

TOEFL iBT Exam Vocabulary List

1700 Words

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Welcome to Michael Buckhoff's TOEFL iBT Vocabulary List. After many years of teaching students how to prepare for the TOEFL iBT Exam, Michael noticed he was seeing the same words over and over again. He began to make a list of these words and did not find a repetition until he reached 1,700 total words. There are 1,700 words in this list divided into two categories. The first category is 200 words of intermediate level reading. The second is 1,500 words of advanced level reading.

Instructions for Mastering Vocabulary Words

When you come across a word you do not know on the "TOEFL iBT Exam Vocabulary" list, quickly write it down onto a 3 x 5 inch note card (use one word on each note card). On the back of the note card, write down the meaning of the word and any other information (i.e., pronunciation, part of speech, sample sentence, origin of word) that might help you to remember that word.

You can build your vocabulary by studying your note cards regularly. Write sentences using the new words. Add synonyms and antonyms to your note cards everyday. Little by little you will begin to increase your knowledge of informal, formal, and academic vocabulary. Now let's get started.

When reading passages for pleasure, for work, or for university coursework, you will encounter unfamiliar vocabulary. In these situations, you should try to understand the new word by looking at the context in which it is used. Examples, appositives, punctuation, the conjunction "or," clauses, referents, "be" verb, contrasts, and other words in the sentence are contextual clues which may help you to understand a new word.

EXAMPLE

Examples in the form of a word or phrase may help to explain the meaning of a word: as, case in point, for instance, for example, in fact, like, specifically, such as, and to illustrate.

This outcome is a reflection of strong sense of **solidarity** within the corporate peasant community; for instance, this solidarity is apparent in the tendency for almost every man **to remain within his village over his lifetime.**

The meaning of solidarity is identified by the example that most men remain within their village during their lifetime; therefore, you can guess that solidarity means *having an identity or coincidence of interests, purposes, or sympathies among members of a certain group.*

APPOSITIVES

In some cases, an appositive [a noun or noun phrase which is set off by commas and which modifies another noun] can help you to identify the meaning of an unknown word.

Whether psychology should be classified as a biological or social science was a contentious issue among scholars until 1960, after which time it was increasingly described as a **behavioral science; the science of the behavior of organisms.**

The meaning of “behavioral science” is identified by its appositive, “the science of the behavioral science.”

PUNCTUATION

Punctuation marks can be used to set off a word which is used to identify another word. Some useful punctuation marks that might help you to understand the meaning of an unknown word are the following:

brackets []

commas ,

dashes –

double quotation marks “ ”

parentheses ()

single quotation marks ‘ ’

If the **wire is bent into a coil, called a solenoid**, the magnetic fields of the individual loops combine to produce a strong field through the core of the coil.

The meaning of “solenoid” which is set off by commas is identified by the definition which precedes it: “wire is bent into a coil.”

THE CONJUNCTION “OR”

Sometimes “or” and a synonym immediately comes after an unknown word or phrase.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus, or the Bald Eagle, is one of two eagles in North America and the only exclusively North American eagle.

The meaning of the words “Haliaeetus leucocephalus” are identified by the words “the Bald Eagle” following the word “or.”

CLAUSES

Adjective clauses and their connectors (i.e., that, when, where, which, who, and whom) may be used to identify words.

Both the **electric generator, which makes electricity widely available**, and the **electric motor, which converts electricity to useful mechanical work**, are based on these effects.

The meaning of “electric generator” is identified by the adjective clause: “which makes electricity widely available.” Similarly, the meaning of electric motor is identified by its adjective clause: “which converts electricity to useful mechanical work.”

REFERENTS

Referents are words to refer to other words in a sentence or paragraph. The referent may refer to a previous word or one which follows it.

It is one of the more remarkable feats of American literature, how a young man who never graduated from high school, never received a college degree, living in a small town in the poorest state in the nation, all the while balancing a growing family of dependents and impending financial ruin, could during the Great Depression write **a series of novels** all set in the same small Southern county — ***As I Lay Dying***, ***Light in August***, and above all, ***Absalom, Absalom!*** — that would one day be recognized as among the greatest novels ever written by an American.

“*As I Lay Dying, Light in August*” and “*Absalom, Absalom*” can be identified by their referent “a series of novels.”

“BE” VERB

The object, which is referred to as the subject complement and which comes after the verb “be,” may be used to identify the subject.

The Great Horned Owl Bubo virginianus is one of Canada's commonest ***large birds of prey.***

The meaning of “The Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*” is identified by “large birds of prey,” which comes after “is.”

CONTRASTS

Sometimes, the meaning of vocabulary words can be understood because they are in contrast to another word in the sentence. Some words to show contrast are the following:

although

but

despite

even though

however

in contrast

in spite of

instead

nevertheless

on the other hand

on the contrary

or

still

unlike

yet

Tsunamis are **unlike wind-generated waves**, which many of us may have observed on a local lake or at a coastal beach, in that they are characterized as **shallow-water waves**, with long periods and wave lengths.

Tsunamis are understood to be “shallow-water waves” because they in contrast to “wind-generated waves.”

OTHER WORDS IN THE SENTENCE

Other words in a sentence may also help you to understand the meaning of vocabulary words.

Sponges are the simplest grade of **multi-celled animals**. In general, sponges have **open-topped, sack-like bodies** which are **fixed to the sea floor**. Water is pulled through the body, and food is filtered out.

By using other words in the sentences as contextual clues, you can guess that a “sponge” is a “multi-celled animal” which is “fixed to the sea floor.”

READING STRATEGY

When encountering an unfamiliar vocabulary word, try the following:

1. Read the sentence preceding the unfamiliar vocabulary word, read the sentence, inside of which the unfamiliar word is being used, and read the sentence following the unfamiliar word.
2. Look for context clues to help you understand the meaning of the word.
3. Look for examples, appositives, punctuation, the conjunction “or,” clauses, referents, “be” verb, and contrast statements as clues to help you understand the unfamiliar word.

200 Words of Intermediate TOEFL iBT Vocabulary

Lesson Format

Word, Part of Speech, Word Forms

Synonyms

Word Definition

Sample Sentence

Adorn, verb (adorns, adorning, adorned)

embellish, garnish, ornament, trim

For example, if someone adorns a place, he puts decorations on it.

His watercolor designs adorn a wide range of books.

Magnificent, adjective (magnificently, magnificence)

extraordinary, glorious, grand, splendid, superb, wonderful

For example, if you say that something or someone is magnificent, you mean that you think it is extremely good.

It is a magnificent country house in wooded grounds.

Impressive, adjective (impressively, impress, impression)

awe-inspiring, grand, moving, thrilling; something that is impressive impresses you.

For example, it is great in size or in degree or is done with a great deal of skill.

It is an impressive achievement.

Impress, verb (impresses, impressed, impressing)

affect, influence, persuade, sway

For example, if something impresses you, you feel great admiration for it.

What impressed him most was their speed.

Deal, noun (dealer, dealings, dealt, dealing)

agreement, arrangement, bargain, contract, understanding

For example, if you say that you need or have a great deal of or a good deal of a particular thing, you are emphasizing that you need or have a lot of it.

I'm in a position to save you a good deal of time.

Throughout, preposition

For example, if you say that something happens throughout a particular time, you mean that it happens during the whole of that period.

The national tragedy of rival groups killing each other continued throughout 1990.

Tragedy, noun (tragic, tragically)

calamity, catastrophe, disaster, misadventure

For example, a tragedy is an extremely sad event or situation.

They have suffered an enormous personal tragedy.

Involve, verb (involved, involves, involving, involvement)

comprise, consist of, contain, entail, include

For example, if a situation or activity involves something, that thing is a necessary part or consequence of it.

Running a kitchen involves a great deal of discipline and speed.

Run, verb (runs, ran, running)

function, operate, administer, control, govern, and manage

For example, if you run something such as a business or an activity, you are in charge of it or you organize it.

His stepfather ran a prosperous paint business.

Discipline, noun (disciplines, disciplining, disciplined)

chastisement, correction, punishment, control, moderation, restraint

Order and discipline have been placed in the hands of headmasters and governing bodies.

Consequence, noun (consequences, consequently)

aftermath, effect, price, repercussion, result

For example, the consequences of something are the results or effects of it.

Her lawyer said she understood the consequence of her actions and was prepared to go to jail.

Step-father, noun

Someone's step-father is the man who has married a child's mother after the death or divorce of his father.

Her step-father has been married to her mother for five years.

Enormous, adj (enormously)

big, giant, huge, immense, jumbo, tremendous

For example, something that is enormous is extremely large in size or amount.

The main bedroom is enormous.

Rival, noun, verb (rivals, rivaling, rivaled)

challenger, competitor, contender, adversary, enemy

For example, your rival is a person, business, or organization against whom you are competing or fighting in the same area or for the same things.

He eliminated his rival in brutal struggle for power.

Compete, verb (competes, competing, competed, competition, competitive, competitively)

contend, contest, rival, vie, combat, fight, strive, oppose;

For example, when one firm or country competes with another, it tries to get people to buy its own goods in preference to those of the other firms or countries. You can also say that two firms or countries compete.

The banks have long competed with American Express's charge cards and various store cards.

For example, if you compete with someone for something, you try to get it for yourself and stop the other person from getting it. You can also say that two people compete for something.

Kangaroos compete with sheep and cattle for sparse supplies of food and water.

Preference, noun (preferences prefer, preferred, preferably)

choice, desire, favorite, option, selection

For example, if you have a preference for something, you would like to have or do that thing rather than something else.

Many of these products were bought because customers had a preference for them.

In preference to, noun phrase

If you choose one thing in preference to another, you choose it instead because it is better.

Many people choose the train in preference to driving.

Engrave, verb (engraves, engraving, engraved)

For example, if you engrave something with a design of words, or if you engrave a design or words on it, you cut the design or words onto its surface.

Your wedding ring can be engraved with a personal inscription at no extra cost.

Inscription, noun (inscriptions, inscribe)

carving, engraving, epitaph, etching

For example, an inscription is writing carved into something made of stone or metal, for example a gravestone or metal.

Above its doors was a Latin inscription

Brutal, adj (brutalize, brutality, brutally)

vicious, savage, cruel, fierce, harsh, inhuman, ruthless, unmerciful, unforgiving

For example, a brutal act or person is cruel and violent.

He was the victim of a very brutal murder.

Struggle, verb (struggles, struggling, struggled)

attempt, endeavor, offer, seek, strive, undertake

For example, if you struggle to do something, you try hard to do it, even though other people or things may be making it difficult for you to succeed.

They had to struggle against all kinds of adversity.

For example, if two people struggle with each other, they fight.

She screamed at him to 'stop it' as they struggled on the ground.

(noun) He died in a struggle with prison officers less than two months after coming Britain.

Adversity, noun (adversities, adversary, adversely)

misfortune, mischance, mishap, tragedy

For example, adversity is a very difficult or unfavorable situation.

He showed courage in adversity.

Awkward, adjective (awkwardness, awkwardly)

bumbling, clumsy, halting, heavy-handed, inept, lumbering, uncomfortable

For example, a situation in which you feel so embarrassed that you are not sure what to do or say.

The more she tried to get out of the situation, the more awkward it became.

Make things awkward, verb phrase

For example, to cause trouble and make a situation very difficult

She could make things very awkward if she wanted to.

Prison, noun (prisons, imprison, imprisoned)

can, cooler, lockup, pen, penitentiary, reformatory, stockade

For example, a prison is a building where criminals are kept as punishment or where people accused of crime are kept before their trial.

After being convicted of bank robbery, she was sent to prison.

Favorable, adjective (favors, favorably, favorite)

agreeable, good, grateful, gratifying, nice, pleasing, pleasurable, welcome

For example, if your opinion or your reaction is favorable to something, you agree with it and approve of it. If something makes a favorable impression on you or is a favorable to you, you like it and approve of it.

His ability to talk while eating fast made a favorable impression on his dining companions.

Accuse, verb (accuses, accusing, accused, accusation)

arraign, charge, criminalize, impeach, incriminate, inculcate, indict

For example, if you accuse someone of doing something wrong or dishonest, you say or tell them that you believe that they did.

My mom was really upset because he was accusing her of having an affair with another man.

Approve, verb (approves, approving, approved, approval)

accept favor, go for, accredit, certify, endorse, OK (*or* okay), sanction

For example, if you approve of an action, event, or suggestion, you like it or are pleased.

Not everyone approved of the festival.

Upset, adj (upsets, upsetting, and upset)

agitate, bother, discombobulate, disquiet, disturb, flurry, fluster, perturb, unhinge

For example, if you are upset, you are unhappy or disappointed because something unpleasant has happened to you.

After she died, I felt very, very upset.

For example, if something upsets you, it makes you feel worried or unhappy.

The whole incident had upset me and my fiancée terribly.

Incident, noun (incidents, incidentally)

occurrence, circumstance, episode, event, happening, occasion, things

For example, an incident is something that happens, especially something that is unusual.

These incidents were the latest in a series of disputes between two nations.

Dispute, noun (disputes, disputing, disputed)

argue, bicker, hassle, quibble, squabble, wrangle

For example, a dispute is an argument or disagreement between people or groups.

They have won previous pay disputes with the government.

(verb) If you dispute a fact, statement, or theory, you say that it is incorrect or untrue.

He disputed the allegations.

Allegation, noun (allegations allege, alleged, allegedly)

For example, an allegation is a statement saying that someone has done something wrong.

The company denied the allegation.

Affair, noun (affairs)

business, concern, matter, shooting match, thing

For example, if an event or series of events has been mentioned and you want to talk about it again, you can refer to it as the affair.

The government has mishandled the whole affair.

Mishandle, verb (mishandles, mishandling, mishandled)

abuse, misapply, disapprove, misuse, pervert, prostitute

For example, if you say that someone has mishandled something, you are critical of them because you think they have dealt with it badly.

She completely mishandled an important project purely through lack of attention.

Critical, adjective (criticism, criticize, critique)

acute, climacteric, crucial, desperate, dire

For example, a critical time, factor, or situation is extremely important.

The incident happened at a critical point in the campaign.

For example, a critical situation is very serious and dangerous.

The German authorities are considering an airlift if the situation becomes critical. He is in critical condition after the auto accident.

For example, to be critical of someone or something means to criticize them.

His report is highly critical of the trial judge.

Campaign, noun (campaign, campaigning, campaigned)

For example, a campaign is a planned set of activities that people carry out over a period of time in order to achieve something such as social or political change.

During his election campaign he promised to put the economy back on its feet.

(verb) If someone campaigns for something, they carry out a planned set of activities over a period of time in order to achieve their aim.

We are campaigning to improve the legal status of woman.

Carry out administer, administrate, execute, govern, render

For example, if you carry out a threat, task, or instruction, you do it or act according to it.

Police say that they believe the attacks were carried out by nationalists. Commitments have been made with little intention of carrying them out.

Election, noun (elections, elect, electioneer, elective)

choice, alternative, option, preference, selection

For example, an election is a process in which people vote to choose a person or group of people to hold an official position.

The final election results will be announced on Friday.

Legal, adjective (legalize, legality, legally)

lawful, innocent, legitimate, licit

For example, legal is used to describe things that relate to the law.

He vowed to take legal action. I sought legal advice on this.

Threat, noun (threaten, threatened, threatening)

danger, menace, liability

For example, a threat to a person or things is a danger that something unpleasant might happen to them. A threat is also the cause of this danger.

Some couples see single women as a threat to their relationships.

Secure, verb (secures, securing, secured)

cover, fend, guard, protect, safeguard, screen, shield

For example, if you secure something that you want or need, you obtain it, often after a lot of effort. Secure is used in a formal context.

Federal leaders continued their efforts to secure a ceasefire.

Obtain, verb (obtains, obtaining, obtained)

acquire, annex, chalk up, gain, have, pick up, procure, secure, win

For example, to obtain something means to get it or achieve it.

The perfect body has always been difficult to obtain.

Cease-fire, noun (cease-fires)

truce, armistice

For example, a cease-fire is an agreement in which countries or groups of people that are fighting each other agree to stop fighting.

They have agreed to a cease-fire after three years of conflict.

Investigate, noun (investigates, investigating, investigated, investigation)

explore, delve (into), dig (into), go (into), inquire (into), look (into), probe, prospect, sift

For example, if someone, especially an official, investigates an event, situation, or claim, he tries to find out what happened or what the truth is.

Police are still investigating how the accident happened.

Dispatch, verb (dispatches, dispatching, dispatched)

address, consign, forward, remit, route, ship, transmit

For example, if you dispatch someone to a place, you send him there for a particular reason.

The Italian government was preparing to dispatch 4,000 soldiers to search the island.

Replacement, noun (replace, replaced)

alternate, backup, fill-in, pinch hitter, stand-in, sub, surrogate

For example, if you refer to the replacement of one thing by another, you mean that second thing takes the place of the first.

Let's investigate the problem before we dispatch replacements....the replacement of damaged or lost books.

Substitute, verb (substitutes, substituting, substituted)

exchange, change, swap, switch, trade

For example, if you substitute one thing for another, or if one thing substitutes for another, it takes the place or performs the function of the other thing.

They were substituting violence for dialog.

Vague, adjective (vaguer, vaguest)

ambiguous, equivocal, opaque, uncertain, unclear, inexplicit, unintelligible

For example, if something written or spoken is vague, it does not explain or express things clearly.

A lot of talk was apparently vague and general.

Apparently, adverb (apparent)

ostensibly, evidently, officially, outwardly, professedly, seemingly

For example, you use apparently to indicate that the information you are giving is something that you have heard, but you are not certain that it is true.

Apparently, the girls are not amused by the whole business.

Amuse, verb (amuses, amusing, amused)

divert, entertain, recreate

For example, if something amuses you, it makes you want to laugh and smile.

The thought seemed to amuse him.

Municipal, adjective (municipality)

urban, city

For example, municipal means associated with or belonging to a city or town.

A new mayor will be elected in the upcoming municipal election.

Upcoming, adjective

approaching, coming, nearing, oncoming, forthcoming

For example, upcoming events will happen in the near future.

We'll face a tough fight in the upcoming election.

Vintage, adjective (vintages)

old fashioned, antiquated, antique, archaic, dated, old, outdated, outmoded

For example, you can use vintage to describe something which is the best and most typical of its kind.

Are you interested in vintage automobiles?

Veritable, adjective

authentic, bona fide, genuine, indubitable, real, sure-enough, true, undoubted

For example, you can use veritable to emphasize the size, amount, or nature of something.

There was a veritable army of security guards.

Anthropology, noun (anthropological)

For example, anthropology is the scientific study of people, society, and culture.

My major is Anthropology.

Fascinate, verb (fascinates, fascinating, fascinated, fascination)

grip, hold, mesmerize, spellbind, enthrall

For example, if something fascinates you, it interests and delights you so much that your thoughts tend to concentrate on it.

Politics fascinated Franklin's father.

Belongings, noun

effects, goods, movables, things, possessions

For example, your belongings are the things that you own, especially things that are small enough to be carried.

I collected my belongings and left.

Lease, noun (leases, leasing, leased)

hire, charter, let, rent

For example, a lease is a legal agreement by which the owner of a building, a piece of land, or a car allows someone else to use it for a period of time in return for money.

We've taken out a lease on an office building. (take out a lease = sign a lease so that you can rent something)

Eviction, noun (evictions)

kicks out

For example, eviction is the act or process of officially forcing someone to leave a house or piece of land.

He was facing eviction, along with his wife and family.

Along with, preposition

For example, you use along with to mention someone or something else that is also involved in an action or situation.

He was facing eviction, along with his wife and family.

Vacate, verb (vacates, vacating, vacated)

abandon, give up, part (with or from), relinquish, leave, quit

For example, if you vacate a place or a job, you leave it or give it up, making it available for another person.

He vacated the apartment and went to stay with an uncle.

Analyze, verb (analyzes, analyzing, analyzed)

divide, part, separate, assort, classify, pigeonhole, examine, inspect, investigate, scrutinize

For example, if you analyze something, you consider it carefully or use statistical methods in order to fully understand it.

This book teaches you how to analyze what is causing the stress in your life.

Term (in terms of), prepositional phrase

If you explain or judge something in terms of a particular fact or event, you are only interested in its connection with that fact or event.

US foreign policy tended to see everything in terms of the Vietnam War.

Challenging, adjective

arduous, effortful, labored, laborious, strenuous, toilsome, uphill

For example, a challenging task or job requires great effort and determination.

Mike found a challenging job as a computer programmer.

Unrestrained, adjective

excessive, immoderate, inordinate, intemperate, overindulgent

For example, if you describe someone's behavior as unrestrained, you mean that it is extreme or intense because he/she is expressing his/her feelings strongly or loudly.

There was unrestrained joy on the faces of people.

Intense, adjective

concentrated, desperate, exquisite, fierce, furious, terrible, vehement, vicious, and violent

For example, intense is used to describe something that is very great or extreme in strength or degree.

Suddenly, the room filled with intense light.

Hypertension, noun

For example, hypertension is a medical condition in which a person has high blood pressure.

He suffered from hypertension and accompanying heart problems.

Accompany, verb (accompanies, accompanying, accompanied, accompaniment)

attend, bear, bring, carry, chaperon, companion, company, conduct, convoy, escort

For example, if one thing accompanies another, it happens or exists at the same time, or as a result of it. (Formal)

The proposal was instantly voted through with two to one in favor, accompanied by enthusiastic applause.

Proposal, noun (proposals)

invitation, proffer, proposition, suggestion

For example, a proposal is a plan or an idea, often a formal or written one, which is suggested for people to think about and decide upon.

A proposal outlining how the new voting district would be drawn up was submitted to the City Council.

In favor, prepositional phrase

For example, if someone or something is in favor, people like or support it. If they are out of favor, people no longer like or support them.

She's very much in favor with the management at the moment.

Applause, noun (applaud, applauded)

cheers, hand, ovation, round, cheering, clapping, rooting

For example, applause is the noise made by a group of people clapping their hands to show approval.

They greeted him with thunderous applause.

Constitution, noun (constitutions)

The constitution of a country or organization is the system of laws which formally states the people's rights and duties.

The Constitution of the United States was written in 1776.

Cope, verb (copes, coping, coped)

deal with, overcome

For example, if you cope with a problem or a task, you deal with it successfully.

It was amazing how my mother coped with bringing up three children on less than three hundred dollars a week.

Deal with, verb phrase

treat, handle, play, serve, take, use

For example, when you deal with something or someone that needs attention, you give your attention to it, and often solve a problem or make a decision concerning it.

The president said the agreement would allow other vital problems to be dealt with.

Vital, adjective (vitality, vitalize, vitalized)

essential, cardinal, constitutive, fundamental

For example, if you say that something is vital, you mean that it is necessary or important.

The port is vital to supply relief to millions of droughts victims.

Pupil, noun (pupils)

students

For example, the pupils of a school are the children who go to it.

I teach private pupils on Wednesday.

Standardize, verb (standard, standardizes, standardizing, standardized)

For example, to standardize things means to change them so that they all are the same.

He feels standardized education does not benefit those children who are either below or above average.

Concrete, adjective

For example, you use concrete to indicate that something is definite and specific.

There were no concrete proposals on the table.

Incentive, noun (incentives)

stimulus, catalyst, goad, impetus, impulse, incitation, incitement, motivation, stimulant

For example, if something is an incentive to do something, it encourages you to do it.

There is little or no incentive to adopt such measures.

Definite, adjective (definitely, definiteness, definitive)

circumscribed, determinate, fixed, limited, narrow, precise, restricted

Definite evidence or information is true, rather than being someone's opinion or guesses.

We didn't have any definite proof.

Assumption, noun (assume, assumed, assumptions)

presumption, presupposition

If you make an assumption that something is true, or will happen, you accept that it is true or will happen, often without any real proof.

Dr. Subroto questioned the scientific assumption on which the global warming theory is based.

Mediate, verb (mediates, mediating, mediated, mediator)

interpose, intercede, interfere, intermediate, intervene, step in

For example, if someone mediates between two groups of people, he tries to settle an agreement by talking to both groups to find out which things they can both agree.

United Nations officials have mediated a series of peace meetings between the two sides.

Settle, verb (settles, settling, settled, settlement)

calm, allay, becalm, compose, lull, quiet, quieted, soothe, still, tranquilize

If people settle an argument or problem, or if someone settles it, they solve it, for example by making a decision about who is right or about what to do.

They agreed to try to settle their dispute by negotiation.

Dispute, noun (disputes)

argue, bicker, hassle, quibble, squabble, wrangle

A dispute is an agreement or disagreement between people or groups.

For example, *negotiators failed to resolve the bitter dispute between the European*

Community and the United States.

Capital, adjective (capitalize, capitalism)

chief, dominant, main, major, number one, outstanding, predominant, principal

For example, a capital offense is one that is so serious that the person can be put to death.

His assassinating the Senator of New York was a capital crime, which, if found guilty, will qualify him for the death penalty.

Offense, noun (offenses)

attack, aggression, assaillment, assault, offensive, downfall, onset, onslaught

For example, an offense is a crime that breaks a particular law and requires a punishment.

A criminal offense is an act committed by someone which is in direct violation of the laws of a particular country.

Instill, verb (instills, instilling, instilled)

implant, inculcate, infix, inseminate

For example, if you instill an idea or feeling into someone, especially over a period of time, you make them think it or feel it.

They hope that their work will instill a sense of responsibility in children.

Execute, verb (executes, executing, executed, execution, executively)

assassinate, bump off, cool, do in, dust off, finish, knock off, liquidate, put away

For example, to execute someone means to kill him/her as a punishment for a serious crime.

This boy's father had been executed for conspiring against the throne.

Conspire, verb (conspires, conspiring, conspired)

plot, cogitate, collogue, collude, connive, contrive, devise, intrigue, machinate, scheme

For example, if two or more people or groups conspire to do something illegal or harmful, they make a secret agreement to do it.

They'd conspired to overthrow the government.

Pilot, verb (plots, plotting, plotted)

collude, connive, conspire, contrive, devise, intrigue, machinate, scheme

For example, if people plot to do something or plot something illegal or wrong, they plan secretly to do it.

Prosecutors in the trial allege the defendants plotted to overthrow the government.

Throne, noun (thrones)

The throne: the position and power of being a king or queen.

In 1913 when George V was on the throne, his country's people suffered from poverty.

Overthrow, verb (overthrows, overthrowing, overthrew, overthrown)

overturn, knock over, upset, tip (over), topple, turn over, upset

For example, when a government or leader is overthrown, he/she is removed by force.

That government was overthrown in a military coup three years ago.

Coup, noun (coups)

overthrow, revolution, insurrection, revolt

For example, when there is a coup, a group of people seizes power in a country.

Bolivia has experienced several military coups over the last few decades.

Prosecutor, noun (prosecutors)

For example, in some countries, a prosecutor is a lawyer or official who brings charges against someone or tries to prove in a trial that he/she is guilty.

Due to a preponderance of evidence presented by the prosecutor, the man was found guilty of murder.

Allege, verb (alleges, alleging, alleged)

adduce, advance, cite, lay, offer, present

For example, if you allege that something bad is true, you say it but do not prove it.

It was alleged that policeman had accepted bribes.

Defendant, noun (defendants)

For example, a defendant is a person who has been accused of breaking the law and is being tried in court.

We find the defendant not guilty of the charges brought against him by the prosecutor.

Seize, verb (seizes, seizing, seized)

appropriate, annex, arrogate, commandeer, confiscate, expropriate, preempt, sequester

For example, when a group or people seize a place or seize control of it, they take control of it quickly and suddenly, using force.

Army officers plotted a failed attempt yesterday to seize power.

Charge, noun

For example, an official statement made by the police saying that someone is guilty of a crime.

The charge against her was arson.

Arson, noun

For example, arson is the crime of deliberately setting fire to a building or vehicle.

They vented their anger by carrying out arson attacks.

Bribe, noun (bribes, bribing, bribed)

buy, buy off, fix, have

For example, a bribe is a sum of money or something valuable that one person offers or gives to another in order to persuade him or her to do something.

He was being investigated for receiving bribes.

Prescription, noun (prescriptions)

For example, a prescription is a medicine which a doctor has told you to take.

Can I discontinue taking my prescription? I feel fine now.

Relapse, verb (relapses, relapsing, relapsed)

lapse, backslide, recidivate

For example, if a sick person relapses, his health suddenly gets worse after it had been improving.

In 90 percent of cases, the patient will relapse within six months.

Surgery, noun (surgeries)

For example, surgery is medical treatment in which someone's body is cut open so that a doctor can repair, remove, or replace a diseased or damaged part.

The doctor performed surgery on the heart-diseased patient.

Medical, adjective (medically, medicals)

physician, doc, doctor, medico

For example, medical means relating to illness and injuries and to their treatment or prevention.

Several police officers received medical treatment for cuts and bruises.

Treatment, noun (treatments)

For example, treatment is medical attention given to a sick or injured person or animal.

Many patients are not getting the medical treatment they need.

Bruise, noun (bruises, bruising, bruised)

boo-boo, abrasion, scrape, scratch

For example, a bruise is an injury which appears as a purple mark on your body, although the skin is not broken.

How did you get that bruise on your cheek?

Symptom, noun (symptoms)

indication, evidence, index, indicia, mark, sign, significant, token.

For example, a symptom of an illness is something wrong with your body or mind that is a sign of the illness.

I thought I ought to let you know my symptoms have already been relieved.

Specify, noun (specifies, specifying, specified, specific, specifically)

cite, instance, name

For example, if you specify something, you give information about what is required or should happen in a certain situation.

He has not specified what action he would like them to take.

Estate, noun (estates)

acres, land, manor

For example, someone's estate is all the money and property that he/she leaves behind them when he/she dies.

Mrs. Green's specified that her estate be auctioned off for her charity.

Executor, noun (executors)

For example, an executor is someone whose name you write in your will when you want him to be responsible for dealing with your affairs after your death.

Who is the executor?

Committee, noun (committees)

For example, a committee is a group of people who meet to make decisions or plans for a large group or organization that they represent.

Has the acquisition committee decided which precision cutting machines to buy?

Acquisition, noun (acquisitions)

acquirement, accomplishment, achievement, attainment, finish

For example, if a company or business person makes an acquisition, he/she buys another company or part of that company.

What will turn around our business is the acquisition of a profitable paper recycling company.

Precision, noun (preciseness, precise)

accuracy, correctness, definiteness, definitiveness, definitude, exactitude, exactness, preciseness

For example, if you do something with precision, you do it exactly as it should be done.

The interior is planned with a precision the military would be proud of.

Adjective: made or done in a very exact way

The wheat is milled with precision grinding.

Profitable, adjective

advantageous, gainful, good, lucrative, moneymaking, paying, remunerative, well-paying, worthwhile

For example, a profitable organization or practice makes a profit.

Drug manufacturing is the most profitable business in America.

Interior, noun (interiors)

inner, inner more, inside, internal, intestine, inward

For example, the interior of a country or continent is the central area or it.

The Yangzi River would give access to much of China's interior.

Grind, verb (grinds, grinding, and ground)

drudge, grub, muck, plod, slave, slog, toil

For example, if you grind a substance such as corn, you crush it between two hard surfaces or with a machine until it becomes a fine powder.

Store the peppercorns in an airtight container and grind the pepper as you need it.

Clarify, verb (clarifies, clarifying, clarified)

clear, clear up, elucidate, explain, illuminate, illustrate, explain

For example, to clarify something means to make it easier to understand, usually by explaining it in more detail. (Formal)

Thank you for writing and allowing me to clarify the present position.

Specification, noun (specifications)

requirement, guideline

For example, a specification is a requirement which is clearly stated, for example about the necessary features in the design of something.

I'd like to buy some land and have a house built to my specification.

Contender, noun (contenders)

competitor

For example, a contender is someone who takes part in a competition.

Her trainer said yesterday that she would be a strong contender for a place in Britain's Olympic squad.

Retard, verb (retards, retarding, retarded)

delay, decelerate, detain, hang up, mire, set back, slacken, slow (up or down)

For example, if something retards a process, or the development of something, it makes it happen more slowly. (Formal)

Continuing violence will retard negotiations over the country's future.

Extinction, noun

For example, the extinction of a species of animal or plant is the death of all its remaining living members.

An operation is beginning to try to save a species of crocodile from extinction.

Encroach, verb (encroaches, encroaching, encroached)

trespass, entrench, infringe, invade

For example, if one thing encroaches on another, the first thing spreads or becomes stronger, and slowly begins to restrict the power, range, or effectiveness of the second.

Any attempt to encroach upon presidential prerogatives in this domain was quickly and firmly resisted.

Spread, verb (spreads, spreading, spread)

circulate, diffuse, disperse, disseminate, distribute, propagate, radiate, strew

For example, if something spreads or is spread by people, it gradually reaches or affects a larger and larger area or more and more people.

News of the large earthquake quickly spread across the nation.

Restrict, verb (restricts, restricting, restricted)

limit, bar, circumscribe, confine, delimit, delimitate

For example, if you restrict something, you put a limit on it in order to prevent it from becoming too great.

The French, I believe, restrict Japanese imports to a maximum of three percent of their market.

Presidential, adjective

For example, Presidential activities or things relate or belong to a president.

There are several presidential candidates.

Domain, noun (domains)

field, dominion, province, sphere, terrain, territory, walk

For example, a domain is a particular field of thought, activity, or interest, especially one over which someone has control, influence, or rights. (Formal)

This information should be in the public domain.

Resist, verb (resists, resisting, resisted)

buck, combat, contest, dispute, duel, fight, oppose, repel, traverse, withstand; if you resist something such as a change, you refuse to accept it and try to prevent it.

They resisted our attempt to modernize the distribution of books.

Candidate, noun (candidates)

applicant, aspirant, hopeful, seeker

For example, a candidate is someone who is being considered for a position, for example someone who is running in an election or applying for a job.

He is a candidate for the office of Governor.

Deliberate, adjective (deliberates, deliberating, deliberated)

planned, projected, schemed, calculated, careful, meticulous, scrupulous, foresighted, forethoughtful, provident, prudent

For example, if you do something that is deliberate, you planned or decided to do it beforehand, and so it happens on purpose rather than by chance.

Witnesses say the firing was deliberate and sustained.

Straighten up, straighten (straightens, straightening, straightened)

order, arrange, array, dispose, marshal, methodize, systemize

For example, if you straighten something, you make it tidy or put it in its proper position.

