

abate: subside; decrease; become less in amount or intensity

aberration: deviation, not normal

abhor: fill with horror and loathing; horrify; hate

abstruse: obscure; profound; difficult to understand.

accost: approach and speak to boldly or aggressively, as with demand or request

acrimony: bitter animosity

acumen: mental keenness; quickness of perception

adamant: extremely hard; inflexible; stubbornly unyielding

adept: expert at; very skilled; having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude

adroit: skillful and adept under pressing conditions

affected: speaking or behaving in artificial way; emotionally stirred or moved; infected or attacked

alacrity: cheerful promptness or willingness; eagerness; speed or quickness

allocate: assign, portion

altruistic: unselfishly generous; concerned for others

amenable: responsive to advice or suggestion; responsible to higher authority; willing to comply with;
agreeable

amiable: good-natured and likable; lovable; warmly friendly

amicable: exhibiting friendliness or goodwill; not quarrelsome

antediluvian: antiquated; extremely old and ancient; belonging to very ancient times

anthropology: social science that studies origins and social relationships of human beings

antipathy: strong feeling of aversion; dislike

apathetic: feeling or showing a lack of interest or concern; indifferent

apt: likely; exactly suitable; appropriate; quick to learn or understand

arcane: secret; mysterious; known only to the initiated

ascendancy: superiority or decisive advantage; domination

ascetic: leading a life of self-discipline and self-denial; austere

aspire: seek to attain; long for; strive toward an end

assail: assault; attack with or as if with violent blows

assiduous: constant in application or attention; diligent; unceasing or persistent

assuage: ease or lessen pain; satisfy or appease

atrophy: wasting away; decrease in size; reduction in the functionality of an organ caused by disease

attenuate: make slender, fine, or small; weaken; lessen density of

august: impressive; majestic; inspiring awe or admiration

aura: air, feeling

auspicious: attended by favorable circumstances; marked by success; prosperous

autocrat: dictator; ruler having unlimited power

automaton: mechanism that imitates actions of humans

avarice: greediness for wealth; insatiable desire of gain

banal: obvious and dull; commonplace; lacking originality

barrage: artificial obstruction; heavy curtain of artillery fire; rapid, concentrated discharge of missiles

belie: contradict; give a false impression

belligerent: inclined or eager to fight; aggressive

benevolent: generous in providing aid to others; charitable

bequeath: leave to someone by a will; hand down

berate: rebuke or scold angrily and at length

bitartisanship: supported by two opposing parties

blighted: suffering from a disease; destroyed, ruined, or spoiled

bog: marsh, swamp

bolster: support or prop up with or as if with a long narrow pillow or cushion

bombastic: pompous; using inflated language; high-sounding but with little meaning

boorish: rude and clumsy in behavior; ungentlemanly; awkward in manners

buoyant: able to float; cheerful and optimistic

burgeon: grow forth; send out buds; grow or develop rapidly

buttress: support physically; prop up; support something or someone by supplying evidence

byzantine: convoluted, complex

cacophonous: discordant; inharmonious; sounding harshly; ill-sounding

cajole: influence or urge by gentle urging or flattering

callous: emotionally hardened; unfeeling; toughened

cantankerous: ill humored; irritable; marked by ill-tempered contradiction or opposition; ugly; malicious

capricious: fickle; impulsive and unpredictable; apt to change opinions suddenly

castigate: criticize severely; punish; revise or make corrections to publication

caustic: capable of burning, corroding, dissolving, or eating away by chemical action

ensorious: critical; addicted to censure; severe in making remarks on others, or on their writings or manners; implying or expressing censure

censure: expression of strong disapproval or harsh criticism; blame

cerebral: relating to the brain or cerebrum; intellectual rather than emotional

chagrin: anxiety caused by humiliation or injured pride; disappointment

charlatan: quack; one who pretends to knowledge, skill, or importance

chastise: punish, as by beating; criticize severely; rebuke

chide: scold mildly so as to correct or improve; express disapproval

churlish: difficult to work with; rude; unyielding; unmanageable

circuitous: being or taking a roundabout, lengthy course; going round in a circuit; not direct

