catholic, holocaust, hologram, holograph, holistic

HOMO **SAME** (from Greek)

homogeneous, homogenize, homologue, homonym, homophone, homoptera, homosexual, **homotype**

HUM EARTH

exhume, humble, humility, **posthumous**

ICON IMAGE, IDOL

icon, iconic, iconoclast, iconography, **iconology**

IM, IN NOT

immature, **immutable**, imperfect, improvident, indigestible, inhospitable, innocuous, intolerant

IN, IM, I — IN, ON
(Often *n* is dropped and the first letter to which i is prefixed is doubled.)
illuminate, incantation, induct, infer, imbibe, immigrate, impact, irrigate

INTER — BETWEEN, AMONG
intercept, interchange, interfere, interject, interpret, interval

INTRA — INSIDE, WITHIN
intramural, intrastate, intravenous

IT, ITER — WAY, JOURNEY
ambition, circuit, initial, itinerant, itinerary, reiterate, transit

JOC — JOKE
jocose, jocular, jocularity, jocund, joke

JOUR — DAY
adjourn, journey, journal, adjourn

JUD — JUDGE
adjudicate, iudiciary, judicious, prejudice

JUNCT, JUG — JOIN
adjunct, conjugal conjunction, injunction, junction, junta, subjugate, subjunctive

JUR — LAW
abjure, adjure, conjure, injure, juridical, jurisdiction, jurisprudence, jurist, jury, perjury

JUV — YOUNG
juvenile, juvenilia, rejuvenate

LAUD — PRAISE
applaud, cum laude, laud, laudable, laudatory, plaudits

LAU, LU — WASH
ablution, laundry, lava, lavatory, lave

LAX, LAK, LEAS, LES — LOOSE
lax, laxative, laxity, lease, leash, lessee, lessor, relax, release

LEG, LEC, LEX — READ, SPEAK
dialect, lectern, lecture, legend, legible, lesson, lexicographer, lexicon

LEV — **LIGHT**
alleviation, elevate, leaven, lever, **levitate,** levity, levy, relieve

LIBER — **FREE**
delivery, illiberal, liberal, liberality, liberate, **libertine, livery**

LIG, LI — **TIE, BIND**
ally, league, liaison, liable, lien, ligament, ligature, oblige, religion, rely

LING, LANG — **TONGUE**
bilingual, language, linguistics

LITH — **STONE**
acrolith, lithography, lithoid, lithology, lithotomy, megalith, monolith

LOG, LOQU — **SPEECH, THOUGHT**
biology, circumlocution, colloquial, dialogue, ecology, elocution, eloquent, geology, grandiloquent, interlocutor, locution, logic, loquacious, monologue, obloquy, soliloquy, ventriloquism, zoology

LUX, LUC — **LIGHT**
elucidate, lucid, lucubrate, luster, pellucid, **translucent**

MACRO — **GREAT, LONG**
macrobiotics, macrocephalous, macrocosm

MAG, MAX, MAJ, MAS — **GREAT**
magistrate, magnanimous, magnate, magnificent, magnify, magniloquent, magnitude, **majesty,** major, majority, master, maxim, **maximum,** mistress

MAL — **BAD**
maladroit, malady, malediction, malefactor, malevolence, malice, malinger

MAN, MANU — **HAND**
amanuensis, emancipation, manacle, manage, maneuver, manifest, manipulate, manner, manual, manufacture, manuscript

MAND, MEND — **COMMAND, ORDER**
command, countermand, demand, mandate, **mandatory,** recommend, remand, reprimand

MEDI — **MIDDLE**
immediate, intermediate, mean, media, median, mediate, medieval, mediocre, medium medius

MEGA LARGE, GREAT
megalithic, megalomania, megalopolis, megaphone, megaton

MICRO VERY SMALL
microbe, microcosm, micron, microorganism, microphone, microscope

MIS BAD, WRONG, HATE
misadventure, misanthropist, misapply, miscarry, mischance, mischief, misconstrue, miscount, misfit, misinterpret

MOLL SOFT
emollient, mild, mollify, mollusk

MON, MONO ONE
monarchy, monastic, monism, monk, monochord, monograph, monogram, monograph, monolithic, monologue, monomania, monosyllable, monotonous

MOR, MORT DEATH
amortize, immortal, morbid, moribund, mortality, mortgage, mortification, mortuary

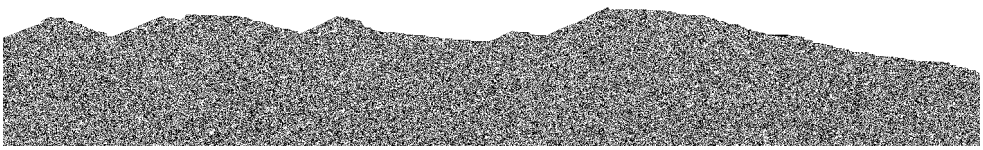
MOT, MOV, MOM, MOB MOVE
automobile, demote, immovable, locomotion, mob, mobile, mobility, mobilize, momentous, momentum, motion, motive, motor, move, mutiny, promote, removable

MULT MANY
multiplex, multiply, multitudinous

MUT CHANGE
commute, immutable, mutability, mutation, mutual, permutation, transmute

NASC, NAT, GNA BIRTH
cognate, nascent, natal, native, natural, nature, pregnant, Renaissance

NAU, NAV SHIP, SAILOR
astronaut, cosmonaut, circumnavigate, nauseous, nautical, naval, nave, navy



annihilate, nihilism

NOCT, NOX — **NIGHT**
equinox, noctambulent, nocturnal, nocturne

NOX, NOC — **HARM**
innocent, innocuous, internecine, noxious, nuisance, obnoxious, pernicious.

NOM, NYM NEC — [redacted]
anonymous, antonym, cognomen, denominator, homonym, misnomer, nomenclature, nominal, nominate, noun, pronoun, pseudonym, renowned, synonym

NON — **NOT**
nonconformist, nonentity, nonpareil, nonpartisan

NOV — **NEW**
innovate, nova, novel, novelty, novice, novitiate, renovate

NULL — **NOTHING**
annul, null, nullify, nullity

OB — **AGAINST**
obdurate, obliterate, oblong, obloquy, object, obstacle, obstreperous, obstruct

OMNI — **ALL**
omnibus, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, omnivorous

ONER — **BURDEN**
exonerate, onerous, onus

OSS, OSTE — **BONE**
osseous, ossicle, ossiferous, ossify, ossuary, osstectomy, osteopathy

PALP — **FEEL**
palpable, palpate, palpitation

PAN, PANT — **ALL**
panacea, [redacted] pandemonium, panegyric, panoply, panorama, pan- [redacted] pantomime

PATH — **SUFFER, FEEL**
apathy, antipathy, empathy, pathetic, pathology, pathos, sympathy

PEC — **MONEY**
impecunious, peculation, pecuniary

PED, POD FOOT
arthropod, expedient, impede, pedal, pedestal, pedestrian, pediment, pedigree, tripod

PED CHILD, EDUCATION
encyclopedia, pedagogue, pedant, pediatrician

PEL DRIVE, PUSH
appellate, appellation, compel, dispel, expel, impel, propel

PENE, PEN ALMOST
antepenult, peninsula, penult, penultimate, penumbra

PERI AROUND
pericardium, perihelion, perimeter, perineum, periphery, periscope

PHIL LOVE
bibliophile, necrophilia, philanthropy, philately, philharmonic, philogyny, philology, philosophy

PHOB FEAR
claustrophobia, hydrophobia, phobia, phobic, xenophobia

PHON SOUND
antiphony, euphony, megaphone, phonetics, phonograph, polyphony, saxophone, symphony, telephone

PLAC PLEASE
complacent, implacable, placate, placebo, placid

PLEN, PLET, PLE FILL, FULL
accomplishment, complement, complete, deplete, implement, plenary, plenipotentiary, plenitude, plenty, replenish, replete, supplement

POLY MANY
polyandry, polygamy, polyglot, polygon, polyhedron, polynomial, polysyllable, polytechnic, polytheism

PORT CARRY
comport, deportment, disport, export, import, important, portable, portage, porter, portfolio, portly, purport, rapport, reporter, supportive, transport

POST BEHIND, AFTER
posterior, posterity, postern, posthumous, postmeridian, postmortem, postpone, postprandial, postscript, postwar, preposterous

POT — **DRINK**
potable, potation, potion

PRE — BEFORE, **IN** FRONT
preamble, precaution, preclude, precocity, precursor, predecessor, predict, preface, prefigure, prelate, president

PRIM, PRI — FIRST
prime, primary, primal, primeval, primordial, pristine

PRO — IN FRONT, BEFORE
problem, proboscis, procedure, proceed, proclaim, proclivity, procrastinate, procure, propound, prostrate, protest

PROP, PROX — **NEAR**
approximate, propinquity, proximate, proximity

PROTO, PROT — FIRST
protagonist, protocol, prototype, protozoan

PSEUDO, PSEUD — FALSE
pseudepigrapha, pseudoclassic, pseudomorph, pseudonym, pseudopod, pseudoscientific

PUG, PUN — **HIT, PRICK**
expunge, impugn, poignant, pugilist, pugnacious, punch, punctual, punctuate, pungent, repugnant

PYR — FIRE
pyre, pyromania, pyromania, pyrometer, pyrosis, pyrotechnic

QUAD, QUAR, QUAT — FOUR
quadrant, quadrille, quadrinomial, quadruple, quadruplets, quart, quarter, quaternary

QUIE, QUIT — **QUIET, TEST**
acquiesce, acquit, coy, disquiet, quiescent, quiet, quietude, quietus, quit, requiem, requital, tranquil

QUINT, QUIN — **FIVE**
quincunx, quinquennial, quintessence, quintile, quintillion, quintuple

RADI, RACI, RAMI — **ROOT, BRANCH**
deracinate, eradicate, radical, radish, ramification, ramiform, ramify

RE BACK, AGAIN
recline, refer, regain, remain, reorganize, repent, request

RECT STRAIGHT, RIGHT
correct, direct, erect, rectangle, rectify, rectilinear, rectitude, rector

REG KING, RULE
interregnum, realm, regal, regent, regicide, regime, regiment, region, regular, regulate

RETRO BACKWARD
retroactive, retroflex, retrograde, retrospective

RUB, RUD RED
rouge, rubella, rubicund, rubric, ruby, ruddy, russet

RUD CRUDE
erudite, rude, rudimentary, rudiments

SACER, SACR, SANCT HOLY
consecration, desecrate, execrate, sacerdotal, sacrament, sacred, sacrifice, sacrilege, sacristy, sacrosanct, saint, sanctify, sanctimonious, sanction, sanctity, sanctuary, sanctum

SAL SALT
salary, saline

SAG, SAP, SAV TASTE, THINK
insipid, sagacious, sagacity, sage, sapid, sapient, savant, savor

SALU, SALV HEALTH, SAVE
safe, salubrious, salutary, salute, salvage, salvation, salve, savior

SAN HEALTHY
sane, sanitarium, sanitation, sanity

SANG BLOOD
consanguinity, sanguinary, sanguine

SAT ENOUGH
asset, dissatisfied, insatiable, sate, satiate, satisfy, saturate

SCRIB, SCRIV, SCRIPT — WRITE
ascribe, circumscription, conscript, describe, indescribable, inscription, postscript, prescribe, proscribe, scribble, scribe, script, scripture, scrivener, subscribe, transcription

SE — DOWN, OUT, AWAY, APART
secede, seclude, secret, secrete, secure, sedition, seduce, segregate, select, separate

SED, SID — SIT
assiduous, dissident, insidious, preside, reside, residue, seance, sedate, sedative, sedentary, sediment, sedulous, session, siege, subside, supersede

SEM — SEED, SOW
disseminate, semen, seminal, seminar, seminary

SEMI — HALF
semicircle, semicolon, semiconscious, semifluid

SEN — OLD
senate, senescent, senile, senior, sire

SEQU, SECU, SUE, SUI — FOLLOW
consecutive, consequent, execute, executive, non sequitur, obsequious, obsequy, persecute, prosecution, pursue, sequel, sequence, subsequent, sue, suitable, suite, suitor

SINU, SIN — BEND, FOLD
cosine, insinuate, sine, sinuous, sinus

SOL — SUN
parasol, solar, solarium, solstice

SOL — ALONE
desolate, isolate, sole, solipsism, solitude, solo

SOMN — SLEEP
insomnia, somniferous, somniloquist, somnolent

SOPH — WISDOM
philosopher, sophism, sophist, sophisticated, sophistry, sophomore

SPEC, SPIC — **LOOK, SEE**

aspect, circumspect, conspicuous, despicable, [illegible]spect, introspection, perspective, perspicacious, perspicuous, prospectus, respectable, retrospect, specimen, spectacle, spectator, specter, spectrum, suspect, suspicious

SPIR — **BREATH**

aspire, conspire, expire, inspire, perspire, respirator, spirit, spiritual, sprightly, sprite, suspire, transpire

STRICT, STRING, STRAN — **TIGHT**

astringency, constrain, constrict, district, restriction, strain, strait, strangle, strict, stringent

SUA — **PLEASE**

assuage, dissuade, persuade, persuasive, suasion, suave, sweet

SUB — **UNDER**

subdivide, subdue, subjugate, subjunctive, sublunary, submarine, submerge, subordinate, subpoena, subscribe, subside, substitute, subterfuge, subterranean, suburb

SUMM — **HIGHEST**

consummate, sum, summary, summit

SUPER, SUR — **ABOVE**

insuperable, superabound, superannuated, superb, supercharge, supercilious, superficial, superfluous, superior, superlative, supernatural, supernumerary, supervise, surmount, surpass, surrealism, survey

SURG, SOURC, SURRECT — **RISE**

insurgent, insurrection, resource, resurge, resurrection, source, surge

SYM, SYN — **TOGETHER**

symbiosis, symmetry, sympathy, symposium, synonym, synthesis

TACIT — **SILENT**

reticent, tacit, taciturn

TACT, TAG, TAM, TANG — **TOUCH**

contact, contagious, contamination, contiguous, cotangent, intact, intangible, integral tact, tactile, tangent, tangential

TEST BEAR WITNESS
attest, contest, detest, intestate, protest, testament, **testify,** testimonial

THERM HEAT
diathermy, thermal, thermesthesia, thermometer, thermonuclear, **thermophilic, thermos,** thermostat

TIM FEAR
intimidate, **timid,** timidity, timorous

TORP STIFF, **NUMB**
torpedo, torpid, torpor

TORQ, TORT, TOR **TWIST**
contort, distort, extort, retort, torch, torment, torque, torsion, tort, tortuous, torture

TOX POISON
antitoxin, intoxication, toxemia, toxic, toxicology, toxin

TRANS **ACROSS, BEYOND**
transcend, transcontinental, transcribe, transient, transmit, transpire, transport

ULT LAST, BEYOND
penultimate, ulterior, ultimate, ultimatum, ultramarine, ultramontane, ultraviolet

UMBR
adumbrate, penumbra, somber, umber, umbrage, umbrella

UN NOT
unaccustomed, unruly, unseen, untold, unusual

UND WAVE
abound, abundance, inundate, redundant, **undulant, undulate**

UNI, UN ONE
reunion, unanimous, unicorn, uniform, union, **unison,** unit, unite, **unity,** universe

URB CITY
exurbanite, suburban, urban, urbane, urbanity, **urbanization**

VAL, VAIL — **STRENGTH, USE, WORTH**

ambivalent, avail, convalescent, countervailing, equivalent, evaluate, invalid, prevalent, valediction, valiant, valid, valor, value

VER — **TRUE**

aver, veracious, verdict, verify, verily, verisimilitude, verity, very

VERB — **WORD**

adverb, proverb, verb, verbal, verbalize, verbatim, verbose, verbiage

VERD — **GREEN**

verdant, verdigris, verdure

VIL — **BASE, MEAN**

revile, vile, vilify, vilification

VIRU — **POISON**

virulence, virulent, viruliferous, virus

VIT, VIV — **LIFE**

convivial, revival, revive, survive, vital, vitality, vivacious, vivid, viviparous, vivisection

VOC, VOU — **CALL, WORD**

advocacy, advocate, avow, convocation, convoke, equivocal, evoke, invocation, invoke, provoke, revoke, vocabulary, vocal, vocalist, vocation, vociferous, vouch, vouchsafe

VOL — **FLY**

volant, volatile, volley

VOLU, VOLV — **ROLL, TURN**

circumvolve, convolution, devolve, evolve, involution, revolt, revolve, voluble, volume, voluminous, volute

Chapter 11

OPPOSITE DRILLS

Each of the word lists below relates to two concepts that are opposite in meaning. The words in each list relate to one of the concepts or its opposite. Try to sort out which category each word belongs in. For each word, check the oval under the appropriate concept. If you don't know the meaning of a word, make your best guess, using roots, charge (whether the word sounds "good" or "bad"), prefixes, or context to help you.

No definitions are provided. Look up words that you are unsure of in the GRE Minidictionary.

HAPPY		SAD
○	BLITHE	
○	DISCONSOLATE	
○	DISPIRITED	
○	DOLDRUMS	
○	DOLOROUS	
○	EBULLIENT	
○	EUPHORIC	
○	FELICITY	
○	PROVIDENT	
○	RUE	
○	WOE	

Answer key on page **289.**

Vocabulary Builder

	FALSE
APOCRYPHAL	○
CALUMNY	○
CANARD	○
CANDOR	○
CHICANERY	○
DISSEMBLE	○
DISSIMULATE	○
DUPE	○
DUPLICITY	○
EQUIVOCATE	○
ERRONEOUS	○
ERSATZ	○
FALLACIOUS	○
FEALTY	○
FEIGNED	○
FOIST	○

	TRUE	FALSE
FRANKNESS	○	
GUILE	○	
INDISPUTABLE	○	
INDUBITABLE	○	
LEGITIMATE	○	
MALINGER	○	
MENDACIOUS	○	
MENDACITY	○	
PERFIDY	○	
PREVARICATE	○	
PROBITY	○	
SINCERE	○	
SPECIOUS	○	
SPURIOUS	○	
VERACIOUS	○	
VERITY	○	

Answer key on page **290.**

AGREEMENT		DISAGREEMENT	AGREEMENT		DISAGREEMENT
○	ACCORD	○	○	DETRACTOR	○
○	ALTERCATE	○	○	DIFFER	○
○	ALTERCATION	○	○	DISPARAGE	○
○	ANTITHETIC	○	○	DISPUTE	○
○	ASKANCE	○	○	DISSENT	○
○	ASSENT	○	○	EXCORIATE	○
○	AVERSE	○	○	FEUD	○
○	BICKER	○	○	HARMONY	○
○	CAVIL	○	○	INIMICAL	○
○	CONCORD	○	○	MOOT	○
○	CONCUR	○	○	POLEMIC	○
○	CONSENSUS	○	○	.QUIBBLE	○
○	CONSONANCE	○	○	RAPPORT	○
○	CONTENTION	○	○	SQUABBLE	○
○	CONTENTIOUS	○	○	UNANIMITY	○
○	CONTRADICT	○	○	WRANGLE	○

Answer key on page 291.

ATTRACTION OR LIKE		REPULSION OR DISLIKE	ATTRACTION OR LIKE		REPULSION OR DISLIKE
○	ABHOR	○	○	ENCHANT	○
○	ABOMINATE	○	○	ENTICE	○
○	AFFINITY	○	○	ESCHEW	○
○	ALLURE	○	○	INVEIGLE	○
○	ANATHEMA	○	○	LOATH	○
○	ANTIPATHY	○	○	PARRY	○
○	BANE	○	○	PENCHANT	○
○	BEGUILE	○	○	PREDILECTION	○
○	BENT	○	○		○
○	CHARM	○	○	PROPENSITY	○
○	DISSUADE	○	○	RANCOR	○
○	DRAW	○	○	REVILE	○
○	ELICIT	○	○	SPURN	○

Answer key on page *292*.

BRAVERY OR CONFIDENCE		FEAR OR CAUTION
○	APLOMB	○
○	APPREHENSION	○
○	AUDACIOUS	○
○	AUDACITY	○
○	CHARY	○
○	CIRCUMSPECTION	○
○	CRAVEN	○
○	DAUNTLESS	○
○	DOUGHTY	○
○	GALLANTRY	○
○	GAME	○
○	INTREPID	○
○	METTLESOME	○
○	MISGIVING	○
○	PLUCKY	○
○	PUSILLANIMOUS	○
○	TEMERITY	○
○	TREPIDATION	○
○	UNDAUNTED	○
○	VALIANT	○
○	VALOROUS	○

Answer key on page 293.