She sipped her coffee and straightened a picture on the wall.

Sip, verb (sips, sipping, sipped)

drink, imbibe, quaff, sup (off or up), swallow, toss

For example, if you sip a drink or sip at it, you drink by taking just a small amount at a time.

He sipped at the glass and then put it down.

Branch, noun (branches, branching, branched) limb, bough

For example, the branches of a tree are the parts that grow out from its trunk and have leaves, flowers, or fruit, growing on them.

They're cutting a branch off the tree.

Trunk, noun (trunks)

For example, the trunk of a tree is the large main stem from which the branches grow.

The house was built beside the gnarled trunk of a birch tree.

Stem, noun (stems, stemming, stemmed)

For example, the stem of a plant is the thin, upright part on which the flowers and leaves grow.

He stepped down, cut the stem for her with his knife, and handed her the flower.

Gnarled, adjective

For example, a gnarled tree is twisted and strangely shaped because it is old.

There is a large and beautiful garden full of ancient gnarled trees.

Ancient, adjective

aged, age-old, antediluvian, antique, hoary, old, timeworn, venerable, obsolete

For example, ancient means very old or something which has existed for a long time.

They have practiced ancient Jewish traditions all of their lives.

Ladder, noun (ladders)

For example, a ladder is a piece of equipment used for climbing up something or down from something. It consists of two long pieces of wood, metal, or rope with steps fixed between them.

He is doing some work on a ladder.

Put out, verb

extinguish, douse, out, quench, squelch

For example, if you put out a fire, candle, or cigarette, you make it stop burning.

Fireman tried to free the injured and put out the blaze.

Blaze, noun (blazes, blazing, blazed)

blare, flame, flare, glare, glow

For example, a blaze is a large fire which is difficult to control and which destroys a lot of things.

Two firemen were hurt in a blaze which swept through a tower clock last night.

Sweep, verb (sweeps, sweeping, swept)

circulate, diffuse, disperse, disseminate, distribute

For example, if events, ideas, or beliefs sweep through a place, they spread quickly.

A flu epidemic is sweeping through Moscow.

Polish, noun (polishes, polishing, polished)

luster, glaze, glint, gloss, sheen, shine

For example, polish is a substance that you put on the surface of an object in order to clean it and make it shine.

She used furniture polish to restore her dance shoes back to their original color.

Rub, verb (rubs, rubbing, rubbed)

buff, burnish, furbish, glance, glaze, gloss, shine

For example, if you rub an object or a surface, you move a cloth backward and forward over it in order to clean or dry it.

She took off her glasses and rubbed them hard.

Participant, noun (participants)

actor, partaker, participator, party, sharer

For example, the participants in an activity are the people who take part in it.

The speaker gave all participants an opportunity to voice their opinions.

Instrument, noun (instruments)

implement, tool, utensil

For example, a musical instrument is an object such as a piano, guitar, or flute, which you play in order to produce music.

Learning a musical instrument introduces a child to an understanding of music.

Make a point, verb phrase

For example, to make a point is to give a fact, idea, or opinion.

One person is making a point to the others.

Row, noun (rows)

line, file, queue, rank, string, tier

For example, a row of things or people is a number of them arranged in a line.

The men are arranging school desks and chairs into neat rows.

Neat, adjective (neater, neatest)

orderly, prim, shipshape, snug, spick-and-span, tidy, trim, uncluttered, well-groomed

For example, a neat object, part of the body, or shape is quite small and has a smooth outline.

He folded his clothes in a neat pile on the chair.

Overpass, noun (overpasses)

For example, an overpass is a structure which carries one road over the top of another one.

The highway ends at the overpass.

Pull over, verb

For example, when a vehicle or driver pulls over, the vehicle moves closer to the side of the road and stops there.

Some cars have pulled over to the side of the road.

Pile, noun (piles, piling, piled)

drift, heap, hill, mass, mound, mountain, mow, pyramid

For example, a pile of thing is a quantity of things that have been put neatly somewhere so that each thing is on top of the one below.

There is a pile of boxes in the garage.

(verb) If you pile things somewhere, you put them there so that they form a pile.

He was piling clothes into the case.

Lean, verb (leans, leaning, leaned, leant)

For example, if you lean on or against someone or something, you rest against it so that it partly supports your weight. If you lean an object on or against something, you place the object so that it is partly supported by that thing.

She was feeling tired and was glad to lean against him.

(adjective) Lean can also mean to become thin or to lose weight.

After three weeks of long distance running and weight-lifting, she became very lean.

Mow, verb (mows, mowing, mowed, mown)

clip, crop, cut

For example, if you mow an area of grass, you cut it using a machine called lawn mower.

He continued to mow the lawn and do other routine chores.

Lawn, noun (lawns)

For example, a lawn is an area of grass that is kept cut short and is usually part of someone's garden or backyard, or part of a park.

They were sitting on the lawn under a large beech tree.

Routine, noun (routines)

ordinary, everyday, plain, plain Jane, quotidian, unremarkable, usual, workaday

For example, you use routine to describe activities that are done as a normal part of a job or process.

The operator has to be able to carry out routine maintenance of the machine.

Chore, noun (chores)

task, assignment, duty, job

For example, chores are tasks such as cleaning, washing, and ironing that have to be done regularly at home.

My husband and I both go out to work, so we share the household chores.

Due, adjective (dues)

unpaid, mature, outstanding, overdue, owing, payable, unsettled

For example, if something is due at a particular time, it is expected to happen, be done, or arrive at the time.

The rent is due at the end of the month.

Unlikely, adjective (unlikeliest)

improbable, doubtful, dubious, questionable

For example, if you say that something is unlikely to happen or unlikely to be true, you believe that it will not happen or that it is not true, although you are not completely sure.

Would Ms. Wines be free to attend this meeting? It's unlikely.

Tablet, noun (tablets)

For example, a tablet is a small round mass of medicine which you swallow.

It is never a good idea to take sleeping tablets regularly for this kind of wakefulness.

Swallow, verb (swallows, swallowing, swallowed)

down, take

For example, if you swallow something, you cause it go from your mouth down into your stomach.

You are asked to swallow a capsule containing vitamin B.

Pharmacy, noun (pharmacies)

For example, a pharmacy is a department where medicines are sold or given.

Make sure you understand exactly how to take your medicines before you leave the pharmacy.

Prospect, noun (prospects, prospecting, prospected)

vista, lookout, outlook, perspective

For example, if there is some prospect of something happening, there is a possibility that it will happen.

What are my promotion prospects in this job?

In charge, prepositional phrase

For example, if you are in charge in a particular situation, you are the most senior person and have control over something or someone.

Who's in charge here?

Anniversary, noun (anniversaries)

For example, an anniversary is a date which is remembered or celebrated because a special event happened on that date in a previous year.

Vietnam is celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ho Chi Minh.

Lower, verb (lowers, lowering, lowered)

abate, bate, close, diminish, drain (away), dwindle, lessen, peak (out), peter (out), rebate, recede, reduce, taper, taper off

For example, if you lower something, you make it less in amount, degree, value, or quality.

The central Bank has lowered interest rates by two percent.

Unanimous, adjective (unanimously)

agreed, agreeing, concordant, concurrent, harmonious

For example, when a group of people are unanimous, they all agree about something or all vote for the same thing.

The people were unanimous in their condemnation of the proposals.

Editor, noun (editors)

For example, an editor is the person who is in charge of a newspaper or magazine and who decides what will be published in each edition of it.

The Los Angeles Times newspaper will hire a new editor next month.

Condemnation, noun (condemnations)

For example, condemnation is the act of saying that something or someone is bad and unacceptable.

There was widespread condemnation of Saturday's killings.

Be on one's own, verb phrase

For example, when you are on your own, you are alone.

Speaker A: "Who's going to the overseas branch with you?"

Speaker B: "I'll be on my own."

Shipping, noun

direct, freight, export

For example, shipping is the transporting of cargo as a business, especially on ships.

The international shipping industry performs seventy-five percent of the world's exports and imports.

Valid, adjective

cogent, convincing, satisfactory, satisfying, solid, sound, telling

For example, if a ticket or other document is valid, it can be used and will be accepted by people in authority.

How long is the warranty valid?

Basement, noun (basements)

base, bed, bottom, footing, foundation, ground, groundwork, substructure, understructure

For example, the basement of a building is a floor built partly or completely below ground level.

They bought an old schoolhouse to live in and built a workshop in the basement.

Invoice, noun (invoices, invoicing, invoiced)

bill, account, reckoning, score, statement, tab

For example, an invoice is a document that lists goods that have been supplied or services that have been done and says how much money you owe for them.

We will then send you an invoice for the total course fees.

Budget, noun (budgets, budgeting, budgeted)

aggregate, amount, bulk, quantity, quantum, total

For example, your budget is the amount of money that you have available to spend.

This year's budget for AIDS prevention probably won't be much higher.

Initiative, noun (initiatives)

enterprise, ambition, drive, get-up-and-go, push

For example, an initiative is an important act or statement that is intended to solve a problem.

The Government initiative to help young people has been inadequate.

Revision, noun (revisions)

recession, redraft, review, revisal, revise

For example, to make a revision of something that is written or something that has been decided means to make changes to it in order to improve it, make it more modern, or make it more suitable for a particular purpose.

The government will also make a number of revisions to reflect better data since the original figures were released.

Inadequate, adjective (inadequately)

defective, incomplete, insufficient, lacking, incomplete, wanting

For example, if something is inadequate, there is not enough of it or it is not good enough.

Supplies of food and medicines are inadequate.

Reflect, verb (reflects, reflecting, reflected)

think, cerebrated, cogitate, deliberate, reason, speculate

For example, if something reflects an attitude or situation, it shows that the attitude or situation exists or it shows what it is like.

The low value of the dollar reflects growing concern about the U.S.

Ensure, verb (ensures, ensuring, ensured)

assure, cinch, insure, secure, make sure

For example, to ensure something, or to ensure that something happens, means to make certain that it happens.

Ensure that it is written into your contract.

Reserve, noun (reserves)

backlog, hoard, inventory, nest egg, reservoir, stock, stockpile, store

For example, a reserve is a supply of something that is available for use when it is needed.

A friend can be a reserve of help in times of trouble.

Subcontractor, noun (subcontractors)

For example, a subcontractor is a person or firm that has a contract to do part of job which another firm is responsible for.

The company was considered as a possible subcontractor to build the airplane.

Subject, verb (subjects, subjecting, subjected)

expose, lay (open), uncover

For example, if you subject someone to something unpleasant, you make him/her experience it.

The budget proposal you wrote contains some excellent initiatives, but we made a few revisions that would ensure we are not subjecting ourselves to unrealistic price expectations from the subcontractors.

Contract, noun (contracts, contracting, contracted)

agreement, bargain, bond, compact, convention, covenant, pact, transaction

For example, a contract is a legal agreement, usually between two companies or between an employer and employee which involves doing work for a stated sum of money.

The company won a prestigious contract for work on Europe's tallest building.

Prestigious, adjective (prestige, prestigiously)

famous, celebrated, distinguished, eminent, famed, illustrious, notable, prominent, renowned

For example, a prestigious institution, job, or activity is respected and admired by people.

It's one of the best equipped and most prestigious schools in the country.

Equip, verb (equips, equipping, equipped)

furnish, accouter, appoint, arm, fit out, gear, outfit, rig, turn out

For example, if you equip a person or things with something, you give him/her the tools or equipment that are needed.

Thanks to some endowments from some private companies, this laboratory is a well-equipped research building.

Beating, noun (beatings)

defeat, debacle, licking, overthrow, rout, thrashing

For example, if someone is given a beating, he/she is hit hard many times, especially with something such as a stick.

The team secured pictures of prisoners showing signs of severe beatings.

Abuse, noun (abuses, abusing, abused)

contumely, invective, obloquy, scurrility, vituperation

For example, abuse of something is cruel and violent treatment of it.

The police conducted an investigation of alleged child abuse.

Figure, noun (figures, figuring, figures)

chuffer, cipher, digit, integer, numeral, whole number

For example, a figure is a particular amount expressed as a number, especially a statistic.

It would be very nice if we had a true figure of how many people in this country are unemployed.

Submit, verb (submits, submitting, submitted)

bring, deliver, present, offer, proffer, tender, send in, provide

For example, if you submit a proposal, report, or request to someone, you formally send it to him/her so that he/she can consider it or decide about it.

They submitted their reports to the Chancellor yesterday.

Draft, noun (drafts, drafting, drafted)

draw up, formulate, frame, make, prepare

For example, a draft is an early version of a letter, book, or speech.

If you recalculate some of the figures and submit another draft by tomorrow, you will still be able to turn in the report by the deadline.

Allocation, noun (allocate, allocated, allocations)

For example, an allocation is an amount of something, especially money that is given to a particular person or used for a particular purpose.

We need to reconsider allocations for expenditures.

Expenditure, noun (expend, expenditures)

expense, cost, disbursement, outlay

For example, expenditure is the spending of money on something, or the money that is spent on something.

Policies of tax reduction must lead to reduced public expenditures.

Procedure, noun (procedures)

proceeding

For example, a procedure is a way of doing something, especially the usual or correct way.

Police insist that Chia-Chin Yu did not follow the correct procedures in applying for a visa.

Manage, verb (manages, managing, managed)

conduct, carry on, direct, keep, operate, ordain, run

For example, if you manage to do something, especially something difficult, you succeed in doing it.

Somehow, he'd managed to persuade Kay to buy one for him.

Revise, verb (revises, revising, revised)

redraft, redraw, restyle, revamp, rework, rewrite, work over

For example, when you revise an article, a book, a law, or a piece of music, you change it in order to improve it, make it modern, or make it more suitable for a particular purpose.

The staff should work together to improve or revise the syllabus or school curriculum.

Retain, verb (retains, retaining, retained)

have, enjoy, hold, own, possess

For example, to retain something means to continue to have that thing. (Formal)

Other countries retained their traditional and habitual ways of doing things.

Conference, noun (conferences)

colloquium, colloquy, palaver, rap session, seminar

For example, a conference is a meeting, often lasting a few days, which is organized on a particular subject or to bring together people who have a common interest.

Henry, I am sorry to have kept you waiting. I just got back from the conference.

Beforehand, adjective

before, ahead, ante, antecedently, fore, forward, in advance, precedent, previous

For example, if you do something beforehand, you do it earlier than a particular event.

That sounds fine to me. I'll bring chairs over from my office beforehand.

Attorney, noun (attorneys)

lawyer, attorney-at-law

For example, in the United States, an attorney or attorney-at-law is a lawyer.

All the company attorneys are in a meeting now. But a contracted lawyer is around.

Itinerary, noun (itineraries)

For example, an itinerary is a plan or journey, including the route and places that you will visit.

Do you need a copy of his itinerary?

1500 Words of Advanced TOEFL iBT Vocabulary

Lesson Format

Word, Part of Speech,

Word Definition

Sample Sentence

Absorb (verb)

to occupy the full attention of, for example, to take in moisture or liquid

*Therapists who believe in the reality of Multiple Personality Disorder generally believe it to be caused by very severe abuse during childhood violence so extreme that the child cannot **absorb** the trauma in its entirety.*

Abandon (verb)

to give up without intending to return or claim again

*Vinland was the first European Settlement in the New World but now was **abandoned**.*

Abdomen (noun)

the part of the body containing the digestive and reproductive organs

*In the middle of the **abdomen** lies a 20 foot long small intestine.*

Abduct (verb)

to seize or detain a person unlawfully

*Child molesters often **abduct** children within 200 feet of their home.*

Abundant (adjective)

something that is large in number.

*Discovered in the 1820s, aluminum is the most **abundant** metal on earth.*

Accommodation (noun)

a place where one can sleep such as a hotel or campground.

In Death Valley, we find the national park headquarters and overnight

***accommodations** in this area, including Furnace Creek Ranch and Furnace Creek Inn.*

Accompany (verb)

to be added to another for completion or to be with or goes with another.

*Landslides, mud flows and debris avalanches frequently **accompany** other natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes.*

Accomplice (noun)

one associated with another especially in wrongdoing

*Besides the genetic testing, the investigation will examine whether an **accomplice** provided Kid with the pistol he used to kill two deputy sheriffs during the escape.*

Accumulation (noun)

the result of something increases

*A landslide occurs when steep slopes are destabilized by excess water **accumulation** in the soil, the addition of excess weight to the top of a slope, the removal of support from the bottom of a slope, or a combination of the above.*

Accuse (noun)

to make a charge against someone who one believes has done a misdeed

*John Adams' innate conservatism made him determined in 1770 that the British soldiers **accused** of the Boston Massacre received a fair hearing.*

Ache (noun)

a sensation of physical discomfort occurring as the result of disease or injury

*The athlete experienced **aches** in his right shoulder after pitching nine innings in yesterday's baseball game.*

Acoustic (adjective)

relating to the sound or the sense of hearing

*The **acoustics** of this auditorium are so remarkable that when one drops a pin on the stage, an audience member can hear it hit the floor while sitting in the back.*

Acquisition (noun)

the act of successfully coming into possession of something

*In considering the biology of language **acquisition**, consider that human language is made possible by special adaptations of the human mind and body that occurred in the course of human evolution, and which are put to use by children in acquiring their mother tongue.*

Acronym (noun)

NATO, radar, or snafu, formed from the initial letter or letters of each of the successive parts or major parts of a compound term

*The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known by the Spanish **acronym** FARC, was seeking a \$3 million ransom for the couple, who had three children, they said.*

Activation (noun)

to make active or more active

*The learning theory is based on the assumption that although human aggression may be influenced by physiological characteristics, the **activation** of those characteristics depends on learning and is subject to the person's control.*

Activism (noun)

a policy of vigorous action in a cause, especially in politics

*College president Benjamin Mays and other proponents of Christian social **activism** influenced Martin Luther King's decision after his junior year at Morehouse to become a minister and thereby serve society.*

Actualize (verb)

to make real or to put into effect

*From another perspective, we can also conclude that the village with the most resources is able to better **actualize** the cultural ideal of choosing marriage partners within the same tribe.*

Adaptability (noun)

to act of becoming suitable to particular situation or use

*The knowledge of key social factors and a firm grasp on research design and methods, all of which are learned upon completion of a B.A. in a sociology program, provides breadth and the potential for **adaptability** in the workplace.*

Adjacent (adjective)

sharing a common boundary

*When a customer attempts to book hotel accommodations on the Internet, it is sometimes hard to find two **adjacent** rooms at a discounted rate.*

Adolescent (noun)

the period between childhood and adulthood

*Because girls strongly relate their self worth to their attractiveness, many **adolescents** are unhappy with their weight.*

Adoption (noun)

the act of choosing a suitable course of action

*Adams helped draft the Declaration of Independence, secured its unanimous **Adoption** in Congress, and wrote his wife on July 3, 1776, that "the most memorable Epoch in the History of America has begun."*

Advocate (noun)

one that defends or maintains a cause or proposal

***Advocates** say walk-to-school programs are gaining new momentum from parents and teachers concerned about a childhood obesity epidemic.*

Adverse (adjective)

acting against or in opposition; tending to discourage, retard, or make more difficult

***Adverse** effects to smoking are lung cancer and an increased risk of heart attacks.*

Advisory (noun)

a report giving information (as on the weather) and often recommending action to be taken

*The World Health Organization (WHO), an agency of the United Nations, lifted its **advisory** against unnecessary travel to Hong Kong because of the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).*

Aesthetic (noun)

showing good taste

*The basic **aesthetics** of television are not that different from those of movies.*

Affective (adjective)

that which affects or excites emotion

*If a learner has anxiety, the **affective** filters conducive to second language acquisition may be closed, thus making the input in the brain incomprehensible.*

Affinal (adjective)

A kinsman or ally related by marriage

*Elbasi is the richer location and can draw upon wives from more marginal settlements, from families who seek out more favorable domestic conditions for their daughters as well as **affinal** contacts in prominent communities.*

Afford (verb)

to make available, give forth, or provide naturally or inevitably: give

*If you're willing to spend \$300 to \$450, consider a 15-inch LCD. It **affords** the same viewable area as a 17-inch CRT and takes up far less space.*

Agent (noun)

that by which something is accomplished or some end result achieved

*Possible causative **agents** for brain cancer in firefighters include vinyl chloride, acrylonitrile, and formaldehyde.*

Aggregate (adjective)

formed by a collection of particulars into a whole mass or sum, united

*A machine travels through a certain path, resulting from the **aggregate** combination of the parts moving within it.*

Aggression (noun)

the act of attacking

*The learning theory is based on the assumption that although human **aggression** may be influenced by physiological characteristics, the activation of those characteristics depends on learning and is subject to the person's control.*

Aglow (adjective)

glowing especially with warmth or excitement

*Three years later, Thomas Edison announced his invention of the incandescent light bulb, and on New Year's Eve in 1879 drew a crowd of 3,000 visitors to his Menlo Park, New Jersey, complex to see the buildings and grounds **aglow** in the softer light of his creation.*

Alarming (adjective)

relating to a sudden sharp apprehension and fear resulting from the perception of imminent danger

*Brazil and Indonesia, which contain the world's two largest surviving regions of rain forest, are being stripped at an **alarming** rate by logging, fires, and land-clearing for agriculture and cattle-grazing.*

Albeit (conjunction)

conceding the fact that; even though

*Saliva provides another example, **albeit** less exotic, of taste modification.*

Alias (noun)

a false or assumed name

*Similar to past Russian revolutionaries, Joseph Stalin adopted many **aliases** to evade arrest.*

Alien (noun)

A person coming from another country

*During World War II, restrictions were imposed upon many **aliens** in the US, especially if they were of Japanese origin.*

Alignment (noun)

the act of adjusting to a line; the state of being so adjusted

*Due to the car accident, his back went out of **alignment**.*

Allocate (verb)

to apportion for a specific purpose or to particular persons or things

*The industries affected -- including oil refineries, steel, cement, ceramics, glass and paper -- will feel the pinch next March when European Union governments must say how they will **allocate** the 2 allowances firms will need to operate from 2005.*

Alternative (noun)

the power or right of choosing

*Recently, wind power has become an appealing **alternative** to fossil based fuels, especially in countries with scarce petroleum and ample wind.*

Alter (noun)

the act of changing some particular aspect of someone (i.e., personality) or something

*Various triggers can cause the brains **alter** to take control of the mental processes of the victim for periods of time.*

Altitude (noun)

the distance of something from a given level, especially referring to sea level

The summit of Mount Everest is at an altitude of 29,000 feet.

Amateur (noun)

one lacking professional skill

*It is learned that the impact might produce a sudden brightening of the comet visible to **amateur** astronomers with small telescopes.*

Ambitious (adjective)

full of strong desire to achieve something

*George Washington was well informed, **ambitious**, and public spirited.*

Amid (preposition)

in or into the middle of

*Fertile lands exist in the Midwest **amid** the rolling hills and low-lying valleys.*

Amass (verb)

to collect for oneself; to gather or pile up especially little by little

*Aubrey Huff had two hits and four RBI's, Marlon Anderson hit a three run homer, and Travis Lee and Ben Grieve had consecutive homers in a five run fifth for the Devil Rays, which **amassed** 18 hits. Every starter had at least one.*

Amnesia (noun)

having partial or total loss of memory

*Lance suffered from temporary **amnesia** after his brain surgery.*

Analogous (adjective)

possessing the same or almost the same characteristics

*Bats' wings are modifications of the hands of the common mammalian ancestor, whereas flying squirrels' wings are modifications of its rib cage, hence making the two structures merely **analogous**: similar in function.*

Anatomical (adjective)

resembling the bodily structure of animals and plants

*It's clear that these structures are not homologous to the wings of bats because they have a fundamentally different **anatomical** plan, reflecting a different evolutionary history.*

Ancestor (noun)

a person from whom one is descended

*The scientific question is whether the chimps' abilities are homologous to human language; that is, whether the two systems show the same basic organization owing to descent from a single system in their common **ancestor**.*

Animator (noun)

one that contributes to the animation of a cartoon

*Disney employed many **animators** during the production of the movie, *The Little Mermaid*.*

Anomaly (noun)

something different, abnormal, peculiar, or not easily classified

*Science-fiction writers may claim to have created warped space and light bending celestial **anomalies**, but these are, in fact, actual physical phenomena.*

Antagonize (verb)

to act in opposition to; to incur or provoke the hostility of

The summit was further complicated by France and Germany, which had spoken out against the U.S.-led attack on Iraq, choosing to concentrate on rebuilding relations with Washington rather than antagonizing it further.

Antic (noun)

an attention drawing often wildly playful or funny act or action

*The contestants on the African reality-television program may be divided, but their **antics** have united viewers across the continent and in the process created an unlikely cultural force.*

Antiquity (noun)

ancient times, especially before the middle ages

*New York, Tokyo, Paris, and Hong Kong are similar to city states of **antiquity** (e.g. Athens, Rome, Carthage) or medieval times (e.g. the Hanseatic League), except that these modern city-states engage in instant electronic communication and capital transfer, and are the chief recipients of world population growth.*

Apartheid (noun)

racial segregation; *specifically*: a policy of segregation and political and economic discrimination against non-European groups in the Republic of South Africa

*Mandela, 85 next month, received a Nobel Peace prize for his role in guiding South Africa from **apartheid** to multiracial democracy.*

Apocryphal (adjective)

of doubtful authenticity

*More than simply a renowned Mississippi writer, the Nobel Prize winning novelist and short story writer, William Faulkner, is acclaimed throughout the world as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century, one who transformed his "postage stamp" of native soil into an **apocryphal** setting in which he explored, articulated, and challenged the old truths of the heart.*

Appalled at (verb)

to deprive of courage or the power to act as a result of fear, anxiety, or disgust

*Many voters were **appalled at** the misconduct of President Richard Nixon even though they had voted for him.*

Apparatus (noun)

something, as a machine, devised for a particular function

*The right exercise **apparatuses** help an athlete to increase muscular strength and endurance.*

Apparent (adjective)

readily seen, perceived, or understood

*Many inclusions in diamonds are not discernable to the naked eye and require magnification to become **apparent**.*

Apparition (noun)

a sudden or dramatic appearance of an object or supernatural being

*Mercury, known since at least the time of the Sumerians (3rd millennium BC), was given two names by the Greeks: Apollo for its **apparition** as a morning star and Hermes as an evening star.*

Application (noun)

a connection to the matter at hand; the condition of being put to use

*A Cognitive Psychology program is especially geared towards the **application** of formal and computational modeling and neuroscience methods to these basic questions.*

Apprenticeship (noun)

a type of training in which one learns by practical experience under skilled workers in an art, trade, or calling

*A young worker bee's **apprenticeship** includes taking care of the queen and her eggs, cleaning out the hive, cooling the hive by fanning its wings, and attacking intruders.*

Apt (adjective)

having or showing a tendency or likelihood

*The thesis is **apt** to be stated somewhere in the last few paragraphs, in which case the preceding paragraphs gradually lead up to it, or else somewhere right after the introduction, in which case the balance of the essay justifies the statement and refers back to it.*

Aquaculture (noun)

the cultivation of the natural produce of water such as fish or shellfish

*In response to the environmental risks associated with the **aquaculture** industry, the independent Pew Oceans Commission has called for a moratorium on the expansion of finfish aquaculture (including salmon) until national policies and standards are in place.*

Aqueduct (noun)

artificial channel for carrying water, sometimes in the form of a bridge supported by tall columns across a valley

*Some of the water takes a different route, at which point it is carried off by an **aqueduct** before it reaches the canals.*

Archive (noun)

collection of something, especially public or document documents

*Frozen **archives**, or ice cores, give scientists unprecedented views of global climate over the eons.*

Aromatic (adjective)

having a pleasant odor

*Used as both a prevention and treatment to many illnesses, **aromatic** herbs in China were highly valued in ancient times.*

Arrogantly (adverb)

with a conceited belief in one's superiority to others

*Psychics realize that we **arrogantly** think of ourselves as unique and as more different than similar, when in fact it is just the opposite.*

Artery (noun)

one of the tubular vessels that carry blood from the heart through the rest of the body

*High blood pressure is caused by a resistance to the flow of blood greater than that usually caused by constriction of small **arteries** throughout the human body.*

Articulate (verb)

to put into words

*John Adams, in his speeches and writings, **articulated** the colonial cause and brilliantly championed American rights in Congress.*

Artifact (noun)

manmade objects

*Vinland, the first European Settlement in the New World, was not believed to be true until archaeologists discovered ancient **artifacts** in 1960.*

Artificially (adverb)

the manner in which something is produced by man; not natural

*Slab and other avalanches can be hard or soft, wet or dry and can be triggered naturally or **artificially**.*

Assail (verb)

to attack with harsh, often insulting language; to set upon with violent force

*Professor Johnson, accusing the student of blatant plagiarism, **assailed** the student for several minutes.*

Assassinate (verb)

the act of killing someone for political or religious reasons

*It was unfortunate that President John F. Kennedy was **assassinated**.*

Assert (verb)

to state to be true; to put into words positively and with conviction

*King sympathized with the student movement and spoke at the founding meeting of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in April 1960, but he soon became the target of criticisms from SNCC activists determined to **assert** their independence.*

Assessment (noun)

the act or result of judging the worth or value of something or someone

*The instructor will write comments and suggestions on your final draft, and you may choose to keep the grade he gives you or you may revise and resubmit it for **reassessment**.*

Associative (adjective)

resembling someone or something which is united in relationship with another

*An example of **associative** learning is classical conditioning, a form of learning in which two stimuli are associated so that the first evokes the response that normally follows the second.*

Assume (verb)

to take something for granted without direct proof

*Because of this, we can **assume** that formal instruction has less of an impact on one's learning of English as compared with immersion in that culture or society.*

Asteroid (noun)

any of the small celestial bodies orbiting around the sun, especially between the orbit of Mars and Jupiter.

*In the late 1970s, James Arnold of the University of California, San Diego, suggested that impacting comets and water rich **asteroids** could add water to the lunar surface.*

Atheist (noun)

one who denies the existence of a God

*Suggesting that there is no concrete proof for the existence of a supreme being, some people are **atheists**.*

Atmospheric (adjective)

of or relating to air

*Turner and Crook are using a finer scale model built by NCAR scientist Terry Clark to look more closely at mountain convection and how it relates to the larger scale **atmospheric** flow.*

Atom (noun)

smallest particle of a chemical element that can take part in a chemical reaction

*Most of the water was split by sunlight into its constituent **atoms** of hydrogen and oxygen and lost into space, but some migrated by literally hopping along to places where it was very cold.*

Atrocity (noun)

a monstrous offense or evil

*Even though the gorilla has been attributed to many **atrocities**, it is usually a peace-loving creature that would rather retreat than fight its enemy.*

Attribute to (verb)

to regard as belonging to or resulting from another

*Sulfates, which originate primarily in coal fired power plants, started rising around 1900, which is partially **attributed to** increased volcanic activity in the Caribbean around the turn of the century.*

Audit (noun)

to methodically examine and review

*A recent **audit** by the inspector general at the Justice Department found "significant problems" with the detentions, including allegations of physical abuse.*

Authentic (adjective)

worthy of belief because of precision, faithfulness to an original, etc.

*These are not counterfeit dollar bills; rather they are **authentic** bills printed by the United States Treasury.*

Autobiography (noun)

a written account of one's life

*Mayu Angelou is best known for her **autobiographies**: All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes (1986), The Heart of a Woman (1981), Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin'*

Merry Like Christmas (1976), Gather Together in My Name (1974), and I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (1969), which was nominated for the National Book Award.

Aviation (noun)

airplane manufacture, development, and design

*Due to a deep recession and to recent terrorist attacks involving aircraft, the **aviation** industry is on the verge of economic collapse, with many businesses laying off 1/3 of their workforce.*

Avalanche (noun)

mass of snow and ice tumbling down a mountain

*There are many different types of **avalanches**, but the one that worries us the most is the "slab" avalanche, in which a mass of cohesive snow releases as a unit.*

Awkwardness (noun)

the state of being characterized by embarrassment and discomfort

*The **awkwardness** of the situation is evident since Alex had to meet with his ex-wife the day before he was to be married to a different woman.*

Axis (noun)

imaginary line about which an object rotates

*The Moon's **axis** of rotation is nearly perpendicular to the plane of its orbit around the Sun, so the Sun always appears at or near the horizon in the polar regions of the Moon.*

Azure (adjective)

deep blue color

*The white sand and the **azure** sky entice many vacationers to Destin, Florida.*

Babble (verb)

to talk aimlessly or incoherently

*At approximately the age of six months, a child begins to **babble**, but many of the sounds he/she makes may not yet carry meaning for the child.*

Backed (adjective)

characterized as promoting the interests or cause of or upholding or defending as valid

*The U.S. House earlier this year passed a Bush administration **backed** measure that would ban both types of cloning. The measure hasn't been acted on in the Senate.*

Backsplash (noun)

the act of hurling or scattering a liquid in a reverse motion of its normal path

*At the lower end of the esophagus, a one way valve (the esophageal sphincter) prevents the **backsplash** of stomach contents upward into the esophagus.*

Bald (noun)

without the usual covering

*Chemotherapy causes patients to become **bald** although it is usually a temporary condition.*

Ballistic (adjective)

moving under the force of gravity only

*A method of stretching is **ballistic** which involves 'bouncing' in your stretch.*

Balmy (adjective)

not severe, temperate

*It is **balmy** in Paris and the birds and the bees are busy.*

Banal (adjective)

without freshness or appeal due to overuse

*At a garage sale, what may seem as **banal** objects to one person may be valued by another.*

Bandage (noun)

a therapeutic material applied to a wound

*To stop the bleeding and to prevent infection, the paramedic put **bandages** on the woman's cut arm.*

Bard (noun)

someone who writes verse or poetry

*Sir Walter Scott, a Scottish hero and **bard**, published many works still read in college classes today.*

Baron (noun)

a man of great power or influence in some field of activity

*Jesse Fish, a native from New York City, moved to St. Augustine where he became Florida's first orange **baron**.*

Baseline (noun)

a set of critical observations or data used for comparison or a control

*Sales calls made within one state will fall under the new rules, setting a national **baseline** above which states can set tougher guidelines if they wish.*

Basin (noun)

the region drained by a river system, an area sunk below its surroundings

*Sitting just west of the Nevada boundary, in the **basin** and range district of the Mojave Desert, Death Valley is all but surrounded by mountain ranges, with a few roads connecting the valley to the outside world through narrow passes.*

Befriend (verb)

to favor, to act as a friend to

*Later the Mozart children displayed (1763-66) their talents to audiences in Germany, in Paris, at court in Versailles, and in London (where Wolfgang wrote his first symphonies and was **befriended** by Johann Christian Bach, whose musical influence on Wolfgang was profound).*

Belabor (verb)

to hit heavily and repeatedly

*It is not the point of this discussion to **belabor** the issues of abortion. Rather, we will examine why women choose to have one.*

Berserk (adjective)

in a violent rage, especially to "go" berserk

*After finding out that his wife had cheated on him, the murder suspect allegedly went **berserk** and shot her five times.*

Bestow (verb)

to convey as a gift -- usually used with *on* or *upon*

*According to tradition, Brigit took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the presence of the missionary bishop, Saint Patrick, who **bestowed** on her the nun's veil.*

Bewildering (adjective)

difficult to understand or solve: puzzling

*From components to software to accessories, new PCs offer a **bewildering** array of choices, and for some folks, sifting through the large number of options can be daunting.*

Bicentennial (adjective)

lasting two hundred years or occurring every two hundred years

*Maya Angelou returned to the United States in 1974 and was appointed by Gerald Ford to the **Bicentennial** Commission and later by Jimmy Carter to the Commission for International Woman of the Year.*

Binding (noun)

the act of making fast or firmly fixed by means of a cord, rope, etc.