circumscribe: limit narrowly; confine; draw a line around; encircle

circumvent: surround an enemy; enclose or entrap; beat by cleverness and wit

clandestine: secret; conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

coalesce: combine; fuse; grow together; come together so as to form one whole; unite

compendious: succinct

complacency: feeling of contented self-satisfaction, especially when unaware of upcoming trouble

compliant: yielding to request or desire; ready to accommodate; disposed or willing to comply

conciliate: compromising, apologizing

concur: agree

conflagration: large destructive fire; burning; large-scale military conflict

confluence: act of two things flowing together; junction or meeting place where two things meet

congenial: compatible

conscientious: diligent; responsible; reliable

consternation: intense state of fear or dismay; astonishment combined with terror

contempt: state of being despised or dishonored; disgrace; disobedience to, or open disrespect of

contemptible: worthy of contempt; deserving of scorn or disdain; mean

contentious: quarrelsome; disagreeable; marked by heated arguments or controversy

convivial: festive; occupied with or fond of the pleasures of good company

copious: plentiful; containing plenty; affording ample supply

corroborate: establish or strengthen as with new evidence or facts; support with evidence

cosmopolitan: sophisticated; of worldwide scope

credulity: readiness of belief; disposition to believe on slight evidence

culpable: blameworthy

cursory: casual; brief or broad; not cautious, nor detailed

dauntless: bold; incapable of being discouraged; fearless

dearth: scarcity; shortage of food; famine from failure or loss of crops

debacle: sudden downfall; complete disaster

debilitate: make weak; enfeeble; impair the strength of

debunk: expose as false, exaggerated, worthless; ridicule

decimate: destroy or kill a large part of; select by lot and kill one in every ten of

decorum: propriety in manners and conduct; good taste in manners; conventions or requirements of polite behavior

deference: willingness to carry out the wishes of others; great respect

degredation: humiliation

deleterious: having harmful effect; injurious; having quality of destroying life; noxious; poisonous

delineate: portray; depict; draw or trace outline of; sketch out

demonstrative: openly emotional

demure: modest and reserved in manner or behavior

demystify: clarify; free from mystery or obscurity

denigrate: blacken; defame; attack reputation of; degrade

depose: force to leave; remove from office

depravity: extreme corruption or degradation; wickedness

deprecate: express disapproval of; protest against; belittle

depreciation: devaluation; decrease in price or value

deride: ridicule; make fun of; laugh at with contempt

derivative: unoriginal; derived from another source

derogatory: expressing low opinion; disparaging; belittling

desecration: violate the sacredness of

despondent: in low spirits from loss of hope or courage

despot: tyrant; harsh, authoritarian ruler; eastern Orthodox bishop

destitute: extremely poor; utterly lacking; devoid

deterrent: something that discourages; tending to deter

devoid: completely lacking; barren or empty

didactic: excessively morally instructive

diffident: shy

diffuse: spread out widely; scatter freely; pour out and cause to spread freely

digress(ion): stray from the subject at hand

dilatory: tending to waste time

diminutive: below the average size; very small; little

dire: urgent, dreadful

discern: detect; perceive

discomfited: disappointed, defeated

discount: give reduction in price on

disheartening: discouraging

disillusionment: disenchantment, disappointment

disingenuous: giving a false appearance of frankness; not straightforward or candid; insincere or calculating

disparage: belittle; speak of in a slighting or disrespectful way; reduce in esteem or rank

dispassionate: calm; impartial; unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice

dispel: scatter; drive away; cause to vanish

disputatious: argumentative; fond of arguing; inclined to dispute

disquiet: make uneasy or anxious; trouble

disseminate: distribute; spread; scatter like seeds

distaste: dislike, aversion

divergent: differing; tending to move apart in different directions

divisive: creating conflict

divulge: reveal; make known to public

doctrine: principles presented for belief, as by religious; principle of law; act of teaching; instruction