Vocabulary Builder

CALMNESS		AGITATION	CALMNESS		AGITATION
○	BECALM	○	○	NONCHALANT	○
○	BLUSTER	○	○	PERTURB	○
○	COLLECTED	○	○	PLACID	○
○	COMPOSED	○	○	QUIESCENT	○
○	COMPOSURE	○	○	RAGING	○
○	DETACHED	○	○	RAIL	○
○	DISCOMPOSED	○	○	REPOSE	○
○	DISPASSIONATE	○	○	ROIL	○
○	DISQUIETED	○	○	RUFFLED	○
○	DISTRAUGHT	○	○	SEDENTARY	○
○	FLURRIED	○	○	SERENE	○
○	FLUSTER	○	○	STAID	○
○	FRENETIC	○	○	STEADY	○
○	FULMINATE	○	○	TRANQUIL	○
○	FUROR	○	○	TUMULTUOUS	○
○	IMPERTURBABLE	○	○	TURBID	○
○	INDOLENT	○	○	TURBULENT	○
○	INSURGENT	○	○	UNRUFFLED	○
○	KINETIC	○	○	VEHEMENCE	○
○	LANGUOR	○	○	VERVE	○
○	LULL	○			

Answer key on page 294.

CHANGE		LACK OF CHANGE
○	CATALYST	○
○	COMMUTATION	○
○	CONSISTENT	○
○	CONSTANT	○
○	DETERMINATE	○
○	ENTRENCHED	○
○	FIXITY	○
○	IMMUTABLE	○
○	IMPERVIOUS	○
○	INERT	○
○	INGRAINED	○
○	INNOVATIVE	○
○	INVARIABLE	○
○	INVIOLATE	○
○	LODGED	○
○	METAMORPHOSIS	○
○	MUTABLE	○
○	ROOTED	○
○	STEADFAST	○
○	TRANSFIGURATION	○
○	TRANSFORMATION	○
○	TRANSLATION	○
○	TRANSMOGRIFY	○
○	TRANSMUTATION	○
○	UNFAILING	○

Answer key on page 295.

Vocabulary Builder

GOODNESS OR MORALITY		EVIL OR IMMORALITY	GOODNESS OR MORALITY		EVIL OR IMMORALITY
○	ALTRUISM	○	○	INVIDIOUS	○
○	BACCHANALIAN	○	○	LASCIVIOUS	○
○	BEATIFIC	○	○	LICENTIOUS	○
○	BENEFICENT	○	○	LURID	○
○	BENIGN	○	○	MISCREANT	○
○	BENISON	○	○	NEFARIOUS	○
○	CLEMENT	○	○	NOBLE	○
○	CONTINENCE	○	○	PERFIDIOUS	○
○	DEBAUCH	○	○	PROBITY	○
○	DECADENCE	○	○	PROFLIGATE	○
○	ELEVATED	○	○	PRURIENT	○
○	ETHICAL	○	○	RAPACITY	○
○	EXEMPLARY	○	○	RECTITUDE	○
○	FIENDISH	○	○	REPROBATE	○
○	ILLICIT	○	○	RIGHTEOUS	○
○	INFERNAL	○	○	TEMPERANCE	○
○	INIQUITOUS	○	○	TURPITUDE	○
○	INTEGRITY	○	○	VIRTUE	○

Answer key on page 296.

LARGE AMOUNT OR EXCESS		SMALL AMOUNT OR SHORTAGE
○	CAPACIOUS	○
○	CAVALCADE	○
○	CLOYING	○
○	CORNUCOPIA	○
○	DEARTH	○
○	DEFECT	○
○	DEFICIENT	○
○	DILATE	○
○	DISTEND	○
○	EFFUSIVE	○
○	FAMINE	○
○	FRAUGHT	○
○	GLUT	○
○	INSUFFICIENCY	○
○	MANIFOLD	○
○	MEAGER	○
○	MULTIFARIOUS	○

LARGE AMOUNT OR EXCESS		SMALL AMOUNT OR SHORTAGE
○	MYRIAD	○
○	OPULENCE	○
○	OVERABUNDANCE	○
○	PAUCITY	○
○	PLETHORA	○
○	POVERTY	○
○	PREPONDERANCE	○
○	PRIVATION	○
○	PRODIGIOUS	○
○	PROFUSION	○
○	REPLETE	○
○	SCANTINESS	○
○	SCARCITY	○
○	STINTING	○
○	SUPERABUNDANCE	○
○	SUPEREROGATORY	○
○	SUPERFLUITY	○
○	SURFEIT	○

Answer key on page 297.

Vocabulary Builder

GROW		SHRINK
○	ABATE	○
○	ACCRETE	○
○	AGGRANDIZE	○
○	AMPLIFY	○
○	APPEND	○
○	AUGMENT	○
○	BURGEON	○
○	CONSTRICT	○
○	CORRODE	○
○	DWINDLE	○
○	EBB	○
○	ERODE	○
○	ESCALATE	○
○	UPSURGE	○
○	WAX	○
○	WANE	○

Answer key on page *298*.

GRAND AND IMPORTANT		OR UNIMPORTANT	GRAND AND IMPORTANT		PETTY OR UNIMPORTANT
○	ABJECT	○	○	MOMENTOUS	
○	APOTHEOSIS	○	○	NEGLIGIBLE	
○	ASTRAL	○	○	NIGGLING	
○	AUGUST	○	○	NONENTITY	
○	CONSEQUENTIAL	○	○	OVERWEENING	
○	CONSIDERABLE	○	○	PALTRY	
○	DEBASED	○	○	PICAYUNE	
○	ELEVATED	○	○	PIDDLING	
○	ELOQUENT	○	○	PRETENTIOUS	
○	EXALTED	○	○	REGAL	
○	FRIVOLOUS	○	○	SALIENT	
○	GRANDIOSE	○	○	SERVILE	
○	IGNOBLE	○	○	SPLENDID	
○	INCONSEQUENTIAL	○	○	STATELY	
○	INGLORIOUS	○	○	SUBLIME	
○	LOFTY	○	○	SUBSTANTIAL	
○	MEANINGFUL	○	○	WEIGHTY	

Answer key on page 299.

UNLIMITED OR FREE		LIMITED OR CLOSED
○	CIRCUMSCRIBED	
○	DURESS	
○	EMANCIPATED	
○	ENCUMBRED	
○	FETTERED	
○	HERMETIC	
○	IMMURE	
○	INCOMMUNICADO	
○	INDENTURE	
○	INSULAR	
○	LATITUDE	
○	LAXITY	
○	LICENSE	
○	MANUMISSION	
○	MAVERICK	
○	OCCLUSION	
○	STRICTURE	
○	STYMIE	
○	THRALL	
○	TRAMMELED	
○	UNBRIDLED	
○	UNFETTERED	
○	UNTRAMMELED	
○	YOKE	

Answer key on page 300.

YOUTH OR IMMATURITY		OLD AGE OR MATURITY
○	ABIDING	
○	ANTEDELUVIAN	
○	CALLOW	
○	DOTAGE	
○	GERIATRIC	
○	GREEN	
○	HOARY	
○	INVETERATE	
○	JUVENILE	
○	NEOPHYTE	
○	PUERILE	
○	SENESCENT	
○	SOPHOMORIC	
○	STRIPLING	
○	SUPERANNUATED	
O	TYRO	

Answer key on page 301.

Vocabulary Builder

PRAISE		CRITICISM
⊖	ACCLAIM	
○	ACCOLADE	
C	ADULATORY	
○	APPLAUSE	
⊖	APPROBATION	
⊖	BOUQUET	
⊖	CELEBRATE	
⊖	CENSURE	
○	COMMEND	
○	DEFAME	
⊖	DEMEAN	
⊖	DENIGRATE	
○	DENOUNCE	
○	DENUNCIATE	
○	DEPRECATE	
○	ENCOMIUM	

PRAISE		CRITICISM
⊖	EULOGIZE	○
⊖	EXALT	○
○	EXTOL	○
⊖	HAIL	○
⊖	HOMAGE	○
⊖	HONOR	○
⊖	IMPUGN	○
⊖	KUDOS	○
○	LAUD	○
○	PAEAN	○
⊖	PANEGYRIC	○
⊖	PEJORATIVE	○
○	PLAUDIT	○
○	TRIBUTE	○
○	VENERATE	○

Answer key on page 302.

SWIFTNESS OR BRIEFNESS		DELAY OR SLOWNESS
○	ALACRITY	○
○	CELERITY	○
○	CURSORY	○
○	DALLY	○
○	DILATORY	○
○	EPHEMERAL	○
○	EVANESCENT	○
○	EXTEMPORANEOUS	○
○	IMPROMPTU	○
○	LAGGARD	○
○	MERCURIAL	○
○	PERFUNCTORY	○
○	PERPETUITY	○
○	PRECIPITOUS	○
○	PROCRASTINATION	○
○	PROTRACTED	○
○	RETARD	○
○	SLUGGISH	○
○	TORPID	○
○	TRANSIENT	○

Answer key on page 303.

SUBTLE OR SLIGHT		OBVIOUS
○	BLATANT	○
○	EGREGIOUS	○
○	FLAGRANT	○
○	GOSSAMER	○
○	MANIFEST	○
○	MODICUM	○
○	NUANCE	○
○	OSTENTATIOUS	○
○	OVERT	○
○	PATENT	○
○	RAREFY	○
○	REFINED	○
○	SCINTILLA	○

Answer key on page 304.

RUDENESS		POLITENESS
○	ASOCIAL	○
○	BOORISH	○
○	CHEEKY	○
○	CHURLISH	○
○	CIVIL	○
○	CRASS	○
○	DEFERENTIAL	○
○	DEMURE	○
○	EARTHY	○
○	EFFRONTERY	○
○	GALLANT	○
○	GENTEEL	○
○	OBEISANCE	○
○	OBLIGING	○
○	OBSTREPEROUS	○
○	PHILISTINE	○
○	PUNCTILIOUS	○
○	RAW	○
○	SCABROUS	○
○	SOLICITOUS	○
○	TACTFUL	○
○	UNGRACIOUS	○
○	UNPOLISHED	○
●	WLGAR	○

Answer key on page 305.

INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY		STUPIDITY AND CLUMSINESS	INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY		STUPIDITY AND CLUMSINESS
○	ACUMEN	○	○	INGENIOUS	
○	ASININE	○	○	KEN	
○	ASTUTE	○	○	MALADROIT	
○	DERANGED	○	○	OMNISCIENT	
○	DOLTISH	○	○	PERCIPIENT	
○	FATUOUS	○	○	PERSPICACIOUS	
○	FINESSE	○	○	PRECOCIOUS	
○	FLAIR	○	○	PUNDIT	
○	GAUCHE	○	○	SAGACIOUS	
○	GULLIBLE	○	○	SAPIENT	
○	IGNORAMUS	○	○	SIMPLE	
○	IMPOLITIC	○	○	UNWITTING	
○	INANE	○	○	VACUOUS	
○	INCISIVE	○	○	VAPID	

Answer key on page 306.

LOUD, LONG, OR A LOT OF SPEECH		QUIET, SHORT, OR ABSENCE OF SPEECH
◯	BOMBAST	◯
◯	CURT	◯
◯	DUMB	◯
◯	ELOQUENT	◯
◯	GARRULOUS	◯
◯	GRANDILOQUENT	◯
◯	LACONIC	◯
◯	LOQUACIOUS	◯
◯	MUTE	◯
◯	OROTUND	◯
◯	PLANGENT	◯
◯	PROLIX	◯
◯	RETICENT	◯
◯	STENTORIAN	◯
◯	SUCCINCT	◯
◯	TACIT	◯
◯	TACITURN	◯
◯	TERSE	◯
◯	TURGID	◯
◯	VERBOSE	◯

Answer key on page 307.

Vocabulary Builder

CLEAN		DIRTY
○	ABLUTION	○
○	BESMEAR	○
○	BESPATTER	○
○	DEFILE	○
○	GRIMY	○
○	GRUBBY	○
○	IMMACULATE	○
○	PRISTINE	○
○	SLOVENLY	○
○	SMUTTY	○
○	SULLY	○
○	UNSOILED	○
○	UNSULLIED	○
○	VIRGINAL	○

Answer key on page 308.

TOGETHER OR CONTINUOUS		SEPARATE OR DISCONTINUOUS	TOGETHER OR CONTINUOUS		SEPARATE OR DISCONTINUOUS
⬭	ABUT		⬭	DISCRETE	⬭
⬭	AGGREGATION		⬭	DISJOINTED	⬭
⬭	ASUNDER		⬭	DISPERSE	⬭
⬭	BIFURCATE		⬭	DISSIPATE	⬭
⬭	***CABAL***		⬭	DIVERGE	⬭
⬭	COLLATE		⬭	ESTRANGE	⬭
⬭	COLLOQUY		⬭	HIATUS	⬭
⬭	COLLUSION		⬭	INCONGRUOUS	⬭
⬭	CONCATENATE		⬭	INTERREGNUM	⬭
⬭	CONCOMITANT		⬭	INTERSTICE	⬭
⬭	CONFLUENCE		⬭	RIFT	⬭
⬭	CONJOIN		⬭	SCHISM	⬭
⬭	CONSENSUS		⬭	SEQUESTERED	⬭
⬭	CONSONANCE		⬭	SYNCHRONOUS	⬭
⬭	COTERIE		⬭	SYNTHESIS	⬭
⬭	DIFFUSE		⬭	TANDEM	⬭

Answer key on page 309.

STUBBORN		AGREEABLE
⬭	ACCEDE	⬭
⬭	ACCOMMODATING	⬭
⬭	ACQUIESCE	⬭
⬭	AMENABLE	⬭
⬭	CAPITULATE	⬭
⬭	COMPLY	⬭
⬭	CONCEDE	⬭
⬭	CONTUMACIOUS	⬭
⬭	DOGMATIC	⬭
⬭	HIDEBOUND	⬭
⬭	INTRANSIGENT	⬭
⬭	OBDURACY	⬭
⬭	OBLIGING	⬭
⬭	OBSTINATE	⬭
⬭	OSSIFIED	⬭
⬭	PERTINACIOUS	⬭
⬭	RECALCITRANT	⬭
⬭	REFRACTORY	⬭
⬭	UNBENDING	⬭
⬭	UNSWAYABLE	⬭

Answer key on page 310.

Opposite Drill Answer Keys

HAPPY		SAD
●	BLITHE	○
○	DISCONSOLATE	●
○	DISPIRITED	●
○	DOLDRUMS	●
○	DOLOROUS	●
●	EBULLIENT	○
●	EUPHORIC	○
●	FELICITY	○
●	PROVIDENT	○
○	RUE	●
○	WOE	●

DIS means "not," so here the two *DIS* words mean *"not* consolate" and "not spirited," that is, "sad." Also, *DOL* means, "pain," so ***dolorous*** and ***doldrums*** also mean "sad."

Vocabulary Builder

TRUE		FALSE	TRUE		FALSE
⊖	APOCRYPHAL	●	●	FRANKNESS	⊖
⊖	CALUMNY	●	⊖	GUILE	●
⊖	CANARD	●	●	INDISPUTABLE	○
●	CANDOR	⊖	●	INDUBITABLE	○
⊖	CHICANERY	●	●	LEGITIMATE	⊖
⊖	DISSEMBLE	●	⊖	MALINGER	●
⊖	DISSIMULATE	●	⊖	MENDACIOUS	●
⊖	DUPE	●	⊖	MENDACITY	●
⊖	DUPLICITY	●	⊖	PERFIDY	●
○	EQUIVOCATE	●	○	PREVARICATE	●
⊖	ERRONEOUS	●	●	PROBITY	G
⊖	ERSATZ	●	●	SINCERE	⊖
⊖	FALLACIOUS	●	⊖	SPECIOUS	●
●	FEALTY	⊖	⊖	SPURIOUS	●
⊖	FEIGNED	●	●	VERACIOUS	⊖
⊖	FOIST	●	●	VERITY	⊖

Notice that *veracious* and *verity* both have to do with truthfulness. (The root VER is from the Latin word for truth.) Perhaps you know that Yale's motto is "Lux et veritas," or "light and truth."

AGREEMENT		DISAGREEMENT	AGREEMENT		DISAGREEMENT
	ACCORD		○	DETRACTOR	●
	ALTERCATE		○	DIFFER	●
	ALTERCATION		○	DISPARAGE	●
	ANTITHETIC		○	DISPUTE	●
	ASKANCE		○	DISSENT	●
	ASSENT		○	EXCORIATE	●
	AVERSE		○	FEUD	●
	BICKER		●	HARMONY	○
	CAVIL		○	INIMICAL	●
	CONCORD		○	MOOT	●
	CONCUR		○	POLEMIC	●
	CONSENSUS		○	QUIBBLE	●
	CONSONANCE		●	RAPPORT	○
	CONTENTION		○	SQUABBLE	●
	CONTENTIOUS		●	UNANIMITY	○
	CONTRADICT		○	WRANGLE	●

Notice that all the words that began with *DIS* had to do with disagreement.

ATTRACTION OR LIKE		REPULSION OR DISLIKE	ATTRACTION OR LIKE		REPULSION OR DISLIKE
○	ABHOR	●	●	ENCHANT	○
○	ABOMINATE	●	●	ENTICE	○
●	AFFINITY	○	○	ESCHEW	●
●	ALLURE	○	●	INVEIGLE	○
○	ANATHEMA	●	○	LOATHE	●
○	ANTIPATHY	●	○	PARRY	●
○	BANE	●	●	PENCHANT	○
●	BEGUILE	○	●	PREDILECTION	○
●	BENT	○	●	PROCLIVITY	○
●	CHARM	○	●	PROPENSITY	○
○	DISSUADE	●	○	RANCOR	●
●	DRAW	○	○	REVILE	●
●	ELICIT	○	○	SPURN	●

When you talk about the pros and cons of a situation, you're talking about the positives and negatives. Notice that the words with PRO mean "attraction" or "like."

BRAVERY OR CONFIDENCE		FEAR OR CAUTION
●	APLOMB	○
○	APPREHENSION	●
●	AUDACIOUS	○
●	AUDACITY	○
○	CHARY	●
○	CIRCUMSPECTION	●
○	CRAVEN	●
●	DAUNTLESS	○
●	DOUGHTY	○
●	GALLANTRY	○
●	GAME	○
●	INTREPID	○
●	METTLESOME	○
○	MISGIVING	●
●	PLUCKY	○
○	PUSILLANIMOUS	●
●	TEMERITY	○
○	TREPIDATION	●
●	UNDAUNTED	○
●	VALIANT	○
●	VALOROUS	○

Notice that there are several words in this list with the same roots. For instance, *valiant* and *valorous* both use the root VAL. If *intrepid* means "fearless," then *trepidation* must be "fear." And *dauntless* and *undaunted* both mean the same thing.

Vocabulary Builder

CALMNESS		AGITATION	CALMNESS		AGITATION
●	BECALM	○	●	NONCHALANT	○
▒	BLUSTER	●	○	PERTURB	●
●	COLLECTED	○	●	PLACID	○
●	COMPOSED	○	●	QUIESCENT	○
●	COMPOSURE	○	○	RAGING	●
●	DETACHED	○	○	RAIL	●
○	DISCOMPOSED	●	●	REPOSE	○
●	DISPASSIONATE	▒	○	ROIL	●
▒	DISQUIETED	●	○	RUFFLED	●
▒	FLURRIED	●	●	SEDENTARY	○
▒	FLUSTER	●	●	SERENE	○
▒	FRENETIC	●	●	STAID	○
▒	FULMINATE	●	●	STEADY	○
▒	FUROR	●	●	TRANQUIL	○
▒	IMPERTURBABLE	○	○	TUMULTUOUS	●
▒	INDOLENT	○	○	TURBID	●
▒	INSURGENT	●	○	TURBULENT	●
▒	KINETIC	●	●	UNRUFFLED	○
▒	LANGUOR	○	○	VEHEMENCE	●
▒	LULL	○	○	VERVE	●

On this list, you can use "charge" to answer many of these words. Words like ***fluster, frenetic, furor, kinetic, perturb,*** and ***tumultuous*** sound agitating, while ***becalm, serene,*** and ***tranquil*** all sound calm.

CHANGE		LACK OF CHANGE
●	CATALYST	
●	COMMUTATION	
	CONSISTENT	
	CONSTANT	
	DETERMINATE	
	ENTRENCHED	
	FIXITY	
	IMMUTABLE	
	IMPERVIOUS	
	INERT	
	INGRAINED	
	INNOVATIVE	
	INVARIABLE	●
	INVIOLATE	
	LODGED	
●	METAMORPHOSIS	
●	MUTABLE	
○	ROOTED	
○	STEADFAST	●
●	TRANSFIGURATION	
●	TRANSFORMATION	
●	TRANSLATION	
●	TRANSMOGRIFY	
●	TRANSMUTATION	
○	UNFAILING	

TRANS means "across," so the five words in this list which begin with this root are all words that have to do with change.