*A properly constructed shoe supports and protects the foot without any pressure or **binding**.*

Bipedal (adjective)

a two footed animal

*Anatomical details indicate that *A. anamnesis*, a hominid whose remains were discovered by Leakey in 1995 in Kenya, to between 4.07 million and 4.17 million years ago, was capable of **bipedal** walking.*

Birthmark (noun)

brown or red mark on one's body from birth; a naturally occurring mark on an inanimate object

*Almost all diamonds contain very tiny natural **birthmarks** known as inclusions.*

Bitter (adjective)

bitingly feeling or showing unfriendliness

*After the government lent the two companies money and gave them large sections of land for every mile they built, the Central Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad became **bitter** rivals, with each company laying as much track as possible.*

Bizarre (adjective)

departing from the customary

*The stars would be moving three times faster across the sky while observers at other points on Mercury's surface would see different but equally **bizarre** motions.*

Blanketed (verb)

to extend over the surface

*One could see what the world was like when ice sheets a thousand feet thick **blanketed** Canada and northern Europe, or when the Indonesian volcano Toba blew its top in the largest volcanic eruption of the last half million years.*

Blaze (noun)

the visible signs of combustion (a fire)

*Once any **blaze** begins to threaten human life or property or there is high danger of wildfire, the blaze is to be stopped or controlled.*

Bleak (adjective)

cold and forbidding; dark and depressing

One **bleak** wintery day, a major snowstorm dumped 34 inches on Buffalo, New York.

Blemish (noun)

something that mars the appearance

*In addition to internal inclusions in a diamond, surface irregularities are referred to as **blemishes**.*

Blend (verb)

to mingle in a way that is not readily noticeable

*But other poisonous animals **blend** into their environments, perhaps because they use their poisons to attack and disable prey.*

Blight (noun)

a deteriorated condition

*Think of the inner city and you envision images of physical **blight**, high crime and moral decay. But up against that bad news image, there's a good news reality-- and it's emerging in the heart of the inner city.*

Blob (noun)

a small drop or lump of something viscid or thick ; a daub or spot of color

*A pink **blob** indicating above normal fire danger colors the map across eastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho, and then reaches down the Sierra Nevada through Southern California and into western Arizona.*

Bloodstream (noun)

the flowing blood in a circulatory system

*When responding to sudden fright, the human brain releases adrenaline, the fight-or-flight hormone, into the **bloodstream**.*

Bog down (verb)

to sink or submerge in mud or mire; idiom: to become overly concerned with something at the point of distraction

*Then read the essay over once, quickly, looking for the main idea, for what the essay is about in general, and for what the author seems to be saying. Don't get **bogged down** in details.*

Bogus (adjective)

fraudulently or deceptively imitative

*Although several successful mining ventures were launched, much of the hype was **bogus**.*

Bombard (verb)

to direct a concentrated outpouring at something such as missiles, words, or blows

*The lunar surface is **bombarded** with water rich objects such as comets, and scientists have suspected that some of the water in these objects could migrate to permanently dark areas at the lunar poles, perhaps accumulating to useable quantities.*

Bone (noun)

any piece of hard tissue making up the skeleton

*Another benefit of exercising is that it increases **bone** mass.*

Boon (noun)

something beneficial

*The tax reduction package passed by congress last year was a **boon** to middle class households with annual earnings less than \$75,000.*

Boost (verb)

to push or shove up from below; increase or raise

*Vivendi was also **boosted** as Moody's Investors Service late Thursday said that it had changed the outlook on the Franco-American group to stable from negative.*

Botch (verb)

to foul up hopelessly -- often used with *up*

*The Maryland inmate claims inexperienced lawyers badly **botched** his trial.*

Brace (verb)

to get ready as for an attack

*Emergency officials **braced** for more rain Tuesday following storms that sent torrents of mud and water down already saturated hillsides in central Appalachia, forcing dozens of people to flee their homes and blocking roads.*

Branch out (verb)

to extend activities over a wide area; to increase in dimensions, scope, or inclusiveness

*In the early 1800's, factories were most common in Massachusetts although they later **branched out** into the more populous areas of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.*

Brand (verb)

to mark with a brand or name

*By the mid - 90's Patagonian Tooth fish was a highly prized catch, **branded** 'white gold' by industrial long range fishing fleets.*

Breadth (noun)

the extent of something from side to side

*Regardless of your career path, the **breadth** of your preparation as a liberal arts major is very important.*

Breakage (noun)

an act, instance, or consequence of making something unusable or inoperative

*Homeowners with hillside homes can recognize the beginnings of slope failure through the following indicators: stairs that have pulled away from the building, widening of previously patched cracks in driveways, yards creaking and making groaning sounds, **breakage** of underground utility lines, or leakage from swimming pools.*

Breakthrough (noun)

an offensive thrust that penetrates and carries beyond a defensive line in warfare; an act or instance of breaking through an obstruction; a sudden advance especially in knowledge

or technique <a medical *breakthrough*>; a person's first notable success

*The possibility of a **breakthrough** raised hopes for some progress toward peace on the 1,000th day of the current intifada, the Palestinian uprising against Israel.*

Breeding (adjective)

characterized by producing descendants directly from the same parents or ancestors

*The larval stage of the Rhinoceros Beetle lasts for 2.5 to 7 months after which pupation takes place within the **breeding** site.*

Brew (verb)

to prepare as beer or ale by steeping, boiling, and fermentation or by infusion and fermentation

*People have been **brewing** and fermenting alcoholic drinks since the dawn of civilization.*

Brilliant (adjective)

having of showing intelligence, often of a high order

*His speeches and writings (especially a newspaper series signed "Novanglus" in 1775) articulating the colonial cause and his **brilliant** championing of American rights in Congress caused Thomas Jefferson to call him the "Colossus of Independence."*

Bristle (noun)

a short stiff coarse hair or filament

*Caterpillars of giant silkworm moths and royal moths often bear stiff **bristles** on their bodies.*

Brooch (noun)

an ornament that is held by a pin or clasp and is worn at or near the neck

*Even though most people do not believe that birthstone's affect the wearer's life, many still choose their birthstones to be set in rings, **brooches**, and other pieces of jewelry.*

Bubble up (verb)

to become progressively greater as in size, amount, number, or intensity

*When it comes to home prices, Bergson does not believe values are **bubbling up**, reasoning that prices are being driven higher by income gains as well as a shortage of supply.*

Buffer (adjective)

something serving to separate two items; something acting as a cushion

*Georgia was valued by the British as a **buffer** zone to protect the highly valued Carolinas against attack from the Spanish in Florida and the French in Louisiana.*

Buggy (noun)

a light one horse carriage made with four wheels

*Before the invention of the automobile, the horse and **buggy** was a popular form of transportation.*

Built-up (adjective)

covered with buildings

*Crime tends to occur in heavily **built-up** areas since they are more opportunities for the criminals.*

Bundle (verb)

to make into a bundle or package: wrap; to include a product or service with a related product

for sale at a single price

*Gateway **bundled** a wealth of blank media for these tasks, including six DVD-R and one DVD-RAM disc, as well as three CD-RW and five CD-R discs.*

Burgeoning (adjective)

to become greater in number, amount, or intensity

*Before the mid 1800s, there was no "Dante's View," nor was there a "Devil's Corn Field." These names were coined by the hustlers and con-men who sought to attract visitors and investors to this **burgeoning** mining area.*

Burrow (noun)

a hollow place used as an animal's dwelling

*The Western Diamondback Rattlesnake hibernates in the **burrows** of other small animals, but is often seen lying in the sun on rocks and on the side of roads.*

Burst (noun)

a concentrated outpouring, as of missiles, words, or blows

*A sudden **burst** of recognition came upon Albert Einstein on November 7, 1919, when British astronomers announced they had found the first confirmation of Einstein's theory of relativity.*

Butchered (adjective)

relating to slaughtering and dressing for market or killing in a barbarous manner

*The fossils include two adult males and one child and are estimated to be 160,000 years old. They were found among stone tools and **butchered** hippopotamus bones.*

Callisthenic (adjective)

fitness exercises

*After doing some boxing style punch drills and after flicking your wrists, you can also do some **callisthenic** exercises such as sit ups, crunches, and push ups.*

Camouflage (noun)

to change or modify so as to prevent recognition of the true identity or character of

*The color pattern of the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake is due to its environment, as it helps to **camouflage** the snake in the sand or rocks.*

Campaign (noun)

an organized effort to accomplish a purpose

*Miguel Cervantes worked to get Barrack Obama elected in the political **campaign**.*

Canal (noun)

man-made waterway for inland navigation or irrigation

*Many slow moving rivers feed many **canals** that irrigate farmlands.*

Candor (noun)

unreserved, honest, or sincere expression

*Her look of **candor** depicts a sense of realness to her characters, which is why she is a talented actress.*

Canister (noun)

an often cylindrical container for holding a usually specified object or substance

Mayor Mehmet Ozhasaki said a gas **canister** had likely exploded in the kitchen, causing the building's collapse.

Canvas (noun)

a firm closely woven cloth usually of linen, hemp, or cotton used for clothing, sails, etc.
*Before the invention of nylon and other synthetic fabrics, tents were made of **canvas**.*

Capability (noun)

physical, mental, financial, or legal power to perform
*The evidence seems to overwhelmingly state that there is indeed a critical period by which learning must commence in order to afford the learner the chance to achieve native-like **capabilities**.*

Capacity (noun)

maximum amount of work that can be produced or contained
*There is a natural decline of physical working **capacity** with age, but regular exercise can reduce this rate of decline.*

Catastrophic (adjective)

a violent and sudden change in a feature of the earth
*Deforestation may have **catastrophic** global effects as well. Trees are natural consumers of carbon dioxide—one of the greenhouse gases whose buildup in the atmosphere contributes to global warming.*

Clutch (noun)

a nest of eggs or a brood of chicks
The mother, who has been housed in a tank with a female brown banded bamboo shark for the last six years, laid a clutch of eggs in April.

Comparatively (adverb)

characterized by the systematic comparison of
phenomenon and especially of likenesses and dissimilarities
*The number of words in the English language that have been directly borrowed from German is **comparatively** small, most of them having been borrowed in recent years.*

Cap (noun)

an upper limit as on expenditures

*The allowances will have a monetary value because companies that reduce their emissions will be able to sell excess credits to other firms that can not reach their CO₂ **caps**.*

Caption (noun)

title or brief explanation appended or joined to an illustration

*Before you read, survey the chapter, the title, headings, and subheadings, **captions** under pictures, charts, graphs or maps.*

Captive (adjective)

person or animal that has been taken prisoner or confined

*On his way back to Spain in 1575, the galley *El Sol* was attacked by Turkish ships, and Cervantes was taken **captive** to Algeria.*

Carat (noun)

unit of weight for precious stones

*The weight of a diamond is expressed in **carats**.*

Caravan (noun)

a group of vehicles traveling in a single file

*Larger, slower camels are employed in **caravans**, whereas the faster, lighter camels serve as mounts for couriers and soldiers.*

Cabaret (adjective)

describing a restaurant serving liquor and providing entertainment as by singers or dancers

*Gregg Marx, a direct descendant of the Marx Brothers, performs his **cabaret** act, “Wet Night...Dry Martini,” 8:30 p.m. at Feinstein’s at the Cine Grill.*

Calamity (noun)

a state of deep distress or misery caused by major misfortune or loss; an extraordinarily grave event marked by great loss and lasting distress and affliction

*British economist Thomas Malthus in 1798 proposed the unsettling theory that population growth would outrun the ability to produce food. This, he said, would lead to war, famine, disease, and other **calamities**.*

Canine (noun)

dog

*From dawn until dusk, there are dozens of things for humans and **canines** to do together: sports, games, lectures, contests, and crafts.*

Carbohydrate (noun)

energy producing organic compound containing carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen

*There are three main food categories: **carbohydrates**, fats, and proteins.*

Cardiac (adjective)

of, near, or affecting the heart

***Cardiac** rehabilitation professionals find themselves increasingly drawn into discussions about healthcare reform, particularly when it relates to cost containment.*

Cardiovascular (adjective)

of the heart and the blood vessels as a unified body system

*About one of every two Americans dies of **cardiovascular** disease.*

Cargo (noun)

something carried physically

***Cargo**-carrying ships docking at the Port of Los Angeles are unloaded each day, and the goods from those ships contain merchandise which is shipped to businesses all over the United States.*

Carnivore (noun)

any of an order of typically flesh-eating mammals that includes dogs, foxes, bears, raccoons

*All spiders are **carnivores**, so they eat a variety of insects and will inject enzymes into their food either before or while they are breaking it up.*

Cascade (noun)

small waterfall, especially one in a series

*The **cascades** and rapids on the Kern River are some of the most difficult in California for kayakers.*

Cataclysmic (adjective)

broadly : an event that brings great changes; a momentous and violent event marked by overwhelming upheaval and demolition

*But as such **cataclysmic** collisions occur on average only once in a million years or so, are they really worth worrying about?*

Causative (adjective)

producing an effect

*Possible **causative** agents for brain cancer in firefighters include vinyl chloride, acrylonitrile and formaldehyde.*

Cavalry (noun)

combat troops mounted originally on horses but most often in motorized armored vehicles

*If a member of your party is buried by an avalanche, his only real chance of survival is if you rescue them; don't go for help unless you're sure they're dead, because they will be by the time you get back with the **cavalry**.*

Cavern (noun)

a hollow in the side of a cliff, a hill, or beneath the earth's surface

*Sabah, Malaysia is home to the largest **cavern** in the world.*

Cavity (noun)

a space in an otherwise solid mass

*Our larynxes are low in our throats, and our vocal tracts have a sharp right angle bend that creates two independently modifiable resonant **cavities** (the mouth and the pharynx or throat) that defines a large two dimensional range of vowel sounds.*

Cease (verb)

to bring or come to a natural or proper conclusion, to come to a termination

*The lake disappears soon after the rains **cease** in the spring.*

Cease-fire (noun)

a military order to cease firing; a suspension of active hostilities

*If those assurances are given, Palestinian officials said, the Palestinian Authority will accept the **cease-fire** proposal from the three radical groups and an announcement will be made in Cairo where the Egyptian government has been instrumental in getting the radical groups to consider halting their attacks.*

Cell (noun)

a small compartment, cavity, or bounded space

*In the country's Muslim south, the police arrested three men they said were members of a terrorist **cell** that was planning to attack embassies and entertainment spots.*

Cellulose (noun)

the chief substance composing the cell walls or fibers of all plant tissue

*Starch and **cellulose** are complex carbohydrates.*

Cement (verb)

to join or unite or as with cement

*It began in the early 1970s, when lesbian and gay couples applied for marriage licenses, asked courts to allow one partner to adopt the other, and took other steps to legally **cement** their relationship.*

Cemetery (noun)

a place for the burial of the dead; a graveyard

*Many of the soldiers killed while fighting in Vietnam have been buried in a **cemetery** in Washington D.C.*

Centrist (adjective)

moderate, not extreme

*The Senate bill was **centrist** enough for Republican Leader Frist and Democratic Leader Tom Daschle to support it.*

Certified (adjective)

to confirm formally as true, accurate, or genuine

*A laboratory **certified** clarity rating of SI2 represents the point at which inclusions in a diamond are technically not apparent to the average naked eye.*

Chameleon (noun)

any of the various American lizards capable of changing their color

*Usually, the green anole lizard is sold in pet shops as a **chameleon**, but actually the true chameleon and the green anole are different animals.*

Championing (noun)

to aid the cause by approving or favoring

*His speeches and writings (especially a newspaper series signed "Novanglus" in 1775) articulating the colonial cause and his brilliant **championing** of American rights in Congress caused Thomas Jefferson to call him the "Colossus of Independence."*

Charm (noun)

the power or quality of attracting

*And whereas a lot of eastern and San Francisco investors lost money, this has become one of the enduring **charms** of Death Valley, adding a human dimension to the natural mystique.*

Cherish (verb)

to recognize the value of; to have the highest regard for

*Americans **cherish** the freedom of owning a car.*

Chivalry (noun)

respectful attention, especially toward women

*Cervantes's book was read as a parody of novels of **chivalry** until the Romantics revealed its true importance as a novel.*

Chlorophyll (noun)

green pigment found in plant cells

*Many types of seaweed and other plants that do not appear to be green also have **chlorophyll** and therefore can convert the sun's energy into food.*

Chronicle (verb)

a recounting of past events

*The Titanic, though largely a fictional romance movie, is believed to **chronicle** some historical events of the doomed ship.*

Cipher (noun)

a totally insignificant person

*Dead due to the extreme cold, a **cipher's** body was found in the snow just outside of town.*

Circle (noun)

a group of people sharing an interest, activity, or achievement

*An electronic funds transfer system called E.F.T. in banking **circles** is replacing the paperwork in banking processes.*

Circuit (noun)

a course, process, or journey that ends where it began or repeats itself

*The radio talk show host is going a public speaking **circuit** for the next months.*

Circulated (adjective)

something which is passed out

*The New York Times is one of the most widely **circulated** US newspapers.*

Civilian (noun)

one not on active duty in a military, police, or fire fighting force; outsider

*Scientists and privacy experts who already have seen the use of face recognition technologies at a Super Bowl and monitoring cameras in London are concerned about the potential impact of the emerging technologies if they are applied to **civilians** by commercial or government agencies outside the Pentagon.*

Clad (adjective)

being covered or clothed with

*The park, with its glacier-**clad** mountains and rich growth of trees and flowers, is often called America's "last frontier."*

Clairvoyance (noun)

the supposed ability to perceive things that are not in sight or that cannot be seen

*Cervantes's work, a keen critique of the literature of his time, presented the clash between reality and the ideals which Don Quixote sought to revive, and at the same time originated the theme of the **clairvoyance** of insanity.*

Clarity (noun)

the condition of being clean and free of contaminants

*The value of a diamond is determined by its exact quality as defined by the 4C's: Cut, Color, **Clarity** and Carat Weight.*

Clash (verb)

to fail to be in agreement with

*Larry **clashed** with his professor over the grade he had received on his research paper.*

Claw (noun)

pointed horny nail on an animal's foot

*With its razor sharp **claws** and powerful jaw, the bear is one of the most dangerous predators in a forest.*

Clearing (noun)

the act of removing the wood and brush from a tract of land

*Unaware of the dangers of deforestation, early settlers made **clearings**, after which they could plant crops and build settlements.*

Clump (verb)

to move heavily; to be of an irregular shape or of an indefinite size

*We can imagine a cloud of weakly interacting massive particles **clumped** around our galaxy, with the solar system sweeping through this cloud as we orbit the center of the Milky Way.*

Clumsiness (noun)

the act of lacking skillfulness in the use of the hands and the body and grace in physical movement

*Despite the slowness and **clumsiness** of porcupines on the ground, they are good climbers because they have long, curving claws on all four paws.*

Cluster (noun)

a number of entities making up or considered a unit

*Amphibians lay **clusters** of eggs in bushes in close proximity to ponds.*

Cocoon (noun)

a shell-like container

*We'd all be a lot kinder and gentler if the driver's seat were lashed to the front bumper instead of encased in a padded steel **cocoon**.*

Cognition (noun)

the process of knowing in the broadest sense

*Welcome to today's seminar about the **Cognition** and Perception Program offered through the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan.*

Coherent (adjective)

logically connected, consistent

*The planning stage of writing requires one to put his ideas into a **coherent**, purposeful order appropriate to his readers.*

Cold-shoulder (verb)

to give intentionally cold or unsympathetic treatment

*Asked if he would repeat his anti-Bush message in person, Mandela replied: "You assume that he is going to meet me. I wouldn't make that assumption. I have said what I wanted to say and I don't have to repeat it." It was unclear who would **cold-shoulder** whom.*

Collaborate (verb)

to work together toward a common end

*Quincy Jones' first major success as a pop music producer came in the early 1960's when he **collaborated** with Lesley Gore to create a dozen pop hits including *It's My Party* and *Judy's Turn to Cry*.*

Collapse (noun)

an abrupt, disastrous failure

*The balance of fusion reactions versus gravitational **collapse** which occurred in this little cloud is fondly referred to as a star, and this story is about the birth and life of the closest star to Earth, the Sun.*

Collectively (adverb)

the manner of gathering something into a whole; characteristic of a group acting together

***Collectively**, these frozen archives give scientists unprecedented views of global climate over the eons.*

Collide (verb)

to come together or come up against with force

*Particles within the cloud's center (core) became so densely packed that they often **collided** and stuck (fused) together.*

Colossal (adjective)

vast, enormous, gigantic, mammoth

*A **colossal** earthquake registering 8.4 on the Richter scale occurred in Alaska in the 1960's.*

Colonize (verb)

to found or establish an area which is subject to rule by an outside power

*Portugal, France, Holland, and England **colonizing** the continents now called the Americas decided to stay and the rest is history.*

Comeback (noun)

a return to a former position or condition as of success or prosperity

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has changed the wolf's status from "endangered" to "threatened" in the lower 48 states. This lack of federal protection is allowing many western states to wage a war on wolves -- just as they were beginning to make a **comeback**.*

Combat (verb)

to strive in opposition with force

*Once all of the hydrogen is turned into helium, a star will stop fusing hydrogen and will lose its ability to **combat** gravity.*

Commentary (noun)

critical explanation or analysis

*Hits like "Billie Jean" and "Beat It" introduced a darker edge to the music to complement the serious **commentary** in the lyrics.*

Commemorate (verb)

to mark by some ceremony or observation

*Jones said Tuesday at a forum **commemorating** the 40th anniversary of the event that Wallace later apologized to her for blocking the doors of Foster Auditorium on June 11, 1963.*

Commerce (noun)

commercial, industrial, or professional activity in general

*In Roman mythology, Mercury is the god of **commerce**, travel, and thievery, the Roman counterpart of the Greek god Hermes, the messenger of the Gods.*

Comparable (adjective)

possessing the same or almost the same characteristics

*Body composition is the **comparable** amounts of fat and lean body tissue found in the body.*

Compatible (adjective)

capable of existing together in harmony

*The scientific community should take on the responsibility to investigate all objects that could potentially impact Earth down to the size **compatible** with available technology and with the public perception of acceptable risk.*

Compensate (verb)

to make up for the defects of

Saville and Dewey aptly call their formula reading The Barnum Effect, which goes, "You have a strong need for other people to like you and for them to admire you. You have a tendency to be critical of yourself. You have a great deal of unused energy which you have not turned to your advantage. While you have some personality weaknesses, you are generally able to **compensate** for them."

Competence (noun)

physical, mental, financial, or legal power to perform

*The activities and requirements of the cognition and perception program are designed primarily to develop the student's **competence** as a researcher.*

Complement (verb)

to fill in what is lacking and make perfect

*Hits like "Billie Jean" and "Beat It" introduced a darker edge to the music to **complement** the serious commentary in the lyrics.*

Complex (adjective)

difficult to understand due to its intricacy

*Autism is a **complex** developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life.*

Complication (noun)

something that causes difficulty, trouble, or lack of ease

*If left untreated, an anorexic person could starve to death or die from **complications** of malnutrition.*

Compose of (verb)

to be the constituents parts of

*Comets are **composed of** dust and frozen gases that scientists believe are little changed since the formation of the solar system 4.5 billion years ago.*

Composite (adjective)

combining the typical or essential characteristics of individuals making up a group

*Disclosing the list "would give terrorist organizations a **composite** picture of the government investigation," Sentelle wrote.*

Compound (noun)

consisting of two or more interconnected parts

*A molecule is a **compound** or group of atoms.*

Compress (verb)

to reduce in size by or as if by drawing together

*Less than 5 billion years ago, in a distant spiral arm of our galaxy, called the Milky Way, a small cloud of gas and dust began to **compress** under its own weight.*

Comprise of (verb)

to have as integral parts

*On the east side of the valley is the Armargosa Range, **comprised of** three separate units.*

Compulsion (noun)

an irresistible, repeated, irrational, impulse to perform some act

*People with Multiple Personality Disorder may experience any of the following: depression, mood swings, suicidal tendencies, sleep disorders, panic attacks and phobias, alcohol and drug abuse, and **compulsions**.*

Computational (adjective)

describing the process of determining a number or amount through calculation and through the use of a computer.

*Cognitive Psychology is an empirical science and depends on careful experimental procedures and paradigms to test theories about these mental processes. This program is especially geared towards the application of formal and **computational** modeling and neuroscience methods to these basic questions.*

Conceivable (adjective)

capable of being anticipated, considered, or imagined

*The community consists of an enormous number of people of every **conceivable** age, race, religion, lifestyle, income and opinion.*

Concord (noun)

the state of individuals who are in complete agreement

*Initially, when settlers migrated west to settle on their own farmlands, there was no **concord** with the Native American population.*

Concrete (adjective)

having actual reality

*There is no **concrete** proof for the existence of a supreme being, which is why some people are atheists.*

Conditioning (noun)

to make familiar through constant practice or use

*Researchers have continued to use the techniques of classical **conditioning** for both learning and unlearning certain behaviors or fears.*

Condolence (noun)

sympathy with another in sorrow; an expression of sympathy

*We would like to express to her majesty and the people of the United Kingdom our sincere **condolences** for the loss of the British soldiers.*

Conducive (adjective)

tending to promote or assist

*Our intense winter storms, high rainfall amounts, and steep terrain area all **conductive** to land sliding.*

Confluence (noun)

the act or fact of coming together

A **confluence** of researchers brought about the invention of the atomic bomb.

Conformity (noun)

an act of willingly carrying out the wishes of others

The control theory's explanation of criminal behavior focuses on the control mechanisms, techniques, and strategies for regulating human behavior, leading to **conformity** or obedience to society's rules.

Confound (verb)

to throw a person into confusion or perplexity

Earlier this week, Fed policy setters elected to trim the fed funds rate to 1.00 percent from 1.25 percent, **confounding** some market expectations for a reduction of half a percentage point.

Conical (adjective)

resembling a cone in shape

The **conical** shaped space rocket was launched into space.

Conjure up (verb)

imagine or contrive

A family is the basic unit in society having as its nucleus two or more adults living together and cooperating in the care and rearing of their own or adopted children. Despite this all-inclusive definition, a lesbian or gay couple with or without children are not the image **conjured up** when most people create a picture of a family.

Con-man (noun)

one who tells falsehoods in order to get financial gain

"Dante's View" and the "Devil's Corn Field" are names coined by the hustlers and **con-men** who sought to attract visitors and investors to this burgeoning mining area.

Consciousness (noun)

the condition of being aware

The Sun Dance was a type of self torture which included a loss of **consciousness**.

Consecutive (adjective)

following one after another in an orderly pattern

*An anorexic girl weighs at least 15 percent less than her ideal weight, has an extreme fear of gaining weight, and has missed at least three **consecutive** menstrual periods.*

Consequence (noun)

something brought about by a cause

*Deviance is seen as a **consequence** of society's decision to apply that term to a person, and deviant behavior is behavior that society labels as deviant.*

Conservatism (noun)

a political philosophy based on tradition and social stability, stressing established institutions and preferring gradual development to abrupt change

*Although he never wavered in his devotion to colonial rights and early committed himself to independence as an unwelcome last resort, Adams's innate **conservatism** made him determined in 1770 that the British soldiers accused of the Boston Massacre receive a fair hearing.*

Conserve (verb)

to protect an asset from loss or destruction

*Now that we know what is involved in obtaining water and how quickly it is being used, everyone must do his/her part to **conserve** water.*

Consistently (adverb)

without variation or change

*Long time Death Valley residents say that daily temperatures at Bad water are **consistently** higher than those at Furnace Creek.*

Consort (noun)

a husband or wife

*Prince Albert was Queen Elizabeth's **consort** and her first cousin and the nephew of the king of the Belgians, Leopold I.*

Conspire (verb)

to work out a secret plan to achieve an evil or illegal end

*Martin's Luther King's house was bombed, and he was convicted along with other boycott leaders on charges of **conspiring** to interfere with the bus company's operations.*

Constituent (adjective)

one of the individual entities contributing to a whole

*If water rich asteroids added water to the lunar surface, most of the water would be split by sunlight into its **constituent** atoms of hydrogen and oxygen and lost into space, but some would migrate by literally hopping along to places where it is very cold.*

Constitute (verb)

to put in force by legal authority

*The death penalty is **constituted** by most state judicial courts as a legal force of punishment for criminals who have committed premeditated murder.*

Constrain (verb)

to control, or restrict

*Still others are enjoying a higher level of economic prosperity than the average American and don't feel **constrained** in any way by a lack of marriage rights.*

Consul (noun)

an official appointed by a government to reside in a country to represent the commercial interests of citizens of the appointing country

*Bret Harte served as a **consul** in Germany and Scotland, after which he settled in England, where he remained until he died in 1902.*

Consultant (noun)

one who advises another, especially officially or professionally

*Business **consultants** often advise their clients to make long term investments.*

Consummate (adjective)

supremely excellent in quality or nature

*Mozart was commissioned to compose a new opera for Munich, Idomeneo (1781), which proved that he was a **consummate** master of opera series.*

Containment (noun)

the state of holding back or within fixed limits; to restrain

*The government is increasingly drawn into discussions about healthcare reform, particularly when it relates to cost **containment**.*

Contemporary (adjective)

modern, in existence now

*In 1989, the musician came back with "Back On the Block," another grand tour of **contemporary** Rhythm and Blues (R&B) with a guest list that read like a Who's Who of R&B.*

Contentious (adjective)

inclined to act in a hostile way; given to arguing

*A **contentious** argument erupted during the classroom debate.*

Continental (adjective)

of the mainland; any of the main large land areas of the earth

*Around the margins of the Pacific Ocean, for example, denser oceanic plates slip under **continental** plates in a process known as subduction.*

Contour (adjective)

following contour lines or forming furrows or ridges along them

***Contour** plowing diminishes water-polluting runoff.*

Contraception (noun)

deliberate prevention of conception or impregnation

*It is widely known as the "morning-after pill," but new research confirms that emergency **contraception** reliably prevents pregnancy even when taken as long as five days after having sex.*

Contract (verb)

to reduce in size by or as by drawing together

*A partner will stretch your muscle group to a comfortable level. Then you **contract** as tight as you can and hold for about 6 to 10 seconds. You then relax and your partner stretches you further, repeating the process.*

Contrive (verb)

to form a strategy for

*Chimpanzees require massive regimented teaching sequences **contrived** by humans to acquire quite rudimentary abilities.*

Conversely (adverb)

the manner of being the opposite of

*Lack of physical activity causes an increase in body fat. **Conversely**, regular exercise leads to a loss of body fat.*

Convert (verb)

to alter or change the physical or chemical properties of something

*Our gut **converts** the protein from our dinner lamb chop into smaller amino acids.*

Convey (verb)

to make known; to put into words

*The best philosophy to be **conveyed** about how to avoid problems is the principle of the three red flags, which states that most accidents or avalanches are not the result of an unavoidable "karmic cannonball," but rather are the predictable outcome of a series of related events.*

Conveyor (noun)

a mechanical apparatus which carries packages or bulk material from one place to another

*Muscular contractions cause a ripple like movement that carries the contents down the small intestine somewhat like a **conveyor** belt.*

Convoy (verb)

to accompany, especially to escort for protection

*So Marin County parents started "walking school buses," where they **convoy** groups of kids to school. It's a concept used in Chicago city schools where gang crime is the biggest threat to children.*

Cooing (verb)

making a low soft cry

*Usually ranging from approximately 0 to six months, **cooing** is the first stage of linguistic development in children.*

Cooperating (verb)

to work together toward a common end

*A family is the basic unit in society having as its nucleus two or more adults living together and **cooperating** in the care and rearing of their own or adopted children.*

Coordinator (noun)

one who brings something into accord; one who combines and adapts in order to attain a particular effect.