dormant: sleeping; not active but capable of becoming active

dupe: easily deceived person; duplicate of photographic image

duplicitous: deliberately deceptive

ebullient: showing excitement; overflowing with enthusiasm

eclectic: composed of elements from a variety of sources

efface: rub or wipe out; make indistinct as if by rubbing

effervesce: bubble, fizz

egalitarian: belief in equality

elated: overjoyed; extremely happy and excited

elicit: draw out; bring forth or to light; generate or provoke as response or answer

elucidate: make clear or plain, especially by explanation; clarify

elude: avoid cleverly; escape perception of

elusive: difficult to describe; difficult to detect or grasp by mind

embitter: make worse

embroiled: throw into confusion; deeply involved especially in something complicated

empathetic: compassionate

empirical: derived from experiment and observation rather than theory

encompass: surround; form a circle or ring around; enclose; envelop

encroaching: intrusive

encumbrance: burden

enigma: puzzle; difficult problem

enumerate: list each one; mention one by one

ephemeral: short-lived; enduring a very short time

epiphany: sudden realization

epitome: representative or perfect example of a class or type; brief summary, as of a book or article

equanimity: calmness of temperament; steadiness of mind under stress.

equitable: marked by or having equity; just and impartial

equivocal: open to two or more interpretations and often intended to mislead

erudite: learned; scholarly, with emphasis on knowledge gained from books

esoteric: hard to understand; known only in a particular group

estrangle: alienate

eulogy: expression of praise, often on the occasion of someone's death

evoke: bring out; arouse; call forth

exacting: making severe demands; rigorous; requiring great care, effort, or attention

excavate: unearth; dig out; make a hole in; hollow out

exemplar: representative example

exhibitionist: deliberately behaving a certain way to attract attention

exhort: urge on or encourage, especially by shouts; make urgent appeal

exorbitant: greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation; exceeding proper limits

expedient: suitable; appropriate to a purpose; serving to promote your interest

expose: set forth; set out to public view

extol: praise highly; glorify; celebrate

extricate: free, as from difficulties or perplexities; cause to be emitted or evolved

facile: done or achieved with little effort or difficulty; ready or fluent

faction: a party of persons having a common end in view

fallacious: false; tending to mislead; deceptive

fallacy: deceptive or false appearance; false notion; deception

fanaticism: excessive zeal; extreme devotion to a belief or cause

fastidious: difficult to please; having complicated requirements; excessively particular demanding about details

fathom: measure the depth; come to understand

felicitious: well-suited, happy

finesse: refinement and delicacy of performance; skillful, subtle handling

flagrant: obvious and offensive, blatant, scandalous; flaming into notice

flippant: lacking proper seriousness; speaking freely; talkative; communicative

florid: reddish; elaborately or excessively ornamented

flummox: confuse

folly: foolishness; lack of good sense, understanding, or foresight

foolhardy: rash; marked by unthinking boldness

forlorn: sad and lonely; wretched; abandoned or left behind

fortitude: bravery; force; power to attack or to resist attack

fortuitous: accidental; by chance; coming or occurring without any cause

fraudulent: cheating; deceitful; planning or using fraud; given to practice of fraud

frugal: sparing; economical; costing little; inexpensive

furor: great excitement; public disorder or uproar

furtive: marked by quiet and caution and secrecy

futile: useless; having no useful result; vain

gait: manner of walking or stepping; bearing or carriage while moving; walk; rate of moving

gallant: courtly; lively and spirited; having or displaying great dignity or nobility

gargantuan: huge; of a tremendous size, volume, degree

garish: over-bright in color; tastelessly showy

genial: friendly; cordial; having a pleasant or friendly disposition or manner

germinate: cause to sprout or grow; come into existence

glutton: person who eats too much food and drink

grandiose: impressive from inherent grandeur; large and impressive, in size, scope or extent

hackneyed: repeated too often; over familiar through overuse

hamper: put at disadvantage; prevent progress or free movement of

hardy: in robust and good health; able to survive under unfavorable conditions

hasten: accelerate; quicken

heresy: opinion contrary to popular belief; opinion contrary to accepted religion

histrionic: characteristic of acting or stage performance

hubris: excessive pride or self-confidence