Vocabulary Builder

GOODNESS OR MORALITY		EVIL OR IMMORALITY	GOODNESS OR MORALITY		EVIL OR IMMORALITY
●	ALTRUISM		○	INVIDIOUS	●
○	BACCHANALIAN		○	LASCIVIOUS	●
●	BEATIFIC		○	LICENTIOUS	●
●	BENEFICENT		○	LURID	●
●	BENIGN		○	MISCREANT	●
●	BENISON		○	NEFARIOUS	●
●	CLEMENT		●	NOBLE	○
●	CONTINENCE		○	PERFIDIOUS	●
○	DEBAUCH		●	PROBITY	○
○	DECADENCE		○	PROFLIGATE	●
●	ELEVATED		○	PRURIEST	●
●	ETHICAL		○	RAPACITY	●
●	EXEMPLARY		●	RECTITUDE	○
○	FIENDISH		○	REPROBATE	●
○	ILLICIT		●	RIGHTEOUS	○
○	INFERNAL		●	TEMPERANCE	○
○	INIQUITOUS		○	TURPITUDE	●
●	INTEGRITY		●	VIRTUE	○

The root BEN means "good." Notice that the three words in this list that include this root all mean something having to do with goodness or morality.

LARGE AMOUNT OR EXCESS		SMALL AMOUNT OR SHORTAGE
●	CAPACIOUS	○
●	CAVALCADE	○
●	CLOYING	○
●	CORNUCOPIA	○
○	DEARTH	●
○	DEFECT	●
○	DEFICIENT	●
●	DILATE	○
●	DISTEND	○
●	EFFUSIVE	○
○	FAMINE	●
●	FRAUGHT	○
●	GLUT	○
	INSUFFICIENCY	●
●	MANIFOLD	○
○	MEAGER	●
●	MULTIFARIOUS	○

LARGE AMOUNT OR EXCESS		SMALL AMOUNT OR SHORTAGE
	MYRIAD	○
	OPULENCE	○
	OVERABUNDANCE	○
	PAUCITY	●
	PLETHORA	○
	POVERTY	●
	PREPONDERANCE	○
	PRIVATION	●
	PRODIGIOUS	○
	PROFUSION	○
	REPLETE	○
	SCANTINESS	●
	SCARCITY	●
	STINTING	●
	SUPERABUNDANCE	○
	SUPEREROGATORY	○
	SUPERFLUITY	○
	SURFEIT	○

Notice that all the words that start with SUPER have to do with excess.

Vocabulary Builder

GROW		SHRINK
	ABATE	●
●	ACCRETE	○
●	AGGRANDIZE	○
●	AMPLIFY	○
●	APPEND	○
●	AUGMENT	○
●	BURGEON	○
	CONSTRICT	●
	CORRODE	●
	DWINDLE	●
	EBB	●
	ERODE	●
●	ESCALATE	○
●	UPSURGE	○
	WAX	○
	WANE	●

Here you might want to think of cliched phrases. For instance, an ***ebb tide*** is a tide that's going out. A ***burgeoning debt*** is a debt that's increasing at a healthy rate. And the moon has ***waxing*** (growing) and ***waning*** (shrinking) phases.

GRAND AND IMPORTANT		PETTY OR UNIMPORTANT	GRAND AND IMPORTANT		PETTY OR UNIMPORTANT
○	ABJECT	●	●	MOMENTOUS	
●	APOTHEOSIS	○	○	NEGLIGIBLE	
●	ASTRAL	○	○	NIGGLING	
●	AUGUST	○	○	NONENTITY	
●	CONSEQUENTIAL	○	●	OVERWEENING	
●	CONSIDERABLE	○	○	PALTRY	
○	DEBASED	●	○	PICAYUNE	
●	ELEVATED	○	○	PIDDLING	
●	ELOQUENT	○	●	PRETENTIOUS	
●	EXALTED	○	●	REGAL	
○	FRIVOLOUS	●	●	SALIENT	
●	GRANDIOSE	○	○	SERVILE	
○	IGNOBLE	●	●	SPLENDID	
○	INCONSEQUENTIAL	●	●	STATELY	
○	INGLORIOUS	●	●	SUBLIME	
●	LOFTY	O	●	SUBSTANTIAL	
●	MEANINGFUL	○	●	WEIGHTY	

This is another list in which common phrases can help you figure out the meaning of words. For instance, if someone makes a *salient point,* it's central to an argument. In physics, certain forces, such as air resistance, are often considered *negligible,* or ignored.

UNLIMITED OR FREE		LIMITED OR CLOSED
○	CIRCUMSCRIBED	●
○	DURESS	●
●	EMANCIPATED	○
○	ENCUMBRED	●
○	FETTERED	●
○	HERMETIC	●
○	IMMURE	●
○	INCOMMUNICADO	●
○	INDENTURE	●
○	INSULAR	●
●	LATITUDE	○
●	LAXITY	○
●	LICENSE	○
●	MANUMISSION	○
●	MAVERICK	○
○	OCCLUSION	●
○	STRICTURE	●
○	STYMIE	●
○	THRALL	●
○	TRAMMELED	●
●	UNBRIDLED	○
●	UNFETTERED	○
●	UNTRAMMELED	○
○	YOKE	●

Notice that *trammeled* and *fettered* are joined on this list by untrammeled and unfettered. Also, notice that all the words with *UN* are free.

YOUTH OR IMMATURITY		OLD AGE OR MATURITY
○	ABIDING	●
○	ANTEDELUVIAN	●
●	CALLOW	○
○	DOTAGE	●
○	GERIATRIC	●
●	GREEN	▒
○	HOARY	●
○	INVETERATE	●
●	JUVENILE	○
●	NEOPHYTE	○
●	PUERILE	○
○	SENESCENT	●
●	SOPHOMORIC	○
●	STRIPLING	○
○	SUPERANNUATED	●
●	TYRO	○

This list is full of roots to help you figure things out: NEO means "new." *GERI* means "old." ***Senescent*** comes from the Latin ***senex***, which means "old man." ***Superannuated*** has to do with lots of years.

PRAISE		CRITICISM	PRAISE		CRITICISM
●	ACCLAIM	○	●	EULOGIZE	○
●	ACCOLADE	○	●	EXALT	○
●	ADULATORY	○	●	EXTOL	○
●	APPLAUSE	○	●	HAIL	○
●	APPROBATION	○	▒	HOMAGE	○
●	BOUQUET	○	●	HONOR	○
●	CELEBRATE	○	○	IMPUGN	●
○	CENSURE	●	●	KUDOS	▒
●	COMMEND	○	●	LAUD	▒
○	DEFAME	●	●	PAEAN	▒
○	DEMEAN	●	●	PANEGYRIC	▒
○	DENIGRATE	●	▒	PEJORATIVE	●
○	DENOUNCE	●	▒	PLAUDIT	○
○	DENUNCIATE	●	▒	TRIBUTE	○
○	DEPRECATE	●	●	VENERATE	○
●	ENCOMIUM	○			

In this exercise, every word that uses *DE*, which can mean "down," as a prefix is negative. For instance, ***denounce*** means "to speak down" or "to criticize."

SWIFTNESS OR BRIEFNESS		DELAY OR SLOWNESS
●	ALACRITY	○
●	CELERITY	○
●	CURSORY	○
○	DALLY	●
○	DILATORY	●
●	EPHEMERAL	○
●	EVANESCENT	○
●	EXTEMPORANEOUS	○
●	IMPROMPTU	○
○	LAGGARD	●
●	MERCURIAL	○
●	PERFUNCTORY	○
○	PERPETUITY	●
●	PRECIPITOUS	○
○	PROCRASTINATION	●
○	PROTRACTED	●
○	RETARD	●
○	SLUGGISH	●
○	TORPID	●
●	TRANSIENT	○

Mercurial is a word based on a mythological figure. Mercury was the messenger of the gods who traveled with winged sandals. Thus, *mercurial* is fast.

SUBTLE OR SLIGHT		OBVIOUS
○	BLATANT	●
○	EGREGIOUS	●
○	FLAGRANT	●
●	GOSSAMER	○
○	MANIFEST	●
●	MODICUM	○
●	NUANCE	○
○	OSTENTATIOUS	●
○	OVERT	●
○	PATENT	●
●	RAREFY	○
●	REFINED	○
●	SCINTILLA	○

This list has several words that you can probably recognize from when they are used in context. For instance, people often refer to an "***egregious*** error" or a "***ntodicum*** of respect."

RUDENESS		POLITENESS
●	ASOCIAL	○
●	BOORISH	○
●	CHEEKY	○
●	CHURLISH	○
⊖	CIVIL	●
●	CRASS	○
⊖	DEFERENTIAL	●
⊖	DEMURE	●
●	EARTHY	
●	EFFRONTERY	
⊖	GALLANT	
⊖	GENTEEL	
⊖	OBEISANCE	
○	OBLIGING	
●	OBSTREPEROUS	
●	PHILISTINE	
⊖	PUNCTILIOUS	
●	RAW	
●	SCABROUS	
⊖	SOLICITOUS	
⊖	TACTFUL	
●	UNGRACIOUS	
●	UNPOLISHED	
●	WLGAR	

The word *Philistine* comes from a reference to the ancient people of Philistia. These people had a reputation for being smug and ignorant, in the area of art and culture.

INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY		STUPIDITY AND CLUMSINESS	INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY		STUPIDITY AND CLUMSINESS
●	ACUMEN		●	INGENIOUS	○
○	ASININE		●	KEN	○
●	ASTUTE		○	MALADROIT	●
○	DERANGED		●	OMNISCIENT	○
○	DOLTISH		●	PERCIPIENT	○
○	FATUOUS		●	PERSPICACIOUS	○
●	FINESSE		●	PRECOCIOUS	○
●	FLAIR		●	PUNDIT	○
○	GAUCHE		●	SAGACIOUS	○
○	GULLIBLE		●	SAPIENT	○
○	IGNORAMUS		○	SIMPLE	●
○	IMPOLITIC		○	UNWITTING	●
○	INANE		○	VACUOUS	●
●	INCISIVE		○	VAPID	●

Many of these words have roots that can lead you to the answer. MAL means "bad," so ***maladroit*** deals with clumsiness. OMNI means "all," and *SCI* means "knowing:' so ***omniscient*** means "all-knowing."

LOUD, LONG, OR A LOT OF SPEECH		QUIET, SHORT., OR ABSENCE OF SPEECH
●	BOMBAST	
○	CURT	●
○	DUMB	●
●	ELOQUENT	○
●	GARRULOUS	○
●	GRANDILOQUENT	○
○	LACONIC	●
●	LOQUACIOUS	○
○	MUTE	●
●	OROTUND	○
●	PLANGENT	○
●	PROLIX	○
○	RETICENT	●
●	STENTORIAN	○
○	SUCCINCT	●
○	TACIT	●
○	TACITURN	●
○	TERSE	●
●	TURGID	○
●	VERBOSE	○

Notice that there are three different words with the root *LOQU* in this list. *LOQU* means "word, speech," so these three words all have to do with a lot of speech.

Vocabulary Builder

CLEAN		DIRTY
●	ABLUTION	
○	BESMEAR	●
○	BESPATTER	●
	DEFILE	●
	GRIMY	●
	GRUBBY	●
●	IMMACULATE	
●	PRISTINE	
○	SLOVENLY	●
○	SMUTTY	●
○	SULLY	●
●	UNSOILED	○
●	UNSULLIED	○
●	VIRGINAL	○

In this case, the sound of the words tell you a lot about the words themselves. If the word sounds dirty, as the words ***besmear, bespatter, defile,*** or ***slovenly*** do, you can bet that's what it means.

TOGETHER OR CONTINUOUS		SEPARATE OR DISCONTINUOUS	TOGETHER OR CONTINUOUS		SEPARATE OR DISCONTINUOUS
●	ABUT	○	○	DISCRETE	●
●	AGGREGATION	○	○	DISJOINTED	●
○	ASUNDER	●	○	DISPERSE	●
○	BIFURCATE	●	○	DISSIPATE	●
●	CABAL	○	○	DIVERGE	●
●	COLLATE	○	○	ESTRANGE	●
●	COLLOQUY	○	○	[illegible]	●
●	COLLUSION	○	○	INCONGRUOUS	●
●	CONCATENATE	○	○	INTERREGNUM	●
●	CONCOMITANT	○	○	INTERSTICE	●
●	CONFLUENCE	○	○	RIFT	●
●	CONJOIN	○	○	SCHISM	●
●	CONSENSUS	○	○	SEQUESTERED	●
●	CONSONANCE	○	●	SYNCHRONOUS	○
●	COTERIE	○	●	SYNTHESIS	○
○	DIFFUSE	●	●	TANDEM	○

This list is full of roots. *SYN* means "same"; *CON*, *COM*, and *COLL* mean "with"; and DIS means "away from" or "apart." Use your knowledge of these roots to make your decisions.

STUBBORN		AGREEABLE
○	ACCEDE	●
○	ACCOMMODATING	●
○	ACQUIESCE	●
○	AMENABLE	●
○	CAPITULATE	●
○	COMPLY	●
○	CONCEDE	●
●	CONTUMACIOUS	○
●	DOGMATIC	○
●	HIDEBOUND	○
●	INTRANSIGENT	○
●	OBDURACY	○
○	OBLIGING	●
●	OBSTINATE	
●	OSSIFIED	
●	PERTINACIOUS	
●	RECALCITRANT	
●	REFRACTORY	
●	UNBENDING	
	UNSWAYABLE	

UN means "not," so ***unswayable*** and ***unbending*** both mean "stubborn."

Chapter 12

GRE MIN-IDICTIONARY

This Minidictionary provides you with the definitions of many common GRE words. Use this list not only when you work with the vocabulary exercises but whenever you encounter an unfamiliar word anywhere—such as in released tests or everyday reading.

A

ABANDON (n) total lack of inhibition

ABASE to humble, disgrace

ABASH to embarrass

ABATEMENT decrease. reduction

ABDICATE to give up a position, right, or power

ABERRANT atypical, not normal

ABERRATION something different from the usual or normal

ABET to aid, act as accomplice

ABEYANCE temporary suppression or suspension

ABHOR to loathe, detest

ABIDING enduring, continuing

ABJECT miserable, pitiful

ABJURE to reject, abandon formally

ABLUTION act of cleansing

ABNEGATE to deny, renounce

ABOLITIONIST one who opposes the practice of slavery

ABOMINATE to hate

ABORTIVE interrupted while incomplete

ABRIDGE to condense. shorten

ABROGATE to abolish or invalidate by authority

ABRUPT sudden, unexpected

ABSCOND to depart secretly

ABSOLVE to forgive, free from blame

ABSTAIN to refrain deliberately from something

ABSTEMIOUS moderate in appetite

ABSTRACT (adj) theoretical; complex, difficult

ABSTRUSE difficult to comprehend

ABUT to touch, to be in contact with

ABYSS an extremely great depth

ACCEDE to express approval; agree to

ACCESSIBLE attainable, available; approachable

ACCESSORY attachment, ornament; accomplice, partner

ACCLAIM praise

ACCOLADE praise, distinction

ACCOMMODATING helpful

ACCORD to reconcile, come to an agreement

ACCOST to approach and speak to someone

ACCRETION growth in size or increase in amount

ACCRUE to accumulate, grow by additions

ACERBIC bitter, sharp in taste or temper

ACIDULOUS sour in taste or manner

ACME highest point, summit

ACQUIESCE to agree, comply quietly

ACQUITTAL release from blame

ACRID harsh, bitter

ACRIMONY bitterness, animosity

ACUITY sharpness

[illegible] sharpness of insight

ACUTE sharp, pointed

ADAGE old saying or proverb

ADAMANT uncompromising, unyielding

ADAPT to accommodate, adjust

ADHERE to cling or to follow without deviation

ADJACENT next to

ADJUNCT something added, attached, or joined

ADMONISH to caution or reprimand

ADROIT skillful, accomplished, highly competent

ADULATION high praise

ADULTERATE to corrupt or make impure

ADUMBRATE to sketch, outline in a shadowy way

ADVANTAGEOUS favorable, useful

ADVENTITIOUS accidental

ADVERSARIAL antagonistic, competitive

ADVERSE unfavorable, unlucky, harmful

ADVOCATE to speak in favor of

AERIAL having to do with the air

AERIE nook or nest built high in the air

AERODYNAMIC relating to objects moving through the air

AESTHETIC pertaining to beauty or art

AFFABLE friendly, easy to approach

AFFECTED (adj) pretentious, phony

AFFINITY fondness, liking; similarity

AFFLUENT rich, abundant

AFFRONT (n) personal offense, insult

AGENDA plan, schedule

AGGRANDIZE to make larger or greater in power

AGGREGATE (n) collective mass or sum; total

AGGRIEVE to afflict, distress

AGILE well coordinated, nimble

AGITATION commotion, excitement; uneasiness

AGNOSTIC one doubting that people can know God

AGRARIAN relating to farming or rural matters

ALACRITY cheerful willingness, eagerness; speed

ALCHEMY medieval chemical philosophy based on quest to change metal into gold

ALGORITHM mechanical problem-solving procedure

ALIAS assumed name

ALIENATED distanced, estranged

ALIGNED precisely adjusted; committed to one side or party

ALLAY to lessen, ease, or soothe

ALLEGORY symbolic representation

ALLEVIATE to relieve, improve partially

ALLITERATION repetition of the beginning sounds of words

ALLOCATION allowance, portion, share

ALLURE (v) to entice by charm; attract

ALLUSION indirect reference

ALLUSIVENESS quality of making many indirect references

ALOOF detached, indifferent

ALTERCATION noisy dispute

ALTRUISM unselfish concern for others' welfare

[illegible] mixture, combination, alloy

AMBIDEXTROUS able to use both hands equally well

AMBIGUOUS uncertain; subject to multiple interpretations

AMBIVALENCE attitude of uncertainty; conflicting emotions

AMBULATORY itinerant; related to walking around

AMELIORATE to make better, improve

AMENABLE agreeable, cooperative

AMEND to improve or correct flaws in

AMENITY pleasantness; something increasing comfort

AMIABLE friendly, pleasant, likable

AMICABLE friendly, agreeable

AMITY friendship

AMORAL unprincipled, unethical

AMOROUS strongly attracted to love; showing love

AMORPHOUS having no definite form

AMORTIZE to diminish by installment payments

AMPHIBIAN (n) creature equally at home on land or in water

AMPHITHEATER arena theater with ruing tiers around a central open space

AMPLE abundant, plentiful

AMPLIFY to increase, intensify

AMULET ornament worn as a charm against evil spirits

ANACHRONISM something chronologically inappropriate

ANACHRONISTIC outdated

ANALGESIA a lessening of pain

ANALOGOUS comparable, parallel

ANARCHY absence of government or law; chaos

ANATHEMA ban, curse; something shunned or disliked

ANCILLARY accessory, subordinate, helping

ANECDOTE short, usually funny account of an event

ANGULAR characterized by sharp angles; lean and gaunt

ANIMATION enthusiasm, excitement

ANIMOSITY hatred, hostility

ANNUL to cancel, nullify, declare void, or make legally invalid

ANODYNE something that calms or soothes pain

ANOINT to apply oil to, esp. as a sacred rite

ANOMALY irregularity or deviation from the norm

ANONYMITY condition of having no name or an unknown name

ANTAGONIST foe, opponent, adversary

ANTECEDENT (adj) coming before in place or time

ANTEDATE dated prior to the actual occurrence

ANTEDILUVIAN prehistoric, ancient beyond measure

ANTEPENULTIMATE third from last

ANTERIOR preceding, previous, before, prior (to)

ANTHOLOGY collection of literary works

ANTHROPOMORPHIC attributing human qualities to nonhumans

ANTIPATHY dislike, hostility; extreme opposition or aversion

ANTIQUATED outdated, obsolete

ANTIQUITY ancient times; the quality of being old or ancient

ANTITHESIS exact opposite or direct contrast

APACE done quickly

APATHETIC indifferent, unconcerned

APATHY lack of feeling or emotion

APERTURE an opening or hole

APHASIA inability to speak or use words

APHELION point in a planet's orbit that is farthest from the sun

APHORISM old saying or short pithy statement

APLOMB poise, confidence

APOCRYPHAL not genuine; fictional

APOSTATE (n) one who renounces a religious faith

APOSTROPHE speech to the reader or someone not present; a superscript sign (')