*Maya Angelou became the northern **coordinator** for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.*

Cordially (adverb)

manner relating to kindness, warmth, and unaffected courtesy

*In 1762 the Mozart children played at court in Vienna; the Empress Maria Theresa and her husband, Emperor Francis I, received them **cordially**.*

Core (noun) the most central and material part; a point of origin from which ideas, influences, etc., emanate

*Earth's density is due in part to gravitational compression; if not for this, Mercury would be denser than Earth, indicating that Mercury's dense iron **core** is relatively larger than Earth's, probably comprising the majority of the planet.*

Corporate (adjective)

being a commercial organization

***Corporate** interviewers are looking for applicants who display purpose and commitment to their future occupation.*

Corpse (noun)

the physical frame of a dead person or animal

*Zurbaran attempted to capture the fact that it is a **corpse** by painting a somewhat frightening face.*

Correlate (verb)

to come or bring together in one's mind or imagination

*One of his students found that scores on these tests did not **correlate** with class standing among undergraduates at Columbia University.*

Corrode (verb)

to eat away by degrees as if by gnawing; especially : to wear away gradually usually by chemical action; to weaken or destroy gradually : to undermine

*CO₂ might **corrode** concrete plugs meant to seal wells.*

Costume (noun)

clothes or other personal effects, such as make-up, worn to conceal one's identity

*To celebrate Halloween, children dress up in **costumes** and go house to house asking for candy.*

Counterpart (noun)

something possessing the same or almost the same characteristics as something else

*In Roman mythology, Mercury is the god of commerce, travel, and thievery, the Roman **counterpart** of the Greek god Hermes, the messenger of the Gods.*

Countless (adjective)

too great to be calculated

*Indeed, fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear accident has turned up in ice cores, as has dust from violent desert storms **countless** millennia ago.*

Coupe (noun)

a 2-door automobile often seating only two persons; *also* : one with a tightly spaced rear seat

*The Corvette **Coupe**, from the United States, is a popular sports car.*

Covet (verb)

characterized as having an inordinate desire for what belongs to another

*He is the only art critic to have twice won America's most **coveted** award for art criticism, the Frank Jewett Mather Award, given by the College Art Association.*

Cowhand (noun)

a cowboy; one who tends cows

*In the 1800's, some worked as **cowhands** on ranches in Montana, during which they experienced devastating snowstorms and temperatures as cold as -40 F.*

Crack (noun)

to undergo partial breaking

*A small pebble caused a **crack** in the windshield.*

Cradle (noun)

a place in which a thing begins or is nurtured in its infancy

*Ancient Greece, once the **cradle** of Western culture, is responsible for many of the moral and scientific concepts that exist today.*

Cramp (verb)

to be restrained or confined

*The Scots fought from a better position and the English were too **cramped** for space to use their superior numbers.*

Cranium (noun) skull; the part of the head that encloses the brain

*It was believed in the nineteenth that bumps on a person's **cranium** revealed his or her personality.*

Cratered (verb)

to exhibit bowl-shaped depressions caused by the impact of a meteorite

*Mercury is in many ways similar to the Moon: its surface is heavily **cratered** and very old.*

Creaking (verb)

a prolonged grating or squeaking sound

Yards **creaking** and making groaning sounds can be early warnings of slope failure.

Cremate (verb)

to reduce a dead body to ashes by burning

His last wish before he died was to be **cremated** and have his ashes spread over the Pacific Ocean.

Crevice (noun)

a narrow opening resulting from a split or crack

*Found in waters all over the earth, octopuses like to hide in rocks and **crevices** and can squeeze into tiny holes, as they have no bones.*

Criterion (noun)

a standard of comparison

*In order for doctors to know whether or not a baby is normal, there are certain **criteria** or standards of judgment, but individual babies will vary somewhat from these standards.*

Critique (noun)

evaluative and critical discourse

*William Faulkner was a keen **critique** of the literature of his time.*

Crucial (adjective)

so serious as to be at the point of crisis

*The sociological perspective is **crucial** for working in today's multiethnic and multinational business environment.*

Crude (adjective)

in a natural state and still not prepared for use

***Crude** oil needs to be refined before it can be used for automobile consumption.*

Crumple (verb)

to make irregular folds in, especially by pressing or twisting; to be unable to hold up

*The front and rear ends of an automobile are designed to **crumple** during a collision.*

Crushing (verb)

pressing forcefully so as to break up into pulpy mass

*The core thus begins to fuse helium into carbon to make enough energy to maintain its balance with the **crushing** force of gravity.*

Crustal (adjective)

relating to the outer exterior of the earth consisting of rock

*Tectonic earthquakes are a particular kind of earthquake that are associated with the earth's **crustal** deformation; when these earthquakes occur beneath the sea, the water above the deformed area is displaced from its equilibrium position.*

Crystallized (adjective)

formed with a clear colorless rock

*Diamond is the name given to the **crystallized** form of the element Carbon.*

Cull (noun)

something rejected especially as being inferior or worthless

*Animal activists are angry about the kangaroo **cull**.*

Cultivate (verb)

to prepare or prepare and use for something

*The proposal focused on a laboratory procedure designed to create embryos to **cultivate** their stem cells, which are master cells that can potentially grow into any type of human tissue.*

Cumulative (adjective)

increasing, as in force, by successive additions

*Scientific knowledge is not absolute, but **cumulative** in that new facts are constantly being added while old facts are discarded.*

Curio (adjective)

something such as a decorative object considered novel, rare, or bizarre

*A further one million are fished for the **curio** trade because seahorses retain their shape and color when dried.*

Current (noun)

occurring in or belonging to the present time

*Although the three **currents** discussed so far in 20th century painting may also be found in sculpture, the parallelism should not be overstressed.*

Curve (verb)

having bends, curves, or angles; deviating from a straight line

*Unstable areas may sometimes be identified by trees or telephone poles tilted at odd angles, or by **curved** tree trunks.*

Cyclical (adjective)

of, relating to, or being an interval of time during which a sequence of a recurring succession of events or phenomena is completed

*The one thing we don't know is whether it will be **cyclical**, whether it will occur seasonally.*

Cylinder (adjective)

the surface traced by a straight line moving parallel to a fixed straight line and intersecting a fixed curve.

*The long **cylinders** of ancient ice that they retrieve provide a **dazzlingly** detailed record of what was happening in the world over the past several ice ages.*

Dashboard (noun)

a panel extending across the interior of a vehicle as an automobile below the windshield and usually containing dials and controls

*In a demonstration at an imaginary **dashboard**, Michael greeted the computer ("Good morning, Sally"), told it he was catching a flight from John F. Kennedy International Airport and received a map and spoken directions, estimated travel time, the state of the traffic ahead, the weather, the flight's status, country music on the radio and directions to an Italian restaurant en route.*

Database (noun)

a usually large collection of data organized especially for rapid search and retrieval as by a computer

*Our editors make daily updates to our proprietary **database** of company information, which can be found on our Web site, Hoover's Online.*

Dazzlingly (adverb)

manner of arousing admiration by an impressive display

*The long cylinders of ancient ice that they retrieve provide a **dazzlingly** detailed record of what was happening in the world over the past several ice ages.*

Deadliest (adjective)

extremely destructive or harmful

*At least 80 and perhaps hundreds of people were killed in the **deadliest** historical eruption to occur in what is now the United States.*

Deal with (verb)

to be occupied or concerned

*Politeness strategies are developed for the main purpose of **dealing with** face threatening acts.*

Dearth (noun)

an inadequate supply

*The model offers no way to explain the moon's confounding **dearth** of iron.*

Debris (noun)

an accumulation of fragments of rock

*Landslides, mud flows and **debris** avalanches frequently accompany other natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes.*

Decay (verb)

to become or cause to become rotten or unsound; to decompose

*Because of the high humidity, abundant insects, and scavenger-eating animals and birds, an animal carcass can **decay** in Mississippi in just a few days.*

Decipher (verb)

to make understandable

*Few historians today have the capability of **deciphering** scrolls written in ancient Egyptian.*

Decode (verb)

to convert a coded message into intelligible form; to discover the underlying meaning of

*It seems that the structure of the language you learn as a child affects how the structure of your brain develops to **decode** speech. Native English speakers, for example, find it extraordinarily difficult to learn Mandarin*

Decorated (verb)

to furnish with emblems of honor worn on one's clothing, or displayed on objects

*Quincy Jones is one of the most **decorated** musicians of all time.*

Decry (verb)

to consider or treat as small or unimportant

*There are those who **decry** marriage as a sexist and patriarchal institution that should be avoided at all costs.*

Deem (verb)

to have an opinion

*Any human caused blazes are to be suppressed immediately as well as any natural fires **deemed** dangerous.*

Default (noun)

a failure to pay financial debts

*The trend has been to raise rates because of the increasing number of **defaults** among consumers.*

Deferential (adjective)

showing or expressing respect and esteem due a superior or an elder

*The Justice Department properly withheld the names and other details about hundreds of foreigners detained in the months after the Sept. 11 attacks, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday. The powerful decision was **deferential** to the Bush administration's arguments over continued threats to America from terrorists.*

Definitive (adjective)

serving the function of deciding or settling with finality

*Two recent books are the **definitive** books in the area of cold reading: King of the Cold Readers (KCR) by Bascom Jones and Red Hot Cold Reading (RHCR) by Thomas Saville, Ph.D. and Herb Dewey.*

Deflect (verb)

to turn aside especially from a straight course or fixed direction

*If the interior is weak, for example, an attempt to **deflect** it with a nuclear warhead (an option under consideration) may simply break up the asteroid into many smaller and uncontrolled pieces.*

Defuse (verb)

to remove the fuse from a mine or bomb; to make less harmful, potent, or tense

*You can tend to your loved one and to yourself by focusing on the rewards of caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease and by learning to recognize and **defuse** stress.*

Degradation (noun)

the act or an instance of demoting

*Don Quixote shows how not distinguishing between the two leads to the moral **degradation** of his hero and, consequently, of his public.*

Degraded (adjective)

reduced far below ordinary standards of civilized life and conduct; characterized by degeneration of structure or function

*Protecting existing habitat and restoring **degraded** habitat can help the grizzly to recover.*

Delectable (adjective)

highly pleasing, especially to the sense of taste

*The ape inserts a twig into a hole in a termite's nest, after which it pull outs the twig covered with **delectable** insects.*

Delegate (noun)

one who stands in for another; one who is given authority to represent another

*In 1776, John Adams was a Massachusetts **delegate** to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.*

Deleterious (adjective)

harmful often in a subtle or unexpected way

*There is increasing evidence that some beached whales may have been stranded as a result of loud sounds made by mid-range navy sonar. This has produced a great deal of concern about the possible **deleterious** effects of noise pollution on marine mammals.*

Delineation (noun)

a line marking and shaping the outer form of an object

*Bialystok asserts that the **delineation** begins at the age of twenty, at which point begins a decline in the ability to learn a language.*

Delta (noun)

the alluvial deposit at the mouth of a river

*The **delta** extends outward fifty miles on both sides of the Mississippi River in the area of Mississippi and Louisiana and experiences floods during the spring.*

Demise (noun)

a cessation of existence or activity

*Columbia's **demise** on Feb. 1, 2003, not only cost the lives of seven astronauts, but also leaves a gaping hole in the busy shuttle manifest, which is now focused on building and supplying the International Space Station.*

Demographic (adjective)

relating to the dynamic balance of a population

*These **demographic** peculiarities reveal a pattern of upward marriage or hypergamy which is quite different from endogamy and reflects an acknowledged status difference between communities.*

Denouncing (verb)

to find fault with; to make an accusation against

*A pamphlet entitled *A Dissertation on the Canon and the Feudal Law* and town instructions **denouncing** the Stamp Act (1765) marked him as a vigorous, patriotic penman, and, holding various local offices, he soon became a leader among Massachusetts radicals.*

Densely (adverb)

with all parts or elements in extremely close proximity

*Particles within the cloud's center (core) became so **densely** packed that they often collided and stuck (fused) together.*

Dependent (noun)

a person who relies on another for support

*It is one of the more remarkable feats of American literature, how a young man who never graduated from high school, never received a college degree, living in a small town in the poorest state in the nation, all the while balancing a growing family of **dependents** and impending financial ruin, could during the Great Depression write a series of novels all set in the same small Southern county that would one day be recognized as among the greatest novels ever written by an American.*

Depict (verb)

to present a lifelike image of

*St. Francis is **depicted** wearing a brown habit worn by Franciscan Monks and by the stigmata over the heart.*

Deposit (noun)

matter that settles on a bottom or collects on a surface by a natural process

*Several tools have been developed to help land users identify unstable slopes. Slope maps, geology maps, and landslide **deposit** maps are available for public inspection at the Santa Cruz County Planning Department.*

Derive (verb)

to obtain from another source

*Like German, English is **derived** from some common original Germanic or Teutonic parent speech, although this original language is no longer in existence.*

Derange (verb)

to disturb the health or physiological functioning of

*The writer became **deranged** due to his heavy consumption of alcohol and drugs.*

Derogatory (adjective)

tending or intending to belittle

***Derogatory** language is not permitted in the workplace.*

Descend (verb)

to become lower in quality, character, or condition

*The absolute finest colorless stone carries a D rating, **descending** through each letter of the alphabet to Z, designating a diamond of light yellow, brown, or gray.*

Desegregate (verb)

to open to all people regardless of race

*Montgomery buses were **desegregated** in December, 1956, after the United States Supreme Court declared Alabama's segregation laws unconstitutional.*

Designate (verb)

to make known or identify, as by signs

*The absolute finest colorless stone carries a D rating, descending through each letter of the alphabet to Z, **designating** a diamond of light yellow, brown, or gray.*

Desolate (adjective)

devoid of inhabitants and visitors; deserted

*The Sinai Peninsula is a **desolate** desert region in northeast Egypt. Its terrain includes a sandy coastal plain, a high limestone plateau, and mountains.*

Destabilize (verb)

to take out of balance so as to make it unstable

*A landslide or slope failure occurs when steep slopes are **destabilized** by excess water accumulation in the soil, the addition of excess weight to the top of a slope, the removal of support from the bottom of a slope, or a combination of the above.*

Detect (verb)

to perceive, to discover

*Scientists **detected** Chernobyl radioactivity in snow at the South Pole, a graphic reminder of how small our planet is.*

Detergent (noun)

a cleansing agent such as soap

*Waste water often containing **detergents** encourage the growth of algae.*

Deteriorate (verb)

to become in a less than perfect or whole condition in quality, functioning, or condition

*The heartbreak of watching your loved one slowly **deteriorate**, coupled with that person's growing need for supervision and personal care, often causes caregivers to feel overwhelming stress.*

Determinate (adjective)

having defined limits

*In a sharp contrast to monkeys, human children pick up thousands of words spontaneously, combine them in structured sequences in which every word has a **determinate** role, respect the word order of the adult language, and use sentences for a variety of purposes such as commenting on interesting objects.*

Detrimental (adjective)

causing harm or injury

*Continuing to stretch by bouncing one's body is **detrimental** in the long run as the body will start to adapt against it and one may find it difficult to stretch properly at all.*

Devastate (verb)

to destroy completely while conquering or occupying

*As the tsunami's speed diminishes as it travels into shallower water, its height grows, consequently making its effects **devastating** to a coastal community.*

Deviance (noun)

the condition of being abnormal

*The labeling theory explains **deviance** as a social process by which some people who commit deviant acts come to be known as deviants and others do not.*

Devise (verb)

to form a strategy for; to use ingenuity in making, developing, or achieving

*Considerable effort is devoted to **devising** innovative applications to important practical problems, e.g., human computer interaction, decision aiding, and medical training.*

Devoid (adjective)

lacking a desirable element; containing nothing

*Studies of lunar samples revealed that the interior of the Moon is essentially **devoid** of water, so no underground supplies could be used by lunar inhabitants.*

Devote (verb)

to give over by or as if by vow to a higher purpose

*Researchers from all over the world are **devoting** considerable time and energy into finding the answer to this critical question.*

Diagnostic (adjective)

relating to investigation or analysis of the cause or nature of a condition, situation, or problem.

*For those unfamiliar with the term, cold reading is the description of the personality, characteristics, and features, past experiences and sometimes the future of a person without the use of standard psychological or other formal **diagnostic** procedures.*

Diarrhea (noun)

abnormally frequent intestinal evacuations with more or less fluid stools

*Bulimia nervosa is when a person consumes large amounts of food, but then induces vomiting or **diarrhea** in an attempt to avoid weight gain.*

Diaspora (noun)

people settled far from their ancestral homelands

*The African Voices Hall presents the richness and diversity of cultures throughout the African continent, as well as traditions sustained and reinterpreted by the African **diasporas** in Asia, Europe, and the Americas.*

Dictate (verb)

to set forth expressly and authoritatively

*The value of a diamond is determined by its exact quality as defined by the 4C's: Cut, Color, Clarity and Carat Weight. The cut of a diamond refers to its proportions. Of the 4C's, the cut is the aspect most directly influenced by man. The other three are **dictated** by nature.*

Differential (adjective)

making a distinction among individuals or classes

*The theory is called **differential** association. It denotes a person's associations that differ from those of other persons*

Digestion (noun)

the process of making food absorbable by breaking it down into smaller, simpler chemical compounds

*Sucrose is hydrolyzed during **digestion** according to the following equation:*

Sucrose + H₂O v Glucose + Fructose

Dilute (verb)

lower than its normal strength or concentration due to a mixture

*Gasoline, if **diluted** with water, will cause an automobile engine to malfunction.*

Dimensional (adjective)

relating to the amount of space occupied by something

*Our vocal tracts have a sharp right angle bend that creates two independently modifiable resonant cavities (the mouth and the pharynx or throat) that defines a large two **dimensional** range of vowel sounds.*

Disavow (verb)

to deny responsibility for; disclaim, repudiate

*The Israeli Prime Minister has decided to **disavow** talks with the Palestinians.*

Discard (verb)

to let go or get rid of as being no longer of use, value, etc.

*Scientific knowledge is not absolute, but cumulative. New facts are constantly being added while old facts are **discarded**.*

Discernable (adjective)

so as to perceive, to recognize as being different

*Many inclusions are not **discernable** to the naked eye and require magnification to become apparent.*

Discharge (verb)

to release from military duty

*After being **discharged** from the military, Elvis Presley went back to singing and starring in movies.*

Disconnecting (verb)

to separate one thing from another thing

*Dissociation Identity Disorder is the phenomena of completely **disconnecting** oneself from a memory (or memories) and the emotions around the memory (or memories), creating a separate identity to hold memories and emotions.*

Discredit (verb)

causing disbelief in the accuracy or authority of

*Canup and Asphaug were able to re-test the **discredited** mid-1980s hypothesis of impact by a Mars size object thanks to greater computing power.*

Discrepancy (noun)

a marked lack of correspondence or agreement

*The tiny differences between the observed and predicted values were a minor but nagging problem for many decades. It was thought that another planet (sometimes called Vulcan) might exist in an orbit near Mercury's to account for the **discrepancy**.*

Disdain (noun)

the quality of being overly convinced of one's own superiority and importance

Due to the complete disdain the co-worker showed to others, he was fired.

Disenchant (verb)

disappoint; dissatisfy

*Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean sought to redefine and broaden his liberal, anti war campaign in formally announcing his candidacy Monday, telling **disenchanted** American voters, "You have the power!" to oust President Bush and rid Washington of special interests.*

Disintegration (noun)

severe damage or decay rendering something useless or worthless

*Many founding fathers of the United States spoke out repeatedly against mob violence and other signs of social **disintegration**.*

Dismantle (verb)

to take to pieces; to destroy the integrity or functioning of

*Bush said the "true test" would be if the Palestinian militant groups would give up their arms and their ability to disrupt the peace process, Hamas must be **dismantled**.*

Dismay (noun)

to deprive of courage or the power to act as a result of fear, anxiety, or disgust

*In 1782 the now popular Mozart married Constance Weber from Germany, much to his father's **dismay**.*

Disorder (noun)

a disturbance of the health or physiological functioning of

*A new term, Dissociative Identity **Disorder** (DID) was created in 1994 to replace Multiple Personality **Disorder**.*

Dispense (verb)

to prepare and distribute as in medication

*But four states now allow pharmacists to **dispense** emergency contraception pills, and the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) is considering a request to make Plan B available over the counter.*

Disperse (verb)

to cause to separate and go in various directions

*Diamonds allow light to be reflected and **dispersed** as a rainbow of color.*

Displace (verb)

to move something from a position occupied

*Tsunamis can be generated when the sea floor abruptly deforms and vertically **displaces** the overlying water.*

Disposition (noun)

the combination of emotional, intellectual, and moral qualities that distinguishes an individual

*A crow looks mean and evil and some people say it has a **disposition** to match its looks.*

Disrepute (noun)

loss of or damage to one's reputation

*Multiple Personalities disorder was being thrown into **disrepute** because many people were giving phony demonstrations of alter switching during television talk shows.*

Disruptive (adjective)

troubling to the mind or emotions

*Driven by dizzying mutations in medical costs, program directors and staff ponder the **disruptive** dynamism of these new healthcare reforms.*

Disseminate (verb)

to pass something out; to spread out

*Many plants depend upon the wind to **disseminate** their pollen.*

Dissertation (noun)

a formal, lengthy exposition on a topic

*Graduation requirements include an empirical research project, a general preliminary examination, and a **dissertation** project.*

Dissipate (verb)

to disappear by or as if by dispersal of particles

*Helping to **dissipate** heat, the large neck of the giraffe serves as a cooling tower.*

Dissociate (verb)

to break the ties of connection between; to separate from

*A child may **dissociate**, and create an alternative personality to handle severe sexual or physical abuse.*

Distinctly (adverb)

so as to be easily perceived and understood

*Language is a form of speech **distinctly** different from others, adding for good measure not, or only partially, intelligible to others without special study.*

Distinguishable (adjective)

making noticeable or different from something else

Brown diamond shaped markings are found along the middle of the rattlesnake's back.

*These **distinguishable** markings stand out against their lighter body color.*

Distort (verb)

to twist out of a natural, normal, or original shape or condition; to cause to be perceived unnaturally

*The agency is trying to find a way to modify the machines with an electronic fig leaf programming that fuzzes out sensitive body parts or **distorts** the body so it is unrecognizable.*

Divergent (adjective)

departing from the normal; not like another in nature, quality, amount, or form

*While healthcare strategies abound from diverse viewpoints and **divergent** professional groups, no one strategy has all the answers to reform the medical healthcare enterprise.*

Diversity (noun)

the quality of being made of many different elements, forms, kinds, or individuals

*Colleges seek an equal **diversity** in its applicants by looking at background, experience, and previous scholastic achievement.*

Diurnal (adjective)

opening during the day and closing at night

*In rural areas, businesses are mostly **diurnal** because there is not a large enough population base to sustain extended hours operation.*

Division (noun)

one of the parts into which something is divided

*William Tecumseh Sherman, **division** commander, was quoted saying to reporters, "Take your regiment to Ohio. No enemy is nearer than Corinth."*

Dizzying (adjective)

vastly exceeding the normal limit, as in cost

*Driven by **dizzying** mutations in medical costs, program directors and staff ponder the disruptive dynamism of these new reforms.*

Doctorate (adjective)

any degree at the highest level awarded by universities

*A student intending to teach and conduct sociological research will most likely need a master's or a **doctorate** degree.*

Document (verb)

anything serving as proof

*Although explosive eruptions at Kilauea are infrequent, deposits of ash discovered by United States Geological Survey and other scientists **document** that they actually occur about as often as explosive eruptions from volcanoes in the Cascade Range of the Pacific Northwest, which includes Mount St. Helens, Washington.*

Doggedly (adverb)

with firm perseverance; with irrational determination of fixity of purpose

*The attack pushed most Union divisions back to reform elsewhere. Others fought **doggedly** to hold their line.*

Domesticate (verb)

to train to live with and be of use to man

*The single-humped Arabian camel has been **domesticated** for more than 5,000 years.*

Dominant (adjective)

most important, influential, or significant

*The abuse memories contained within alters are not typically accessible to the **dominant** personality.*

Dormant (adjective)

in a state of temporary inactivity

*Farther north of Stovepipe Wells is more salt pan and a **dormant** volcanic area which includes Ubehebe Crater.*

Downdraft (noun)

a downward air current

*The strength of intense **downdrafts** that emerge from Rocky Mountain storms can stir up severe weather downstream.*

Downpour (noun)

a heavy rain

*The scientists found that one **downpour** leads to another. In effect, they were able to pinpoint the culprit of these torrential rains in the Midwest.*

Downsizing (noun)

the act of reducing in size

*I managed to survive two rounds of corporate **downsizing**, but the third round was a 20 percent reduction in the workforce, which included me."*

Down slope (noun)

moving from place of higher elevation to a place of lower elevation

*In spring, the built up snow melts and runs **down slope** into brooks. These brooks flow down and join a river.*

Downstream (noun)

in the direction of the flow of water running along the surface of the earth; in the direction of the flow of something

*The strength of intense downdrafts that emerge from the mountain storms can stir up severe weather **downstream**.*

Drainage (noun)

the act, the process, or method for carrying off waste matter

*Human activities which act to further destabilizing slopes are logging, woodland conversion, road building, housing construction, and any activity which alters normal **drainage** patterns.*

Dramatic (adjective)

filled with action, emotion, or exciting qualities

*Gases trapped in ice cores show the **dramatic** impact that human activities have had on the planet since the Industrial Revolution.*

Drilling (verb)

to do or perform repeatedly so as to master

*At the Union camp at Shiloh, the Federal troops spent a day **drilling** and merry making.*

Driven (verb)

to fix an idea in someone's mind by emphasis and repetition

***Driven** by an intense need to characterize the traditions of the South, the writer sometimes depicts his characters as vulnerable, ill-informed, and racist.*

Drought (noun)

a prolonged or chronic shortage or lack of something, especially water

*A serious Midwestern **drought** during the 1930's devastated many farmers' crops.*

Drunkenness (noun)

given to habitual excessive use of alcohol of, relating to, or characterized by intoxication

*The immediate physical effects of drinking alcohol range from mild mood changes to complete loss of coordination, vision, balance, and speech any of which can be signals of the temporary systemic poisoning known as acute alcohol intoxication, or **drunkenness**.*

Dusk (noun)

the period between afternoon and nighttime

*It is recommended that a driver turn his lights on at the first signs of **dusk**.*

Dwarf (verb)

to make extremely small

*Given that it has snowed 35 inches in less than two days, this blizzard **dwarfs** any other storm that we have ever seen in our state.*

Dwellings (noun)

a building or shelter where one lives

*Many ancient Native American **dwellings** were built within the cliffs of the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona.*

Dye (noun)

something that gives color

*Ancient peoples used fermentation to make beer and used plants to produce **dyes** and medicines.*

Dynamism (noun)

the quality of being energetic, vigorous

*Driven by dizzying mutations in medical costs, program directors and staff ponder the disruptive **dynamism** of these new reforms.*

Dysfunction (noun)

abnormal, impaired, or incomplete functioning, as of a body organ or part

*Victims may have a predisposition to mood disorders which can be heightened by **dysfunctions** in family life.*

Easternmost (adjective)

the farthest east of a boundary or territory

*On the **easternmost** edge of Colorado lies a Native American settlement.*

Eccentricity (noun)

deviating from the normal or customary; peculiar behavior

*The high **eccentricity** of Mercury's orbit would produce very strange effects for an observer on Mercury's surface. At some longitudes the observer would see the Sun rise and then gradually increase in apparent size as it slowly moved toward the zenith.*

Eclipse (verb)

to be greater or better than

*Albert Einstein **eclipsed** his predecessors with his revolutionary breakthroughs in relativity.*

Echolocation (noun)

a process of locating distant or invisible objects by means of sound waves reflected back to the emitter (as a bat or a submarine) by the objects

*The biological sonar, or **echolocation**, of bats and a few other animals is one of nature's great inventions.*

Eerie (adjective)

of a mysteriously strange and usually frightening nature

*Movies also use conditioned stimuli such as darkness or **eerie** music to arouse the conditioned response of fear.*

Efficiency (noun)

the power or capacity to produce a desired result

*Anyone who can read and write can improve the **efficiency** of their memory.*

Eject (verb)

to throw out or off from within; to drive out especially by physical force

*Many scientists have thought for years that the moon was formed during the early days of the solar system when another planet collided with Earth, **ejecting** fragments of rocky material that condensed into Earth's only satellite.*

Elaborate (adjective)

complexly detailed

*Our gut can best be described as a very **elaborate** food "disassemble" plant.*

Elevate (verb)

to increase the level of something; to move something to a higher position

*Studies show an **elevated** (but so far not statistically significant) risk of lymphatic and hematopoietic cancers for most firefighters.*

Elite (adjective)

relating to a group of persons who by virtue of position or education exercise much power or influence

*Early decision started at most **elite** colleges in the late 1990s as a way for top students to win admission to their first choice of college without having to go through the longer admissions process.*

Eloquent (adjective)

vividly or movingly expressive or revealing; person marked by forceful and fluent expression

*Beecher, Henry Ward (1813-1887), the son of Lyman Beecher, was an **eloquent**, dramatic, and witty Protestant preacher.*

Elusive (adjective)

characterized by or exhibiting evasion

*Since September 11, 2001, American military have been searching for the ever so **elusive** Osama bin Laden.*

Emancipation (noun)

the state of not being in confinement or servitude

*One underlying cause of the Civil War was for the **emancipation** of all slaves in the South.*

Embark (verb)

to go about the initial step in doing something

*When Mozart was 6, he and his older sister, Maria Anna, **embarked** on a series of concert tours to Europe's courts and major cities.*

Embattle (verb)

being a site of battle, conflict, or controversy

*The **embattled** music industry disclosed aggressive plans Wednesday for an unprecedented escalation in its fight against Internet piracy, threatening to sue hundreds of individual computer users who illegally share music files online.*

Embellish (verb)

to endow with beauty and elegance by way of a notable addition

*The success of the cold reading lies in the sifter **embellishing** selected statements from the reading, with details that make the generalizations appear more accurate than they are.*

Embezzlement (noun)

to steal money entrusted to one's care

*Dubbed the king of white collar crime, Mark Hansen was twice imprisoned for **embezzlement**.*

Embrace (verb)

to encircle, to surround, or to enclose

*Western Diamondback Rattlesnake can be found over varied country, **embracing** the mountains up to altitudes of 8000 ft, the seacoasts levels, inland plains, desert areas.*

Emerge (verb)

to begin to appear or develop

*To compete in the **emerging** global economy, city-states must mobilize all their skills to protect their center cities and train their workforce to excel in an increasingly competitive world marketplace.*

Emission (noun)

discharged vapor or fumes

*In 1972 a law was passed to control the **emission** of coal into the atmosphere.*

Emotionalism (noun)

an appeal to emotion, especially to sway an audience to some belief

*Although, from an early age, Martin Luther King resented religious **emotionalism** and questioned literal interpretations of scripture, he nevertheless greatly admired black social gospel proponents such as his father who saw the church as a instrument for improving the lives of African Americans.*

Empathetic (adjective)

characterized by the projection of one's personality into the personality of another in order to understand the person better

*Murillo often chose models he felt had **empathetic** faces for his paintings.*

Empirical (adjective)

based solely on experiment and observation rather than theory

*Cognitive Psychology is an **empirical** science and depends on careful experimental procedures and paradigms to test theories about these mental processes.*

Enable (verb)

to give the means, ability, or opportunity to do something

*Sociological research influences the way we think about work and organizational life and **enables** us to discover new knowledge.*

Enactment (noun)

the formal product of a legislative or judicial body

*Unlike other countries which have a nationwide policy, in the United States, the **enactment** and enforcement of motor vehicle regulation is done by the states.*

Encase (verb)

to cover something completely; to enclose something

***Encased** in a padded steel cocoon, most drivers are unhurt if they are wearing their seatbelts during the time of the collision.*

Encroachment (noun)

the act of trespassing or intruding on the property of another

*From 1863 to 1868, the Sioux fought the army's **encroachment**.*

Encrypt (verb)

to convert information from one system of communication into another; *especially*: to convert a message into code

*The function that fills in forms offers an option to store credit card numbers too, but the information is **encrypted** on the hard drive of a user's computer instead of Google's computers, for security and privacy reasons.*

Endanger (verb)

to subject to danger or destruction

*Fires help habitats and are important to **endangered** species of animals that rely on these plants for survival.*

Endogamy (noun)

The custom of marrying only within one's group, clan, or tribe

*Data from the two locations of Stirling's ethnography show a uniform preference for marriage within the community as well as an interesting contrast in rates of **endogamy**.*

Endure (verb)

to remain in existence or in a certain state for an indefinitely long time

*Some towns and schools are named after Oak trees, reminding Californians of things that are free and **enduring**.*

Engage (verb)

to involve someone in an activity

*His concerts were a great success, and the emperor, Joseph II, encouraged him, later (1787) **engaging** him as court composer.*

Engulf (verb)

to flow over completely

*At this point in its life, the Sun's envelope will expand to **engulf** all of the inner solar system out to Mars.*

Enhance (verb)

to endow with beauty and elegance by way of a notable addition

*Students are also expected to **enhance** the teaching, communication, and administrative skills he will need in his professional career.*

Enlarge (verb)

to express at greater length or in detail; to make or become greater or larger

*City-states' importance were **enlarged** through the 1990s by the rapid flowering of the Internet and the digital revolution.*

Enlist (verb)

to become a member of

*After World War I and II, American women and children were **enlisted** to help in the war effort by collecting items of rubber and metal for recycling.*

Enmity (noun)

positive, active, and typically mutual hatred or ill will

*Laboring to transform the dual Austro-Hungarian Monarchy into a triple monarchy including a Slavic kingdom under Croatian leadership, he won the **enmity** of both the Pan-Serbians and the Pan-Germans, and his support of the Christian Socialist campaign for universal suffrage brought the hostility of the Hungarian magnates.*

Enormous (adjective)

of extraordinary size and power

*The community consists of an **enormous** number of people of every conceivable age, race, religion, lifestyle, income, and opinion.*

Enrage (verb)

full of or marked by extreme anger

***Enraged** smaller birds are seen driving away larger birds that are trying to invade the smaller birds' nests.*

Enrich (verb)

to make rich or richer especially by the addition or increase of some desirable quality, attribute, or ingredient

*Parts of a gas centrifuge system for **enriching** uranium were dug up in Baghdad.*

Ensemble (noun)

a group of musicians engaged in a performance

*An **ensemble** of violinists played at the wedding.*

Ensnare (verb)

to occur as a consequence

*A large battle **ensued**, but the Vikings were eventually able to resist the attack.*

Enterprise (noun)

A commercial organization

*While healthcare strategies abound from diverse viewpoints and divergent professional groups, no one strategy has all the answers to reform the medical healthcare **enterprise**.*

Enthrall (verb)

catching and holding the full attention

*The journal of Lewis and Clark, which depicts their extraordinary journey of eight-thousand miles, is **enthralling** reading today.*

Enthusiast (noun)

one who is ardently attached to a cause, object, or pursuit; one who tends to become ardently absorbed in an interest

*At one time, spotting a cougar in the eastern U.S. ranked alongside an encounter with Bigfoot or a UFO. But over the years, the rise in cougar tales has sparked an interest in wildlife officials and cougar **enthusiasts** alike.*

Entirety (noun)

an amount of quantity from which nothing is left out or held back

*Some mental illnesses are caused by severe abuse during childhood violence so extreme that the child cannot absorb the trauma in its **entirety**.*

Entrap (verb)

to catch or control by a source of danger not easily foreseen and avoided

*Upon locating its food, the anteater **entraps** it with its sticky saliva, hence making sure that the nest is wiped clean.*

Envision (verb)

to picture to oneself: think

*But scientists **envision** nonmilitary uses.*

Envoy (noun)

a person delegated to represent one government in its dealings with another

*In April 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte negotiated the sale of the Louisiana Territory with the **envoys** of President Thomas Jefferson.*

Eon (noun)

a long time

*Collectively, these frozen archives give scientists unprecedented views of global climate over the **eons**.*

Epicenter (noun)

the part of the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake

*Buildings from as far as 50 miles from the **epicenter** of the 7.9 earthquake suffered extensive damage.*

Episode (noun)

something significant that happens

*Most people have observed mild dissociative **episodes** in which they lose touch with their surroundings. Examples include daydreaming, highway hypnosis, or losing oneself in a movie or book.*

Equation (noun)

statement that two mathematical expressions are equal

*Sucrose + H₂O v Glucose + Fructose: We will need to remember that **equation** for the test.*

Equidistant (adjective)

being the same distance as something else

*In the copper crystal the spheres are packed closely together in such a fashion that each atom has twelve **equidistant** neighbors.*

Equilibrium (noun)

a stable state characterized by the cancellation of all forces by equal opposing forces

*The fusion process released tremendous amounts of heat and light which could then combat the compressing force of gravity; eventually, the two forces reached **equilibrium**.*

Equip (verb)

to supply what is needed for some activity or purpose

*To further their success, psychics must **equip** themselves with the fundamental knowledge regarding human nature that most of us do not normally appreciate.*

Equivalent (adjective)

equal in force, amount, or value; *also* : equal in area or volume but not admitting of superposition; corresponding or virtually identical especially in effect or function

"This is a boon to employers," said Ross Eisenbrey, policy director for the liberal Washington based think tank. "They'll be given a green light to exempt people (from

*overtime) whom Congress never intended to be treated as the **equivalent** of doctors and lawyers."*

ERA (NOUN)

A LARGE DIVISION OF GEOLOGIC TIME USUALLY SHORTER THAN AN EON

*FOR EXAMPLE, 65 MILLION YEARS AGO A 6.2-MILE (10 KILOMETER)-DIAMETER ASTEROID IMPACT RESULTED IN A 100-MILLION-MEGATON EXPLOSION THAT EXCAVATED A 112-MILE (180 KILOMETER)-WIDE CRATER ON THE YUCATÁN PENINSULA IN MEXICO AND BROUGHT THE DINOSAUR **ERA** TO AN END.*

ERADICATE (VERB)

TO DESTROY ALL TRACES OF

*EVEN THOUGH SMALLPOX WAS **ERADICATED** TWO YEARS AFTER THE LAST KNOWN CASE WAS REPORTED IN SOMALIA IN 1977, IT IS STILL CONSIDERED A DANGER DUE TO THE POTENTIAL TERRORIST THREAT IT POSES IF USED AS A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON.*

ERECT (VERB)

TO MAKE OR FORM A STRUCTURE

*IN MORE MODERN TIMES IN THE UNITED STATES, WINDMILLS WERE **ERECTED** AS THE WEST WAS BEING DEVELOPED DURING THE LATE 19TH CENTURY.*

Erode (verb)

to consume gradually, as by chemical reaction, friction, etc.

*Powerful waves caused by a storm off the coast of the Atlantic Ocean **eroded** more than 150 miles of coastline.*

Eruption (noun)

a sudden, violent explosion, as from a volcano

*The Indonesian volcano Toba blew its top in the largest volcanic **eruption** of the last half million years.*

Essentially (adverb)

as an inborn and basic element

*Studies of lunar samples revealed that the interior of the Moon is **essentially** devoid of water, so no underground supplies could be used by lunar inhabitants.*

Eternal (adjective)

existing or occurring without interruption or end

*It was not until the end of World War II that the **eternal** succession of international wars ceased in Europe.*

Enterprise (noun)

a project or undertaking that is especially difficult, complicated, or risky; a unit of economic organization or activity

*Over the last 125 years, scientific research and science-based technology have been the most profound agents of change in American life, and science has grown into a complex **enterprise** interwoven with all aspects of our culture.*

Ethical (adjective)

involving or expressing moral approval or disapproval

*The American Medical Association (AMA) on Tuesday endorsed cloning for research purposes, saying it is medically **ethical** but allowing doctors who oppose the practice to refuse to perform it.*

Ethnography (noun)

descriptive anthropology, which is the study of man in relation to distribution, origin, classification, and relationship to races, physical character, environmental and social relations and culture

*Data from the two locations of Sterling's **ethnography** show a uniform preference for marriage within the community as well as an interesting contrast in rates of endogamy.*

Entropic (verb)

rich in dissolved nutrients such as phosphates but often hallow and seasonally deficient in oxygen

*As a result of pollution, a lake can become **entropic**, hence making it distasteful and unhealthy.*

Evaporate (verb)

to pass off as vapor by being heated

*There is a special critical initial strength such that the field cannot decide whether to **evaporate** away or collapse to form a black hole.*

Excavate (verb)

to expose to view by or as if by digging away a covering

*Gold jewelry and other precious items recovered from royal tombs **excavated** at the ancient Assyrian capital of Nimrud.*

Exceed (verb)

to go beyond the limits of

*The life span of five Western Diamondbacks at the San Diego Zoo has **exceeded** 15 yrs.*

Excel (verb)

to be greater or better than

*Because to compete in the emerging global economy, city-states have no choice: they must mobilize all their skills to protect their center cities, grow smarter, protect their air and water, achieve more social equity, and train their workforce to **excel** in an increasingly competitive world marketplace.*

Exceptional (adjective)

far above others in quality or excellence

*As the boycott continued during 1956, King gained national prominence as a result of his **exceptional** oratorical skills and personal courage.*

Excess (adjective)

being more than is needed, desired, or appropriate

*Of 14 studies on the mortality of firefighters, 11 found **excess** risk for brain cancer.*

Exclusively (adverb)

to the exclusion of any other possibility

*Kinesiology is a class **exclusively** for those majoring in Physical Education*

Exert (verb)

to bring to bear steadily or forcefully

*Athletes must not over **exert** themselves too much when stretching but instead they should let their flexibility increase over time.*

Exhume (verb)

to take out of the grave or tomb

The investigation calls for **exhuming** and testing the remains of Billy the Kid's mother and Ollie L. "Brushy Bill" Roberts. Roberts, who died in 1950, swore he was William H. Bonney, the name most often given by the Kid as his real one.

Exhibition (noun)

an act of showing or displaying

Many sculptures and paintings are on **exhibition** at the National Gallery of Art.

Expenditure (noun)

something spent to obtain a benefit or desired result

Total healthcare **expenditures** can be very expensive.

Expectant (adjective)

expecting the birth of a child

Putting bacteria back into the equation for **expectant** mothers and infants may help reduce the risk of developing eczema (or dermatitis, as it is sometimes called) well into childhood.

Explode (verb)

to come open or fly apart suddenly and violently, as from internal pressure

In April 1986, Russia's nuclear power station at Chernobyl **exploded**, killing 250 people and sending radioactive fallout around the world.

Exploit (noun)

a great or heroic deed

Given to reading books of chivalry, the protagonist Alonso Quijano, influenced by the **exploits** of his heroes, loses his mind and decides to become a knight, go out in search of adventure and impose justice according to the code of the knights errant.

Exposure (noun)

the condition of being laid open to something undesirable or injurious

General causes for primary brain cancer can include a prior head injury, infections, exposure to chemical toxins such as insecticides and fungicides and **exposure** to radiation such as microwave or radio frequencies.

Express (verb)

to convey in language or words of a particular form

*This led to a professor at Stanford University to multiply this ratio by 100 to **express** a child's performance. He called this the intelligence quotient, or IQ.*

Exquisite (adjective)

of such tasteful beauty as to elicit admiration

*Although the Neanderthal man was not yet fully human and although he had a brain volume larger than that of modern man, he made **exquisite** tools of stone.*

Extirpate (verb)

to destroy completely, to wipe out

*The insecticides sprayed around the house have successfully **extirpated** the termite infestation.*

Extol (verb)

to pay tributes or homage to; to honor (a deity) in religious worship

*Benjamin Franklin **extols** the virtues of honesty, integrity, high moral standard in some of his writings.*

Extraordinary (adjective)

far beyond what is usual, normal, or customary

*Quincy Jones has won an **extraordinary** number of Grammy Awards both as musician and producer.*

Extraneous (adjective)

not part of the essential nature of a thing; not relevant or

pertinent to the subject; not

applicable

*An essay with poor development, simplistic organization, and **extraneous** details will score 2.0 or lower on TOEFL iBT writing.*

Eye-catching (adjective)

of such a character as to overwhelm

*At the performance, the jugglers made such an **eye-catching** performance that they were given a five minute standing ovation.*

Facet (noun)

the particular angle from which something is considered

*The album ranged widely across the various **facets** of contemporary Rhythm and Blues including the dance hit Ai No Corrida and making a star out of James Ingram with his lead vocals featured on Just Once and One Hundred Ways.*

Facilitation (noun)

the act of smoothing, aiding, assisting, or helping

*Progressive neuromuscular **facilitation** is the process of providing force during stretching so as to improve the flexibility of an athlete.*

Fall out of favor (verb phrase)

losing one's popularity

*By 1900 small electric wind systems were developed to generate direct current, but most of these units **fell out of favor** when rural areas became attached to the national electricity grid during the 1930s.*

Fallout (noun)

radioactive nuclear debris

*In April 1986, Russia's nuclear power station at Chernobyl exploded, killing 250 people and sending radioactive **fallout** around the world.*

Farce (noun)

a false, derisive, or impudent imitation of something

*That there was gold in many parts of the Sacramento River turned out to be a **farce**.*

Far-flung (adjective)

widely spread or distributed

*We follow them from the Dodger camp in Santa Domingo to spring training in Florida and through their first years in America and professional baseball in places as **far-flung** and overwhelmingly white as Great Falls, Montana.*

Far-reaching (adjective)

covering a wide scope

*The crash of the Stock Market in 1929 had **far-reaching** effects on the US economy.*

Fatality (noun)

a termination of life, usually the result of an accident or a disaster

Many fatalities have occurred from floods in the Midwest.

Fatigue (noun)

the condition of being extremely tired

*In general, a high measure of cardio respiratory endurance is the ability to perform about 60 minutes of vigorous exercise without too much **fatigue**.*

Fearlessness (noun)

the quality of mind enabling one to face danger or hardship

courageously, with decision, and unwavering firmness

*The Sioux fought against hostile tribes and white intruders. Soon, Sitting Bull became known for his **fearlessness** in battle.*

Feasible (adjective)

capable of occurring or being done

*The cost analysis of a proper prescribed burn and the cost of battling a blaze in the load fuel laden forests need to be considered to see which method is more economically **feasible** given the tight budgetary constraints with which the government has to operate.*

Feat (noun)

a great or heroic deed; something completed successfully

*Swimming across the English Channel is an athletic **feat** that few people ever accomplish.*

Feature (noun)

a distinctive element

*A cold reading is the description of the personality, characteristics, **features**, past experiences and sometimes the future of a person without the use of standard psychological or other formal diagnostic procedures.*

Feedback (noun)

information about the result of an experiment or action

*Constructive **feedback** to a child's positive behaviors is essential in conditioning him to exhibit good behavior.*

Feedstock (noun)

a supply stored or hidden for future use

*Recycled materials, such as aluminum, also provide manufacturers with valuable **feedstock**. For example, recycled aluminum cans are used to make new cans.*

Fermentation (noun)

breaking down of a substance by microorganisms, such as yeasts and bacteria, usually in the absence of oxygen, especially of sugar in making alcohol

*In ancient times, people used **fermentation** to make beer and used plants to produce dyes and medicines.*

Fertility (noun)

the quality or state of being capable of breeding or reproducing

*Although the impact of age on a woman's fertility has been well-studied, experts say this is the first time such a strong association has been found between age and male **fertility** in the time it takes to conceive a child.*

Fetus (noun)

a developing human from usually three months after conception to birth

The young mother could feel her child's fetus moving in her womb.

Fidelity (noun)

faithfulness or devotion to a person, a cause, obligations, or duties

*In order to be considered a good Christian, a person must practice marital **fidelity**.*

Figure (noun)

mathematical calculations

*According to the **figures** compiled by Standard & Poor's DRI division for the US Conference of Mayors and National Association of Counties, the US's 314 metro regions are clearly the economic drivers, providing 84 percent of new jobs, 95 percent of high-tech jobs, 88 percent of the country's income.*

Filter (verb)

clarify, refine, clean

*An electric pump **filters out** most of the impurities in a swimming pool.*

Finished (adjective)

marked by having the highest quality

*Japanese businesses are adept at importing raw materials and exporting **finished** products to countries all over the world.*

Finite (adjective)

limited, having a specific number

*A black hole oscillates increasingly rapidly, performing an infinite number of oscillations in a **finite** time.*

Fizz (noun)

bubbles, hisses, and foams in a beverage as gas escapes

*Torp rejected Green Peace's suggestion that CO₂ injection was illegal, noting that it was legally sold and exported-- it is the ingredient that puts **fizz** in beer or soft drinks.*

Fizzle (verb)

to fail or end feebly especially after a promising start — often used with the word out

*Three decades after the concept of Pan-Africanism **fizzled** out; satellite television is working where liberation philosophy did not: connecting and modernizing the world's poorest continent.*

Flair (adjective)

an innate or inborn capability; having a natural talent

*Director and film producer, Steven Spielberg, has a **flair** for captivating his audiences with the special effects and superb acting in his movies.*

Flank (noun)

one of two or more contrasted parts or places identified by its location with respect to a center

*The slab avalanche is usually easily recognized by its distinct crown and **flanks**. Slab and other avalanches can be hard or soft, wet or dry and can be triggered naturally/artificially.*

Flare (noun)

signal, bright light, or firework used as a signal

*Crew members began to fire **flares** into the sky when they realized that the ship was doomed to sink.*

Flashback (noun)

scene in a movie or book set in a time earlier than the main action

*Some movie directors use **flashbacks** as a way to create a more dramatic story.*

Flaunt (verb)

to display or obtrude oneself to public notice

*It was a sure sign that Embraer can fly as high as its competitor — a point driven home at the São Paulo show as Embraer opened a new front in the battle, **flaunting** its first executive jet, the attractively priced \$20 million Legacy.*

Fleet (noun)

number of vehicles or aircraft operating under one proprietor

*Americans throw away enough aluminum every three months to rebuild their entire commercial air **fleet**.*

Flexibility (noun)

the ability to bend easily without damage

To maintain **flexibility** stretching must be performed at least every 36 hours.

Flick (verb)

sudden movement or jerk, especially of the wrist

*Warm your arms by swinging them around. Loosely do boxing style punch drills. Loosely **flick** your wrists.*

Flippant (adjective)

lacking proper respect or seriousness

*Much of Mark Twain's writings were **flippant**, and he used his characters to criticize the culture and politics of his era.*

Flock (verb)

a very large number of things grouped together

*A **flock** of geese was seen just south of Orlando, Florida.*

Flourish (verb)

improving, growing, or succeeding steadily

J.C. Penny started a **flourishing** business in which he offered customers retail products at wholesale prices.

Flower (verb)

to blossom; to reach a peak

*City-states importance were enlarged by the rapid **flowering** of the Internet and the digital revolution.*

Fluffy (adjective)

downy, soft, light, puffy

***Fluffy** down-filled pillows provide much needed to those who suffer from insomnia.*

Fluid (adjective)

substance, especially a gas or liquid, whose shape is determined by its container

*Hawaii's volcanic eruptions are typically characterized by the relatively quiet outflow of very **fluid** lava and by sometimes spectacular lava fountains.*

Flux (noun)

something suggestive of running water

*The tsunami's energy **flux**, which is dependent on both its wave speed and wave height, remains nearly constant.*

Foe (noun)

one who is hostile to or opposes the purpose or interests of another

In three remarkable careers as a **foe** of British oppression and champion of Independence (1761-77), as an American diplomat in Europe (1778-88), and as the first vice president (1789-97) and then the second president (1797-1801) of the United States John Adams was a founder of the United States.

Follow-up (adjective)

a news story presenting new information on a story published earlier

*In a **follow-up** report published in the May 31 issue of *The Lancet*, the same group of researchers report that after four years, the children who were exposed to the probiotic were 40% less likely to have atopic eczema than the children in the placebo group.*

Forbid (verb)

so disagreeably austere as to discourage approach

*Despite the **forbidding** conditions, scientists have found certain fish and other animals to exist in the oceans' deepest regions.*

Forefront (noun)

something that occupies a front position; in or into a position of prominence

*At the end of the 19th century, a new way of transmitting power came to the **forefront**-electricity.*

Forecaster (noun)

one who predicts future events such as the weather

*Computer modeling to track these downdrafts and the cloud level ice crystals that help produce them were developed to give **forecasters** the edge in predicting severe storm systems, and possibly flooding, over the plains.*

Former (adjective)

having been such previously

*The term "Multiple Personality Disorder" or (MPD) has been largely replaced by Dissociative Identity Disorder or (DID). As the **former** name implies, MPD/DID is a mental condition in which two more personalities appear to inhabit a single body.*

Formidable (adjective)

causing or able to cause fear; imposing a severe test of bodily or spiritual strength

*The curved horn protruding from the Rhino's head is a **formidable** weapon with which its competitors will be confronted.*

Foremost (adjective)

most important, influential, or significant

*Alan Greenspan, one of the **foremost** economists in the US, has been chairman of the Federal Reserve for a number of years.*

Formula (noun)

chemical symbols showing the parts of a substance

*The **formula** for glucose is usually written as C₆H₁₂O₆. Glucose, once manufactured by the plant, is used to create many of the more complex carbohydrates.*

Formulate (verb)

to use in ingenuity in making, developing, or achieving

*Alternate between your flash cards and notes and test yourself (orally or in writing) on the questions you **formulated**. Make additional flash cards if necessary.*

Fossil (noun)

natural fuel such as coal or gas

*Atmospheric carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxides from coal and oil burning power plants, cars, and other **fossil** fuel burning sources have climbed along with the world population, with as yet unknown effects on the climate system.*

Foster (verb)

to promote and sustain the development of

*Hunters, traders, miners, and cattle ranchers, all of whom moved to the frontier areas of the United States in the 1800's, did little to **foster** the birth of civilization in those areas.*

Fountain (noun)

jet or jets of water made to spout for ornamental purposes or for drinking

*Water is important for firefighting and for filling **fountains** and swimming pools.*

Franchise (noun)

the right to be and exercise the rights of a corporation

*A businessperson may purchase the rights to a **franchise** such as Taco Bell, which gives him/her the rights to a proven system of operation and a trademark, and thus offering customer's assurance that the meal will be as expected.*

Frigid (adjective)

very cold; lacking all friendliness and warmth

*The precise composition and relative proportions of that dust and gas hold clues to the materials and physical conditions present in the **frigid** outer regions of the solar system where comets are formed.*

Frontier (noun)

a region that forms the margin of settled or developed territory

*Many were attracted to the American **frontier** by cheap land and a hunger for adventure.*

Fructose (noun)

the simple sugar found in honey and fruits

*While Glucose and **Fructose** are absorbed directly into the blood stream, Sucrose is hydrolyzed during digestion according to the following equation:*

*Sucrose + H₂O v Glucose + **Fructose***

Fuel (noun)

material burned or used as a source of heat or power

*Fats are necessary for some things such as **fuel** for our body, so it is important to get about 30% of our calories from fats.*

Fugitive (noun)

one who flees, as from home, confinement, captivity, justice, etc.

*Because Bloodhounds have an innate ability to pick up even the smallest traces of a scent, they are most effective in tracking down **fugitives**.*

Function (noun)

a large or important social gathering

When we are surrounded by a group of adults at a formal function which our parents are attending, we must say, "Could you please pass me that plate, if you don't mind?"

Fundamental (adjective)

a broad and basic rule or truth

*The court described marriage as one of the basic civil rights of man and the most important relation in life. The court also noted that the right to marry is part of the **fundamental** right to privacy in the U.S. Constitution.*

Fungicide (noun)

a substance which destroys any of a group or non-photosynthetic organisms feeding on organic matter

*General causes for primary brain cancer can include a prior head injury, infections, exposure to chemical toxins such as insecticides and **fungicides** and exposure to radiation such as microwave or radio frequencies.*

Funnel (verb)

to move to a focal point or into a conduit or central channel

*There also have been persistent reports that Saudi charities and members of the royal family have **funneled** money to terrorists, including Osama bin Laden.*

Fuse (verb)

to put together into one mass so that the constituent parts are more or less homogeneous

*The core thus begins to **fuse** helium into carbon to make enough energy to maintain its balance with the crushing force of gravity.*

Fuselage (noun)

the central body portion of an airplane designed to accommodate passengers, crew, and cargo

*In designing an aircraft, every square inch of wing and **fuselage** must be considered in relation to the physical characteristics of the metal of which it is made.*

Gadget (noun)

an often small mechanical or electronic device with a practical use but often thought of as a novelty

*Online search engine Google introduced several new **gadgets** in its popular toolbar for Web browsers, hoping to build even greater brand loyalty amid heightened competition.*

Gage, gauge (verb)

to judge how people feel about something or what they are likely to do

Officials hope to gauge the effects alcohol programs.

Galaxy (noun)

one of billions of systems, each including stars, nebulae, star clusters, globular clusters, and interstellar matter that make up the universe

*Some prominent scientists believe that the evolution of the universe depended on a series of explosions and that the shockwaves from these explosions were essential in the formation of the **galaxy**.*

Gargantuan (adjective)

of extraordinary size and power

*During the ice age, **gargantuan** glaciers formed that were so water-depleting that sea levels around the world fell by three hundred and fifty feet.*

Garner (verb)

to collect something bit by bit

To garner support for the recall of the recently elected governor, the activists will have to get 900,000 signatures from registered voters.

Gaunt (noun)

having little flesh or fat on the body

*The **gaunt**, philandering cowboy has become a stock character in Western movies.*

Gaze (verb)

an act of directing the eyes on an object

*After a long **gaze** into the student's eyes, the professor decided to discipline the student for plagiarism.*

Gelatinous (adjective)

resembling a glutinous material obtained from animal tissues by boiling; especially: a colloidal protein used as a food, in photography, and in medicine

*Scientists named the new species of jellyfish granrojo, Spanish for "big red." It's a predator—a **gelatinous** blood-red cannonball between two and three feet (60 and 90 centimeters) across that floats through the deep ocean waters quietly devouring prey.*

Gender (noun)

a grammatical correspondence to a classification of the two sexes

*Employers value graduates who have a keen understanding of the impact of cultural, racial, and **gender** diversity in the workplace, and who comprehend the global nature of business and industry.*

Gene (noun)

a unit of heredity composed of DNA or RNA and forming part of a chromosome that determines a particular characteristic of a person

*The genetic basis is believed by researchers to be highly complex, probably involving several **genes** in combination.*

Generic (adjective)

relating to or characteristic of a whole group or class; being or having a nonproprietary name; having no particularly distinctive quality or application

*Aventis said the FDA cannot make a ruling on the application before February 24, 2004, and that it would mount legal challenges to make **generic** versions of its Love ox drug.*

Genre (noun)

a kind of style or art

*His career spans nearly all types of popular music from jazz to rock to dance and all **genres** between.*

Gentle (adjective)

of small intensity

*Jaggat called Kilauea "the safest volcano on Earth" because of its typically **gentle** activity.*

Gesture (verb)

to make bodily motions to augment or replace spoken expression

*She **gestured** her friend to come over to the counter at which point she served him a drink.*

Get-go (noun)

the very beginning -- used in the phrase *from the get-go*

*There have been biblical scholars questioning the authenticity of the so-called Jesus box from the **get-go**. Yesterday the Israel Antiquities Authority issued a report calling the box a fake.*

Gizzard (noun)

a muscular organ which is part of a bird's stomach

*A bird can swallow its food whole because it has a **gizzard**, whose principal function is to break up the food into small particles for digestion.*

Glacier (noun)

a mass of land ice formed by an accumulation of snow on high ground

*Scientists collect ice cores by driving a hollow tube deep into the miles thick ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland (and in **glaciers** elsewhere).*

Glucose (noun)

a simple sugar found in blood, fruit, etc.

***Glucose** is a type of carbohydrate.*

Glamorous (adjective)

full of an exciting and often illusory and romantic attractiveness; *especially*: alluring or fascinating personal attraction

*The public regarded air travel as exciting and **glamorous**; the airlines worked hard to add safety, reliability, and comfort to the public perception.*

Go into effect (verb phrase)

to put into action or use; to carry out the functions, requirements, or terms of something, especially laws or regulations

*Nitrates didn't begin to climb significantly until after 1950, when cars and oil powered plants appeared in a big way. Scientists credit the leveling off in sulfates and nitrates in the atmosphere after the 1972 U.S. Clean Air Act **went into effect**.*

Gorge (noun)

a narrow passage through land; a narrow steep-walled canyon or part of a canyon

*Rich in geological and biological history, the Grand Canyon is a long, narrow **gorge** in Arizona.*

Gorgeous (adjective)

marked by extraordinary elegance, beauty, and splendor

*We went on a hike through the **gorgeous** mountains of Colorado.*

Govern (verb)

to exercise the authority or influence over

*With all the fear and oppression of a dictatorship, Hitler **governed** the people ruthlessly.*

Gradient (noun)

deviation from a particular direction

*If the neutron star is too large, the gravitational forces overwhelm the pressure **gradients** and collapse cannot be halted.*

Grading (noun)

certain degree in rank, degree, quality, proficiency

*This light dispersion, or color flash, has no effect on the technical **grading** of color.*

Gradual (adjective)

proceeding very slowly by degrees

*It is tempting to think that if language evolved by **gradual** Darwinian natural selection, we must be able to find some precursor of it in our closest relatives, the chimpanzees.*

Grasp the main point (verb phrase)

to perceive and recognize the meaning of

*When you think you have **grasped the main point** the whole essay goes to prove, underline it and write the thesis in the margin.*

Gravitate toward (verb phrase)

to have a tendency toward

*Sociology majors who are interested in organizational theory **gravitate toward** organizational planning, development, and training.*

Gravity (noun)

a force that attracts a body to the center of the earth or some other celestial body

Whenever a plane is in flight, there are four forces acting on it: gravity, lift, drag, and thrust.

Graze (verb)

to make light and momentary contact with, as in passing

*While at war, some soldiers experienced close combat in which bullets from enemy fire literally **grazed** by their heads.*

Greatly (adverb)

to a high degree

*He nevertheless **greatly** admired black social gospel proponents such as his father who saw the church as a instrument for improving the lives of African Americans.*

Gregariousness (noun)

the act of associating with others of one's kind

*Meteorology and the **gregariousness** of the insect are two factors in the development of a desert locust plague.*

Grid (noun)

network of lines, electrical power connections, gas supply lines

*By 1900 small electric wind systems were developed to generate direct current, but most of these units fell out of favor when rural areas became attached to the national electricity **grid** during the 1930s.*

Grim (adjective)

stern or forbidding in action or appearance; gloomy, somber

*The statistics paint a **grim** picture. According to the World Resources Institute, more than 80 percent of the Earth's natural forests already have been destroyed.*

Groaning (adjective)

making a deep sound expressing pain, grief, disappoint

*After the accident, there were **groaning** sounds, indicating that there was someone trapped underneath the vehicle.*

Gross (adjective)

consisting of an overall total exclusive of deductions

*Snow, in prepared comments for Money magazine's Money Summit in New York, said he sees annual **gross** domestic product growth near 3.5 percent by the latter part of 2009.*

Groundbreaking (adjective)

characterized as being a new idea, method, or device: innovative

*The project's centerpiece is **groundbreaking** computer software that is capable of automatically identifying vehicles by size, color, shape and license tag, or drivers and passengers by face.*

Groundwork (noun)

anything on which something immaterial, such as an argument or charge, rests

*Trying to escape overwhelming fear and pain by imagining you are somewhere else- or someone else-seems to lay the **groundwork** for separating off some parts of your identity.*

Groupie (noun)

diligent follower of music groups, celebrities, or activities

*Authors Jones and Dewey are respectively touted as prominent west coast and east coast psychics. Not being your typical psychic **groupie**, it should come as no surprise that I have never heard of either one.*

Grueling (adjective)

trying or taxing to the point of exhaustion

*Sophie, then 36, was airlifted to hospital and undertook a **grueling** two and a half hour operation to end the potentially life threatening ectopic pregnancy, where the fetus grew outside her womb.*

Gush (verb)

to emit a sudden enormous flow

*Fuel **gushed** from a vandalized pipeline and exploded in southeastern Nigeria, killing at least 105 villagers as they scavenged gasoline.*

Gut (noun)

the intestine, stomach organs of the body

*Our **gut** can best be described as a very elaborate food "disassemble" plant.*

Gutter (noun)

shallow trough along the eaves of the house; or a channel at the side of a street to drain off rainwater

*Used aluminum beverage cans remain the most recycled item in the U.S., but other types of aluminum, such as siding, **gutters**, storm window frames and lawn furniture, can also be recycled.*

Haggle (verb)

to negotiate over the terms of a purchase, agreement, or contract

*Many felt--or were told--that the dealer wouldn't **haggle** because of special pricing or financing on the vehicle.*

Handicap (verb)

to have an unfavorable condition, circumstance, or characteristic

*In searching for a cure for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus, researchers have been **handicapped** because of a lacking of funding by the government.*

Habitat (noun)

the natural environment of an animal or plant

*Fires help **habitats** and are important to endangered species of animals that rely on these plants for survival.*

Hail (verb)

to greet with enthusiastic approval: praise, acclaim

*Economists, however, **hailed** the report, saying it suggested consumer spending could rise at a 3 percent pace in the second quarter.*

Hallucination (noun)

an erroneous perception of reality

*Certain kinds of illicit drugs are known to cause users to experience **hallucinations**.*

Halt (verb)

to prevent the occurrence or continuation of a movement, action, or operation

*If the neutron star is too large, the gravitational forces overwhelm the pressure gradients and collapse cannot be **halted**.*

Hammer (verb)

to make repeated efforts; especially : to reiterate an opinion or attitude

*The most effective technique is to start with the dealer's cost and bargain slowly up from there, rather than starting with the asking price and trying to **hammer** that downwards.*

Hamper by (verb)

to interfere with the progress of

*Electric car production is **hampered** by the limited energy supply of their batteries.*

Handicraft (noun)

an occupation requiring great skill with the hands; the articles fashioned by those engaged in handicraft

Acting as a sideline to farming and other occupations, traditional **handicrafts** are important to many Native American tribes.

Hardy (adjective)

capable of withstanding adverse conditions

*Llamas are used to protect cattle and sheep herds from wolves. Among the oldest domestic animals in the world, they are **hardy**, intelligent, and easy to train.*

Harness (verb)

to make use of, i.e., natural resources, especially to produce energy

*The challenge of the 21st century is to **harness** such forces, and civic will, for strategic regional planning.*

Hatch (verb)

to cause to come into existence

*The Goliath and Hercules Beetle lay their eggs in rubbish heap, rotting tree trunks, sawdust, and other vegetative matter. These **hatch** into small larvae in 10 to 18 days.*

Hatchling (noun)

an animal which has recently emerged from an egg, chrysalis, or pupa

*Being a fraction of the size of sea-feeding adults, the parr are able to sneak up and fertilize a female's eggs without being noticed. Up to 40 percent of **hatchlings** are fathered by these parr.*

Hazardous (adjective)

involving risk, loss, or injury

*It is prohibited to dispose of **hazardous** waste along the highway.*

Head (verb)

to point or proceed in a certain direction

*Dr. Eric Topol, cardiology chief at the Cleveland Clinic, said the polypill idea runs counter to the way medicine is **headed** in the future, which is toward personalized medication based on an individual's genetic profile.*

Headfirst (adverb)

with the head foremost

*Like black bears, porcupines climb down a tree backward because their hind paws cannot support them if they go down **headfirst**.*

Head-on (adjective)

with the head or front making the initial contact

*Strong neck and shoulder muscles and an extra-thick skull absorb the impact of **head-on** collisions.*

Headwater (noun)

streams flowing at the sources of a river

*Lake Itasca, located in upstate Minnesota, contains the **headwaters** to the Mississippi River.*

Headquarters (noun)

administrative center of an organization

*Today, we find the national park **headquarters** and overnight accommodations in this area, including Furnace Creek Ranch and Furnace Creek Inn.*

Headway (noun)

forward movement

*Remarkably, the Salmon fish makes significant **headway** against the swift currents of a river.*

Heaps (noun)

a disordered pile of something

*Many insects are known to lay their eggs in garbage **heaps**.*

Hearing (noun)

a chance to be heard; preliminary appearance in a court, a chance to state someone's case

*Adams's innate conservatism made him determined in 1770 that the British soldiers accused of the Boston Massacre be given a fair **hearing**.*

Heartland (noun)

a central geographical region especially of the U.S. in which main stream or traditional values predominate

*His story dramatizes the profound changes taking place in America's **heartland**.*

Hemisphere (noun)

half of the earth as divided by the equator

*Badwater is the lowest point in the **hemisphere** at 282 feet below sea level.*

Herald (verb)

to make known the presence or arrival of

*With ominous dark clouds quickly approaching from the horizon, the storm **heralded** trouble for the city of Tupelo.*

Heredity (noun)

the sum of the qualities and potentialities genetically derived from one's ancestors

***Heredity** may sometimes be a deciding factor in why some people become clinically obese.*

Heresy (noun)

an opinion, doctrine, or practice contrary to the truth or to generally accepted beliefs

*Vigorously opposing this teaching, the First Council of Constantinople reasserted the Nicene condemnation of Arianism as **heresy** in 381, and Arianism soon disappeared from the Roman Empire.*

Heretofore (adverb)

up to this time; hitherto

*Satellites, combined with state-of-the-art imaging techniques, offer ordinary humans something **heretofore** found only among comic-book superheroes: the gift of super sight.*

Heyday (noun)

the period of one's greatest strength, vigor, or prosperity

*After all, you don't have to be a wizard to realize that overloading on real estate today makes about as much sense as overloading on tech funds did during their **heyday** in the late '90s.*

Hiatus (noun)

an interruption in time or continuity; break

After a six-year **hiatus** in human space flight, NASA debuted the space shuttle Columbia with a radical new idea: a reusable spaceship that would take off like a conventional rocket and land like a glider.