APOTHEGM a short, instructive saying

APOTHEOSIS glorification; glorified ideal

APPEASE to satisfy, placate, calm, pacify

APPEND to attach

APPLAUSE praise

APPRAISE to evaluate the value of something

APPREHENSION the act of comprehending; fear, foreboding

APPRISE to give notice of; inform

APPROBATION praise; official approval

APPROPRIATE (v) to take possession of

AQUATIC belonging or living in water

ARABLE suitable for cultivation

ARBITRARY depending solely on individual will; inconsistent

ARBITRATOR mediator, negotiator

ARBOREAL relating to trees; living in trees

ARBORETUM place where trees are displayed and studied

ARCANE secret, obscure, known only to a few

ARCHAIC antiquated, from an earlier time; outdated

ARCHIPELAGO large group of islands

ARDENT passionate, enthusiastic, fervent

ARDOR great emotion or passion

ARDUOUS extremely difficult, laborious

ARID extremely dry or deathly boring

ARRAIGN to call to court to answer a charge

ARROGATE to demand, claim arrogantly

ARSENAL ammunition storehouse

ARTICULATE (adj) well-spoken, expressing oneself clearly

ARTIFACT historical relic, item made by human craft

ARTISAN craftsperson; expert

ARTLESS open and honest

ASCEND to rise or climb

ASCENDANCY state of rising, ascending; power or control

ASCERTAIN to determine, discover, make certain of

ASCETIC (adj) self-denying, abstinent, austere

ASCRIBE to attribute to, assign

ASHEN resembling ashes; deathly pale

ASININE lacking intelligence or sound judgment

ASKANCE scornfully

ASKEW crooked, tilted

ASOCIAL unable or unwilling to interact socially

ASPERITY harshness, roughness

ASPERSION false rumor, damaging report, slander

ASPIRE to have great hopes; to aim at a goal

ASSAIL to attack, assault

ASSAY to analyze or estimate

ASSENT (v) to express agreement

ASSERT to affirm, attest

ASSIDUOUS diligent, persistent, hardworking

ASSIGNATION appointment for lovers' meeting; assignment

ASSIMILATION act of blending in, becoming similar

ASSONANCE resemblance in sound, especially in vowel sounds; partial rhyme

ASSUAGE to make less severe, ease, relieve

ASTRAL exalted, elevated in position; relating to the stars

ASTRINGENT harsh, severe, stem

ASTUTE having good judgment

ASUNDER (adv) into different parts

ASYMMETRICAL not corresponding in size, shape, position, etcetera

ATONE to make amends for a wrong

ATROCIOUS monstrous, shockingly bad, wicked

ATROPHY (v) to waste away, wither from disuse

ATTAIN to accomplish, gain

ATTENUATE to make thin or slender; weaken

ATTEST to testify, stand as proof of, bear witness

AUDACIOUS bold, daring, fearless

AUDIBLE capable of being heard

AUDIT (n) formal examination of financial records

AUDITORY having to do with hearing

AUGMENT to expand, extend

AUGURY (adj) prophecy, prediction of events

AUGUST dignified, awe-inspiring, venerable

AUSPICIOUS having favorable prospects, promising

AUSTERE stern, strict, unadorned

AUTHORITARIAN extremely strict, bossy

AUTOCRAT dictator

AUTONOMOUS separate, independent

AUXILIARY supplementary, reserve

AVARICE greed

AVENGE to retaliate, take revenge for an injury or crime

AVER to dedare to be true, affirm

AVERSE being disinclined toward something

AVERSION intense dislike

AVERT to turn (something) away; prevent

AVIARY large enclosure housing birds

AVOW to state openly or declare

AWRY crooked, askew, amiss

AXIOM premix, postulate, self-evident truth

B

BACCHANALIAN drunkenly festive

BALEFUL harmful, with evil intentions

BALK (v) to refuse, shirk; prevent

BALLAD folk song, narrative poem

BALM soothing, healing influence

BAN (v) to forbid, outlaw

BANAL trite and overly common

BANE something causing ruin, death, or destruction

BANTER playful conversation

BASE being of low value or position

BASTION fortification, stronghold

BAY (v) to bark. especially in a deep, prolonged way

BEATIFIC appearing to be saintly, angelic

BECALM to make calm or still; keep motionless by lack of wind

BECLOUD to confuse; darken with clouds

BEGUILE to deceive, mislead; charm

BEHEMOTH huge creature

BELABOR to insist repeatedly or harp on

BELATED late

BELEAGUER to harass, plague

BELFRY bell tower, room in which a bell is hung

BELIE to misrepresent; expose as false

BELITTLE to represent as unimportant, make light of

BELLICOSE warlike, aggressive

BELLIGERENT hostile, tending to fight

BELLOW to roar, shout

BEMUSE to confuse, stupefy; plunge deep into thought

BENCHMARK standard of measure

BENEFACTOR someone giving aid or money

BENEFICIAL advantageous

BENEFICENT kindly, charitable; doing good deeds; producing good effects

BENIGHTED unenlightened

BENIGN kindly, gentle or harmless

BENISON blessing

BENT a natural inclination toward something

BEQUEATH to give or leave through a will; to hand down

BERATE to scold harshly

BEREAVED suffering the death of a loved one

BESEECH to beg, plead, implore

BESMEAR to smear

BESPATTER to spatter

BESTIAL beastly, animal-like

BESTOW to give as a gih

BETOKEN to indicate, signify, give evidence of

BEVY group

BIAS prejudice. slant

BIBLIOGRAPHY list of books

BIBLIOPHILE book lover

BICKER to have a petty argument

BIFURCATE divide into two parts

BILATERAL two-sided

BILIOUS bad-natured

BILK to cheat, defraud

BILLET board and lodging for troops

BIPED two-footed animal

BISECT to cut into two (usually equal) parts

BLANCH to pale; take the color out of

BLANDISH to coax with flattery

BLASPHEMOUS cursing, profane, irreverent

BLATAST glaring, obvious, showy

BLIGHT (v) to afflict, destroy

BLITHE joyful, cheerful, or without appropriate thought

BLUDGEON to hit as with a short heavy club

BLUSTER to boast or make threats loudly

BOISTEROUS rowdy, loud, unrestrained

BOLSTER to support; reinforce

BOMBASTIC using high-sounding but meaningless language

BONANZA extremely large amount; something profitable

BONHOMIE good-natured geniality; atmosphere of good cheer

BOOK blessing, something to be thankful for

BOOR crude person, one lacking manners or taste

BOTANIST scientist who studies plants

BOUNTIFUL plentiful

BOUQUET a bunch of cut flowers

BOURGEOIS middle-class

BOVINE relating to cows

BRAZEN bold, shameless, impudent; of or like brass

BREACH act of breaking, violation

BREVITY the quality of being brief in time

BRIGAND bandit, outlaw

BROACH to mention or suggest for the first time

BROMIDE a dull, commonplace person or idea

BRUSQUE rough and abrupt in manner

BUFFET (v) to strike, hit

BUFFOON clown or fool

BULWARK defense wall; anything serving as defense

BURGEON to sprout or flourish

BURLY brawny, husky

BURNISH to polish, make smooth and bright

BURSAR treasurer

BUSTLE commotion, energetic activity

BUTT person or thing that is object of ridicule

BUTTRESS (v) to reinforce or support

BYWAY back road

C

CABAL a secret group seeking to overturn something

CACOPHONOUS jarring, unpleasantly noisy

CADAVER dead body

CADENCE rhythmic flow of poetry; marching beat

CAJOLE to flatter, coax, persuade

CALAMITOUS disastrous, catastrophic

CALLOUS thick-skinned, insensitive

CALLOW immature, lacking sophistication

CALUMNY false and malicious accusation, misrepresentation, slander

CANARD a lie

CANDID frank or fair

CANDOR honesty of expression

CANNY smart; founded on common sense

CANONIZE to declare a person a saint; raise to highest honors

CANVASS to examine thoroughly; conduct a poll

CAPACIOUS large, roomy; extensive

CAPITULATE to submit completely, surrender

CAPRICIOUS impulsive, whimsical, without much thought

CARDIOLOGIST physician specializing in diseases of the heart

CAREEN to lean to one side

CARICATURE exaggerated portrait, cartoon

CARNAL of the flesh

CARNIVOROUS meat-eating

CAROM to strike and rebound

CARP (v) to find fault, complain constantly

CARTOGRAPHY science or art of making maps

CAST (n) copy, replica

CAST (v) to fling, to throw

CASTIGATE to punish, chastise, criticize severely

CATACLYSMIC disastrous

CATALYST something causing change without being changed

CATEGORICAL absolute, without exception

CATHARSIS purification, cleansing

CATHOLIC universal; broad and comprehensive

CAUCUS smaller group within an organization; a meeting of such a group

CAULK to make watertight

CAUSALITY cause-and-effect relationship

CAUSTIC biting, sarcastic; able to burn

CAVALCADE a procession

CAVALIER (adj) carefree, happy; with lordly disdain

CAVIL to raise trivial objections

CAVORT to frolic, frisk

CEDE to surrender possession of something

CELEBRITY fame, widespread acclaim

CELERITY quick moving or acting

CENSORIOUS severely critical

CENSURE to criticize or find fault with

CENTRIPETAL directed or moving toward the center

CERTITUDE assurance, certainty

CESSATION temporary or complete halt

CESSION act of surrendering something

CHAGRIN shame, embarrassment, humiliation

CHALICE goblet, cup

CHAMP (v) chew noisily

CHAMPION (v) to defend or support

CHAOS confusion

CHAOTIC extremely disorderly

CHARLATAN quack, fake

CHARM compelling attractiveness

CHARY watchful, cautious, extremely shy

CHASTISE to punish, discipline, xold

CHATTEL piece of personal property

CHAUVINIST someone prejudiced in the belief of their kind's superiority

CHEEKY lacking prudence or discretion

CHERUBIC sweet, innocent, resembling a cherub angel

CHICANERY trickery, fraud, deception

CHIDE to xold, express disapproval

CHIMERICAL fanciful, imaginary, visionary; impossible

CHOICE (adj) specially selected, preferred

CHOLERIC easily angered, short-tempered

CHORTLE to chuckle

CHROMATIC relating to color

CHRONICLER one who keeps records of historical events

CHURLISH rude

CIRCUITOUS roundabout

CIRCUMFERENCE boundary or distance around a circle or sphere

CIRCUMLOCUTION roundabout, lengthy way of saying something

CIRCUMNAVIGATE to sail completely around

CIRCUMSCRIBE to encircle; set limits on, confine

CIRCUMSPECT cautious, wary

CIRCUMVENT to go around; avoid

CISTERN tank for rainwater

CITADEL fortress or stronghold

CIVIL polite; relating to citizens

CMLITY courtesy, politeness

CLAIRVOYANT (adj) having ESP, psychic

CLAMOR (n) noisy outcry

CLAMOR (v) to make a noisy outcry

CLANDESTINE secretive, concealed for a darker purpose

CLARITY dearness; clear understanding

CLAUSTROPHOBIA fear of small, confined places

CLEAVE to split or separate; to stick, cling, adhere

CLEMENCY merciful leniency

CLEMENT mild

CLOISTER (v) to confine, seclude

CLOYING indulging to excess

COAGULATE to clot or change from a liquid to a solid

COALESCE to grow together or cause to unite as one

CODDLE to baby, treat indulgently

COERCE to compel by force or intimidation

COFFER strongbox, large chest for money

COGENT logically forceful, compelling, convincing

COGNATE related, similar, akin

COGNITION mental process by which knowledge is acquired

COGNOMEN family name; any name, especially a nickname

COHABIT to live together

COHERENT intelligible, lucid, understandable

COLLATE to arrange in an order

COLLATERAL accompanying

COLLECTED acting calm and composed

COLLOQUIAL characteristic of informal speech

COLLOQUY dialogue or conversation, conference

COLLUSION collaboration, complicity, conspiracy

COMELINESS physical grace and beauty

COMMEND to compliment, praise

COMMENSURATE proportional

COMMISSION fee payable to an agent; authorization

COMMODIOUS roomy, spacious

COMMONPLACE ordinary, found every day

COMMUNICABLE transmittable

COMMUTE to change a penalty to a less severe one

COMPATRIOT fellow countryman

COMPELLING (adj) having a powerful and irresistible effect

COMPENDIOUS summarizing completely and briefly

COMPENSATE to repay or reimburse

COMPLACENT self-satisfied, smug, affable

COMPLAISANT agreeable, friendly

COMPLEMENT to complete, perfect

COMPLIANT submissive and yielding

COMPLICITY knowing partnership in wrongdoing

COMPOSED acting calm

COMPOSURE a calm manner or appearance

COMPOUND (adj) complex; composed of several parts

COMPOUND (v) to combine, add to

COMPRESS (v) to reduce, squeeze

COMPULSIVE obsessive, fanatic

COMPUNCTIOUS feeling guilty or having misgivings

COMPUNCTION feeling of uneasiness caused by guilt or regret

CONCATENATE linked together

CONCAVE curving inward

CONCEDE to yield, admit

CONCEPTUALIZE to envision, imagine

CONCERN a matter of importance or worthy of consideration

CONCERTO musical composition for orchestra and soloist(s)

CONCILIATORY overcoming distrust or hostility

CONCOMITANT accompanying something

CONCORD agreement

CONCUR to agree

CONDONE to pardon or forgive; overlook, justify, or excuse a fault

CONDUIT tube, pipe, or similar passage

CONFECTION something sweet to eat

CONFISCATE to appropriate, seize

CONFLAGRATION big, destructive fire

CONFLUENCE meeting place; meeting of two streams

CONFOUND to baffle, perplex

CONGEAL to become thick or solid, as a liquid freezing

CONGENIAL similar in tastes and habits

CONGENITAL existing since birth

CONGLOMERATE collected group of varied things

CONGRESS formal meeting or assembly

CONGRUITY correspondence, harmony, agreement

CONJECTURE speculation, prediction

CONJOIN to join together

CONJUGAL pertaining to marriage

CONJURE to evoke a spirit, cast a spell

CONNIVE to conspire, scheme

CONNOISSEUR a person with refined taste

CONSANGUINEOUS of the same origin; related by blood

CONSCIENTIOUS governed by conscience; careful and thorough

CONSECRATE to declare sacred; dedicate to a goal

CONSENSUS unanimity, agreement of opinion or attitude

CONSEQUENTIAL important

CONSIDERABLE significant, worth considering

CONSIGN to commit, entrust

CONSISTENT containing no contradictions, being harmonious

CONSOLATION something providing comfort or solace for a loss or hardship

CONSOLIDATE to combine, incorporate

CONSONANT (adj) consistent with, in agreement with

CONSTANT completely uniform and unchanging

CONSTITUENT component, part; citizen, voter

CONSTRAINED forced, compelled; confined, restrained

CONSTRAINT something that forces or compels; something that restrains or confines

CONSTRICT to inhibit

CONSTRUE to explain or interpret

CONSUMMATE (adj) accomplished, complete, perfect

CONSUMMATE (v) to complete, fulfill

CONTEND to battle, clash; compete

CONTENTIOUS quarrelsome, disagreeable, belligerent

CONTINENCE self-control, self-restraint

CONTRADICT to deny or oppose

CONTRAVENE to contradict, deny, act contrary to

CONTRITE deeply sorrowful and repentant for a wrong

CONTUMACIOUS rebellious

CONTUSION bruise

CONUNDRUM riddle, puzzle or problem with no solution

CONVALESCENCE gradual recovery after an illness

CONVENE to meet, come together, assemble

CONVENTIONAL typical, customary, commonplace

CONVEX curved outward

CONVIVIAL sociable; fond of eating, drinking, and people

CONVOKE to call together, summon

CONVOLUTED twisted, complicated, involved

COPIOUS abundant, plentiful

COQUETTE woman who flirts

CORNUCOPIA abundance

CORPOREAL having to do with the body; tangible, material

CORPULENCE obesity, fatness, bulkiness

CORRELATION association, mutual relation of two or more things

CORROBORATE to confirm, verify

CORRODE to weaken or destroy

CORRUGATE to mold in a shape with parallel grooves and ridges

COSMETIC (adj) relating to beauty; affecting the surface of something

COSMOGRAPHY science that deals with the nature of the universe

COSMOPOLITAN sophisticated, free from local prejudices

COSSET to pamper, treat with great care

COTERIE group of people with a common interest or purpose

COTERIE small group of persons with a similar purpose

COUNTENANCE (n) facial expression; look of approval or support

COUNTENANCE (v) to favor, support

COUNTERMAND to annul, cancel, make a contrary order

COUNTERVAIL to counteract, to exert force against

COVEN group of witches

COVERT hidden; secret

COVET to strongly desire something possessed by another

COWER to cringe in fear

CRASS crude, unrefined

CRAVEN cowardly

CREDENCE acceptance of something as true or real

CREDIBLE plausible, believable

CREDULOUS gullible, trusting

CREED statement of belief or principle

CRESCENDO gradual increase in volume of sound

CRINGE to shrink in fear

CRITERION standard for judging, rule for testing

CRYPTIC puzzling

CUISINE characteristic style of cooking

CULMINATION climax, final stage

CULPABLE guilty, responsible for wrong

CULPRIT guilty person

CUMULATIVE resulting from gradual increase

CUPIDITY greed

CURATOR caretaker and overseer of an exhibition, esp. in a museum

CURMUDGEON cranky person

CURSORY hastily done, superficial

CURT abrupt, blunt

CURTAIL to shorten

CUTLERY cutting instruments; tableware

CYGNET young swan

CYNIC person who distrusts the motives of others

D

DALLY to act playfully or waste time

DAUNT to discourage, intimidate

DEARTH lack, scarcity, insufficiency

DEBASE to degrade or lower in quality or stature

DEBAUCH to corrupt, seduce from virtue or duty; indulge

DEBILITATE to weaken, enfeeble

DEBUNK to discredit, disprove

DEBUTANTE young woman making debut in high society

DECADENCE decline or decay, deterioration

DECAMP to leave suddenly

DECAPITATE to behead

DECATHLON athletic contest with ten events

DECIDUOUS losing leaves in the fall; short-lived, temporary

DECLIVITY downward slope

DECOROUS proper, tasteful, socially correct

DECORUM proper behavior, etiquette

DECRY to belittle, openly condemn

DEFACE to mar the appearance of, vandalize

DEFAMATORY slanderous, injurious to the reputation

DEFAME to disgrace or slander

DEFECT an imperfection or shortcoming

DEFENDANT person required to answer a legal action or suit

DEFER to submit or yield

DEFERENCE respect, honor

DEFERENTIAL respectful and polite in a submissive way

DEFICIENT defective, not meeting a normal standard

DEFILE to make unclean or dishonor

DEFINITIVE dear-cut, explicit or decisive

DEFLATION decrease, depreciation

DEFORM to disfigure, distort

DEFT skillful, dexterous

DEFUNCT no longer existing, dead, extinct

DELECTABLE appetizing, delicious

DELEGATE (v) to give powers to another

DELETERIOUS harmful, destructive, detrimental

DELINEATION depiction, representation

DELTA tidal deposit at the mouth of a river

DELUGE (n) flood

DELUGE (v) to submerge, overwhelm

DEMAGOGUE leader or rabble-rouser who usually uses appeals to emotion or prejudice