Hibernate (verb)

to spend the winter in a state of temporary inactivity

*Snakes **hibernate** in the burrows of other small animals, but they are often seen laying in the sun on rocks, and on the side of roads.*

Hide (noun)

the skin of an animal

*The Assiniboine, a tribe of Plains Indians, made their clothing from the **hides** of their dead prey.*

Hieroglyphics (noun)

written in, or constituting, or belonging to a system of writing in mainly pictorial characters

*It is agreed by most historians that the English alphabet descended from ancient Egyptian **hieroglyphics**.*

Highlight (verb)

to draw attention to something, such as marking a text with a yellow pen

*An active reader underlines or **highlights** important points he has just read.*

Hijack (verb)

to steal by stopping a vehicle on the highway; to commandeer a flying airplane especially by coercing the pilot at gunpoint

*A fourth airplane traveling from Newark to San Francisco was **hijacked** and, after turning east from its westerly course across Pennsylvania and Ohio, crashed in rural Somerset County, Pennsylvania at 10:03 a.m.*

Hind (noun)

forming the part that follows or is behind; rear

When bats sleep, they hang their head downwards from the long curved claws of their hind limbs.

Hollow (adjective)

a space in an otherwise solid mass

*The entire digestive system from the mouth to the anal sphincter is a single, long, **hollow** muscular tube about 30 feet long.*

Home run (noun)

a hit in baseball that enables the batter to make a complete circuit of the bases and score a run

*The controversial supplement used by baseball slugger Mark McGwire during his 1998 record-breaking **home run** streak has once again struck out. Researchers found that androstenedione, known as "andro" for short, doesn't live up to its marketers' claims.*

Homologous (adjective)

having the same relation, relative position; corresponding

*Though artificial chimp signaling systems have some analogies to human language (e.g., use in communication, combinations of more basic signals), it seems unlikely that they are **homologous**.*

Hoodlum (noun)

gangster, thug, goon

*In some inner cities, there are **hoodlums** who steal cars and sell drugs.*

Hoof (noun)

relating to a curved covering of horn that protects the front of or encloses the ends of her digits of an ungulate mammal and that corresponds to a nail or claw

*Large **hoofed** animals such as sheep tend travel in groups called flocks.*

Host (noun)

a very large number of things grouped together

*At the old school, there are a **host** of old desks, chairs, and tables which could be auctioned off at the outdoor market next week.*

Hostile (adjective)

having or showing unfriendliness or an eagerness to fight

*The Sioux fought against **hostile** tribes and white intruders.*

Hotspot (noun)

a place in the upper mantle of the earth at which hot magma from the lower mantle up wells to melt through the crust usually in the interior of a tectonic plate to form a volcanic feature; a place in the crust overlying a hot spot

*Volcanoes located away from the edges of continental plates puzzled scientists for years, until most concluded that **hotspots** of lava rising from deep in the Earth were the cause.*

Household (noun)

things pertaining to the family living in a house

*Group A and Group B had to remember sixteen **household** items in a given set of time. The group, which was given the items in an organized fashion, remembered the items faster and retained the list longer.*

Hue (noun)

gradation of color; the attribute of colors that permits them to be classed as red, yellow, green, blue, or an intermediate between any contiguous pair of these colors

*On our image quality tests, the system's 17-inch FPD1730 LCD monitor displayed crisp and legible fonts on a newsletter and vibrant **hues** on a test photo.*

Humanitarian (noun)

characterized by kindness and concern for others

*Georgia was established by a group of **humanitarians** who were determined to create a settlement for debtors imprisoned in British jails.*

Hunk (noun)

an irregularly shaped mass of indefinite size

*Frederic Remington, having some success also as a sculptor, was known to take a **hunk** of clay and in just a few months turn it into a work of art.*

Hunker (verb)

to settle in or dig in for a sustained period

***Hunkered** down in a windowless conference room, five scholars analyzed a high school student's essay with a scrutiny normally reserved for the likes of Hemingway or Dickens.*

Hurtle (verb)

to move rapidly or forcefully

*The effect would have been as though a lousy cosmic golfer tore up a giant chunk of turf and sent it **hurtling** into orbit.*

Herculean (adjective)

Greek hero renowned for his great strength and especially for performing 12 labors imposed on him by Hera; often not capitalized: of extraordinary power, extent, intensity, or difficulty

*But despite the **herculean** title, there's one thing he hasn't mastered. After hundreds of media interviews, roles in three films, and a large fan base that Viesturs calls the "Grateful Ed Tour," he still struggles to fully answer this question: Why climb?*

Hurl (verb)

to send through the air with a motion of the hand or arm

*During 18 days in May 1924, hundreds of steam explosions from Kilauea **hurled** mud, debris, and hot rocks weighing as much as 8 tons (7,000 kg) as far as two thirds of a mile (1 km) from the center of Halema'uma'u the current crater within the larger volcanic depression (caldera) at Kilauea's summit.*

Hustler (noun)

one who deceives another for financial gain

*Many **hustlers** sought to attract visitors and investors to the burgeoning mining areas of California during the 1800's.*

Hybrid (adjective)

offspring of two plants or animals of different species or different varieties; a thing composed of diverse elements

***Hybrid** cars, designed to run on gasoline and electric power, will be more the rule than the exception as US auto manufacturers become more environmentally aware.*

Hype (noun)

extravagant or intensive publicity promotion

*Although several successful mining ventures were launched, much of the **hype** was bogus, a fact which suggests that most miners did not make much money even though they were told that they would.*

Hypersensitive (adjective)

being extremely sensitive to something; having an acute reaction to external stimuli

*Immunizing patients with bee venom can better prevent serious or even fatal reactions to the more than one million Americans who are **hypersensitive** to bee stings.*

Hypoxia (noun)

a deficiency of oxygen reaching the tissues of the body

*When climbers reach the summit of Mount Everest, few feel as if they're on top of the world. The thin air at this extreme altitude offers only a third of the oxygen available at sea level. Lack of oxygen, or **hypoxia**, starts a chain of reactions that can result in altitude sickness.*

Hypnosis (noun)

state like sleep in which one acts only on external suggestion

*Most people have observed mild dissociative episodes in which they lose touch with their surroundings. Examples include daydreaming, highway **hypnosis**, or losing oneself in a movie or book.*

Hypothesize (verb)

a proposition made as basis for reasoning, without the assumption of its truth

*One attempt to solve the dark matter problem **hypothesizes** the existence of an undiscovered particle already existed in the very early universe.*

Icon (noun)

an object of extreme devotion

*Raccoons are known for their intelligence and ability to get out of any jam. Their cunning and survival skills make them one of the **icons** of the American wilderness. Humans well know that it's nearly impossible to outsmart them and keep them out of garbage cans!*

Ideal (noun)

a fervent hope, wish, or goal

*Cervantes's work, a keen critique of the literature of his time, presented the clash between reality and the **ideals** which Don Quixote sought to revive, and at the same time originated the theme of the clairvoyance of insanity.*

Ideology (noun)

visionary theorizing; the integrated assertions, theories and aims that constitute a

sociopolitical program

*England was the world's most industrialized country in 1800, and from England the new industrial machinery, style of work, and **ideology** spread to the United States.*

Idiosyncrasy (noun)

a peculiar behavior

*Known for having many **idiosyncrasies**, Mark Twain's best work is his novel *Huckleberry Finn*.*

Ignoble (adjective)

having or proceeding from low moral standards

*Former **ignoble** President Clinton engaged in an illicit sexual relationship with an intern named Monica Lewinsky.*

Illegible (adjective)

undecipherable; not understandable

*The professor was unable to score the student's essay because of her **illegible** handwriting.*

Ill-founded (adjective)

having no basis or foundation in fact

*It is important to remember that it was after this battle that the Union soldiers realized that hopes for an easy victory over the south were **ill-founded**.*

Illumination (noun)

something that serves to explain or clarify

*A moment of great **illumination** for a child is when he develops the ability to conceive of things not present to the senses.*

Illusion (noun)

an erroneous perception of reality

*Starting with the *Retablo de maese Pedro*, Cervantes demonstrates a mastery of theatrical **illusion** which, absent from part one, becomes another narrative function in part two.*

Illustrious (adjective)

widely known and esteemed

*Adams revealed himself as a quintessential Puritan, patriarch of an **illustrious** family, tough minded philosopher of the republic, sage, and sometimes a vain, stubborn, and vitriolic partisan.*

Immersion (noun)

the act of someone or something being absorbed or involved

*The learning which occurs in the formal language classroom may be unlike the learning which occurs during **immersion**, such that early instruction does not necessarily have the advantage for ultimate performance that is held by early immersion.*

Immortality (noun)

endless life after death

*Alchemists searched for an elixir that would produce **immortality**.*

Immune (adjective)

having a high degree of resistance to a disease

*This "hygiene hypothesis" also holds that a healthy bacterial balance in the intestines is especially important in the development of a mature **immune** system, and the use of probiotic supplements like Lactobacillus GG can stimulate the growth of beneficial bacteria in baby's stomach.*

Impairment (noun)

an act, instance, or consequence of breaking

*Multiple Personality Disorder is viewed by some as an extreme level of dissociation, which may result in serious **impairment** or inability to function.*

Impending (adjective)

about to occur at any moment

*During the 19th century, a few writers who faced **impending** financial ruin went on to write some of the greatest books of all time.*

Imperceptible (adjective)

so small as to be undiscernible

*Because of this shoaling effect, a tsunami, **imperceptible** at sea, may grow to be several meters or more in height near the coast.*

Imperfection (noun)

something that mars the appearance or causes inadequacy of failure

*The fewer the **imperfections** found, the rarer and more valuable the diamond becomes.*

Impetus (noun)

stimulation or encouragement resulting in increased activity

*The growth of systematic archaeology in China resulted in numerous datable materials, provided tremendous **impetus** to the study of Chinese art, with researchers and art historians making great strides, discovering, confirming and re-constructing art in China.*

Implication (noun)

a subtle quality underlying or felt to underlie a situation or action

*Johnson and Newport's assertions have wide ranging **implications** for classroom teaching.*

Imply (verb)

to convey an idea by indirect, subtle means

*Cooler stars are redder than hotter, bluer stars, **implying** that bluer stars must be younger than redder stars.*

Impose (verb)

to force another to accept a burden; to take advantage of unfairly

*A speaker may try not to directly **impose** by asking for a pen. Instead he would rather it be offered once the teacher realizes he needs one, and you are looking to find one.*

Impression (noun)

an idea or thought derived or prompted by a natural tendency or impulse

*The police officer got the **impression** to stop the car. Little did he know that he would find more than 50 kilograms in marijuana?*

In accordance with (prepositional phrase)

so as the state of individuals who are in utter agreement

*The governor **in accordance with** the mayor of Los Angeles has decided to increase taxes on its upper class citizens.*

Inability (noun)

a lack of physical, mental, financial, or legal power to perform

*Due to his **inability** to read fluently, I recommend that he retake his English Literature class.*

Inauguration (noun)

the act or process of formally admitting a person to membership or office

*Angelou wrote and delivered a poem, "On The Pulse of the Morning," at the **inauguration** for President Bill Clinton at his request.*

Incarcerate (verb)

relating to one who is imprisoned

*Because the U.S. prison population is overwhelmingly male, most **incarcerated** parents are fathers.*

Incentive (noun)

something that causes and encourages a given response

*Aluminum has a high market value and continues to provide an economic **incentive** to recycle.*

Incessantly (adverb)

continuing or following without interruption

*In spite of how mad it is, even though the global catch of most species is no longer growing, the size and number of fishing boats, lines, nets, pots and traps continues to expand **incessantly**.*

Incidentally (adverb)

by chance

***Incidentally**, these 6,000 languages are not just a huge jumbled collection, but most of them are related to other languages.*

Incline (verb)

to move from true vertical or horizontal

*Although the plane of the Moon's orbit about the Earth is **inclined** about 50, its equator is **inclined** about 6.50, resulting in a 1.50 **inclination** of the Moon's spin axis to its orbital plane around the Sun.*

Inclusion (noun)

a solid, liquid, or gaseous body enclosed within a rock

*In addition to internal **inclusions**, surface irregularities are referred to as blemishes.*

Inclusive (adjective)

including everything; comprehensive

A family is the basic unit in society having as its nucleus two or more adults living together and cooperating in the care and rearing of their own or adopted children.

*Despite this all-**inclusive** definition, a lesbian or gay couple- with or without children-is not the image conjured up when most people create a picture of a family.*

Inconceivable (adjective)

not to be believed; difficult to imagine or fathom

*It is **inconceivable** that Hitler and his regime were responsible for the deaths of more than six million Jews.*

In conjunction with (prepositional phrase)

so as with a combination of events or circumstances

*In Oregon, a private land owner named Ned Livingston burned his acres of forest **in conjunction with** the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Klamath Lake District of the Oregon Department of Forestry.*

Inconsistent (adjective)

following no predictable pattern

*The Ontario report found a probable link between firefighting and cancer even though the evidence was **inconsistent**.*

Increasingly (adverb)

progressively; more and more

*Because to compete in the emerging global economy, city-states have no choice: they must mobilize all their skills to protect their center cities, grow smarter, protect their air and water, achieve more social equity, and train their workforce to excel in an **increasingly** competitive world marketplace.*

Incumbent (noun)

the holder of an office or ecclesiastical benefice

*He lost a race in South Carolina for the only time in his career four years later, when he challenged **incumbent** Sen. Olin Johnston for nomination.*

Induction (noun)

the act or process of formally admitting a person to membership or office

*The **induction** of Roger Staubach, a quarterback for Dallas Cowboys football franchise, into the Hall of Fame was well-deserved.*

Inedible (adjective)

not fit to be eaten

*When humans learned to make fire, they had the means to cook plants which had previously been **inedible**.*

Inertia (noun)

a property of matter by which it remains at rest or in uniform motion in the same straight line unless acted upon by some external force

*In the case of the whale, the **inertia** of its dense ear bone may hold the bone still while the whale vibrates around it.*

Inevitable (adjective)

incapable of being avoided or evaded

*Age took its **inevitable** toll on Thurmond as he neared retirement, and he was guided through the Capitol in a wheelchair.*

Infection (noun)

contamination of harmful organisms or extremely destructive or harmful matter

*General causes for primary brain cancer can include a prior head injury, **infections**, exposure to chemical toxins such as insecticides and fungicides and exposure to radiation such as microwave or radio frequencies.*

Infinite (adjective)

without beginning or end

*Instead it oscillates increasingly rapidly, performing an **infinite** number of oscillations in a finite time.*

Inflammatory (adjective)

tending to cause an instance of irritating, as of a part of the body

*It is amazing that even individuals who suffer from **inflammatory** bowel disease are often unaware of how their digestive system really works.*

Inflict (verb)

to cause to undergo or bear, as something unwelcome or damaging

*Physical violence **inflicted** on others is an ever-growing epidemic in the United States.*

Infrared (adjective)

situated outside the visible spectrum at its red end -- used of radiation having a wavelength between about 700 nanometers and 1 millimeter

*The key is the ability of remote-sensing devices to "see" energy in wavelengths not visible to the human eye, for example **infrared** bands.*

Infringe (verb)

an act in defiance of another person's rights

*In 1761, John Adams began to think and write and act against British measures that he believed **infringed** on colonial liberties and the right of Massachusetts and the other colonies to self government.*

Ingenuity (noun)

skill or cleverness in devising or combining; inventiveness

***Ingenuity** can help get children walking safely, but in the end tax dollars are needed to build speed bumps, extend curbs or install walk signs that indicate how many seconds people have left to cross the street.*

Ingredient (noun)

one of the individual entities contributing to a whole

*Avalanches are formed by a combination of three things that together are known as the "Avalanche Triangle." These three **ingredients** may be present in one location but absent 10 feet away. The three legs of the triangle are snowpack, terrain, and weather.*

Inhabitant (noun)

one who lives in a place for an extended period of time

*Moon is essentially devoid of water, so no underground supplies could be used by lunar **inhabitants**.*

Inherit (verb)

to receive property from one who has died; to receive genetic characteristics from a parent
*Another theory is the belief that these disorders can be **inherited** through family genes.*

Initial (adjective)

at or near the start of a period, development, or series

*There is a special critical **initial** strength such that the field cannot decide whether to evaporate away or collapse to form a black hole.*

Initiate (verb)

to go about the initial step in doing something

*He was concerned with the load fuel in his forest and decided to thin it out before **initiating** the burn.*

Inject (verb)

to force or shoot in, such as a liquid

*The venom of a rattlesnake is **injected** through fangs which fold back when the mouth is closed.*

Injurious (adjective)

causing harm or injury

*In some cases, aggressive and/or self- **injurious** behavior may be present.*

Innate (adjective)

possessed at birth; of or arising from the most basic structure of an individual.

*It has been documented repeatedly that learners achieve better results depending on the age at which they begin to learn a second language. I believe that there is an **innate** age-related factor.*

Innovation (noun)

a new unusual thing; inventiveness

*Recently, many **innovations** in the medical field allow doctors to successfully treat some diseases which were once terminal.*

Insanity (noun)

serious mental illness or disorder impairing a person's capacity to function normally

His all night and drug binging eventually led him to insanity.

Inscribe (verb)

to form letters, characters, or words on a surface with an instrument

The words "We will always remember you." was inscribed onto his tombstone.

Insecticide (noun)

a chemical agent which kills insects

*Melathion is an **insecticide** used to exterminate insects such as fruit flies and mosquitoes.*

Insight (noun)

deep, thorough, or mature understanding; the power to discern the true nature or a person or situation

*Scientists have gained new **insight** on a type of low pressure weather center that connects one mesoscale convective vortex to the next.*

Insistently (adverb)

so as to compel immediate action or attention

*Why the short story is the most popular form of literature today may be a reflection of the modern way of living that **insistently** demands that all current fiction be short.*

Insomnia (noun)

habitual sleeplessness

*People may suffer from **insomnia** because of extreme stress.*

Inspection (noun)

a close of systematic study; the act of examining carefully

*According to World Power Technologies' owner manual, monthly maintenance consists of visual **inspections** of the mechanical condition of the turbine, inspecting the tower, and testing the brake. Annual maintenance consists of battery inspections and an up close inspection of the turbine.*

Instability (noun)

the quality or condition of being erratic and undependable

*They are very dangerous life-threatening disorders which usually intensify emotional **instability**.*

Instant (adjective)

occurring immediately

*The Brothers Johnson were an **instant** success releasing such hits as Strawberry Letter 23 and the celebratory dance hit, Stomp.*

Instigate (verb)

to stir to action or feeling

*There have been recent efforts of **instigating** prescribed burning as a means of forest management.*

Institution (noun)

the act of founding or establishing

*On the other hand, there are those who decry marriage as a sexist and patriarchal **institution** that should be avoided at all costs.*

Insurgency (noun)

a condition of revolt against a government that is less than an organized revolution and that is not recognized as belligerency

*The search for the missing troops went on amid a rash of confrontations between Iraqis and U.S. personnel -- one U.S. military official has called it a "classic phase of **insurgency**."*

Instrumental (adjective)

most important, influential, or significant

*In World War II, penicillin was **instrumental** in keeping wounds from getting infected and in helping speed the recovery of wounds that did not become infected.*

Intact (adjective)

untouched, especially by anything that harms or diminishes: entire or complete

*The first American steam engine was not made in America at all, but imported **intact** from England.*

Integral (adjective)

constituting or forming part of the essence of something

*The years of 1979 and 1980 were **integral** in defining mainstream R&B dance music of the early 1980's.*

Integration (noun)

the act, process, or result of abolishing racial segregation

*The **integration** of African Americans into White only schools during the early 1960's caused widespread protests among segregationists in the South.*

Intelligible (adjective)

capable of being readily understood

*Language is a form of speech distinctly different from others (otherwise, we call them dialects of each other), adding for good measure not, or only partially, **intelligible** to others without special study.*

Intense (adjective)

extreme in degree, strength, or effect

***Intense** winter storms, high rainfall amounts, and steep terrain areas are all conducive to land sliding.*

Intensive (adjective)

covering all aspects with painstaking accuracy

*At Harvard and in six further years of **intensive** reading while he taught school and studied law in Worcester and Boston, he mastered the technicalities of his profession and the literature and learning of his day.*

Iteration (noun)

the action or a process of iterating or repeating; the repetition of a sequence of computer instructions a specified number of times or until a condition is met

*Big Brother Africa is actually the third **iteration** of the program; the first two featured South African contestants only and the winners were both white men.*

Intercept (verb)

to receive a communication or signal directed elsewhere usually secretly

*U.S. intelligence analysts believe Saddam Hussein is more likely to be alive than dead, a conclusion bolstered in recent weeks by **intercepted** communications among Saddam loyalists, The New York Times reported Friday, citing government officials.*

Interchange (noun)

the act, process, or an instance of putting each of (two things) in the place of the other
*Although many food plants had traveled halfway around the globe by 1492, not one food crop had crossed the Atlantic Ocean. That is why 1492 is such a crucial date in the history of the world's food supply: Columbus' voyages initiated the **interchange** of plants between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, which in effect doubled the food crop resources available to peoples on both sides of the Atlantic.*

Interdisciplinary (adjective)

of or between more than one branch of learning
*Cognition and perception graduate students may easily elect to pursue programs of study with an **interdisciplinary** breadth. For example, a student with strong interests in aging may participate extensively in the developmental area and the Institute of Gerontology; one attracted to problems in social cognition might work with members of the social psychology program at the Institute for Social Research; and an individual who wished to model problem solving behavior may study with artificial intelligence specialists in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department.*

Interfere (verb)

to intervene without good judgment in the affairs of others
*His house was bombed, and he was convicted along with other boycott leaders on charges of conspiring to **interfere** with the bus company's operations.*

Interminably (adverb)

so as to be endless or tediously long
*While in France, he would sometimes go to the café that James Joyce would frequent, but the **interminably** shy Faulkner never mustered the nerve to speak to him.*

Intermittently (adverb)

in an irregular and unpredictable manner; at irregular intervals
*To the east of the Armargosa Range is the Armargosa Desert, striated by the wide washes of the Armargosa River which **intermittently** flows south from Beatty, Nevada,*

through Death Valley Junction, curving to the west and then north to enter Death Valley below Jubilee Pass.

Internal (adjective)

located farther in, or within something

*Another benefit of exercising is that it increases bone mass. It is important to keep healthy and strong bones because they provide movement and protect our **internal** organs.*

Internship (noun)

a specific length of time in which a worker (often cases a student) works for a company in order to gain experience

*A person should look for an entry level job, gain experience through **internships**, and watch for opportunities of specialized training or advanced education.*

Interpolate (verb)

to insert words into a book

*Part one of Cervantes's book **interpolates** peripheral episodes into the main plot.*

Intervention (noun)

the act or instance of intruding in other people's affairs

*With appropriate **intervention**, many of the associated behaviors can be positively changed, even to the point in some cases, that the child or adult may appear to the untrained person to no longer have autism.*

Intricate (adjective)

complexly detailed; difficult to understand due to intricacy

*The entire small intestine is lined with **intricate** sets of muscles, which are never at complete rest.*

Intrigue (noun)

a secret plan to achieve an evil or illegal end

*In 1768 he composed his first opera, *La Finta Semplice*, for Vienna, but **intrigues** prevented its performance, and it was first presented a year later at Salzburg.*

Intruder (noun)

a person who goes into a building with a criminal intent

*The rattle is the most distinguishing feature of the snake and is a horny section at the end of the tail, which serves to scare off **intruders**.*

Inversely (adverb)

in an inverted order or manner, as when one quantity is greater or less according as another is less or greater

*In the Pacific Ocean, where the typical water depth is about 4000 m, a tsunami travels at about 200 m/s, or over 700 km/hr. Because the rate at which a wave loses its energy is **inversely** related to its wave length, tsunamis not only propagate at high speeds, they can also travel great, transoceanic distances with limited energy losses.*

Invincible (adjective)

incapable of being conquered, overrun, or subjugated

*Juan Gil obtained Cervantes's freedom in 1580 in exchange for 500 ducats. Once back in Spain, he became a tax collector for the **Invincible** Armada.*

Invoke (verb)

bring about, cause

*Our giant impact hypothesis had the advantage of **invoking** a stochastic catastrophic event that might happen only to one or two planets out of nine.*

Inwardly (adverb)

in the mind or heart; privately; secretly

*She **inwardly** keeps her feelings from the rest of her family.*

Irregularity (noun)

lack of smoothness or regularity

*To determine a diamond's clarity, an expert views it under 10 power magnifications. In addition to internal inclusions, surface **irregularities** are referred to as blemishes.*

Irrigate (verb)

to cause a stream to flow over land so as to water it

*These slow moving rivers feed many canals that **irrigate** farmlands.*

Irritate (verb)

to trouble the nerves or peace of mind of, especially by repeated, needless trouble

*The latter, at first sympathetic to the Mozart's, later became **irritated** by Wolfgang's prolonged absences and stubborn ways.*

Isolation (noun)

the quality of state of being alone

*A person who engages in criminal behavior can be differentiated by the quality or quantity of his learning through associations with those who define criminal activity favorable and the relative **isolation** from lawful social norms.*

Jaw-dropping (adjective)

characterized as causing amazement or wonder

*He has been admiring the sleek TV displays for years, watching as prices decline from **jaw-dropping** levels.*

Junction (noun)

a point or position at which two or more things are joined

*Just outside of Barstow, California is the **junction** of Interstate 15 and 40.*

Keen (adjective)

possessing or displaying perceptions of great accuracy and sensitivity; mentally quick

*A student who writes and rewrites a writing assignment over several weeks has a **keen** understanding of the processes involved.*

Keynote address (noun)

an address designed to present the issues of primary interest to an assembly as a political convention and often to arouse unity and enthusiasm

*In a **keynote** address, Robert Kennedy Jr. recalled the confrontation between Wallace and his father, U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy.*

Kettle (noun)

a metallic vessel for boiling liquids

*To purify water for drinking, a camper should put the water in a **kettle** and boil it for at least 30 minutes.*

Kin (noun)

a person connected to another person by blood

*There is a clear pattern of lineage endogamy generated by marriages between sons and daughters of brothers and other agnatic **kin**, accounting for approximately a quarter of all marriages.*

Laden (adjective)

to load, to pile on, as burden or freight

*For the next topic of our lecture today, the cost analysis of a proper prescribed burn and the cost of battling a blaze in the load fuel **laden** forests needs to be considered to see which method is more economically feasible given the tight budgetary constraints with which the government has to operate.*

Lament (noun)

a crying out in grief; complaint

*In a world where there is a common **lament** that there are no more heroes, too often cynicism and despair are perceived as evidence of the death of moral courage.*

Land (verb)

gain, secure: *land a job*

*Mary Blake arrived in San Francisco and **landed** work as a singer at the Paradise Hotel, a gambling hall owned by Blackie Norton.*

Landing (noun)

to set or put on shore from a ship

*The **landings** from the world's wild capture fisheries have continued to decline since reaching a peak of 112 million metric tons (mmt) in 1995.*

Landslide (noun)

downward and outward movement of soil and rock

*The big earthquake of 1906 set off dozens of large **landslides** in the Santa Cruz Mountains, some of which claimed human lives.*

Larva (noun)

the immature, wingless, and often vermiform feeding form that hatches from the egg of many insects

*After mosquito eggs hatch, the **larvae** hang from the surface film and get air through tubes that break the water's surface at the tail ends of their bodies.*

Latchkey (adjective)

relating to a young child of working parents who must spend part of the day unsupervised as at home

*Nearly 10.6 million children were being raised by full time stay at home moms last year, up 13 percent in a little less than a decade. Experts credit the economic boom, the cultural influence of America's growing Hispanic population and the entry into parenthood of a generation of **latchkey** kids.*

Lateral (adjective)

of, at, toward, or from the side or sides

*If done properly, the taping of the **lateral** ligament will immobilize the knee structure to prevent further injury.*

Latitude (noun)

freedom of action or choice

*Even though some jobs have defined salary ranges, hiring managers generally have some **latitude** to negotiate within that predetermined range based on a number of different factors.*

Latter (adjective)

after the first

*In two further Italian journeys, he wrote two more operas for Milan, *Ascanio in Alba* (1771) and *Lucio Silla* (1772). In 1772, Archbishop von Schrattenbach died, to be succeeded by Hieronymus von Colloredo. The **latter**, at first sympathetic to the Mozart, later became irritated by Wolfgang's prolonged absences and stubborn ways.*

Launch (verb)

to go about the initial step of doing something

*Although several successful mining ventures were **launched**, much of the hype was bogus.*

Laureate (noun)

the recipient of honor or recognition for achievement in an art or science

*The Inamori Foundation announced the **laureates** of its 19th Annual Kyoto Prizes, international awards presented to people who have contributed significantly to mankind's betterment in the categories of Advanced Technology, Basic Science, and Arts and Philosophy.*

Laurel (noun)

honor or distinction

*After his triumphant victory, the military commander recovered his **laurels**.*

Lava (noun)

matter flowing from a volcano that solidifies as it cools

*Hawaii's volcanoes are typically characterized by the relatively quiet outflow of very fluid **lava** and by sometimes spectacular **lava** fountains.*

Leakage (noun)

action through which matter passes accidentally in or out of something

***Leakage** from swimming pools can be a sign of an unstable slope.*

Lean (adjective)

having little flesh or fat on the body

*Body Composition is the comparable amounts of fat and **lean** body tissue found in the body.*

Leathery (adjective)

resembling or having the appearance of animal skins dressed for use such as for wallets, clothes, shoes, etc.

*The wings of pterosaurs, which were somewhat similar to the wings of bats, were made of thin, **leathery** skin stretched across slender bones.*

Legendary (adjective)

famous, remarkable

*Professor Jones's History exams are **legendary** for failing students.*

Legislature (noun)

governmental body in a country which passes laws

*The Vermont Supreme Court ordered its state **legislature** to come up with a system providing same-sex couples with traditional marriage benefits and protections.*

Legume (noun)

the fruit or seed of leguminous plants (as peas or beans) used for food

*Vegetables, fruits, nuts, **legumes**, unrefined cereals, olive oil, cheese and yogurt are eaten most days, as is fish.*

Lexicographer (noun)

one who compiles dictionaries

*Here's a definition for the **lexicographers** — A region consisting of one or more historic central cities surrounded by cities and towns which have a shared identification, function as a single zone for trade, commerce and communication, and are characterized by social, economic and environmental interdependence.*

Liaison (noun)

a sexual relationship prohibited by law

*He had one daughter, Isabel, from his **liaison** with Ana de Villafranca.*

Libration (noun)

an oscillation— a single swing as of an oscillating body—from one extreme limit to the other

*In the apparent aspect of a secondary body as a planet or a satellite as seen from the primary object around which it revolves **libration** in longitude enables observers on Earth to see one edge or the other of the far side of the moon.*

Lightning (noun)

flash of bright light produced by an electrical discharge between clouds or between clouds and the ground

*Currently the policy in parks such as Yellowstone is to allow natural fires started by **lightning** to continue.*

Likelihood (noun)

very probable; strong or distinct possibility

Tucker and Crook used the Pennsylvania State University/NCAR mesoscale model to simulate convection (showers and thunderstorms) and to test how different modes of

mountain convection affect the **likelihood** of mesoscale convective systems formation downstream.

Limbo (adjective)

a place or state of neglect or oblivion; an intermediate or transitional place or state; a state of uncertainty

*Finding a community of people who understand what you're going through is an essential component of getting through what Case calls **limbo** land.*

Limnologist (noun)

a scientist who studies life in fresh water

***Limnologists** recognize that the problems of life in running water and still water contrast.*

Lineage (adjective)

a group of people sharing common ancestry

*The advantage of **lineage** endogamy in Turkey is the imposition of a bride price lower than those in contracts involving more distant social bonds.*

Linger on (verb)

to stop temporarily and remain, as if reluctant to leave

*The effects of a cold can **linger on** for as long as three weeks.*

Link (verb)

to unite or be united in a relationship

*There are also mixed results of studies **linking** bladder cancer and firefighting.*

Literacy (noun)

ability to read and write; or to have proficiency in something

*During the job search, sociology graduates should stress their work and internship experience, analytical skills, oral and written communication skills, computer **literacy**, and knowledge of statistics and research design.*

Literal (adjective)

taking words in their basic sense without metaphor or allegory

*Dr. Martin Luther King resented religious emotionalism and questioned **literal** interpretations of scripture; he nevertheless greatly admired black social gospel*

proponents such as his father who saw the church as a instrument for improving the lives of African Americans.

Literary (adjective)

well-informed about literature

*In January 1925, Faulkner moved to New Orleans and fell in with a **literary** crowd which included Sherwood Anderson (author of Winesburg, Ohio) and centered around The Double Dealer, a literary magazine whose credits include the first published works of Hart Crane, Ernest Hemingway, Robert Penn Warren, and Edmund Wilson.*

Lofty (adjective)

extending to a great height

*When feeding in a field, crows usually post a sentinel on a **lofty** perch to sound a warning if any danger should approach.*

Longevity (noun)

long life

*Recent research has shown that regular exercise and a healthy lifestyle can increase **longevity**.*

Longitude (noun)

angular distance east or west from the prime meridian

*At some **longitudes** the observer would see the Sun rise and then gradually increase in apparent size as it slowly moved toward the zenith. At that point the Sun would stop, briefly reverse course, and stop again before resuming its path toward the horizon and decreasing in apparent size.*

Longstanding (adjective)

of long duration

*There has been a **longstanding** tradition to divide early history into periods according to the hard materials such as stone, copper, bronze, and iron, from which cutting tools and weapons were made.*

Loom (verb)

to be imminent—about to occur at any moment, being or occurring in the time ahead

*At no time has this enormous growth of medical costs **loomed** larger as a social question than now.*

Loophole (noun)

a means of escape; *especially* : an ambiguity or omission in the text through which the intent of a statute, contract, or obligation may be evaded

*Consumer advocates have worried that the list would be laden with **loopholes** without the support of the FCC, which oversees the nation's telephone system.*

Looter (noun)

one who seizes and carries away by force especially in war

*The cases were not found until last week because the basement of the bank was flooded, possibly deliberately by bank officials as a way to protect the treasures from **looters**.*

Lose touch (verb)

to depart from reality; to not have regular contact with someone or something

*Most people have observed mild dissociative episodes in which they **lose touch** with their surroundings.*

Lumbering (noun)

lacking dexterity and grace in physical movement

*Tom Keith, although a **lumbering** sort of character, is quite effective as a steel worker.*

Luminescent (adjective)

the natural emission of light by an insect or animal

*Most of the squid on which whales prey are **luminescent**.*

Lure (verb)

to beguile or draw into a wrong or foolish course of action

*As a way to **lure** their prey, coyotes will often act playful to small dogs and cats.*

Lynch (verb)

the act of putting a person to death without a legal trial

*Ironically, the practice of **lynching** got its name from William Lynch, who was a law-abiding citizen.*

Lyricism (noun)

something likened to verse, as in form or style

*Her gift in **lyricism** is what has helped her to successfully write pop-music songs.*

Magnanimity (noun)

the quality or state of being generous

*Always known for his **magnanimity**, John Fenson left his family with a sizeable inheritance after his death.*

Magnification (noun)

enlargement; the act of making something bigger

*Many inclusions are not discernable to the naked eye and require **magnification** to become apparent.*

Magnitude (noun)

the quality of being enormous

*No one could have predicted beforehand the **magnitude** of the earthquake which was to occur in Alaska.*

Mainstream (noun)

the prevailing trend, fashion, etc.

*Following *Thriller*, Quincy Jones worked on fewer **mainstream** dance projects outside of Michael Jackson's *Bad*.*

Majestic (adjective)

large and impressive in size, scope, or extent

*A **majestic** movie theater built in Hollywood fifty years ago has finally been torn down.*

Makeshift (adjective)

characterized as an usually crude and temporary substitute for something: resource

*"We want to make people aware that the captive-bred seahorse is a much better buy," said production manager Ken Maher, from the **makeshift** laboratory in Connemara, west Ireland.*

Malfunction (noun)

to work improperly due to mechanical difficulties

*At the lower end of the esophagus, a one way valve (the esophageal sphincter) prevents the backslash of stomach contents upward into the esophagus. A **malfunction** of this valve is the most common cause of heartburn.*

Malice (noun)

a desire to harm others or to see others suffer

*The way the argument played out proved that the customer had convincingly showed **malice** toward the worker.*

Malnutrition (noun)

faulty or inadequate nourishment needed to sustain life

*An anorexic person, with protruding ribs and resembling a skeleton, often has to be hospitalized for **malnutrition** and forced to eat.*

Manageable (adjective)

capable of being governed

*Because enrollment must be kept to a **manageable** level, early application at a university of your choice is recommended.*

Mandate (verb)

an authoritative indication to be obeyed

*On December 5, 1955, five days after Montgomery civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to obey the city's rules **mandating** segregation on buses, black residents launched a bus boycott and elected King as president of the newly formed Montgomery Improvement Association.*

Maneuver (noun)

an action calculated to achieve an end

*Before the invention of the Heimlich **maneuver**, choking on food was a common cause of accidental death in humans, causing 6,000 deaths a year in the United States.*

Mangle (verb)

to spoil, injure, or make incoherent especially through ineptitude; characterized as being injured with deep disfiguring wounds by cutting, tearing, or crushing

*He saw a man's **mangled** body almost completely inside his car -- head on the floorboard, torso in the air and a severed leg on the center console.*

Manifestation (noun)

an act of showing or displaying

*However, better of the disorder has led to the development of better coping mechanisms and strategies for the various **manifestations** of the disability.*

Manipulate (verb)

to control one's own advantage by artful or indirect means

*Chimpanzees have been taught some hand signs based on American Sign Language, to **manipulate** colored switches or tokens, and to understand some spoken commands.*

Manual (noun)

a book of instructions

*A **manual** on how to repair a slipping transmission has been sent to auto repair shops all over the country.*

Manufacture (noun)

to create by forming, combining, or altering materials

*Through the process of photosynthesis, plants convert the light energy into stored energy. Because green plants can **manufacture** their own food, plants are called autotrophs or self-nourishing.*

Manure (noun)

material that fertilizes land; *especially*: refuse of stables and barnyards consisting of livestock excreta with or without litter

*Leaving germs behind, the housefly is a common pest and disease carrier that lays eggs in garbage and **manure**.*

Map out (verb)

to show graphically the direction or location of, as by using coordinates

*At least thirteen acres of a large underground body of water known as the Lost Sea have been **mapped out**, and still divers have found no end to the lake.*

Margin (noun)

a fairly narrow line or space forming a boundary

*If your method of recitation included note taking in the left hand **margins** of your notebook, write questions for the notes you have taken.*

Marine (adjective)

of or relating to the seas or oceans

Seals move more efficiently in a marine environment.

Marketplace (noun)

an open space in a town where goods are offered for sale

*Because to compete in the emerging global economy, city-states have no choice: they must mobilize all their skills to protect their center cities, grow smarter, protect their air and water, achieve more social equity, and train their workforce to excel in an increasingly competitive world **marketplace**.*

Marsh (noun)

a usually low-lying area of waterlogged ground and standing water

*Although fires are thought to be destructive and dangerous, many plants, such as scrub, **marshes** and pine flat woods depend on fire in order to survive.*

Massacre (noun)

the savage killing of many victims

*Adams's innate conservatism made him determined in 1770 that the British soldier accused of the Boston **Massacre** was to receive a fair hearing.*

Masterpiece (noun)

a work done with extraordinary skill

*For thousands of years, mythology has provided material for much of the world's great art. Myths and mythological characters have inspired **masterpieces** of architecture, literature, music, painting, and sculpture.*

Maternity (noun)

relating to being a mother, or motherhood

*Two months before the birth of her cubs, a mother polar bear instinctively begins to dig a **maternity** den.*

Mate (verb)

to engage in sexual intercourse; to copulate

*After the black widow **mates**, she devours her partner.*

Maturity (noun)

adulthood; ripeness

*In many countries, there is discrepancy as to what age children reach **maturity**.*

Measure (noun)

the formal product of a legislative or judicial body

*In 1761, John Adams began to think and write and act against British **measures** that he believed infringed on colonial liberties and the right of Massachusetts and the other colonies to self-government.*

Medial (adjective)

situated in the middle; at, near, or being the center

*The anterior cruciate ligament, located in the **medial** part of the knee structure, helps to stabilize the knee when a person is in an upright position.*

Median (noun)

something, as a type, number, quantity, or degree, that represents a midpoint between extremes on a scale of valuation

*Stated more precisely, the **median** is a number that neither exceeds nor is exceeded by more than half of the observations.*

Meditation (noun)

the act or process of thinking

*Don Quixote is an Aristotelian **meditation** on the nature of literature and the role of the writer in society.*

Menace (noun)

regarded as a danger to someone or something

*Causing many respiratory illnesses, automobile exhaust is a **menace** to human health.*

Menstrual (adjective)

process of ovulation and menstruation in female primates

*An anorexic girl weighs at least 15 percent less than her ideal weight, has an extreme fear of gaining weight, and has missed at least three consecutive **menstrual** periods.*

Merely (adverb)

and nothing else or nothing more

*Bats' wings are modifications of the hands of the common mammalian ancestor; flying squirrels' wings are modifications of its rib cage. The two structures are **merely** analogous: similar in function.*

Merry-making (noun)

the act of showing happy satisfaction in an event; joyful, exuberant activity

*Meanwhile, at the Union camp at Shiloh, the Federal troops spent a day drilling and **merry-making**. Hundreds went for a swim in Owl Creek. Others rested.*

Metabolize (verb)

to change a substance, i.e., food, and its chemical nature so that it can be used for another purpose

*When Starch is digested, our body hydrolyzes it to glucose. The glucose is then **metabolized** and used for energy.*

Metallic (adjective)

consisting or characteristic of metal; having the sheen or luster of metals

*To make the appearance of his automobile more attractive, the owner had his car painted a **metallic** green.*

Meticulous (adjective)

showing or marked by attentiveness to all aspects or details

*Professor Brown, known for **meticulous** attention to detail, gives exams consisting of more than 250 questions.*

Metropolis (noun)

a large and important town

*The world's lead city-states are its greatest **metropolises** – New York, Tokyo, Paris, Hong Kong, Los Angeles and their global "command and control" competitors, spread from Chicago to Singapore.*

Migrate (verb)

an object which travels from one place to a new place; to leave one's native land and to settle in another

*The lunar surface is bombarded with water rich objects such as comets, and scientists have suspected that some of the water in these objects could **migrate** to permanently dark areas at the lunar poles, perhaps accumulating to useable quantities.*

Mild (adjective)

free from extremes in temperature; free from severity or violence, as in movement

*Most people have observed **mild** dissociative episodes in which they lose touch with their surroundings. Examples include daydreaming, highway hypnosis, or losing oneself in a movie or book.*

Milestone (noun)

significant event or stage in a person's life

*Since the ability to achieve competency varies to a great degree in adults and less so in children (who possess the same high proficiency capabilities), does this not in itself suggest an overall pattern of ability set on by age? Perhaps, the onset of a sensitive period changes according to the individual just as growth patterns and personal **milestones** are reached at different times in one's life.*

Millennium (noun)

a period of 1,000 years

*Indeed, fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear accident has turned up in ice cores, as has dust from violent desert storms countless **millennia** ago.*

Mingle (noun)

to take part in social activities

*From time to time, a worker should **mingle** with other co-workers at Halloween, Christmas, and New Year's parties.*

Misconception (noun)

to be mistaken in judgment

*One of the common **misconceptions** many job seekers have, especially recent graduates, is that a degree automatically means more money or a certain amount of it.*

Misnomer (noun)

a wrong name or designation

*Fixed-rate cards, meanwhile, are something of a **misnomer**, since their rates aren't actually fixed.*

Mnemonic (adjective)

a technique or system of improving the memory by the use of certain formulas

*Develop **mnemonic** devices for material which needs to be memorized.*

Mobilize (verb)

to assemble, prepare, or put into operation, as for war or a similar emergency

*Although increasingly portrayed as the pre-eminent black spokesperson, King did not **mobilize** mass protest activity during the first five years after the Montgomery boycott ended.*

Moderate (verb)

to make or become less severe; to become less active or intense

*The union has hired someone to **moderate** the arguments between the faculty and the administration.*

Moisture (noun)

water or other liquid causing a slight dampness or wetness

The child sleeps on a pad that buzzes loudly the moment it detects moisture.

Molecule (noun)

the smallest particle of an element or compound

*This process of breaking down large **molecules** into their smallest parts so our body can use them is termed digestion.*

Molest (verb)

to make annoying sexual advances to; *especially*: to force physical and sexual contact

*A California man was charged with **molesting** his daughters almost 50 years ago.*

Momentum (noun)

a strength or force that keeps growing

*If it impacted the earth with enough **momentum** and if it was large enough, a meteorite could cause the extinction of the human species.*

Monopoly (noun)

exclusive control or possession

*Even though Thomas Jefferson was against most forms of **monopoly**, he believed that an invention should be protected from attempts to copy it.*

Morale (noun)

mental attitudes of a person, especially with regards to confidence and discipline

*It is important to have high **morale** in a company so that productivity remains high.*

Morpheme (noun)

the smallest meaningful unit of speech

*A word may contain more than one **morpheme**, as in **antiestablishment**, in which there are three **morphemes**.*

Mortality (noun)

the condition of being mortal; especially the nature of man, as having the nature to die

*Of 14 studies on the **mortality** of firefighters, 11 found excess risk for brain cancer.*

Mortar (noun)

a mixture of cement, lime, or gypsum plaster with sand and water that hardens and is used in masonry or plastering

*From a physicist's point of view, the fermions are the bricks on which the world is built, and the bosons are the **mortar** that binds them together.*

Mount (verb)

to set on something that elevates

*Wheels **mounted** on a frame over a river were the first devices used to harness water power.*

Movingly (adverb)

so as a general arousing or stirring of the emotions or feelings

*Talking **movingly** to her father upon departure, Karen told him that she would return in two years.*

Multiethnic (adjective)

having to do with people in a society or community of many different nationalities

*The sociological perspective is crucial for working in today's **multiethnic** and multinational business environment.*

Municipal (adjective)

belonging to a city

Although aluminum is less than one percent of the nation's municipal solid waste stream, it remains one of the most valuable recyclable materials.

Murkiness (noun)

a heavy dimness or obscurity caused by or like that caused by overhanging fog or smoke;
the act of being darkly vague or obscure

*But the idea of securing a "critical mass" of underrepresented students, which the court endorsed, may create more **murkiness** about limits of race-based school policies, critics say.*

Mushroom (verb)

to well up and spread out laterally from a central source; to become enlarged or extended;
to spring up suddenly or multiply rapidly

*As the Earth's population continues to **mushroom**, can ways be found to manage natural resources without causing ecological collapse?*

Muster (verb)

to come together; to assemble, prepare, or put into operation

*While in France, he would sometimes go to the café that James Joyce would frequent, but the interminably shy Faulkner never **mustered** the nerve to speak to him.*

Mutation (noun)

the process or result of making or becoming different

*Driven by dizzying **mutations** in medical costs, program directors and staff ponder the disruptive dynamism of these new reforms.*

Muzzle (noun)

a device, as of straps, fastened over the mouth of an animal to prevent its biting or eating

Dogs should wear muzzles when they are certain to have contact with other dogs and children.

Mystical (adjective)

difficult to explain or understand

*Coconut trees possess the **mystical** ability to conjure up a tropical paradise atmosphere wherever they may be found.*

Mythology (noun)

a body of traditional beliefs and notions accumulated about a particular subject

*In Roman **mythology**, Mercury is the god of commerce, travel and thievery, the Roman counterpart of the Greek god Hermes, the messenger of the Gods.*

Nag (verb)

to scold or find fault constantly

***Nagging** another person can cause resentment, ultimately resulting in a destroyed friendship.*

Naked (adjective)

not wearing any clothes; without the aid of a microscope or telescope

*If the inclusions are not visible to the **naked** eye, a higher clarity does not really improve the appearance of a diamond but rather the rarity and price.*

Natal (adjective)

of or connected with one's birth

*Both villages show a similar level of in-marriage among women currently resident within the village, 67% for Sakaltutan and 63% for Elbasi, indicating an approximate ratio of two women marrying and resident within their **natal** village for every one who marries out.*

Nationwide (noun)

throughout the whole nation—an organized geopolitical unit

*As we use more and more water, the **nationwide** supply is rapidly being used up.*

Navigable (adjective)

capable of being passed, traversed, or crossed

*In the United States, there are few **navigable** rivers through which ocean-liners can travel.*

Negotiate (verb)

to come to an agreement about

*In April 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte **negotiated** the sale of the Louisiana Territory with the envoys of President Thomas Jefferson.*

Neolithic (adjective)

of or relating to the latest period of the Stone Age characterized by polished stone implements; belonging to an earlier age and now outmoded

*Once considered a "**Neolithic** backwater" by archaeologists, Papua New Guinea is emerging as one of the handful of places on Earth where agricultural practices developed independently from other cultures.*

Networking (noun)

the developing of contacts or exchanging of information with others in an informal network

*In a short time, the reforms might well be a dynamic instability in the care and **networking** of patients with cardiovascular diseases.*

Neurological (adjective)

relating to the branch of medicine dealing with the nervous system

*The result of a **neurological** disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, autism and its associated behaviors have been estimated to occur in as many as 1 in 500 individuals.*

Newfangled (adjective)

showing marked departure from previous practice

*The economics theories of today are merely a **newfangled** form of former theories first posed in the 1960's.*

Newfound (adjective)

newly found

*She mentions inner growth, a new sense of self and self-respect, a heightened sense of priorities, and a **newfound** independence as she assumed the bulk of responsibilities and decision making.*

Nobility (noun)

the quality or state of possessing outstanding qualities in character, quality, or rank

*Showing a **nobility** of character that has worldwide appeal, Lincoln, a Republican, was the first member of his party to become president.*

Nocturnal (adjective)

of or occurring the night

*Many rattlesnakes are **nocturnal**, but they can also be seen during the daytime.*

Nominate (verb)

to select someone for an office, a position, or an award

*Among her volumes of poetry are *A Brave and Startling Truth* (Random House, 1995), *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou* (1994), *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My**

*Journey Now (1993), Now Sheba Sings the Song (1987), I Shall Not Be Moved (1990), Shaker, Why Don't You Sing? (1983), Oh Pray My Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Well (1975), and Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Die (1971), which was **nominated** for the Pulitzer prize.*

Norm (noun)

an accepted way or behaving in a certain group

*A person who engages in criminal behavior can be differentiated by the quality or quantity of his/her learning through associations with those who define criminal activity favorable and the relative isolation from lawful social **norms**.*

Notch (noun)

a v-shaped indentation of an edge or surface

*It is said that the notorious Billy the Kid made a **notch** on his pistol grip for each of his victims.*

Notion (noun)

something believed or accepted as true by a person

*The Battle at Shiloh changed all preconceived **notions** that the Civil War would be short lived.*

Notwithstanding (preposition)

[notwithstanding their lack of experience, they were an immediate success] — often used after its object [the motion passed, our objection notwithstanding]: despite

*Seahorses are no ordinary sea creatures, **notwithstanding** their monogamy which is highly unusual for the animal kingdom. It is the male who receives eggs from his female partner and fertilizes them himself.*

Novelistic (adjective)

of or pertaining to new and unusual; being the first of its kind

*Los trabajos is the best evidence not only of the survival of Greek **novelistic** themes but also of the survival of forms and ideas of the Spanish novel of the second Renaissance.*

Nucleus (noun)

a source of further growth and development

*A family is the basic unit in society having as its **nucleus** two or more adults living together and cooperating in the care and rearing of their own or adopted children.*

Nuptial (adjective)

of or relating to marriage or the marriage ceremony; characteristic of or occurring in the breeding season

*Winged males and female carpenter ants engage in a **nuptial** flight in late spring and early summer.*

Obesity (noun)

being overweight, very fat

***Obesity** is a high percentage of body fat, whereas a physically fit individual has a low percentage of body fat.*

Objective (adjective)

expressing or dealing with facts or conditions as perceived without distortion by personal feelings, prejudices, or interpretations

*Researcher Lu Wang, of the University of Minnesota, and colleagues say previous studies have shown that the fatty acid composition of the blood provides an **objective** estimate of the dietary intake of saturated fat for weeks to months before the sample is taken.*

Obligate (verb)

to impose as a duty or moral obligation

*In different social situations, we are **obligated** to adjust our use of words to fit the occasion.*

Oblong (adjective)

deviating from a square, circular, or spherical form by elongation in one dimension

*The Earth was distorted into an **oblong** shape before it gravitationally rebounded*

Obnoxious (adjective)

so objectionable as to bring out a feeling of extreme dislike

*People with **obnoxious** personalities have difficulty in finding long-lasting friendships*

Obstacle (noun)

something that impedes or prevents entry or passage

*Concerning the method of natural association, it is learned when someone is faced with a memory **obstacle** that reminds him of something in the past, he can use that image.*

Occurrence (noun)

something significant that happens

*Landslides are a common **occurrence** in the Santa Cruz Mountains.*

Offensive (noun)

the act of attacking

*Realizing that he could not wait for another Federal advance, Johnston began concentrating forces at Corinth, Mississippi, where he hoped to take the **offensive** and destroy General Grant's Army of the Tennessee before it could be joined by General Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio.*

Omen (noun)

an occurrence or phenomenon believed to portend a future event

*In the decade before the Spanish arrived in Mexico, Aztec Emperor Montezuma II and his people were filled with a sense of foreboding. A series of evil **omens** had foretold of calamities to come. A fiery comet crossed the sky. The temple of Huitzilopochtli, the god of war, burst into flames. The Lake of Mexico boiled and rose, flooding into houses.*

Ongoing (adjective)

actually in process, continuing, progressing

*One should never trust a single information source—stability evaluation is an **ongoing** process.*

Onset (noun)

the initial stage of a developmental process; the act of attacking

*Type II diabetes, which is adult **onset** diabetes, is reduced by regular exercise because it improves the regulation of blood glucose.*

Opt (verb)

to make a choice; especially : to decide in favor of something

*Home users who want an inexpensive system with decent graphics should **opt** for one of the older-generation NVidia GeForce3 cards.*

Optical (adjective)

of, relating to, or being objects that emit light in the visible range of frequencies

*In 1936, Einstein calculated that an observer on Earth, given the correct line of sight, might see multiple images of a single, distant object—a cosmic **optical** illusion, so to speak.*

Optimism (noun)

a tendency to expect a favorable outcome or to dwell on hopeful aspects

*An atmosphere of **optimism** and a promise of prosperity among the settlers of Chattanooga caused the city to prosper from 2,000 in 1865 to 12,000 in 1877.*

Optional (adjective)

not imposed on one by authority

*It is learned that the writing process has a minimum of four stages and that there is an **optional** fifth stage of writing.*

Oratorical (adjective)

of or relating to the art of public speaking

*As the boycott continued during 1956, King gained national prominence as a result of his exceptional **oratorical** skills and personal courage.*

Orbit (adjective)

of or relating to a course, process, or journey that ends where it began or repeats itself

19th century astronomers made very careful observations of Mercury's orbital parameters but could not adequately explain those using Newtonian mechanics.

Organism (noun)

something resembling a living thing in its complexity of structure or functions

*Researchers have learned that many different **organisms** can be conditioned to respond to practically any stimuli such as lights, sounds, or tastes.*

Originate (verb)

to have as one's home, place, or origin

*Sulfates, which **originate** primarily in coal fired power plants, started rising around 1900.*

Ornament (noun)

the act of furnishing with decorations

*Even department stores in some non-Christian countries are decorated with **ornaments** during the Christmas season.*

Oscillate (verb)

to move back and forth with a steady rhythm

*There is a special critical initial strength such that the field cannot decide whether to evaporate away or collapse to form a black hole. Instead it **oscillates** increasingly rapidly, performing an infinite number of oscillations in a finite time.*

Osmotic (adjective)

relating to the diffusion through a semi-permeable membrane typically separating a solvent and a solution that tends to equalize their concentrations

*Since saltwater fishes have blood with a lower concentration of salts than the surrounding seawater, **osmotic** pressure tends to force water out of the body fluids and to raise the internal salt concentration.*

Outcome (noun)

something brought about by a cause

*This **outcome** is a reflection of strong sense of solidarity within the corporate peasant community, also apparent in the tendency for almost every man to remain within his village over his lifetime.*

Outdated (adjective)

to make or become no longer in use; of a style or method formerly in style

*Several **outdated** theories about the cause of autism have been proven to be false.*

Outflow (noun)

the act of being in a state of motion, as air moving away from something

*The strength of the rain cooled **outflow** from the mountain storms is critical to downstream mesoscale convective system development.*

Outlaw (noun)

one that is unconventional or rebellious ; a lawless person or a fugitive from the law
*Gov. Bill Richardson scheduled a news conference Tuesday to detail how the state will aid an investigation launched by Lincoln County, where the Old West **outlaw** made a dramatic escape from custody 122 years ago.*

Outpost (noun)

a security detachment thrown out by a main body of troops to protect it from enemy surprise; an outlying or frontier settlement

In addition to its African possessions, Carthage held a number of outposts on the Spanish mainland.

Outreach (adjective)

reaching out or extending

*The Center for Earth and Planetary Studies (CEPS) is the scientific research unit within the Collections and Research Department of the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution. CEPS performs original research and **outreach** activities on topics covering planetary science, terrestrial geophysics, and the remote sensing of environmental change.*

Outset (noun)

beginning, start

*From the **outset**, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was a missionary church.*

Outstrip (verb)

to be greater or better than

*Even though the train is not the preferred method of transportation in the United States, in Europe it can compete with the airlines and cars, and in some cases even **outstrip** them, as the most popular way to travel from one country to another.*

Outwardly (adverb)

toward or on the outside; in regard to external appearance or action

*Some people with mental disorders have a tendency toward self-persecution, self-sabotage, and even violence (both self-inflicted and **outwardly** directed).*

Outweigh (verb)

to make up for the defects of

*The evolutionary selective advantages for language must have been very large to **outweigh** such a disadvantage.*

Overgraze (verb)

to feed on growing herbage, attached algae, or phytoplankton to the point of damaging vegetation cover

*The problem is one of environmental degradation; the land is **overgrazed** and the kangaroos themselves suffer pretty badly once all the food is gone for them.*

Overly (verb)

lying on or over

*Tsunamis can be generated when the sea floor abruptly deforms and vertically displaces the **overlying** water.*

Override (verb)

occupying a more elevated or superior position; dominating

*The court emphasized that race cannot be the **overriding** factor, but a majority acknowledged a broad social value in encouraging all races to learn and work together.*

Over-the-counter (adjective)

sold lawfully without prescription

*The names of all medicines you are currently taking, including both **over-the-counter** and prescription medication as well as any dietary supplements. It is important for your doctor to know this information in order to prescribe the medicine that will be the most helpful.*

Overturn (verb)

to turn or cause to turn from a vertical or horizontal position

*The Vikings quickly **overturnd** the boats and killed all but one Indian, who was able to get away.*

Overwhelmingly (adverb)

convincingly so as to have little doubt

The evidence seems to **overwhelmingly** state that there is indeed a critical period by which learning must commence in order to afford the learner the chance to achieve native like capabilities.

Owe (verb)

on account of; as a result of, through

*The scientific question is whether the chimps' abilities are homologous to human language—that is, whether the two systems show the same basic organization **owing** to descent from a single system in their common ancestor.*

Painstaking (adjective)

showing or marked by attentiveness to all aspects or details

*Paying **painstaking** attention to detail, French artist Lucien Rudaux was the first to combine his artistic talents with his knowledge of astronomy.*

Pale (adjective)

of a moderately white color; lacking color

Due to the intense ultraviolet rays of the sun, the paint on the car oxidized, causing it to change to a **pale** yellow.

Paleoanthropologist (noun)

one who studies in a branch of anthropology dealing with fossil hominids—any of a family (Hominidae) of erect bipedal primate mammals comprising recent humans together with extinct ancestral and related forms

*The announcement was made this week by **paleoanthropologist** Tim White of the University of California at Berkeley. White, who co-led the joint U.S.-Ethiopian research team that made the discovery, noted that the skulls, which are between 154,000 and 160,000 years old, are the oldest known fossils of modern humans, or *Homo sapiens*.*

Pamphlet (noun)

a small unbound booklet or leaflet

*A **pamphlet** entitled *A Dissertation on the Canon and the Feudal Law* and town instructions denouncing the Stamp Act (1765) marked him as a vigorous, patriotic penman, and, holding various local offices, he soon became a leader among Massachusetts radicals.*

Paradigm (noun)

example of a pattern or ideas of particular theories about a given subject

*Cognitive Psychology is an empirical science and depends on careful experimental procedures and **paradigms** to test theories about these mental processes.*

Paralyze (verb)

to render powerless or motionless by inflicting severe injury; to render helpless, as by emotion

*The hiker was **paralyzed** with fear after seeing the mountain lion face to face.*

Parameter (noun)

constant element or factor, especially one serving as a limit or boundary

*19th century astronomers made very careful observations of Mercury's orbital **parameters** but could not adequately explain those using Newtonian mechanics.*

Parasite (noun)

an organism living in, with, or on another organism

*A new theory suggests that human hairlessness evolved as a strategy to shed the ticks, lice, fleas and other **parasites** that nestle deep in fur.*

Pare (verb)

to diminish or reduce by or as if by trimming off an outside, excess, or irregular part of something

*Under new CEO Paul Tellier, a proven cost cutter, Bombardier Inc., the parent company of Bombardier Aerospace, is **paring** down its operations to become nimbler and more focused on its core businesses, making trains and planes.*

Parody (noun)

a false, mocking, or disrespectful imitation of something

*Many writers make a distinction between poetic truth and historical truth and attempt, through the use of **parody**, to set their boundaries.*

Particle (noun)

a tiny amount

*The introduction of more compression causes the new helium **particles** inside of the core to collide hard enough so that they can stick together and fuse.*

Partisan (adjective)

showing an inclination for or against something that inhibits impartial judgment

*Divisive and **partisan** politics is quite common among governmental offices in many countries.*

Pass (noun)

a narrow passage through mountains

*Sitting just west of the Nevada boundary in the basin and range district of the Mojave Desert, Death Valley is all but surrounded by mountain ranges, with a few roads connecting the valley to the outside world through narrow **passes**.*

Passionate (noun)

fired with intense feeling

*It is mentioned in many history books that Abigail Adams was a wise, learned, strong willed, **passionate**, and patriotic woman.*

Pastorate (noun)

office in which a priest or minister is in charge of a church or a congregation

*Rejecting offers for academic positions, King decided while completing his Ph. D. requirements to return to the South and accepted the **pastorate** of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.*

Pasture (noun)

grassland suitable for grazing

*The settlers to the new world called the New World "Vinland," an Old Norse term for grassland or **pasture**.*

Patriarchal (adjective)

relating to system of society or government ruled by men

*Some decry marriage as a sexist and **patriarchal** institution that should be avoided at all costs.*

Patron (adjective)

a person chosen, named, or honored as a special guardian, protector, or supporter

*Some authorities believe the Romans named the month for Juno, the **patron** goddess of marriage.*

Payload (noun)

the load carried by a vehicle exclusive of what is necessary for its operation; especially: the load carried by an aircraft or spacecraft consisting of things such as passengers or instruments necessary to the purpose of the flight

*Scientists have worked for years to harness the power that viruses have to invade cells, replacing unwanted elements of herpes and other viruses with disease-fighting genes in hopes the new genetic **payload** would correct a targeted illness.*

Peak (noun)

the highest point of a mountain

*The western side of the valley is defined by the Panamint Range, with Telescope **Peak** its highest spot at an elevation of 11,049 feet.*

Peasant (noun)

small farmer or agricultural worker

*Sterling observed only a small number of cases in which a man married more than one wife in the Turkish **peasant** villages he studied.*

Pebble (noun)

a small smooth stone worn by the action of water

*The 3 mile wide comet will not be destroyed or knocked from its orbit. It's like if you throw a **pebble** at a moving car. You're not going to knock the car off course, unless you frighten the driver.*

Peculiarity (noun)

peculiar behavior; a distinctive element

*Demographic **peculiarities** reveal a pattern of upward marriage or hyper gamy which is quite different from endogamy and reflects an acknowledged status difference among communities.*

Peg (verb)

to establish the identification of

*Today's most sophisticated forecast models cannot **peg** mountain convection well enough to assess how it might trigger storm complexes downstream.*

Pelt (noun)

the skin of an animal

Many hunters and fur traders sought money in beaver and otter **pelts**, and deer and buffalo skins.

Penance (noun)

act of self-punishment as reparation for guilt, sins, etc.

As **penance** for their sins, some religions require their members to engage in certain embarrassing rituals before they can receive forgiveness.

Peninsula (noun)

a piece of land jutting out into the water and connected with a larger body of land with an isthmus

Jamestown, Virginia, founded during the latter half of the seventeenth century, was built on a **peninsula**.

Peppered (verb)

to direct a concentrated outpouring, as of missiles, words, or blows

The military outpost was **peppered** with machine gun fire continuously for three hours.

Percentage (noun)

rate or proportion percent

Binet discovered that the **percentage** of subnormal children stayed about the same if he took the ratio between the child's "mental age" and "chronological age" instead of the difference between the two.

Perception (noun)

the condition of being aware; that which exists in the mind as the product of careful mental activity

The cognition and **perception** program represents a very diverse group of faculty and students with research interests in all areas of cognitive science, including sensation, perception, motor performance, attention, memory, learning, and decision making.

Perch (adjective)

a resting place or vantage point; a roost for a bird

When feeding in a field, crows usually post a sentinel on a lofty **perch** to sound a warning if any danger should approach.

Peril (noun)

exposure to the risk of being injured, destroyed, or lost

*With the falloff in old-style agriculture, the region's remarkably diverse plant community, including many rare wildflower species, is also in **peril**.*

Peripheral (adjective)

of minor importance; marginal

*Cervantes's book was read as a parody of novels of chivalry until the Romantics revealed its true importance as a novel. Part one interpolates **peripheral** episodes into the main plot.*

Perish (verb)

to cease living

*At least 80 and perhaps hundreds of people **perished** in the deadliest historical eruption to occur in what is now Hawaii.*

Permeate (verb)

to diffuse through or penetrate something

*Hot, humid weather **permeated** the East on Thursday, and many areas of the central United States received rain.*

Perpendicular to (adjective)

at right angles to the horizon or to level ground

*Since lift always occurs **perpendicular to** the surface of the wing, the lift acts at an angle and the plane turns accordingly.*

Persecution (noun)

very painful punishment

*Some people with mental disorders have a tendency toward self-**persecution**, self-sabotage, and even violence.*

Persistent (adjective)

insistently continuous; of long duration

*After **persistent** rumors of a deep underground lake somewhere in a cave in East Tennessee, a large body of water now named the Lost Sea was discovered in 1905.*

Persnickety (adjective)

fussy about small details; fastidious

*Some common complaints about usage strike me as too **persnickety**, but I'm just discussing mistakes in English that happen to bother me.*

Personalize (verb)

to make personal, which is characterized by a close and thorough acquaintance

To personalize a business relationship can be effective in many cultures.

Perspective (noun)

that which is or can be seen; mental view of the relative importance of things

*Although few occupations include "sociologist" in their title at the bachelor's level, the sociological **perspective** is excellent preparation for a wide variety of occupations.*

Pervasive (adjective)

widespread; occurring quite often

*Over one half million people in the U.S. today have autism or some form of **pervasive** developmental disorder.*

Pest (noun)

something resembling a pest in destructiveness; *especially*: a plant or animal detrimental to humans or human concerns (as agriculture or livestock production)

"Disgusting," "dirty," and "**pest**" are just some of the words we associate with the very unpopular insect, the cockroach.