DEMARCATION borderline; act of defining or marking a boundary or distinction

DEMEAN to degrade, humiliate, humble

DEMISE death

DEMOGRAPHICS data relating to study of human population

DEMOTE to reduce to a lower grade or rank

DEMOTION lowering in rank or grade

DEMUR to express doubts or objections

DEMYSTIFY to remove mystery from, clarify

DENIGRATE to slur or blacken someone's reputation

DENOUNCE to accuse, blame

DENUDE to make bare, uncover, undress

DENUNCIATION public condemnation

DEPICT to describe, represent

DEPLETE to use up, exhaust

DEPLORE to express or feel disapproval of; regret strongly

DEPLOY to spread out strategically over an area

DEPOSE to remove from a high position, as from a throne

DEPRAVITY sinfulness, moral corruption

DEPRECATE to belittle, disparage

DEPRECIATE to lose value gradually

DERANGED to be disturbed or insane

DERIDE to mock, ridicule, make fun of

DERISIVE expressing ridicule or scorn

DERIVATNE copied or adapted; not original

DERIVE to originate; take from a certain source

DEROGATE to belittle, disparage

DESCRY to discover or reveal

DESECRATE to abuse something sacred

DESICCATE to dry completely, dehydrate

DESIST to stop doing something

DESPONDENT feeling discouraged and dejected

DESPOT tyrannical ruler

DESTITUTE very poor, poverty-stricken

DESULTORY at random, rambling, unmethodical

DETACHED separate, unconnected

DETER to discourage; prevent from happening

DETERMINATE having defined limits; conclusive

DETESTATION extreme hatred

DETRACTOR one who takes something away

DETRIMENTAL causing harm or injury

DEVIATE to stray, wander

DEVIATION departure, exception, anomaly

DEVOID totally lacking

DEVOUT deeply religious

DEXTEROUS skilled physically or mentally

DIABOLICAL fiendish; wicked

DIALECT regional style of speaking

DIAPHANOUS allowing light to show through; delicate

DIATRIBE bitter verbal attack

DICHOTOMY division into two parts

DICTUM authoritative statement; popular saying

DIDACTIC excessively instructive

DIFFER disagree

DIFFERENTIATE to distinguish between two items

DIFFIDENCE shyness, lack of confidence

DIFFRACT to cause to separate into parts, esp. light

DIFFUSE widely spread out

DIGRESS to turn aside; to stray from the main point

DILAPIDATED in disrepair, run-down, neglected

DILATE to enlarge, swell, extend

DILATORY slow, tending to delay

DILETTANTE an amateur

DILUVIAL relating to a flood

DIMINUTIVE small

DIPLOMACY discretion, tact

DIRGE funeral hymn

DISABUSE to free from a misconception

DISAFFECTED discontented and disloyal

DISARRAY clutter, disorder

DISBAND to break up

DISBAR to expel from legal profession

DISBURSE to pay out

DISCERN to perceive something obscure

DISCLAIM to deny, disavow

DISCLOSE to confess, divulge

DISCOMFIT to cause perplexity and embarrassment

DISCOMPOSE to disturb the composure or serenity

DISCONCERTING bewildering, perplexing, slightly disturbing

DISCONSOLATE unable to be consoled; extremely sad

DISCORDANT harsh-sounding, badly out of tune

DISCREDIT to dishonor or disgrace

DISCREDITED disbelieved, discounted; disgraced, dishonored

DISCREPANCY difference between

DISCRETE distinct, separate

DISCRETIONARY subject to one's own judgment

DISCURSIVE wandering from topic to topic

DISDAIN to regard with scorn and contempt

DISDAINFUL contemptuous, scornful

DISENGAGED disconnected, disassociated

DISGORGE to vomit, discharge violently

DISHEVELED untidy, disarranged, unkempt

DISINCLINED averse, unwilling, lacking desire

DISINGENUOUS sly and crafty

DISINTEREST lack of interest or a disadvantage

DISJOINTED lacking coherence or order, being separated

DISPARAGE to belittle, speak disrespectfully about

DISPARATE dissimilar, different in kind

DISPARITY contrast, dissimilarity

DISPASSIONATE free from emotion; impartial, unbiased

DISPEL to drive out or scatter

DISPENSE to distribute, administer

DISPENSE WITH to suspend the operation of, do without

DISPERSE to break up, scatter

DISPIRIT to dishearten, make dejected

DISPUTE to debate, to quarrel

DISQUIETED feeling being disturbed, lacking peace

DISREGARD to neglect, pay no attention to

DISREPUTE disgrace, dishonor

DISSEMBLE to pretend, disguise one's motives

DISSEMINATE to spread far and wide

DISSENSION difference of opinion

DISSIMULATE to disguise or put on a false appearance

DISSIPATE to scatter; to pursue pleasure to excess

DISSOCIATE to separate; remove from an association

DISSONANT harsh and unpleasant sounding

DISSUADE to persuade someone to alter original intentions

DISTAFF the female branch of a family

DISTEND to swell, inflate, bloat.

DISTRAUGHT very worried and distressed

DISTRUST (n) disbelief and suspicion

DITHER (v) to move or act confusedly or without clear purpose

DIURNAL daily

DIVERGE to move in different directions, to deviate from a source

DIVERSE differing

DIVERT to turn from one course to another

DNEST to get rid of

DMNE (v) to foretell or know by inspiration

DMSIVE creating disunity or conflict

DOCILE tame, willing to be taught

DOCTRINAIRE rigidly devoted to theories

DOGGED (adj) persistent, stubborn

DOGMATIC rigidly fixed in opinion, opinionated

DOLDRUMS a period of despondency

DOLEFUL sad, mournful

DOLOR sadness

DOLT idiot, dimwit, foolish person

DOMINEER to rule over something in a tyrannical way

DONOR benefactor, contributor

DORMANT at rest, inactive, in suspended animation

DOTAGE senile condition, mental decline

DOTARD senile old person

DOTING excessively fond, loving to excess

DOUGHTY courageous

DOUR sullen and gloomy; stern and severe

DOWRY money or property given by a bride to her husband

DRAFT (v) to plan, outline; to recruit, conscript

DRAW to attract, to pull toward

DRIVEL stupid talk; slobber

DROLL amusing in a wry. subtle way

DROSS waste produced during metal smelting; garbage

DUDGEON angry indignation

DULCET pleasant sounding, soothing to the ear

DUMB unable to speak

DUPE (n) fool, pawn

DUPE (v) to deceive, trick

DUPLICITY deception, dishonesty, double-dealing

DURABILITY strength, sturdiness

DURATION period of time that something lasts

DURESS threat of force or intimidation; imprisonment

DWINDLE to shrink or decrease

DYSPEPTIC suffering from indigestion; gloomy and irritable

E

EARTHY crude

EBB (v) to fade away, recede

EBULLIENT exhilarated, full of enthusiasm and high spirits

ECLECTIC selecting from various sources

ECSTATIC joyful

EDDY air or wind current

EDICT law, command, official public order

EDIFICE building

EDIFY to instruct morally and spiritually

EDITORIALIZE to express an opinion on an issue

EFFACE to erase or make illegible

EFFERVESCENT bubbly, lively

EFFICACIOUS effective, efficient

EFFIGY stuffed doll; likeness of a person

EFFLUVIA outpouring of gases or vapors

EFFRONTERY impudent boldness; audacity

EFFULGENT brilliantly shining

EFFUSIVE expressing emotion without restraint

EGOCENTRIC acting as if things are centered around oneself

EGREGIOUS conspicuously bad

EGRESS exit

ELATION exhilaration, joy

ELEGY mournful poem, usually about the dead

ELEVATED high in status, exalted

ELICIT to draw out, provoke

ELOQUENCE fluent and effective speech

ELUCIDATE to explain, clarify

EMACIATED skinny, scrawny, gaunt, esp. from hunger

EMANCIPATE to set free, liberate

EMBELLISH to ornament, make attractive with decoration or details; add details to a statement

EMBEZZLE to steal money in violation of a trust

EMBROIL to involve in; cause to fall into disorder

EMEND to correct a text

EMINENT celebrated, distinguished; outstanding, towering

EMOLLIENT having soothing qualities, esp. for skin

EMOTIVE appealing to or expressing emotion

EMPATHY identification with another's feelings

EMULATE to copy, imitate

ENCHANT to charm or attract

ENCIPHER to translate a message into code

ENCOMIUM warm praise

ENCORE additional performance, often demanded by audience

ENCUMBER to hinder, burden, restrict motion

ENDEMIC belonging to a particular area, inherent

ENDOGAMOUS marrying within a specific group due to law or custom

ENDURANCE ability to withstand hardships

ENERVATE to weaken, sap strength from

ENGENDER to produce, cause, bring about

ENIGMATIC puzzling, inexplicable

ENJOIN to urge, order, command; forbid or prohibit, as by judicial order

ENMITY hostility, antagonism, ill-will

ENNUI boredom, lack of interest and energy

ENORMITY state of being gigantic or terrible

ENSCONCE to settle comfortably into a place

ENSHROUD to cover, enclose with a dark cover

ENTAIL to involve as a necessary result, necessitate

ENTHRALL to captivate, enchant, enslave

ENTICE to lure or tempt

ENTITY something with its own existence or form

ENTOMOLOGIST scientist who studies insects

ENTREAT to plead, beg

ENTRENCHED established solidly

ENUMERATE to count, list, itemize

ENUNCIATE to pronounce clearly

EON indefinitely long period of time

EPHEMERAL momentary, transient, fleeting

EPICURE person with refined taste in food and wine

EPIGRAM short, witty saying or poem

EPIGRAPH quotation at the beginning of a literary work

EPILOGUE concluding section of a literary work

EPITHET an abusive word or phrase

EPITOME representative of an entire group; summary

EPOCHAL very significant or influential; defining an epoch or time period

EQUANIMITY calmness, composure

EQUESTRIAN (n) one who rides on horseback

EQUINE relating to horses

EQUITABLE fair

EQUITY justice, fairness

EQUIVOCAL ambiguous, open to two interpretations

EQUIVOCATE to use vague or ambiguous language intentionally

ERADICATE to erase or wipe out

ERODE to diminish or destroy over a period of time

ERRANT straying, mistaken, roving

ERRATIC wandering and unpredictable

ERRONEOUS in error; mistaken

ERSATZ fake

ERUDITE learned, scholarly

ESCALATE to increase the intensity or scope of

ESCHEW to abstain from, avoid

ESOTERIC understood only by a learned few

ESPOUSE to support or advocate; to marry

ESTIMABLE admirable

ESTRANGE to alienate, keep at a distance

ESURIENT hungry, greedy

ETHEREAL not earthly, spiritual. delicate

ETHICAL moral, abiding by an accepted code of conduct

ETHOS beliefs or character of a group

ETYMOLOGY origin and history of a word; study of words

EULOGY high praise, often in a public speech

EUPHEMISM use of an inoffensive word or phrase in place of a more distasteful one

EUPHONY pleasant, harmonious sound

EUPHORIA feeling of well-being or happiness

EURYTHMICS art of harmonious bodily movement

EUTHANASIA mercy killing; intentional, easy and painless death

EVADE to avoid, dodge

EVANESCENT momentary, transitory, short-lived

EVICT to put out or force out

EVIDENT clear, able to be understood

EVINCE to show clearly, display, signify

EVOKE to inspire memories; to produce a reaction

EXACERBATE to aggravate, intensify the bad qualities of

EXALT to glorify, to elevate

EXASPERATION irritation

EXCERPT (n) selection from a book or play

EXCOMMUNICATE to bar from membership in the church

EXCORIATE to denounce

EXCRUCIATING agonizing, intensely painful

EXCULPATE to clear of blame or fault

EXECRABLE utterly detestable

EXEMPLARY serving as an example, commendable

EXHILARATION state of being energetic or filled with happiness

EXHORT to urge or incite by strong appeals

EXHUXIE to remove from a grave; uncover a secret

EXIGENT urgent; excessively demanding

EXONERATE to clear of blame

EXORBITANT extravagant, greater than reasonable

EXORCISE to expel evil spirits

EXOTIC foreign; romantic, excitingly strange

EXPANSIVE sweeping, comprehensive; tending to expand

EXPATIATE to wander; to discuss or describe at length

EXPATRIATE (n) one who lives outside one's native land

EXPATRIATE (v) to drive someone from hislher native land

EXPEDIENT (adj) convenient, efficient, practical

EXPIATE to atone for, make amends for

EXPIRE to come to an end; die; breathe out

EXPLICABLE capable of being explained

EXPLICIT clearly defined, specific; forthright in expression

EXPLODE to debunk, disprove; blow up, burst

EXPONENT one who champions or advocates

EXPOUND to elaborate; to expand or increase

EXPUNGE to erase, eliminate completely

EXPURGATE to censor

EXTEMPORANEOUS unrehearsed, on the spur of the moment

EXTENUATE to lessen the seriousness, strength, or effect of

EXTINCTION end of a living thing or species

EXTOL to praise

EXTORT to obtain something by threats

EXTRANEOUS irrelevant, unrelated, unnecessary

EXTRAPOLATE to estimate

EXTREMITY outermost or farthest point

EXTRICATE to free from, disentangle, free

EXTRINSIC not inherent or essential, coming from without

EXTROVERT an outgoing person

EXUBERANT lively, happy, and full of good spirits

EXUDE to give off, ooze

EXULT to rejoice

F

FABRICATE to make or devise; construct

FABRICATED constructed, invented; faked, falsified

FACADE face, front; mask, superficial appearance

FACETIOUS witty in an inappropriate way

FACILE very easy

FACILITATE to aid, assist

FACILITY aptitude, ease in doing something

FACSIMILE an exact copy

FALLACIOUS wrong, unsound, illogical

FALLIBLE capable of failing

FALLOW uncultivated, unused

FAMINE extreme scarcity of iood

FANATICISM extreme devotion to a cause

FARCICAL absurd, ludicrous

FASTIDIOUS careful with details

FATHOM (v) to measure the depth of, gauge; to understand

FATUOUS stupid; foolishly self-satisfied

FAULT break in a rock formation; mistake or error

FAWN (v) to flatter excessively, seek the favor of

FAZE to bother, upset, or disoncert

FEALTY intense loyalty

FEASIBLE possible, capable of being done

FECKLESS ineffective, careless, irresponsible

FECUSD fertile, fruitful, productive

FEDERATION union of organizations; union of several states, each of which retains local power

FEIGN to pretend, give a false impression; to invent falsely

FEISTY excitable, easily d r a w into quarrels

FELICITOUS suitable, appropriate; well-spoken

FELICITY feeling great happiness

FELL (v) to chop, cut down

FELL cruel

FERVID passionate, intense zealous

FETID foul-smelling, putrid

FETTER to bind, chain, confine

FEUD a prolonged quarrel between families

FEY otherworldly; doomed

FIASCO disaster, utter failure

FICKLE unreliable

FICTIVE fictional, imaginary

FIDELITY loyalty

FIENDISH excessively bad or cruel

FILCH to steal

FILIAL appropriate for a child

FILIBUSTER use of obstructive tactics in a legislative assembly to prevent adoption of a measure

FINESSE refinement or skill at a task or in a situation

FINICKY fuss); difficult to please

FISSION process of splitting into two parts

FISSURE a crack or break

FITFUL intermittent, irregular

FIXITY being fixed or stable

FLACCID limp, flabby, weak

FLAG to loose energy and strength

FLAGRANT outrageous, shameless

FLAIR a natural inclination toward something

FLAMBOYANT flashy. garish; exciting, dazzling

FLAMMABLE combustible, being easily burned

FLAUXT to show off

FLEDGLING young bird just learning to fly; beginner, novice

FLIPPANT disrespectful, casual

FLORA plants

FLORID gaudy, extremely ornate; ruddy, flushed

FLOUNDER to falter, waver; to muddle, struggle

FLOUT to treat contemptuously, scorn

FLUCTUATE to alternate, waver

FLURRIED to become agitated and confused

FLUSTER to agitate or confuse

FODDER raw material; feed for animals

FOIBLE minor weakness or character flaw

FOIL (v) to defeat, frustrate

FOIST to pass off as genuine

FOLIATE to grow, sprout leaves

FOMENT to arouse or incite

FORAGE to wander in search of food

FORBEARANCE patience, restraint, leniency

FORD (v) to cross a body of water at a shallow place

FOREBODING dark sense of evil to come

FORECLOSE to rule out; to seize debtor's property for lack of payments

FORENSIC relating to legal proceedings; relating to debates

FORENSICS study of argumentation and debate

FORESTALL to prevent, delay; anticipate

FORETHOUGHT anticipation, foresight

FORFEND to prevent

FORGO to go without, refrain from

FORLORN dreary, deserted; unhappy; hopeless, despairing; pitiful in appearance

FORMULATE to conceive, devise; to draft, plan; to express, state

FORSAKE to abandon, withdraw from

FORSWEAR to repudiate, renounce, disclaim, reject

FORTE (n) strong point, something a person does well

FORTNIGHT two weeks

FORTUITOUS happening by luck, fortunate

FOSTER (v) to nourish, cultivate, promote

FOUNDATION groundwork, support; institution established by donation to aid a certain cause

FOUNDER (v) to fall helplessly; sink

FRACAS noisy dispute

FRACTIOUS unruly, rebellious

FRAGMENTATION division, separation into parts, disorganization

FRANK honest and straightforward

FRATRICIDE the killing of a brother or sister

FRAUD deception, hoax

FRAUDULENT deceitful, dishonest, unethical

FRAUGHT full of, accompanied by

FRENETIC wildly frantic, frenzied, hectic

FRENZIED feverishly fast, hectic, and confused

FRIVOLOUS petty, trivial; flippant, silly

FROND leaf

FRUGAL. thrifty; cheap

FULMINATE to explode with anger

FULSOME excessive, overdone, sickeningly abundant

FUNEREAL mournful, appropriate to a funeral

FUROR rage, fury

FURTIVE secret, stealthy

FUSION process of merging things into one

G

GAINSAY to deny

GALL (n) bitterness; careless nerve

GALL (v) to exasperate and irritate

GALLANT a very fashionable young man

GAMBOL to dance or skip around playfully

GAME (adj) courageous

GARGANTUAN giant, tremendous

GARNER to gather and store

GARRULOUS very talkative

GAUCHE crude, socially awkward

GAUCHERIE a tactless or awkward act

GAUNT thin and bony

GAVEL mallet used for commanding attention

GENRE type, class, category

GENTEEL stylish, elegant in manner or appearance

GERIATRIC relating to old age or the process of aging

GERMINATE to begin to grow (as in a seed or idea)

GESTATION growth process from conception to birth

GIBE (v) to make heckling, taunting remarks

GIRTH distance around something

GLIB fluent in an insincere manner; offhand, casual

GLOBAL involving the entire world; relating to a whole

GLOWER to glare, stare angrily and intensely

GLUTTONY eating and drinking to excess

GNARL to make knotted, deform

GNOSTIC having to do with knowledge

GOAD to prod or urge

GOSSAMER something light, delicate, or tenuous

GOUGE scoop out; extort

GRADATION process occurring by regular degrees or stages; variation in color

GRANDILOQUENCE pompous talk, fancy but meaningless language

GRANDIOSE magnificent and imposing; exaggerated and pretentious

GRANULAR having a grainy texture

GRASP (v) to perceive and understand; to hold securely

GRATIS free, costing nothing

GRATUITOUS free, voluntary; unnecessary and unjustified

GRATUITY something given voluntarily, tip

GREGARIOUS outgoing, sociable

GRIEVOUS causing grief or sorrow; serious and distressing

GRIMACE facial expression showing pain or disgust

GRIMY dirty, filthy

GROSS (adj) obscene blatant, flagrant

GROSS (n) total before deductions

GROVEL to humble oneself in a demeaning way

GRUBBY dirty, sloppy

GUILE trickery, deception

GULLIBLE easily deceived

GUSTATORY relating to sense of taste

GYRATE to move in a circular motion

H

HABITAT dwelling place

HACKNEYED worn out by over-use

HAIL to greet with praise

HALLOW to make holy; treat as sacred

HAMLET small village

HAPLESS unfortunate, having bad luck

HARANGUE a pompous speech

HARBINGER precursor, sign of something to come

HARDY robust, vigorous

HARMONY accord, tranquillity, agreement

HARROWING extremely distressing, terrifying

HASTEN to hurry, to speed up

HAUGHTY arrogant and condescending

HEADLONG recklessly

HEADSTRONG reckless; insisting on one's own way

HEATHEN pagan; uncivilized and irreligious

HECTIC hasty, hurried, confused

HECTOR a bully, braggart

HEDONISM pursuit of pleasure as a goal

HEGEMONY leadership, domination, usually by a country

HEIGHTEN to raise

HEINOUS shocking, wicked, terrible

HEMICYCLE semicircular form or structure

HEMORRHAGE (n) heavy bleeding

HEMORRHAGE (v) to bleed heavily

HERETICAL opposed to an established religious orthodoxy

HERMETIC tightly sealed

HETERODOX unorthodox, not widely accepted

HETEROGENEOUS composed of unlike parts, different, diverse

HEW to cut with an ax

HIATUS a gap or a break

HIDEBOUND excessively rigid; dry and stiff

HINDER to hamper

HINDSIGHT perception of events after they happen

HINTERLAND wilderness

HOARY very old; whitish or gray from age

HOLISTIC emphasizing importance of the whole and interdependence of its parts

HOLOCAUST widespread destruction, usually by fire

HOMAGE public honor and respect

HOMOGENEOUS composed of identical parts

HOMONYM word identical in pronunciation but different in meaning

HONE to sharpen

HONOR (v) to praise, glorify, pay tribute to

HUMANE merciful, kindly

HUSBAND (v) to farm; manage carefully and thriftily

HUTCH pen or coop for animals; shack, shanty

HYDRATE to add water to

HYGIENIC clean, sanitary

HYMN religious song, usually of praise or thanks

HYPERBOLE purposeful exaggeration for effect

HYPERVENTILATE to breathe abnormally fast

HYPOCHONDRIA unfounded belief that one is often ill

HYPOCRITE person claiming beliefs or virtues he or she doesn't really possess

HYPOTHERMW abnormally low body temperature

HYPOTHESIS assumption subject to proof

HYPOTHETICAL theoretical, speculative

I

ICONOCIAST one who attacks traditional beliefs

IDEALISM pursuit of noble goals

IDIOSYNCRASY peculiarity of temperament, eccentricity

IGNOBLE dishonorable, not noble in character

IGNOMINIOUS disgraceful and dishonorable

IGNORAMUS an ignorant person

ILK type or kind

ILLICIT illegal, improper

ILLIMITABLE limitless

ILLUSORY unreal, deceptive

ILLUSTRIOUS famous, renowned

IMBUE to infuse; dye, wet, moisten

IMMACULATE spotless; free from error

IMMATERIAL extraneous, inconsequential, nonessential; not consisting of matter

IMMENSE enormous, huge

IMMERSE to bathe, dip; to engross, preoccupy

IMMOBILE not moveable; still

IMMUNE exempt; protected from harm or disease; unresponsive to

IMMUNOLOGICAL relating to immune system

IMMURE to imprison

IMMUTABLE unchangeable, invariable

IMPAIR to damage, injure

IMPASSE blocked path, dilemma with no solution

IXIPASSIONED with passion

IMPASSIVE showing no emotion

IMPEACH to charge with misdeeds in public office; accuse

IMPECCABLE flawless, without fault

IMPECUNIOUS poor, having no money

IMPEDIMENT barrier, obstacle; speech disorder

IMPERATIVE essential; mandatory

IMPERIOUS arrogantly self-assured, domineering, overbearing

IMPERTINENT rude

IMPERTURBABLE not capable of being disturbed

IMPERVIOUS impossible to penetrate; incapable of being affected

IMPETUOUS quick to act without thinking

IMPIOUS not devout in religion

IMPLACABLE inflexible, incapable of being pleased

IMPLANT to set securely or deeply; to instill

IMPLAUSIBLE improbable, inconceivable

IMPLICATE to involve in a crime, incriminate

IMPLICIT implied, not directly expressed

IMPOLITIC unwise

IXIPORTUNE to ask repeatedly, beg

IMPOSE to inflict, force upon

IMPOSING dignified, grand

IMPOTENT powerless, ineffective, lacking strength

IMPOUND to seize and confine

IMPOVERISH to make poor or bankrupt

IMPRECATION curse

IMPREGNABLE totally safe from attack, able to resist defeat

IMPRESSIONABLE easily influenced or affected

IMPROMPTU spontaneous, without rehearsal

IMPROVIDENT without planning or foresight, negligent

IMPRUDENT unwise

IMPUDENT arrogant and rude

IMPUGN to call into question, attack verbally

IMPULSE sudden tendency, inclination

IMPULSIVE spontaneous, unpredictable

INADVERTENTLY unintentionally

INANE foolish, silly, lacking significance

INAUGURATE to begin or start officially; to induct into office

INCANDESCENT shining brightly

INCARCERATE to put in jail; to confine

INCARCERATION imprisonment

INCARNADINE blood-red in color

INCARNATE having bodily form

INCENDIARY combustible, flammable, burning easily

INCENSE (v) to infuriate, enrage

INCEPTION beginning

INCESSANT continuous, never ceasing

INCHOATE just begun; disorganized

INCIPIENT beginning to exist or appear; in an initial stage

INCISIVE perceptive, penetrating

INCLINATION tendency towards

INCLUSIVE comprehensive, all-encompassing

INCOGNITO in disguise, concealing one's identity

INCOMMUNICADO lacking a means to communicate

INCONCEIVABLE impossible, unthinkable

INCONGRUOUS incompatible, not harmonious

INCONSEQUENTIAL unimportant, trivial

INCONTROVERTIBLE unquestionable, beyond dispute

INCORRIGIBLE incapable of being corrected

INCREDULOUS skeptical, doubtful

INCULCATE to teach, impress in the mind

INCULPATE to blame, charge with a crime

INCUMBENT (adj) holding a specified office, often political; required, obligatory

INCURSION sudden invasion

INDEFATIGABLE never tired

INDEFENSIBLE inexcusable, unforgivable

INDELIBLE permanent, not erasable

INDENTURE bound to another by contract

INDICATIVE showing or pointing out, suggestive of

INDICT to accuse formally, charge with a crime

INDIGENOUS native, occurring naturally in an area

INDIGENT very poor

INDIGNANT angry, incensed, offended

INDISPUTABLE not disputed, unquestioned

INDOLENT habitually lazy, idle

INDOMITABLE fearless, unconquerable

INDUBITABLE unquestionable

INDUCE to persuade; bring about

INDUCT to place ceremoniously in office

INDULGE to give in to a craving or desire

INDUSTRY business or trade; diligence, energy

INEBRIATED drunk, intoxicated

INEPT clumsy, awkward

INERT unable to move, tending to inactivity

INESTIMABLE too great to be estimated

INEVITABLE certain, unavoidable

INEXORABLE inflexible, unyielding

INEXTRICABLE incapable of being disentangled

INFALLIBLE incapable of making a mistake

INFAMY reputation for bad deeds

INFANTILE childish, immature

INFATUATED strongly or foolishly attached to, inspired with foolish passion, overly in love

INFER to conclude, deduce

INFERNAL hellish, diabolical

INFILTRATE to pass secretly into enemy territory

INFINITESIMAL extremely tiny

INFIRMITY disease, ailment

INFNNGE to encroach, trespass; to transgress, violate

INFURIATE to anger, provoke, outrage

INFURIATING provoking anger or outrage

INGENIOUS original, clever, inventive

INGENUOUS straightforward, open; naive and unsophisticated

INGLONOUS lacking fame or honor, shameful

INGRAINED an innate quality, deep-seated

INGRATE ungrateful person

INGRATIATE to bring oneself purposely into another's good graces

INGRESS entrance

INHIBIT to hold back, prevent, restrain

INIMICAL hostile, unfriendly

INIQUITY sin, evil act

INITIATE to begin, introduce; to enlist, induct

INJECT to force into; to introduce into conversation

INJUNCTION command, order

INJURIOUS causing injury

INKLING hint; vague idea

INNATE natural, inborn

INNATENESS state of being natural or inborn

INNOCUOUS harmless; inoffensive

INNOVATE to invent, modernize, revolutionize

INNUENDO indirect and subtle criticism, insinuation

INNUMERABLE too many to be counted

INOFFENSIVE harmless, innocent

INOPERABLE not operable; incurable by surgery

INQUEST investigation; court or legal proceeding

INQUISITIVE curious

INSATIABLE never satisfied

INSCRUTABLE impossible to understand fully

INSENTIENT unfeeling, unconscious

INSIDIOUS sly, treacherous, devious

INSINUATE to suggest, say indirectly, imply

INSIPID bland, Lacking flavor; lacking excitement

INSOLENT insulting and arrogant

INSOLUBLE not able to be solved or explained

INSOLVENT bankrupt, unable to pay one's debts

INSTIGATE to incite, urge, agitate

INSUBSTANTIAL modest, insignificant

INSUFFICIENCY lacking in something

INSULAR isolated, detached

INSUPERABLE insurmountable, unconquerable

INSURGENT (adj) rebellious, insubordinate

INSURRECTION rebellion

INTEGRAL central, indispensable

INTEGRATED unified

INTEGRITY decency, honest; wholeness

INTEMPERATE not moderate

ISTER to bury

INTERDICT to forbid, prohibit

INTERJECT to interpose, insert

INTERLOCUTOR someone taking part in a dialogue

INTERLOPER trespasser; meddler in others' affairs

INTERMINABLE endless

INTERMITTENT starting and stopping

INTERNECINE deadly to both sides

INTERPOLATE to insert; change by adding new words or material

INTERPOSE to insert; to intervene

INTERREGNUM interval between reigns

INTERROGATE to question formally

INTERSECT to divide by passing through or across

INTERSPERSE to distribute among, mix with

INTERSTICE a space between things

INTIMATION clue, suggestion

INTRACTABLE not easily managed

INTRAMURAL within an institution like a school

INTRANSIGENT uncompromising, refusing to be reconciled

INTREPID fearless

INTRIGUED interested, curious

INTRINSIC inherent, internal

INTROSPECTIVE contemplating one's own thoughts and feelings

INTROVERT someone given to self-analysis

INTRUSION trespass, invasion of another's privacy

INTUITIVE instinctive, untaught

INUNDATE to cover with water; overwhelm

INURE to harden; accustom; become used to

INVALIDATE to negate or nullify

INVARIABLE constant, not changing

INVECTIVE verbal abuse

INVEIGH protest strongly

INVESTITURE ceremony conferring authority

INVETERATE confirmed, long-standing, deeply rooted

INVIDIOUS likely to provoke ill will, offensive

INVINCIBLE invulnerable, unbeatable

INVIOLABLE safe from violation or assault

INVOKE to call upon, request help

IOTA very tiny amount

IRASCIBLE easily angered

IRIDESCENT showing many colors

IRRESOLVABLE unable to be resolved; not analyzable

IRREVERENT disrespectful

IRREVOCABLE conclusive, irreversible

ITINERANT wandering from place to place, unsettled

ITINERARY route of a traveler's journey

J

JADED tired by excess or overuse; slightly cynical

JANGLING clashing, jarring; harshly unpleasant (in sound)

JARGON nonsensical talk; specialized language

JAUNDICE yellowish discoloration of skin

JAUNDICED affected by jaundice; prejudiced or embittered

JETTISON to cast off, throw cargo overboard

JIBE to shift suddenly from one side to the other

JINGOISM belligerent support of one's country

JOCULAR jovial, playful, humorous

JUBILEE special anniversary

JUDICIOUS sensible, showing good judgment

JUGGERNAUT huge force destroying everything in its path

JUNCTURE point where two things are joined

JURISPRUDENCE philosophy of law

JUVENILE young or childish acting

JUXTAPOSITION side-by-side placement

K

KEEN having a sharp edge; intellectually sharp, perceptive

KERNEL innermost, essential part: seed grain, often in a shell

KEYNOTE note or tone on which a musical key is founded; main idea of a speech, program, etcetera

KINDLE to set fire to or ignite; excite or inspire

KISETIC relating to motion; characterized by movement

KISMET fate

KNELL sound of a funeral bell; omen of death or failure

KUDOS fame, glory, honor

L

LABYRINTH maze

LACERATION cut or wound

LACHRYMOSE tearful

LACKADAISICAL idle, lazy; apathetic, indifferent

LACKLUSTER dull

LACONIC using few words

LAGGARD dawdler, loafer, lazy person

LAMBASTE disapprove angrily

LAMENT (v) to deplore, grieve

LAMPOON (v) to attack with satire, mock harshly

LANGUID lacking energy, indifferent, slow

LANGUOR listlessness

LAP (v) to drink using the tongue; to wash against

LAPIDARY relating to precious stones

LARCENY theft of property

LARDER place where food is stored

LARGESS generosity; gift

[illegible] organ containing vocal cords

LASCIVIOUS lewd, lustful

LASSITUDE lethargy, sluggishness

LATENT present but hidden; potential

LATITUDE freedom of action or choice

LAUDABLE deserving of praise

LAVISH to give plentiful amounts of

LAXITY carelessness

LEERY suspicious

LEGERDEMAIN trickery

LEGIBLE readable

LEGISLATE to decree, mandate, make laws

LEGITIMATE adhering to the law, rightful

LENIENT easygoing, permissive

LETHARGY indifferent inactivity

LEVITATE to rise in the air or cause to rise

LEVITY humor, frivolity, gaiety

LEXICON dictionary, list of words

LIBERAL (adj) tolerant, broad-minded; generous, lavish

LIBERATION freedom, emancipation

LIBERTARIAN one who believes in unrestricted freedom

LIBERTINE one without moral restraint

LIBIDINOUS lustful

LICENSE freedom to act

LICENTIOUS immoral; unrestrained by society

LIEN right to possess and sell the property of a debtor

LIMPID clear and simple; serene; transparent

LINEAGE ancestry

LINGUISTICS study of language

LINIXIENT medicinal liquid used externally to ease pain

LIONIZE to treat as a celebrity

LISSOME easily flexed, limber, agile

LISTLESS lacking energy and enthusiasm

LITERAL word for word; upholding the exact meaning of a word

LITERATE able to read and write; well-read and educated

LITHE moving and bending with ease; graceful

LITIGATION lawsuit

LIVID discolored from a bruise; reddened with anger

LOATHE to abhor, despise, hate

LOCOMOTION movement from place to place

LODGED fixed in one position

LOFTY noble, elevated in position

LOGO corporate symbol

LOITER to stand around idly

LOQUACIOUS talkative

LOW (v) to make a sound like a cow, moo

LUCID clear and easily understood

LUDICROUS laughable, ridiculous

LUGUBRIOUS sorrowful, mournful

LULL to soothe

LUMBER (v) to move slowly and awkwardly

LUMINARY bright object; celebrity; source of inspiration

LUMINOUS bright, brilliant, glowing

LUNAR relating to the moon

LURID harshly shocking, sensational; glowing

LURK to prowl, sneak

LUSCIOUS very good-tasting

LUXURIANCE elegance, lavishness

LYRICAL suitable for poetry and song; expressing feeling

M

MACABRE gruesome, producing horror

MACHINATION plot or scheme

MACROBIOTICS art of prolonging life by special diet of organic, nonmeat substances

MACROCOSM system regarded as an entity with subsystems

MAELSTROM whirlpool; turmoil; agitated state of mind

MAGNANIMOUS generous, noble in spirit

MAGNATE powerful or influential person

MAGNITUDE extent, greatness of size

MAINSTAY chief support

MALADROIT clumsy, tactless

[illegible] illness

MALAPROPISM humorous misuse of a word

MALCONTENT discontented person, one who holds a grudge

MALEDICTION curse

MALEFACTOR evd-doer; culprit

[illegible] ill-wdled; causing evil or harm to others

MALFUNCTION (n) breakdown, failure

MALFUNCTION (v) to fail to work

MALICE animosity, spite, hatred

MALINGER to evade responsibility by pretending to be ill

MALLEABLE capable of being shaped

MALNUTRITION undernourishment

MALODOROUS foul-smelling

MANDATORY necessary, required

MANIFEST (adj) obvious

MANIFOLD diverse, varied, comprised of many parts

MANNERED artificial or stilted in character

MANUAL (adj) hand-operated; physical

MANUMISSION release from slavery

MAR to damage, deface; spoil

MARGINAL barely sufficient

MARITIME relating to the sea or sailing

MARTIAL warlike, pertaining to the military

MARTINET strict disciplinarian, one who rigidly follows rules

MARTYR person dying for his/her beliefs

MASOCHIST one who enjoys pain or humiliation

MASQUERADE disguise; action that conceals the truth

MATERIALISM preoccupation with material things

MATRICULATE to enroll as a member of a college or university

MATRILINEAL tracing ancestry through mother's line rather than father's

MAUDLIN overly sentimental

MAVERICK a person who resists adherence to a group

MAWKISH sickeningly sentimental

MEAGER scanty, sparse

MEANDER to wander aimlessly without direction

MEANINGFUL significant

MEDDLER person interfering in others' affairs

MEDIEVAL relating to the Middle Ages

MEGALITH huge stone used in prehistoric structures

MEGALOMANIA mental state with delusions of wealth and power

MELANCHOLY sadness, depression

MELODIOUS having a pleasing melody

MELODY pleasing musical sounds; tune

MENAGERIE various animals kept together for exhibition

MENDACIOUS dishonest

MENDACITY a lie, falsehood

MENDICANT beggar

MENTOR experienced teacher and wise adviser

MERCENARY (adj) motivated only by greed

MERCENARY (n) soldier for hire in foreign countries

MERCURIAL quick, shrewd, and unpredictable

MERETRICIOUS gaudy, falsely attractive

MERIDIAN circle passing through the two poles of the earth

MERITORIOUS deserving reward or praise

METAMORPHOSIS change, transformation

METAPHOR figure of speech comparing two different things

METICULOUS extremely careful, fastidious, painstaking

METRONOME time-keeping device used in music

METTLE courageousness; endurance

MICROBE microorganism

MICROCOSM tiny system used as analogy for larger system

MIGRATORY wandering from place to place with the seasons

MILITATE to operate against, work against

MILLENNIUM one thousand years

MINATORY menacing, threatening

MINIMAL smallest in amount, least possible

MINUSCULE very small

MIRTH frivolity, gaiety, laughter

MISANTHROPE person who hates human beings

MISAPPREHEND to misunderstand, fail to know

MISCONSTRUE to misunderstand, fail to discover

MISCREANT one who behaves criminally

MISERLINESS extreme stinginess

MISGIVING apprehension, doubt, sense of foreboding

MISHAP accident; misfortune

MISNOMER an incorrect name or designation

MISSIVE note or letter

MITIGATE to soften, or make milder

MNEMONIC relating to memory; designed to assist memory

MOBILITY ease of movement

MOCK (v) to deride, ridicule

MODERATE (adj) reasonable, not extreme

MODERATE (v) to make less excessive, restrain; regulate

MODICUM a small amount

MOLLIFY to calm or make less severe

MOLLUSK sea animal with a soft body

MOLT (v) to shed hair, skin, or an outer layer periodically

MOMENTOUS important

MONASTIC extremely plain or seduded, as in a monastery

MONOCHROMATIC having one color

MONOGAMY custom of marriage to one person at a time

MONOLITH large block of stone

MONOLOGUE dramatic speech performed by one actor

MONOTONY lack of variation; wearisome sameness

MONTAGE composite picture

MOOT debatable; previously decided

MORBID gruesome; relating to disease; abnormally gloomy

MORDACIOUS caustic, biting

MORDANT sarcastic

MORES customs or manners

MORIBUND dying, decaying

MOROSE gloomy, sullen, or surly

MORSEL small bit of food

MOTE small particle, speck

MOTLEY many-colored; composed of diverse parts

MOTTLE to mark with spots

MULTIFACETED having many parts, many-sided

MULTIFARIOUS diverse

MUNDANE worldly; commonplace

MUNIFICENT generous

MUNITIONS ammunition

MUTABILITY changeability

MUTE unable to speak

MYOPIC near-sighted

MYRIAD immense number, multitude

N

NADIR lowest point

NAIVE lacking sophistication

NAIVETÉ a lack of worldly wisdom

NARRATIVE account, story

NASCENT starting to develop, coming into existence

NATAL relating to birth

NEBULOUS vague, cloudy

NECROMANCY black magic

NEFARIOUS vicious, evil

NEGLIGENT careless, inattentive

NEGLIGIBLE not worth considering

NEMESIS a formidable, often victorious opponent

NEOLOGISM new word or expression

NEONATE newborn child

NEOPHYTE novice, beginner

NETHER located under or below

KETTLE (v) to irritate

NEUTRALITY disinterest, impartiality

NEUTRALIZE to balance, offset

NICETY elegant or delicate feature; minute distinction

NICHE recess in a wall; best position for something

NIGGARDLY stingy

NIGGLING trifle, petty

NIHILISM belief that existence and all traditional values are meaningless

NOBLE illustrious, moral

NOCTURNAL pertaining to night; active at night

NOISOME stinking, putrid

NOMADIC moving from place to place

NOMENCLATURE terms used in a particular science or discipline

NOMINAL existing in name only; negligible

NON SEQUITUR conclusion not following from apparent evidence

NONCHALANT unconcerned, indifferent

NONDESCRIPT lacking interesting or distinctive qualities; dull

NONENTITY an insignificant person

NOTORIETY fame; unfavorable fame

NOVICE apprentice, beginner

NOVITIATE period of being a beginner or novice

NOXIOUS harmful, unwholesome

NUANCE shade of meaning

NULLIFY to make legally invalid; to counteract the effect of

NUMISMATICS coin collecting

NUPTIAL relating to marriage

NUTRITIVE relating to nutrition or health

O

OBDURATE stubborn

OBEISANCE a show of respect or submission

OBFUSCATE to confuse, obscure

OBJURGATE scold

OBLIGING accommodating, agreeable

OBLIQUE indirect, evasive; misleading, devious

OBLITERATE demolish completely, wipe out

OBLIVIOUS unaware, inattentive

OBLOQUY abusive language; ill repute

OBSCURE (adj) dim, unclear; not well known

OBSCURITY place or thing that's hard to perceive

OBSEQUIOUS overly submissive, brownnosing

OBSEQUY funeral ceremony

OBSESSIVE preoccupying, all-consuming

OBSOLETE no longer in use

OBSTINATE stubborn

OBSTREPEROUS troublesome, boisterous, unruly

OBTRUSNE pushy, too conspicuous

OBTUSE insensitive, stupid, dull

OBVIATE to make unnecessary; to anticipate and prevent

OCCLUDE to shut, block

ODIOUS hateful, contemptible

OFFICIOUS too helpful, meddlesome

OFFSHOOT branch

OMINOUS menacing, threatening, indicating misfortune

OMNIPOTENT having unlimited power

OMNISCIENT having infinite knowledge

OMNIVOROUS eating everything; absorbing everything

ONEROUS burdensome

ONTOLOGY theory about the nature of existence

OPALESCENT iridescent, displaying colors

OPAQUE impervious to light; difficult to understand

OPERATIVE functioning, working

OPINE to express an opinion

OPPORTUNE appropriate. fitting

OPPORTUNIST one who takes advantage of circumstances

OPPROBRIOUS disgraceful, contemptuous

OPTIMUXI the most favorable degree

OPULENCE wealth

ORACLE person who foresees the future and gives advice

ORATION lecture, formal speech

ORATOR lecturer, speaker

ORB spherical body; eye

ORCHESTRATE to arrange music for performance; to coordinate, organize

ORDAIN to make someone a priest or minister; to order

ORIFICE an opening

ORNITHOLOGIST scientist who studies birds

OROTUND pompous

OSCILLATE to move back and forth

OSSIFY to turn to bone; to become rigid

OSTENSIBLE apparent

OSTENTATIOUS showy

OSTRACISM exclusion, temporary banishment

OUSTER expulsion, ejection

OVERABUNDANCE excess, surfeit

OVERSTATE to embellish, exaggerate

OVERT in the open, obvious

OVERTURE musical introduction; proposal, offer

OVERWEENING arrogant

OVERWROUGHT agitated, overdone

P

PACIFIC calm, peaceful

PACIFIST one opposed to war

PACIFY to restore calm, bring peace

PAEAN a song of praise or thanksgiving

PALATIAL like a palace, magnificent

PALAVER idle talk

PALEONTOLOGY study of past geological eras through fossil remains

PALETTE board for mining paints; range of colors

PALISADE fence made up of stakes

PALL (n) covering that darkens or obscures; coffin

PALL (v) to lose strength or interest

PALLIATE to make less serious, ease

PALLID lacking color or liveliness

PALPABLE obvious, real, tangible

PALPITATION trembling, shaking, irregular beating

PALTRY pitifully small or worthless

PANACEA cure-all

PANACHE flamboyance, verve

PANDEMIC spread over a whole area or country

PANEGYRIC elaborate praise; formal hymn of praise

PANOPLY impressive array

PANORAMA broad view; comprehensive picture

PARADIGM ideal example, model

PARADOX contradiction, incongruity; dilemma, puzzle

PARADOXICAL self-contradictory but true

PARAGON model of excellence or perfection

[illegible] supreme, dominant, primary

PARAPHRASE to reword, usually in simpler terms

PARASITE person or animal that lives at another's expense

PARCH to dry or shrivel

PARE to trim

PARIAH outcast

PARITY equality

PARLEY discussion, usually between enemies

PAROCHIAL. of limited scope or outlook, provincial

PARODY humorous imitation

PAROLE conditional release of a prisoner

PARRY to ward off or deflect .

PARSIMONY stinginess

PARTISAN (adj) biased in favor of

PARTISAN (n) strong supporter

PASTICHE piece of literature or music imitating other works

PATENT (adj) obvious, unconcealed

PATENT (n) official document giving exclusive right to sell an invention

PATERNITY fatherhood; descent from father's ancestors

PATHOGENIC causing disease

PATHOS pity, compassion

PATRICIAN aristocrat

PATRICIDE murder of one's father

PATRIMONY inheritance or heritage derived from one's father

PATRONIZE to condescend to, disparage; to buy from

PAUCITY scarcity, lack

PAUPER very poor person

PAVILION tent or light building used for shelter or exhibitions

PECCADILLO minor sin or offense

PECULATION theft of money or goods

PEDAGOGUE teacher

PEDANT one who pays undue attention to book learning and rules; one who displays learning ostentatiously

PEDESTRIAN (adj) commonplace

PEDIATRICIAN doctor specializing in children and their ailments

PEDIMENT triangular gable on a roof or facade

PEER (n) contemporary, equal, match

PEERLESS unequaled

PEJORATIVE having bad connotations; disparaging

PELLUCID transparent; translucent; easily understood

PENANCE voluntary suffering to repent for a wrong

PENCHANT inclination

PENDING (prep) during, while awaiting

PENITENT expressing sorrow for sins or offenses, repentant

PENSIVE thoughtful

PENULTIMATE next to last

PENUMBRA partial shadow

PENURY extreme poverty

PERAMBULATE walk about

PERCIPIENT discerning, able to perceive

PERDITION complete and utter loss; damnation

PEREGRINATE to wander from place to place

PEREMPTORY imperative; dictatorial

PERENNIAL present throughout the years; persistent

PERFIDIOUS faithless, disloyal, untrustworthy

PERFUNCTORY done in a routine way; indifferent

PERIHELION point in orbit nearest to the sun

PERIPATETIC moving from place to place

PERIPHRASTIC containing too many words

PERJURE to tell a lie under oath

PERMEABLE penetrable

PERNICIOUS very harmful

PERPETUAL endless, lasting

PERPETUITY continuing forever

PERPLEXING puzzling, bewildering

PERSONIFICATION act of attributing human qualities to objects or abstract qualities

PERSPICACIOUS shrewd, astute, keen-witted

PERT lively and bold

PERTINACIOUS persistent. stubborn

PERTINENT applicable, appropriate

PERTURBATION disturbance

PERUSAL close examination

PERVASIVE present throughout

PERVERT (v) to cause to change in immoral way; to misuse

PESTILENCE epidemic, plague

PETTISH fretful

PETULANCE rudeness, peevishness

PHALANX massed group of soldiers, people, or things

PHILANDERER pursuer of casual love affairs

PHILANTHROPY love of humanity; generosity to worthy causes

PHILISTINE narrow-minded person, someone lacking appreciation for art or culture

PHILOLOGY study of words

PHLEGLI coldness or indifference

PHLEGMATIC calm in temperament; sluggish

PHOBIA anxiety, horror

PHOENIX mythical, immortal bird that lives for 500 years, burns itself to death, and rises from its ashes

PHONETICS study of speech sounds

PHONIC relating to sound

PICAYUNE petty, of little value

PIDDLING trivial

PIETY devoutness

PILFER to steal

PILLAGE to loot, especially during a war

PILLORY ridicule and abuse

PINNACLE peak, highest point of development

PIOUS dedicated, devout, extremely religious

PIQCE fleeting feeling of hurt pride

PITHY profound, substantial; concise, succinct, to the point

PITTANCE meager amount or wage

PLACATE to soothe or pacify

PLACID calm

PLAGIARIST one who steals words or ideas

PLAINTIFF injured person in a lawsuit

PLAINTIVE expressing sorrow

PLAIT to braid

PLANGENT loud sound; wailing sound

PLASTIC flexible; pliable

PLATITUDE stale, overused expression

PLAUDIT applause

PLEBEIAN crude, vulgar; low-class

PLENITUDE abundance, plenty

PLETHORA excess, overabundance

PLIANT pliable, yielding

PLUCK to pull strings on musical instrument

PLUCKY courageous, spunky

PLUMMET to fall, plunge

PLCRALISTIC including a variety of groups

PLY (v) to use diligently; to engage; to join together

PNEUMATIC relating to air; worked by compressed air

POACH to steal game or fish; cook in boiling liquid

PODIUM [illegible] or lectern for orchestra conductors or speakers

POIGNANT emotionally moving

POLAR relating to a geographic pole; exhibiting contrast

POLARIZE to tend towards opposite extremes

POLEMIC controversy, argument; verbal attack

POLITIC shrewd and practical; diplomatic

POLYGLOT speaker of many languages

POMPOUS self-important

PONDEROUS weighty, heavy, large

PONTIFICATE to speak in a pretentious manner

PORE (v) to study closely or meditatively

POROUS full of holes, permeable to liquids

PORTENT omen

PORTLY stout, dignified

POSIT to put in position; to suggest an idea

POSTERIOR bottom, rear

POSTERITY future generations; all of a person's descendants

POTABLE drinkable

POTENTATE monarch or ruler with great power

POVERTY lacking money or possessions

PRAGMATIC practical; moved by facts rather than abstract ideals

PRATTLE meaningless, foolish talk

PRECARIOUS uncertain

PRECEPT principle; law

PRECIPICE edge, steep overhang

PRECIPITATE (adj) sudden and unexpected

PRECIPITATE (v) to throw down from a height; to cause to happen

PRECIPITOUS hasty quickly, with too little caution

PRECIS short summary of facts

PRECISION state of being precise; exactness

PRECLUDE to rule out

PRECOCIOUS unusually advanced at an early age

PRECURSOR forerunner, predecessor

PREDATOR one that preys on others, destroyer, plunderer

PREDESTINE to decide in advance

PREDICAMENT difficult situation

PREDICATE (v) to found or base on

PREDICTIVE relating to prediction, indicative of the future

PREDILECTION preference, liking

PREDISPOSITION tendency, inclination

PREEMINENT celebrated, distinguished

PREFACE introduction to a book; introductory remarks to a speech

PREMEDITATE to consider, plan beforehand

PREMONITION forewarning: presentiment

PREPONDERANCE majority in number; dominance

PREPOSSESSISG attractive, engaging, appealing

PREPOSTEROUS absurd, illogical

PRESAGE to foretell, indicate in advance

PRESCIENT having foresight

PRESCRIBE to set down a rule; to recommend a treatment

PRESENTIMENT premonition, sense of foreboding

PRESTIDIGITATION sleight of hand

PRESUMPTUOUS rude, improperly bold

PRETENTIOUS showy, self-important

PRETEXT excuse, pretended reason

PREVALENT widespread

PREVARICATE to lie, evade the truth

PRIMEVAL ancient, primitive

PRIMORDIAL original, existing from the beginning

PRISTINE untouched, uncorrupted

PRIVATION lack of usual necessities or comforts

PROBITY honesty, high-mindedness

PROCLIVITY tendency, inclination

PROCRASTINATION putting off something that must be done

PROCRASTISATOR one who continually and unjustifiably postpones

PROCURE to obtain

PRODIGAL wasteful, extravagant, lavish

PRODIGIOUS vast, enormous, extraordinary

PROFASE impure; contrary to religion; sacrilegious

PROFICIENT expert, skilled in a certain subject

PROFLIGATE corrupt, degenerate

PROFUNDITY great depth

PROFUSE lavish, extravagant

PROGENITOR originator, forefather, ancestor in a direct line

PROGENY offspring, children

PROGNOSIS prediction of disease outcome; any prediction

PROGNOSTICATE to predict

PROGRESSIVE favoring progress or change; moving forward

PROLIFERATION propagation, reproduction; enlargement, expansion

PROLIFIC productive, fertile

PROLIX tedious; wordy

PROLOGCE introductory section of a literary work or play

PROMONTORY piece of land or rock higher than its surroundings

PROMULGATE to make known publicly

PROPAGATE to breed

PROPESSITY inclination. tendency

PROPINQUITY nearness

PROPITIATE to win over. appease

PROPITIOUS [illegible] advantageous

PROPONENT advocate. defender. supporter

[illegible] appropriateness

PROSAIC relating to prose; dull, commonplace

PROSCRIBE to condemn; to forbid. outlaw

PROSE ordinary language used in everyday speech

[illegible] person who initiates a legal action or suit

[illegible] to convert to a particular belief or religion

PROSTRATE lying face downward. lying flat on the ground

PROTAGONIST main character in a play or story. hero

PROTEAN readily assuming different forms or characters

PROTESTATION declaration

PROTOCOL ceremony and manners observed by diplomats

PROTRACT to prolong. draw out, extend

PROTRUSION something that sticks out

PROVIDENT prudent, frugal

PROVIDENTIAL prudent, lucky

PROVINCIAL rustic, unsophisticated, limited in scope

PROVOCATION cause, incitement to act or respond

PROWESS bravery, skill

PROXIMITY nearness

PROXY power to act as substitute for another

PRL'DE one who is excessively proper or modest

PRUDENT careful, cautious

PRURIENT lustful, exhibiting lewd desires

PRY to intrude into; force open

PSECDONYM pen name; fictitious or borrowed name

PSYCHIC (adj) having to do with the mind; perceptive of nonmaterial, spiritual forces

PCDGY chubby, overweight

PCERILE childish, immature, silly

PUGILISM boxing

PUGNACIOUS quarrelsome, eager and ready to fight

PULCHRITUDE beauty

PCLL'ERIZE to pound, crush, or grind into powder; destroy

PUMMEL to pound, beat

PUNCTILIOUS careful in observing rules of behavior or ceremony

PUNDIT an authority or critic

PCSGENT strong or sharp in smell or taste

PUNITIVE having to do with punishment

PURGATION process of cleansing, purification

PCRGE (v) to cleanse or free from impurities

PURITANICAL adhering to a rigid moral code

PCRPORT to profess, suppose, claim

PUSILLANIMOUS cowardly

PUTRID rotten

Q

[illegible] (n) faker; one who falsely claims to have medical skill

QUADRILATERAL four-sided polygon

QUADRUPED animal having four feet

QCAFF to drink heartily

QUAGMIRE marsh; difficult situation

QUALIFY to provide with needed skills; modify, limit

QUANDARY dilemma, difficulty

QUARANTINE isolation period, originally 40 days, to prevent spread of disease

QUATERXARY consisting of or relating to four units or members

QUELL to crush or subdue

QUERULOUS inclined to complain, irritable

QUERY (n) question

QUIBBLE to argue about insignificant and irrelevant details

QUICKEN to hasten, arouse, excite

QUIESCENCE inactivity, stillness

QUIESCENT inactive, at rest

QUINTESSENCE most [illegible] example; concentrated essence

QUIVER (v) to shake slightly, tremble, vibrate

QUIXOTIC overly idealistic, impractical

QUOTIDIAN occurring daily; commonplace

R

RACONTEUR witty, skillful storyteller

RADICAL (adj) fundamental; drastic

RAGING violent, wild

RAIL (v) to scold with bitter or abusive language

RAILLERY lighthearted jesting

RALLY (v) to assemble; recover, recuperate

RAMBLE (v) to roam, wander; to babble, digress

RAMIFICATION implication, outgrowth, or consequence

RAMPANT unrestrained

RAMSHACKLE likely to collapse

RANCID spoiled, rotten

RANCOR bitter hatred

RANT to harangue, rave, forcefully scold

RAPACIOUS greedy; predatory

RAPPORT relationship of trust and respect

RAPPROCHEMENT having a cordial relationship

RAPT deeply absorbed

RAREFY to make thinner, purer, or more refined

RASH (adj) careless, hasty, reckless

RATIFY to approve formally, confirm

RATIOCINATION methodical, logical reasoning

RATION (n) portion, share

RATION (v) to supply; to restrict consumption of

RATIONAL logical, reasonable

RATIONALE line of reasoning

RAUCOUS harsh-sounding; boisterous

RAVAGE to destroy, devastate

RAVENOUS extremely hungry

RAVINE deep, narrow gorge

RAW vulgar, coarse

RAZE to tear down. demolish

REACTIONARY (adj) marked by extreme conservatism, esp. in politics

REBARBATIVE irritating; repellent

REBUFF (n) blunt rejection

REBUKE (v) to reprimand, scold

REBUT to refute by evidence or argument

RECALCITRANT resisting authority or control

RECANT to retract a statement, opinion, etcetera

RECAPITULATE to review with a brief summary

RECEPTIVE open to others' ideas; congenial

RECIDIVISM tendency to repeat previous behavior

RECIPROCATE to show or feel in return

RECLUSIVE shut off from the world

RECONDITE relating to obscure learning; known to only a few

RECOUNT (v) to describe facts or events

RECREANT disloyal; cowardly

RECRUIT (v) to draft, enlist; to seek to enroll

RECTIFY to correct

RECTITUDE moral uprightness

RECURRENCE repetition

REDRESS (n) relief from wrong or injury

REDUNDANCY unnecessary repetition

REFECTORY room where meals are served

REFLECTION image, likeness; opinion, thought, impression

REFORM (v) to change, correct

REFRACT to detlect sound or light

REFRACTORY obstinately resistant

REFUGE escape, shelter

REFURBISH to renovate

REFUTE to contradict, discredit

REGAL magnificent, splendid, fit for royalty

REGARD high esteem

REGIMES government rule; systematic plan

REGRESS to move backward; revert to an earlier form or state

REHABILITATE to restore to good health or condition; reestablish a person's good reputation

REITERATE to say again, repeat

REJOISDER response

REJWESATE to make young again; renew

RELEGATE to assign to a class, especially to an inferior one

RELENT to become gentler in attitude

RELINQCISH to renounce or surrender something

RELISH (v) to enjoy greatly

REMEDIABLE capable of being corrected

REXIEDY (v) to cure, correct

REMINISCENCE remembrance of past events

REMISSION lessening, relaxation

REMIT to send (usually money) as payment

REMONSTRATE to protest or object

REMOTE distant, isolated

REMUNERATION pay or reward for work, trouble, etcetera

RENASCENT reborn, coming into being again

RENEGADE traitor, person abandoning a cause

RENEGE to go back on one's word

RENITENT resisting pressure, obstinate

RENOUNCE to give up or reject a right, title, person, etcetera

RENOWN fame, widespread acclaim

RENT (adj) torn apart

REPAST meal or mealtime

REPEAL to revoke or formally withdraw (often a law)

REPEL to rebuff, repulse; disgust, offend

REPENT to regret a past action

REPENTANT apologetic, guilty, remorseful

REPLETE abundantly supplied

REPLICATE to duplicate, repeat

REPOSE relaxation, leisure

REPREHEND to criticize

REPREHENSIBLE blameworthy, disreputable

REPRESS to restrain or hold in

REPRESSION act of restraining or holding in

REPRISE repetition, esp. of a piece of music

REPROACH (v) to find fault with; blame

REPROBATE morally unprincipled person

REPROVE to criticize or correct

REPUDIATE to reject as having no authority

REPULSE to repel, fend off; sicken, disgust

REQUIEM hymns or religious service for the dead

REQUITE to return or repay

RESCIND to repeal, cancel

RESIDUE remainder, leftover, remnant

RESILIENT able to recover quickly after illness or bad luck; able to bounce back into shape

RESOLUTE determined; with a clear purpose

RESOLVE (n) determination, firmness of purpose

RESOLVE (v) to conclude, determine

RESONATE to echo

RESPIRE to breathe

RESPITE interval of relief

RESPLENDENT splendid, brilliant

RESTITUTION act of compensating for loss or damage

RESTIVE impatient, uneasy, restless

RESTORATIVE having the power to renew or revitalize

RESTRAINED controlled, repressed, restricted

RESUSCITATE to revive, bring back to life

RETAIN to hold, keep possession of

RETARD (v) to slow, hold back

RETICEST not speaking freely; reserved

RETINUE group of attendants with an important person

RETIRING shy, modest, reserved

RETORT cutting response

RETRACT to draw in or take back

RETRESCH to regroup, reorganize

RETRIEVE to bring, fetch; reclaim

RETROACTIVE applying to an earlier time

RETROGRADE having a backward motion or direction

RETROSPECTIVE looking back to the past

REVELRY boisterous festivity

REVERE to worship, regard with awe

REVERT to backslide, regress

REVILE to criticize with harsh language, verbally abuse

REVITALIZE to renew; give new energy to

REVOKE to annul, cancel, call back

REVULSION strong feeling of repugnance or dislike

RHAPSODY emotional literary or musical work

RHETORIC persuasive use of language

RHYTHM regular pattern or variation of sounds and stresses

RIBALD humorous in a vulgar way

RIDDLE (v) to make many holes in; permeate

RIFE widespread, prevalent; abundant

RIFT an open space; to divide

RIGHTEOUS morally right

RIPOSTE a retort

RISQUÉ bordering on being inappropriate or indecent

ROBUST strong and healthy; hardy

ROCOCO very, highly ornamented

ROIL to disturb or cause disorder

ROOT (v) to dig with a snout (like a pig)

ROOTED to have an origin or base

ROSTRUM stage for public speaking

ROTUND round in shape; fat

RUE to regret

RUFFLED irritated

RUMINATE to contemplate, reflect upon

RUSTIC rural

S

SACCHARINE excessively sweet or sentimental

SACROSANCT extremely sacred; beyond criticism

SAGACIOUS shrewd, wise

SALACIOUS lustful

SALIENT prominent or conspicuous

SALLOW sickly yellow in color

SALUBRIOUS healthful

SALUTATION greeting

SANCTION permission, support; law; penalty

SANCTUARY haven, retreat

SANGUINE ruddy; cheerfully optimistic

SAP (v) to weaken gradually

SAPIENT wise

SARDONIC cynical, scornfully mocking

SATIATE to satisfy

SAUNTER to amble; walk in a leisurely manner

[illegible] learned person

SAVORY agreeable in taste or smell

SCABBARD sheath for sword or dagger

SCABROUS dealing with indecent things; blemished

SCALE (v) to climb to the top of

SCANTINESS barely enough, meager

SCARCITY not enough, insufficient

SCATHING harshly critical; painfully hot

SCENARIO plot outline; possible situation

SCHISM a division or separation; disharmony

SCINTILLA very small amount

SCINTILLATE to sparkle, flash

SCION descendent, child

SCOFF to deride, ridicule

SCORE (n) notation for a musical composition

SCORE (v) to make a notch or scratch

SCRIVENER professional copyist

SCRUPULOUS restrained; careful and precise

SCRUTINY careful observation

SCURRILOUS vulgar, low. indecent

SECANT straight line intersecting a curve at two points

SECEDE to withdraw formally from an organization

SECLUDED isolated and remote

SECTARIAS narrow-minded; relating to a group or sect

SECULAR not specifically pertaining to religion

SEDENTARY inactive, stationary; sluggish

SEDITION behavior promoting rebellion

SEISMOLOGY science o t earthquakes

SEMINAL relating to the beginning or seeds of something

SENESCENT aging, growing old

SENSUAL satisfying or gratifying the senses; suggesting sexuality

SENTENTIOUS having a moralizing tone

SENTIENT aware, conscious, able to perceive

SEPULCHRAL typical of a place of burial

SEQUEL anything that follows

SEQUESTER to remove or set apart; put into seclusion

SERAPHIC angelic, pure, sublime

SERENDIPITY habit of making fortunate discoveries by chance

SERENITY calm, peacefulness

SERPENTINE serpentlike; twisting, winding

SERRATED saw-toothed, notched

SERVILE submissive, obedient

SHARD piece of broken glass or potterv

SHEEPISH timid, meek, or bashful

SHIRK to avoid a task due to laziness or fear

SIDLE to cause to turn sideways; to move along one side

SIGNIFY denote, indicate; symbolize

SIMIAN apelike; relating to apes

SIMPER to smirk, smile foolishly

SIMPLE lacking in knowledge or intelligence

SIMULATED fake, made to look real

SINCERE genuine, true

SINECURE well-paying job or office that requires little or no work

SINGE to burn slightly, scorch

SINUOUS winding; intricate, complex

SKEPTICAL doubtful. questioning

SKULK to move in a stealth?, or cautious manner; sneak

SLAKE to calm down or moderate

SLIGHT to treat as unimportant; insult

SLIPSHOD careless, hasty

SLOTH sluggishness, laziness

SLOUGH to discard or shed

SLOVENLY untidy, messy

SLUGGARD lazy, inactive person

SMELT (v) to melt metal in order to refine it

SMUTTY obscene, indecent

SNIPPET tiny part, tidbit

SOBRIETY seriousness

SOBRIQUET nickname

SODDEN thoroughly soaked; saturated

SOJOURN visit, stay

SOLACE comfort in distress; consolation

SOLARIUM room or glassed-in area exposed to the sun

SOLECISM grammatical mistake

SOLICITOUS concerned, attentive; eager

SOLIDARITY unity based on common aims or interests

SOLILOQW literary or dramatic speech by one character, not addressed to others

SOLIPSISM belief that the self is the only reality

SOLSTICE shortest or longest day of the year

SOLUBLE capable of being solved or dissolved

SOMBER dark and gloomy; melancholy, dismal

SOMNAMBULIST sleepwalker

SOMNOLENT drowsy, sleepy; inducing sleep

SONIC relating to sound

SONOROUS producing a full, rich sound

SOPHIST person good at arguing deviously

SOPHISTRY deceptive reasoning or argumentation

SOPHOMORIC immature and overconfident

SOPORIFIC sleepy or tending to cause sleep

SORDID filthy; contemptible and corrupt

SOVEREIGN having supreme power

SPARTAN austere, severe, grave; simple, bare

SPAWN to generate, produce

SPECIOUS deceptively attractive

SPECULATION contemplation; act of taking business risks for financial gain

SPECULATIVE involving assumption; uncertain; theoretical

SPLENDID grand, illustrious

SPONTANEOUS on the spur of the moment, impulsive

SPORADIC infrequent, irregular

SPORTIVE frolicsome, playful

SPRIGHTLY lively, animated, energetic

SPUR (v) to prod

SPURIOUS lacking authenticity; counterfeit, false

SPURN to reject or refuse contemptuously; scorn

SQUABBLE quarrel

SQUALID filthy; morally repulsive

SQUANDER to waste

STACCATO marked by abrupt, clear-cut sounds

STAGNANT immobile, stale

STAID self-restrained to the point of dullness

STALK (v) to hunt, pursue

STALWART strong, unwavering

STAND (n) group of trees

STARK bare, empty, vacant

STASIS motionless state; standstill

STATELY grand, unapproachable

STEADFAST immovable

STEADY stable, unfaltering

STENTORIAN extremely loud

STIFLE to smother or suffocate; suppress

STIGMA mark of disgrace or inferiority

STILTED stiff, unnatural

STINT (n) period of time spent doing something

STINT (v) to be sparing or frugal

STIPEND allowance; fixed amount of money paid regularly

STOCKADE enclosed area forming defensive wall

STOIC indifferent to or unaffected by emotions

STOLID having or showing little emotion

STRATAGEM trick designed to deceive an enemy

STRATIFY to arrange into layers

STRIATE striped, grooved

STRICTURE something that restrains; negative criticism

STRIDENT loud, harsh, unpleasantly noisy

STRINGENT imposing severe, rigorous standards

STRIPLING an adolescent boy

STULTIFY to impair or reduce to uselessness

STUNTED having arrested growth or development

STUPEFY to dull the senses of; stun, astonish

STYLIZE to fashion, formalize

STYMIE to block or thwart

SUAVE smoothly gracious or polite; blandly ingratiating

SUBDUED suppressed, stifled

SUBJECTION dependence, obedience, submission

SUBJUGATE to conquer, subdue; enslave

SUBLIMATE to repress impulses

SUBLIME awe-inspiring; of high spiritual or moral value

SUBLIMINAL subconscious; imperceptible

SUBMISSIVE tending to be meek and submit

SUBPOENA notice ordering someone to appear in court

SUBSEQUENT following in time or order

SUBSTANTIAL important, real

SUBTERFUGE trick or tactic used to avoid something

SUBTERRANEAN hidden, secret; underground

[illegible] to detect or describe; perceptive

SUBVERT to undermine or corrupt

SUCCINCT terse, brief, concise

SUCCULEST juicy; full of vitality or freshness

SUFFERABLE bearable

SUFFRAGIST one who advocates extended voting rights

SULLEN brooding, gloomy

SULLY to soil, stain, tarnish; taint

SUMPTUOUS lavish, splendid

SUPERABUNDANCE excessive

SUPERANNUATED too old, obsolete, outdated

SUPERCILIOUS arrogant, haughty, overbearing, condescending

SUPEREROGATORY nonessential

SUPERFICIAL hasty; shallow and phony

SUPERFLUOUS extra, more than necessary

SUPERSEDE to take the place of; replace

SUPERVISE to direct or oversee the work of others

SUPPLANT to replace, substitute

SUPPLE flexible, pliant

SUPPLICANT one who asks humbly and earnestly

SUPPOSITION assumption

SURFEIT excessive amount

SURLY rude and bad-tempered

SURMISE to make an educated guess

[illegible] to conquer, overcome

SURPASS to do better than, be superior to

SURPLUS excess

SURREPTITIOUS characterized by secrecy

SURVEY (v) to examine in a comprehensive way

SUSCEPTIBLE vulnerable, unprotected

SUSPEND to defer, interrupt; dangle, hang

SUSTAIN support, uphold; endure, undergo

SUSTENANCE supplying the necessities of life

SWARTHY having a dark complexion

SYBARITE person devoted to pleasure and luxury

SYCOPHANT self-serving flatterer, yes-man

SYLLABUS outline of a course

SYMBIOSIS cooperation, mutual helpfulness

SYMPOSIUM meeting with short presentations on related topics

SYNCHRONOUS happening at the same time

SYNCOPATIOS temporary irregularity in musical rhythm

SYNOPSIS plot summary

SYNTHESIS blend, combination

SYNTHETIC artificial, imitation

T

TABLEAU vivid description, striking incident or scene

TACIT silently understood or implied

TACITURN uncommunicative, not inclined to speak much

TACTFUL skillful in dealing with others

TACTILE relating to the sense of touch

TAINT to spoil or infect; to stain honor

TAINTED stained, tarnished; corrupted, poisoned

TALISMAN something producing a magical effect

TALON claw of an animal, esp. a bird of prey

TANDEM acting as a group or in partnership

TANG sharp flavor or odor

TANGENTIAL digressing, diverting

TANGIBLE able to be sensed; perceptible, measurable

TANTAMOUNT [illegible] in value or significance; amounting to

TARNISHED corroded, discolored; discredited, disgraced

TAWDRY gaudy, cheap, showy

TAXONOMY science of classification

TECHNOCRAT strong believer in technology; technical expert

TEETER to waver or move unsteadily

TEMERITY recklessness

TEMPERANCE restraint, self-control, moderation

TEMPERED moderated, restrained

TEMPESTUOUS stormy, raging, furious

TEMPORAL relating to time; chronological

TENABLE defensible, reasonable

TENACIOUS stubborn, holding firm

TENDENTIOUS biased

TENET belief, doctrine

TENSILE capable of withstanding physical stress

TENUOUS weak, insubstantial

TEPID lukewarm; showing little enthusiasm

TERMINAL (adj) concluding, final; fatal

TERMINAL (n) depot, station

TERRESTRIAL earthly; down-to-earth, commonplace

TERSE concise, brief, free of extra words

TESTAMENT statement of belief; will

TESTIMONIAL statement testifying to a truth; something given in tribute to a person's achievement

TETHER (v) to bind, tie

THEOCRACY government by priests representing a god

THEOLOGY study of God and religion

THEORETICAL abstract

THERAPEUTIC medicinal

THESAURUS book of synonyms and antonyms

THESIS theory or hypothesis; dissertation or long written composition

THRALL a person in servitude, enslaved

THRENODY a sad poem or song

THWART to block or prevent from happening; frustrate

TIDINGS news

TIMOROUS timid, shy, full of apprehension

TINGE to color slightly

TIRADE long violent speech; verbal assault

TITAN person of colossal stature or achievement

TOADY flatterer, hanger-on, yes-man

TOLERANCE capacity to respect different values; capacity to endure or resist something

TOME book, usually large and academic

TONAL relating to pitch or sound

TOPOGRAPHY art of making maps or charts

TORPID lethargic; unable to move; dormant

TORRID burning hot; passionate

TORSION act of twisting and turning

TORTUOUS having many twists and turns; highly complex

TOTTERING barely standing

TOXIN poison

TRACTABLE obedient, yielding

TRAMMEL to impede or hamper

TRANQUIL to calm or steady

TRANSCEND to rise above, go beyond

TRANSCENDENT rising above, going beyond

TRANSCRIPTION copy, reproduction; record

TRANSFIGURATION a change; an exalting change

TRANSFORMATION a change in form or appearance

TRANSGRESS to trespass, violate a law

TRANSIENT (adj) temporary, short-lived, fleeting

TRANSITORY short-lived, existing only briefly

TRANSLATION a change from one state to another; converting one language into another

TRANSLUCENT partially transparent

TRANSMUTE to change in appearance or shape

TRANSPIRE to happen, occur; become known

TRAVESTY parody, exaggerated imitation, caricature

TREMULOUS trembling, quivering, fearful, timid

TRENCHANT acute, sharp, incisive; forceful, effective

TREPIDATION fear and anxiety

TRIBUTE a gift or statement showing respect or gratitude

TRIFLING of slight worth, trivial, insignificant

TRITE shallow, superficial

TROUNCE to beat severely, defeat

TROUPE group of actors

TRUCULENT savage and cruel; fierce; ready to fight

TRUISM something that is obviously true

TRUNCATE to cut off, shorten by cutting

TRYING difficult to deal with

TRYST agreement between lovers to meet; rendezvous

TUMULT state of confusion; agitation

TUNDRA treeless plain found in Arctic or subarctic regions

TURBID muddled; unclear

TURBULENCE commotion, disorder

TURGID swollen, bloated

TURPITUDE inherent vileness, foulness, depravity

TYRANNICAL oppressive; dictatorial

TYRO beginner, novice

U

UBIQUITOUS being everywhere simultaneously

UMBRAGE offense, resentment

UNADULTERATED absolutely pure

UNANIMITY state of total agreement or unity

UNAPPEALING unattractive, unpleasant

UNAVAILING hopeless, useless

UNBENDING inflexible, unyielding

UNBRIDLED unrestrained

UNCONSCIONABLE unscrupulous; shockingly unfair or unjust

UNCTUOUS greasy, oily; smug and falsely earnest

UNDAUNTED resolute even in adversity

UNDERMINE to sabotage, thwart

UNDOCUMENTED not certified, unsubstantiated

UNDULATING moving in waves

UNEQUIVOCAL absolute, certain

UNFAILING not likely to fail, constant, infallible

UNFETTERED free, unrestrained

UNFROCK to strip of priestly duties

UNGRACIOUS rude, disagreeable

UNHERALDED unannounced, unexpected

UNIDIMENSIONAL having one size or dimension

UNIFORM (adj) consistent and unchanging; identical

UNIMPEACHABLE beyond question

UNINITIATED not familiar with an area of study

UNKEMPT uncombed, messy in appearance

UNOBTRUSIVE modest, unassuming

UNPOLISHED lacking sophistication

UNRUFFLED poised. calm

UNSCRUPULOUS dishonest

UNSOILED clean, pure

UNSOLICITED unrequested

UNSTINTING generous

UNSULLIED clean

UNSWAYABLE unable to change

UNTOWARD not favorable; unruly

UNTRAMMELED unhampered

UNWARRANTED groundless, unjustified

UNWITTING unconscious; unintentional

UNYIELDING firm, resolute

UPBRAID to scold sharply

UPROARIOUS loud and forceful

UPSURGE sudden rise

URBANE courteous, refined, suave

USURP to seize by force

USURY practice of lending money at exorbitant rates

UTILITARIAN efficient, functional, useful

UTOPIA perfect place

V

VACILLATE to waver, show indecision

VACUOUS empty, void; lacking intelligence, purposeless

VAGRANT poor person with no home

VALIANT brave, courageous

VALIDATE to authorize, certify, confirm

VALOROUS brave, valiant

VANQUISH to conquer, defeat

VAPID tasteless, dull .

VARIABLE changeable, inconstant

VARIEGATED varied; marked with different colors

VAUNTED boasted about, bragged about

VEHEMENTLY strongly, urgently

VENAL willing to do wrong for money

VENDETTA prolonged feud marked by bitter hostility

VENERABLE respected because of age

VENERATION adoration, honor, respect

VENT (v) to express, say out loud

VERACIOUS truthful, accurate

VERACITY accuracy, truth

VERBATIM word for word

VERBOSE wordy

VERDANT green with vegetation; inexperienced

VERDURE fresh, rich vegetation

VERIFIED proven true

VERISIMILITUDE quality of appearing true or real

VERITY truthfulness; belief viewed as true and enduring

VERMIN small creatures offensive to humans

VERNACULAR everyday language used by ordinary people; specialized language of a profession

VERNAL related to spring

VERSATILE adaptable, all-purpose

VERVE energy, vitality

VESTIGE trace, remnant

VETO (v) to reject formally

VEX to irritate, annoy; confuse, puzzle

VIABLE workable, able to succeed or grow

VIADUCT series of elevated arches used to cross a valley

VICARIOUS substitute, surrogate; enjoyed through imagined participation in another's experience

VICISSITUDE change or variation; ups and downs

VIE to compete, contend

VIGILANT attentive, watchful

VIGNETTE decorative design; short literary composition

VILIFY to slander, defame

VIM energy, enthusiasm

VINDICATE to clear of blame; support a claim

VINDICATION clearance from blame or suspicion

VINDICTIVE spiteful, vengeful, unforgiving

VIRGINAL pure, chaste

VIRILE manly, having qualities of an adult male

VIRTUE conforming to what is right

VIRTUOSO someone with masterly skill; expert musician

VIRULENT extremely poisonous; malignant; hateful

VISCOUS thick, syrupy and sticky

VITIATE reduce in value or effectiveness

VITRIOLIC burning, caustic; sharp, bitter

VITUPERATE to abuse verbally

VIVACIOUS lively, spirited

VIVID bright and intense in color; strongly perceived

VOCIFEROUS loud, vocal and noisy

VOID (adj) not legally enforceable; empty

VOID (n) emptiness, vacuum

VOID (v) to cancel, invalidate

VOLATILE explosive

VOLITION free choice, free will; act of choosing

VOLLEY (n) flight of missiles, round of gunshots

VOLUBLE speaking much and easily, talkative; glib

VOLUMINOUS large; of great quantity; writing or speaking at great length

VORACIOUS having a great appetite

VORTEX swirling, resembling a whirlpool

WLGAR obscene; common, of low class

VULNERABLE defenseless, unprotected; innocent, naive

W

WAIVE to refrain from enforcing a rule; to give up a legal right

WALLOW to indulge oneself excessively, luxuriate

WAN sickly pale

WANE to dwindle, to decrease

WANTON undisciplined, unrestrained, reckless

WARRANTY guarantee of a product's soundness

WARY careful, cautious

WASPISH rude, behaving badly

WAVER to show indecision

WAX to increase

WAYWARD erratic, unrestrained, reckless

WEATHER (v) to endure, undergo

WEIGHTY important, momentous

WELTER (n) a confused mass; a jumble

WHET to sharpen, stimulate

WHIMSY playful or fanciful idea

WILY clever, deceptive

WINDFALL sudden, unexpected good fortune

WINSOME charming, happily engaging

WITHDRAWN unsociable, aloof; shy, timid

WIZENED withered, shriveled, wrinkled

WOE deep suffering or grief

WRAITH a ghost

WRANGLE loud quarrel

WRIT written document, usually in law

WRY amusing. ironic

X

XENOPHOBIA fear or hatred of foreigners or strangers

Y

YOKE (v) to join together

Z

ZEALOT someone passionately devoted to a cause

ZENITH highest point, summit

ZEPHYR gentle breeze

ZOOLOGIST scientist who studies animals

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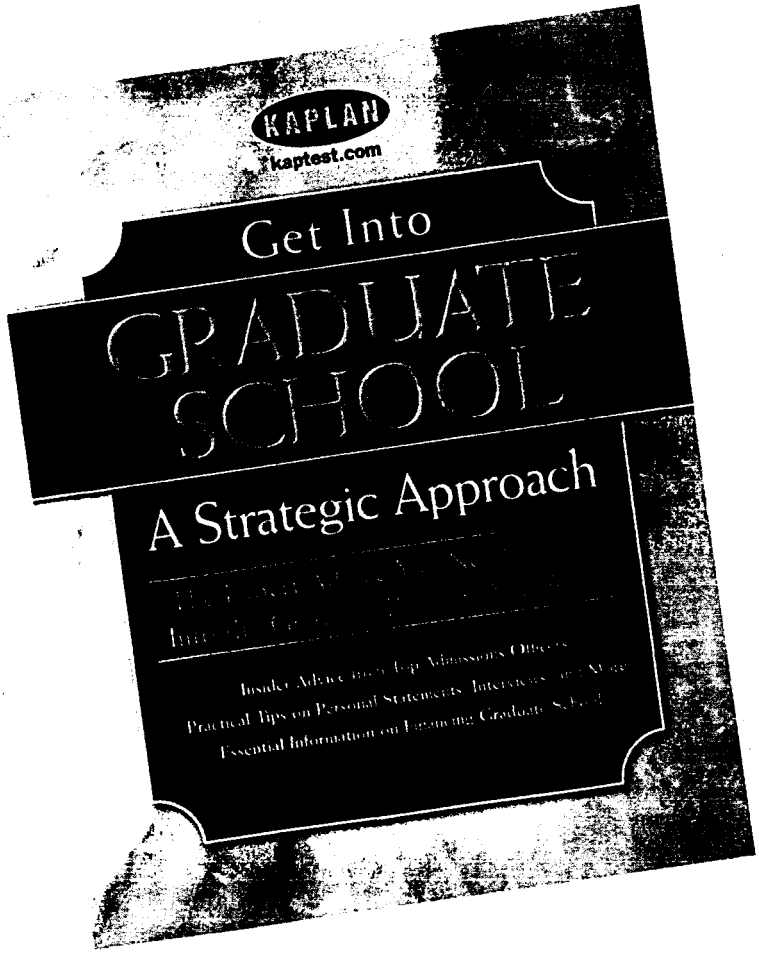

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