Phenomenal (adjective)

so remarkable as to elicit disbelief

*Few in the music world were prepared for the **phenomenal** success in 1983 of Michael Jackson's *Thriller* produced by Quincy Jones.*

Phobia (noun)

having a fear of something

*People who have a lot of **phobias** will also be characterized as having unusually high stress levels.*

Phony (adjective)

unreal, fake, pretend

*Multiple Personality Disorder was being thrown into disrepute by many people giving **phony** demonstrations of alter switching during television talk shows.*

Phrase (noun)

to convey in language or words of a particular form

*It would seem socially unacceptable utter the following **phrase** to a co-worker: "You are ugly?"*

Physiologist (noun)

one who studies the functions of the living organisms and their living parts

*The first studies done with classical conditioning were performed by Ivan Pavlov, a Russian **physiologist**.*

Pier (noun)

a structure extending into navigable water for use as a landing place or promenade or to protect or form a harbor

*Seaweeds, or algae, some of which attach themselves to stationary objects such as rocks or **piers** by the suction of organs called holdfasts, do not have roots like higher land plants.*

Pigment (noun)

something that imparts color

*Many types of seaweed and other plants that do not appear to be green also have chlorophyll and therefore can convert the sun's energy into food. In these plants, the greenness is hidden by other **pigments**.*

Pilgrimage (noun)

a journey to a shrine or sacred place

*Dr. Martin Luther King emphasized the goal of black voting rights when he spoke at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1957 Prayer **Pilgrimage** for Freedom.*

Pinpoint (verb)

to look for and discover; to establish the identification of

*In cores from Antarctica and Greenland, researchers have **pinpointed** the beginning of atomic bomb testing in the mid 1950s.*

Pipeline (noun)

a line of pipe with pumps, valves, and control devices for conveying liquids, gases, or solids

*Diamonds were formed under extreme heat and pressure at our Earth's core. They traveled to the surface through volcanic **pipelines** known as kimberlitic during the Earth's formation.*

Pivotal (adjective)

vitally important, crucial

*The difference is that these kids were already playing a **pivotal** role in the shaping of that culture, being the first generation to grow up with a Life on the Internet.*

Placebo (noun)

an inert or harmless substance used especially in the controlled experiments testing the effectiveness of another substance

*The research compared results of the crushed-body treatment with the results of immunotherapy that used insect venom and also the results of a **placebo**.*

Plug (verb)

to make unsuitable for passage or progress by obstruction

*Acne starts when greasy secretions from the skin's sebaceous glands **plug** the tiny openings for hair follicles.*

Plausible (adjective)

worthy of being believed

*Believing that he had a **plausible** alibi the day his wife was murdered, investigators let the suspect go home with no charges being filed.*

Playwright (noun)

a person who writes plays

*William Shakespeare, famous for the tragedy "Romeo and Juliet," was one of the greatest **playwrights** to ever exist.*

Plume (noun)

an open and mobile column of smoke, exhaust gases, or blowing snow

*Great **plumes** of smoke were seen in the horizon.*

Poach (verb)

to take game or fish by illegal methods

*Chinese folk medicines utilize almost every part of the tiger's body, leading to widespread **poaching** of these animals.*

Pocketbook (noun)

financial resources: income

*Our recommendations will help you build a system that fits both your needs and your **pocketbook**.*

Polygamy (noun)

marriage in which a spouse of either sex may have more than one mate at the same time

***Polygamy** is allowable in Islamic tradition but is prohibited in Turkish law.*

Polyp (noun)

a projecting mass of swollen and hypertrophied or membrane; a coelenterate that has typically a hollow cylindrical body surrounded by tentacles armed with nematocysts

*The ability that humans have to change the earth's surface is rivaled only by colonies of tiny coral **polyps**, which over millions of years form massive coral reefs of limestone.*

Pomp (noun)

a ceremonial or festival display as a train of followers or a pageant

*The four-day visit, aimed at patching up differences between the two countries over issues such as the Iraq war, will be laden with state events and royal **pomp** such as Tuesday evening's state banquet in Putin's honor.*

Pool (noun)

an aggregation of the interests or property of different persons made to further a joint undertaking by subjecting them to the same control and a common liability

*Over one's working life, that may be true, but a bachelor's degree, for example, could be a minimum prerequisite that keeps you from being screened out of the applicant **pool**.*

Ponder (verb)

to consider carefully and at length

*Program directors and staff **ponder** the disruptive dynamism of these new healthcare reforms. In a short time, the reforms might well be a dynamic instability in the care and networking of patients with cardiovascular diseases.*

Portfolio (noun)

the securities held by an investor: the commercial paper held by financial house like a bank
*It's a good bet rates will rise if the prime rate increases, since the lender's cost of doing business will be higher. Or they may change if the lender sells its **portfolio** of customers to another bank.*

Portion (noun)

one of the parts into which something is divided

*In 1848, the Virginia **portion** of land donated as part of the District of Columbia was returned to that state.*

Pose (verb)

to present for attention or consideration; to put or set forth

*As researchers continue to search the skies for objects that **pose** an impact risk, they are also beginning discussions on how to deflect an object on a collision course with Earth.*

Possession (noun)

those articles which belong to someone

*Junko left most of her **possessions** with her parents before leaving to the United States.*

Post (noun)

an office or position to which a person is appointed

*He steadily advanced at the UN, holding **posts** in budget, personnel, and refugee affairs.*

Postpone (verb)

to put off until a later time

*The exam was **postponed** until the next week.*

Posturing (noun)

the act of representing oneself in a given character or as other than what one is

*Political **posturing** is quite common in presidential elections.*

Power plant (noun)

a building or complex in which electricity is produced

*Atmospheric carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxides from coal and oil burning **power plants**, cars, and other fossil fuel burning sources have climbed along with the world population, with as yet unknown effects on the climate system.*

Prairie (noun)

a large area of level or rolling land in the Mississippi River valley that has deep fertile soil, a cover of tall coarse grasses, and few trees

*The Midwestern part of the United States is characterized by vast **prairies**, rich agricultural farmland, and intense thunderstorms.*

Precipitate (verb)

something brought about by a cause

*In 1861_1862, Federal forces pushing southward from St. Louis captured Forts Henry and Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, which **precipitated** the Battle of Shiloh.*

Precise (adjective)

clearly, fully, and sometimes emphatically expressed

*To maintain flexibility, stretching must be performed at least everyday (every 36 hours to be **precise**).*

Preconceived (adjective)

to form an opinion prior to actual knowledge or experience

*The Battle of Shiloh would change all **preconceived** notions that the Civil War would be short lived.*

Precursor (noun)

a forerunner; one that proceeds and indicates the approach of another

*If language evolved by gradual Darwinian natural selection, we must be able to find some **precursor** of it in our closest relatives, the chimpanzees.*

Predator (noun)

one that preys, destroys, or devours

*Sea lions, seals, and sharks are natural **predators** of the salmon.*

Predecessor (noun)

one that precedes; *especially* : a person who has previously occupied a position or office to

which another has succeeded

*Scientists have unearthed three 160,000-year-old human skulls in Ethiopia that are the oldest known and best preserved fossils of modern humans' immediate **predecessors**.*

Preface (noun)

a short section of preliminary remarks

*Renaissance books established the convention of the **preface** that is found in most books of today.*

Preliminary (adjective)

Avian (bird) mortality is being studied currently to determine if industrial wind turbine farms contribute to the demise of large birds of prey such as golden and bald eagles.

***Preliminary** results indicate that avian mortality is specific to the site (if it's on a flyway), not the turbines in general.*

Prescribed (adjective)

relating to setting forth expressly and authoritatively

*Not only have national parks been thinking about this option, private land owners have been debating **prescribed** burning as well.*

Presumably (adverb)

according to a tentative assumption

*While a psychologist openly shares psychological principles to promote treatment, psychics use psychology as a personal tool to manipulate the client, known as the sitter, **presumably** for the sitter's own good.*

Prevalence (noun)

the quality or condition of being usual

*Its **prevalence** rate makes autism one of the most common developmental disabilities.*

Prey (noun)

one that is made to suffer injury, loss, or death

*Venom is then injected into the **prey** by an opening near the tip of the fang.*

Primarily (adverb)

for the greater or larger part; mostly

Sulfates, which originate **primarily** in coal fired power plants, started rising around 1900.

Primate (noun)

any of an order of mammals comprising man together with the apes, monkeys or related
*Allelomimetic behavior is highly developed among **primates**, where it has the principal function of providing warning against predators.*

Primitive (adjective)

of or pertaining to early stages in the evolution of human culture
*In **primitive** times, there were no televisions, radios, or microwaves.*

Principal (adjective)

most important, influential, or significant
*William Faulkner's **principal** residence during the next several months was near Paris, France, just around the corner from the Luxembourg Gardens, where he spent much of his time; his written description of the gardens would later be revised for the closing of his novel Sanctuary.*

Principle (noun)

a broad and basic rule or truth
*The best philosophy I can convey about how to avoid problems is the **principle** of the three red flags, which states that most accidents are not the result of an unavoidable "karmic-cannonball," but rather are the predictable outcome of a series of related events.*

Prior to (verb)

going before; just gone by or elapsed
*No one else had gone to college **prior to** his entering Harvard.*

Probable (adjective)

likely to happen or to be true; based on probability or presumption
*The Ontario report found a **probable** link between firefighting and cancer even though the evidence was inconsistent.*

Probe (verb)

to study in order to acquire information

The committee **probed** more into the allegations of whether or not he had engaged in insider trading.

Procedure (noun)

an official or prescribed course of action; a method used in dealing with something
*For those unfamiliar with the term, cold reading is the description of the personality, characteristics, and features, past experiences and sometimes the future of a person without the use of standard psychological or other formal diagnostic **procedures**.*

Proclamation (noun)

a public statement; the act of announcing
*Dubbed the Emancipation **Proclamation**, the law decreed that all slaves were free men.*

Precocious (adjective)

exhibiting mature qualities at an unusually early age
*A recent study in Norway suggests that wild salmon lose out to sexually **precocious** fish-farm invaders when breeding in rivers.*

Procurement (noun)

the act of getting possession of: obtaining by particular care and effort
*Most organ **procurement** organizations offer programs that forward letters from organ recipients to the families of organ donors.*

Profound (adjective)

beyond the understanding of the average mind
*It is a complex story within the healthcare scheme of technological modernization that has one **profound** and simple reality: there will not be enough money to pay for the healthcare costs of this country.*

Progeny (noun)

a group consisting of those descended directly from the same parents or ancestors
*John Adams's marriage of 54 years to this wise, learned, strong willed, passionate, and patriotic woman began the brilliant phase of Adams family history that produced their son John Quincy, his son Charles Francis, his sons Henry and Brooks, and numerous other distinguished **progeny**.*

Project (verb)

a rough or tentative calculation

*The costs of advances in modern medical technology and services have been **projected** to be between \$1.5 to \$2.3 trillion dollars.*

Prolific (adjective)

characterized by great productivity

*Ebay, an Internet company allowing people to buy and sell products Online, is one of the most **prolific** businesses in recent history.*

Prolonged (adjective)

of long duration; extending tediously beyond a standard duration

*In 1772, Archbishop von Schrattenbach died, to be succeeded by Hieronymus von Colloredo. The latter, at first sympathetic to the Mozart's, later became irritated by Wolfgang's **prolonged** absences and stubborn ways.*

Prominent (adjective)

widely known and esteemed

*Thompson and Allen are respectively touted as **prominent** west coast and east coast movie producers.*

Promisingly (adverb)

of, or relating to indicative of future success

*Mozart's career in Vienna began **promisingly**, and he was soon commissioned to write *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (1782).*

Promote (verb)

to make known the positive features of a product; to provide favorable publicity for

*While a psychologist openly shares psychological principles to **promote** treatment, psychics use psychology as a personal tool to manipulate the client, known as the sitter, presumably for the sitter's own good.*

Prone (adjective)

having or showing a tendency or likelihood

*More areas in the world were **prone** to drought than those in the past.*

Propagate (verb)

to bring into existence and foster the development of; increase

*Because the rate at which a wave loses its energy is inversely related to its wave length, tsunamis not only **propagate** at high speeds, they can also travel great, transoceanic distances with limited energy losses.*

Propel (verb)

to force to move or advance with or as if with blows or pressure

*After a person chews and swallows, the food is **propelled** down the ten inches of esophagus and into the stomach.*

Propeller (noun)

revolving shaft with blades, especially for propelling a ship or airplane

*As the plane uses jet engines or even a **propeller** in some cases, to move itself forward, air rushes by the wing.*

Propensity (noun)

an inclination or tendency to something

*Sakaltutan women show a low rate of remaining within their villages (just over 50%) and a high **propensity** to marry men in other locations.*

Proponent (noun)

one who supports or champions an activity, institution, etc.

*Morehouse College president Benjamin Mays and other **proponents** of Christian social activism influenced King's decision after his junior year at Morehouse to become a minister and thereby serve society.*

Proportion (noun)

satisfying arrangement marked by even distribution of elements, as in a design

*The cut of a diamond refers to its **proportions**.*

Prospector (noun)

one who searches for something, especially valuable minerals: gold, silver, and diamonds.

*In the mid 1870s, gold was discovered, and press reports brought a rush of **prospectors** to California.*

Prosperity (noun)

steady good fortune or financial security; a state of health, happiness, and prosperity

*Many gay couples are enjoying a higher level of economic **prosperity** than the average American and don't feel constrained in any way by a lack of marriage rights.*

Protagonist (noun)

the main performer in a theatrical production

*Given to reading books of chivalry, the **protagonist** Alonso Quijano, influenced by the exploits of his heroes, loses his mind and decides to become a knight, go out in search of adventure, and impose justice according to the code of the knights errant.*

Protruding (adjective)

to curve outward past the normal or usual limit

*An anorexic person has **protruding** ribs and resembles a skeleton, yet usually denies being thin.*

Proverb (noun)

a usually familiar statement expressing an observation or principle generally accepted as wise or true

*Many Biblical **proverbs** are used in Western culture as informative verses by which a person can effectively govern his life.*

Provision (verb)

to provide as of supplies; to be prepared beforehand

*This species nests in the ground and **provisions** its nest with cicadas.*

Prowess (noun)

distinguished bravery; *especially* : military valor and skill; extraordinary ability

*It was in England, at the Crystal Palace-the popular name for the first World's Fair, held in London in 1851-that America's industrial and technological **prowess** was first widely recognized.*

Prowl (verb)

to roam over in a predatory manner; to move about or wander stealthily in or as if in search of prey

*At sea, large ships with heavy gear **prowl** in search of fish.*

Psychic (noun)

considered to have powers such as telepathy [paranormal communication of thoughts, especially with the deceased] or clairvoyance [being to able to tell the future beyond the normal sensory contact]

*In the majority of cases, sitters go to **psychics** to address a personal problem, whether it's travel, health, expectations, sex, career, ambitions, or money.*

Psychoanalysis (noun)

a method of treating emotional disorders that emphasizes the importance of a patient's talking freely about himself while under the treatment and especially about childhood experiences and about his dreams

*Dr. Sigmund Freud developed a new mental treatment which he named **psychoanalysis**.*

Psychotic (adjective)

being insane or mad

*Many murderers are **psychotic**, and they have no remorse about killing their victims.*

Pulse (noun)

to make rhythmic contractions, sounds, or movements

*In 1993, Angelou wrote and delivered a poem, "On the **Pulse** of the Morning," at the inauguration for President Bill Clinton at his request.*

Pummel (verb)

to strike repeatedly by heavy blows so as to cause damage

*Gov. Jeb Bush on Tuesday declared a state of emergency for seven southwestern Florida counties which were **pummeled** by torrential rain.*

Pump (verb)

to remove a liquid by a steady, gradual process

*Some cities are now **pumping** water which has lain in underground storage for more than 25,000 years.*

Pungent (adjective)

affecting the organs of taste or smell with a strong and often harsh sensation; so sharp as to cause mental pain

In a **pungent** diary, vivid letters, learned tracts, and patriotic speeches he revealed himself as a quintessential Puritan, patriarch of an illustrious family, tough minded philosopher of the republic, sage, and sometimes a vain, stubborn, and vitriolic partisan.

Pupil (noun)

one who is being educated, student

*It is fairly certain that Cervantes was a **pupil** of López de Hoyos in Madrid.*

Push (noun)

a vigorous effort to attain an end, drive

*Back in the early 1960's when the fishery was really developing quite strongly, there was a **push** from both industry and government to make sure that things were going to be sustainable.*

Pursue (verb)

to follow another; to move behind another in the same direction

*His attempts to measure intelligence caught on and were **pursued** by others.*

Quantitatively (adverb)

relating to or involving the measurement of quantity or amount

It is difficult to quantitatively

Quartet (noun)

a composition of four performers; any group of four

*The great piano concertos and the string **quartets** dedicated to his "dear friend" Josef Haydn were also composed during this period.*

Quasi- (prefix)

seemingly; not really; almost

*Chimpanzees require massive regimented teaching sequences contrived by humans to acquire quite rudimentary abilities, mostly limited to a small number of signs, strung together in repetitive, **quasi-random** sequences, used with the intent of requesting food or tickling.*

Radioactivity (noun)

the emission of ionizing radiation or particles caused by the spontaneous disintegration of atomic nuclei

*Each layer of ice in a core corresponds to a single year or sometimes even a single season and most everything that fell in the snow that year remains behind, including wind blown dust, ash, atmospheric gases, even **radioactivity**.*

Raid (verb)

to attack in order to steal, destroy, or conquer

*Crows sometimes **raid** the nests and eat the eggs and the young of smaller birds.*

Rally (verb)

with reference to troops bring or come together again so as to continue fighting

*In a last effort to regain control of Shiloh, the confederate troops **rallied** against the union soldiers in a three day raging battle.*

Ramble (verb)

to move aimlessly from place to place; to explore idly

*NASA launches the first of two golf cart size rovers that will **ramble** across the rocky, red soil of Mars and drill for evidence that the Red Planet once had enough water to support life.*

Ramshackle (noun)

appearing ready to collapse; carelessly or loosely constructed

*Both are lonely in their **ramshackle** surroundings and, over a series of gin rummy games, they become acquainted.*

Range (noun)

the area of variation between limits on a particular scale: the car's outside my price range

*Flexibility is the ability to move joints freely through their full **range** of motion.*

Rarity (noun)

the state or quality of being far beyond what is usual, normal, or customary

*If the inclusions are not visible to the naked eye, a higher clarity does not really improve the appearance of a diamond but rather the **rarity** and price*

Ratchet (verb)

to cause to move by steps or degrees - usually used with *up* or *down*

*Since Sept. 11, Beijing has **ratcheted** up its bluster against Xinxiang's Uighur separatists.*

Rate-slashing (adjective)

to reduce sharply

*The Fed started its rate-**slashing** campaign in 2001, and by January 2002, the average interest rate on credit cards had fallen by more than 2 percentage points. But then they began a steady creep upward.*

Ratio (noun)

the quantitative relation between two amounts showing the number of times one value contains or is contained within the other

*Mercury is the only body in the solar system known to have an orbital/rotational resonance with a **ratio** other than 1:1.*

Raw (adjective)

uncooked; in its natural state, not processed

*The chlorophyll captures the light energy and uses this energy to build carbohydrates from simple **raw** materials (water, carbon dioxide and minerals).*

Ravenous (adjective)

desiring or craving food

*Ladybugs, those polka-dotted little beetles, have a **ravenous** appetite for aphids and other insects, which is why they can be used in place of insecticides in the citrus industry of California.*

Reacquaint (verb)

to re-familiarize oneself with someone or something; to cause to know about or be aware of something or someone which was once familiar

*Page through the text and/or your notebook to **reacquaint** yourself with the important points.*

Readily (adverb)

without hesitation, willingly; without difficulty, easily

*The developments in the music of Rhythm and Blues of the mid to late 1980's are **readily** apparent, especially the pervasive influence of hip-hop.*

Reality (noun)

the state of things as they actually exist, as opposed to an idealistic or notional idea of them

*Cervantes's work, a keen critique of the literature of his time, presented the clash between **reality** and the ideals which Don Quixote sought to revive, and at the same time originated the theme of the clairvoyance of insanity.*

Realize (verb)

become fully aware of as a fact; understand clearly

*Although they loved Vinland, they **realized** there would always be trouble living with the Indians.*

Rear (verb)

to take care of and educate [a child]

*The life cycle of insects is so short that many generations can be **reared** each year.*

Recall (verb)

remember; cause one to remember or think of; official order to return

*They cannot **recall** having made withdrawals from their bank account signed for in a strange handwriting.*

Recede (verb)

move back or farther away; gradually diminish

*Fortunately, after three days of Sunshine and no rain, the floods from the American River **receded** back into its banks.*

Receptor (noun)

a cell or group of cells that receive stimuli; sense organ

*Although the vibration **receptor** on the spider's leg seems most sensitive to frequencies above 1,000 hertz, previous research had indicated that vibrations induced by trapped prey never exceeded that frequency.*

Recipient (noun)

a person who receives something.

*Modern city-states engage in instant electronic communication and capital transfer, and are the chief **recipients** of world population growth.*

Reciprocity (noun)

the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit

*It is important that a relationship be friendly and express group **reciprocity**.*

Recitation (noun)

musical declamation of the kind usual in the narrative and dialogue parts of opera and oratorio

*The program included songs and **recitations** of well-loved poems.*

Reclaiming (verb)

retrieve or recover; bring (waste land or land formerly under water) under cultivation

*Until we can discover an inexpensive system for **reclaiming** sea water, we must all work together to make sure there is fresh clean water for the next generations.*

Recombining (verb)

to put together again into one mass so that the constituent parts are more or less homogeneous

*By **recombining** the atoms of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen in different combinations, the plant creates the different carbohydrates.*

Reconstitute (verb)

to form or make up again or anew

*U.S. officials emphasized this was not evidence Iraq had a nuclear weapon -- but it was evidence the Iraqis concealed plans to **reconstitute** their nuclear program as soon as the world was no longer looking.*

Recovered (verb)

return to a normal state of health, mind, or strength

*Therapists believe that the appropriate therapy involves the recovery of childhood abuse memories, through **recovered** memory therapy re-integration of alters into the dominant personality.*

Rectangular (adjective)

a plane figure with four straight sides and four right angles, and with unequal adjacent sides

*Betsy Johnson lives in a humble three bedroom **rectangular** shaped house.*

Recycled (adjective)

into reusable material; use again

*To save paper, one should consider buying books made only with **recycled** paper.*

Redact (verb)

to put in writing; to select or adapt for publication

*Court documents related to the guardian's medical plan for J.D. are **redacted** and do not disclose when and where the young woman will be taken to give birth.*

Redeem (verb)

to free from a lien by payment of an amount secured thereby; to remove the obligation of by payment

*By **redeeming** this debt early, we continue with our stated policy to further reduce the company's total debt position.*

Reflexive (adjective)

acting or happening without apparent forethought, prompting, or planning

*Because the dogs' salivation is **reflexive**, Pavlov decided to analyze how the dogs learned to associate the bell with being fed.*

Reform (verb)

make changes in something in order to improve it; cause to abandon an immoral or criminal lifestyle

*In a short time, the **reforms** might well be a dynamic instability in the care and networking of patients with cardiovascular diseases.*

Refract (verb)

to cause to move, especially at an angle; to bend

*Sound waves traveling upward may be **refracted** by the difference in temperature and redirected toward the ground.*

Refrain from (verb)

stop oneself from doing something

*He **refrained from** hitting him back.*

Regardless of (adverb)

despite the prevailing circumstances

*For example, some argue that **regardless** of any individual's desire to get married, the community as a whole should support official recognition of their right to do so.*

Regenerate (verb)

re-grow new tissue; bring new and more vigorous life to an area or institution

*But Davis and Trier have found that mesoscale convective vortexes play a key role in helping storms **regenerate** over two or more days.*

Regime (noun)

a government in power

*He said the European Union would extend its ban on visits by Myanmar officials, warning that further pressure would follow "unless the **regime** moves rapidly to restore civilian rule and democracy."*

Regiment (noun)

a permanent unit of an army, typically divided into several smaller units and often into two battalions; a large number of people or things

*William Tecumseh Sherman, division commander, was quoted saying to reporters, "Take your **regiment** to Ohio. No enemy is nearer than Corinth."*

Region (noun)

an area of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries; an administrative district of a city or country

*Arnold speculated that the Polar **Regions** might have areas that are permanently shadowed, hence permanently cold.*

Regulatory (verb)

control or maintain the rate or speed of a machine or process; control or supervise by means of rules and regulations

Some alters create new alters as needed. Others perform a system regulatory function; they determine which alter will be in charge at a given time.

Regurgitate (verb)

to throw or pour back or out from or as if from a cavity

*California condors are scavengers, eating dead animals and carcasses left by hunters. Some condors will **regurgitate** their food if they feel threatened.*

Rehabilitation (verb)

restore to health or normal life by training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness

Cardiac **rehabilitation** professionals find themselves increasingly drawn into discussions about healthcare reform, particularly when it relates to cost containment.

Rehearse (verb)

to do or perform repeatedly so as to master

*The bride and the groom usually **rehearse** their wedding ceremony before the actual day of the wedding.*

Relative (adjective)

considered in relation or in proportion to something else; existing or possessing a characteristic only in comparison to something else

*The precise composition, and **relative** proportions of that dust and gas, holds clues to the materials and physical conditions present in the frigid outer regions of the solar system where comets are formed.*

Remarkable (adjective)

extraordinary or striking.

*Leopold was a successful composer and violinist and assistant concertmaster at the Salzburg court, whose archbishop, Sigismund von Schrattenbach, encouraged the activities of Leopold and his **remarkable** children.*

Remedy (noun)

a medicine, application, or treatment that relieves or cures a disease

*So we wanted to see how it measured in its latest marketing claims as an anti-aging **remedy** for men in their 40s," says Conrad Earnest, PhD, of the Cooper Institute Centers for Integrative Health Research in Dallas.*

Reminiscent of (adjective)

tending to remind one of something; absorbed in memories

*Going fishing by the lake last week was **reminiscent of** the times when I went fishing as a child.*

Remnants (noun)

a small remaining quantity; a piece of cloth left when the greater part has been used or sold; a surviving trace

*Deep into the jungles of Guatemala are the **remnants** of a civilization which existed more than 1,000 years ago.*

Remote (adjective)

far away in space or time; situated far from the main centers of population

*Death Valley, one of the **remotest** areas in California, boasts summertime temperatures which are among some of the hottest in the world.*

Renaissance (noun)

the revival of art and literature under the influence of classical models in the 14th and 16th centuries; a revival of or renewed interest in something

*Los trabajos is the best evidence not only of the survival of Greek novelistic themes but also of the survival of forms and ideas of the Spanish novel of the second **Renaissance**.*

Render (verb)

to present a lifelike image of

*X-rays differentiate between bone and air, hence **rendering** the liver, the pancreas and certain other organs invisible.*

Renowned (noun)

the state of being famous.

*He quickly became **renowned** for his religious theme paintings which were popular with the art buying public.*

Rent (verb)

to separate one part of a substance or object from another: tear; often used with *apart*

*The colossal impact must have nearly **rent** the young Earth apart.*

Repercussion (noun)

a remote or indirect consequence of some action

*Another group doesn't want to risk **repercussions** while perhaps another group just doesn't care one way or the other.*

Repetition (noun)

the action or an instance of repeating or being repeated; a thing that repeats another

*This would be a weight lifter performing multiple **repetitions** of a light weight.*

Replete (adjective)

fully or abundantly provided or filled

*Gateway threw in a near library of primers for mastering the ins and outs of video editing. One, **replete** with colorful illustrations, shows you how to capture, create, and share movies.*

Repulsion (noun)

the force with which bodies, particles, or like forces repel one another

*Einstein added a cosmological constant to his theory and that term represented a **repulsion** (pushing away) of every point in space by the surrounding points, acting against gravitational attraction.*

Rescue (verb)

save from a dangerous or distressing situation

*The easiest way to **rescue** you is to not get into trouble in the first place.*

Reservoir (noun)

a large natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply; a place where fluid collects, especially in rock strata or in the body

*The water builds up behind the dam and spreads out to form an artificial lake or **reservoir**.*

Residence (noun)

the fact of residing somewhere; the place where a person resides; a person's home

*His principal **residence** during the next several months was near Paris, France, just around the corner from the Luxembourg Gardens, where he spent much of his time; his written description of the gardens would later be revised for the closing of his novel *Sanctuary*.*

Resolve (verb)

settle or find a solution to; decide firmly on a course of action

*After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States **resolved** to enter War.*

Resonance (noun)

the quality of being resonant; physics: the reinforcement or prolongation of sound by reflection or synchronous vibration

*It is now known that Mercury rotates three times in two of its years. Mercury is the only body in the solar system known to have an orbital/rotational **resonance** with a ratio other than 1:1.*

Respectively (adverb)

separately or individually and in the order already mentioned

Authors Jones and Dewey are **respectively** touted as prominent west coast and east coast psychics.

Respiration (noun)

the action of breathing; a single breath

*Warm ups prepare your body for the exercise ahead by increasing heart rate and **respiration**, and thus supplying energy (heat, oxygen) to the cells.*

Resume (verb)

begin again or continue after a pause or interruption

*At that point the Sun would stop, briefly reverse course, and stop again before **resuming** its path toward the horizon and decreasing in apparent size.*

Retain (verb)

continue to have; keep possession of; absorb and continue to hold

*In-marriage also has the effect of **retaining** property within family lines, especially where women are allowed to inherit.*

Retard (adjective)

less advanced in mental, physical, or social development than is usual for one's age

*Binet was commissioned by the government in France to make recommendations about how to educate **retarded** children.*

Retinue (noun)

a group of advisers or assistants accompanying an important person

*In 1569 he went to Italy as part of Cardenal Acquaviva's **retinue** and after signing up as a soldier in 1570 fought in the battle of Lepanto aboard the galley Marquesa.*

Retrieve (verb)

get or bring back

*The long cylinders of ancient ice that they **retrieve** provide a dazzlingly detailed record of what was happening in the world over the past several ice ages.*

Revenue (adjective)

relating to the total income produced by a given source

*Resellers intent on building a steady **revenue** stream continue to fill backrooms with assembly tools, components and test gear to turn out house-branded computer equipment.*

Revere (verb)

respect or admire deeply

*He continued to be **revered** after his death from a fall while painting in 1682.*

Reverse (verb)

move backwards; make something the opposite of what it was

*It would seem socially unacceptable if the phrases above were **reversed**.*

Revise (verb)

examine and improve or amend text; reconsider and alter an opinion or judgment

*A brief description of the invention, planning and drafting, middle draft peer review, final draft, and **revised** final draft stages will be explained by various students whom I have asked to speak today.*

Revitalize (verb)

to give new life or vigor to

*Natural flooding of rivers **revitalizes** the habitats of many plants and animals and enriches soils for planting.*

Rigid (adjective)

incapable of changing or being modified

*Intense heat changes the nature of clay so that it becomes stony and **rigid**.*

Rigorous (adjective)

not deviating from correctness, accuracy, or completeness

*The standards of validity for experimental research are so **rigorous** that it may take a researcher several years to get his results published in a scholarly journal.*

Rim (noun)

the upper or outer edge of something more or less circular

*The bicyclists raced around the southern **rim** of the Grand Canyon*

Rip (verb)

to separate or pull apart by force

*To fully exterminate an ant colony, the must be located and treated—and in some cases, walls must be **ripped** open.*

Ripple (noun)

a small wave or series of waves; a gentle rising and falling sound that spreads through a group of people

*Muscular contractions cause a **ripple**-like movement that carries the contents down the small intestine - somewhat like a conveyor belt.*

Risk (noun)

a situation involving exposure to danger

*Another group doesn't want to **risk** repercussions while perhaps another group just doesn't care one way or the other.*

Ritual (noun)

a religious or solemn ceremony involving a series of actions performed according to a set order

There are seven sacraments or **rituals** in the Catholic Church.

Rivet (noun)

a headed pin or bolt used for uniting two or more pieces by passing the shank through a hole in each piece and then beating or pressing down the other end to make a second head

*Second only to iron and steel, aluminum is used in the construction of lawn chairs, baseball bats, air and space vehicles, and even the **rivets** that hold them together.*

Root (noun)

a rhizome; a plant on to which another variety is grafted

*Born in Atlanta on January 15, 1929, Dr. Martin Luther King's **roots** were formed in the African-American Baptist church.*

Rotate (verb)

move in a circle round an axis

*It is now known that Mercury **rotates** three times in two of its years.*

Rotation (noun)

the action or process of rotating

*The Moon's axis of **rotation** is nearly perpendicular to the plane of its orbit around the Sun, so the Sun always appears at or near the horizon in the polar regions of the Moon.*

Rough (adjective)

having an uneven or irregular surface, not smooth or level; approximate

*While these data are at best **rough** estimates, there is one certainty we spent only a tiny percentage of the \$800 billion on prevention.*

Route (noun)

a way or course taken in getting from a starting point to a destination

*Grapevine Canyon is one of the three eastern exit **routes** from Death Valley, and the location of Scotty's Castle.*

Routine (noun)

a sequence of actions regularly followed; a fixed unvarying program

*This is important in sports such as track and field and football, as well as **routine** activities such as lifting groceries or moving furniture.*

Rubbish (noun)

waste material; refuse or litter

*It lays its eggs in **rubbish** heaps, rotting trees trunks, sawdust, and other vegetative matter.*

Rubble (noun)

broken fragments, especially of a building

*During the San Francisco earthquake at the beginning of the 20th century, many buildings were reduced to nothing more but a pile of **rubble**.*

Rudimentary (adjective)

involving or limited to basic principles

*To show why the chimpanzees signaling system is not homologous to human language, Zachary says that chimpanzees require massive regimented teaching sequences contrived by humans to acquire quite **rudimentary** abilities.*

Rule out (verb)

to keep from being admitted, included, or considered

*Eventually, experimental tests by Army Majors William Gorgas and Walter Reed **ruled out** dirt and poor sanitation conditions as causes of Yellow Fever, and a mosquito was the suspected carrier.*

Run (verb)

to do in a formal manner or according to prescribed ritual: do

*Picking up on Safronov's general ideas, Hartmann and Davis **ran** calculations of the rate of growth of the 2nd-largest, 3rd largest, etc., bodies in the general vicinity of Earth, as the Earth itself was growing.*

Runoff (noun)

the portion of precipitation on land that ultimately reaches streams often with dissolved or suspended material

*The ground is completely saturated, so everything is **runoff**. We could have flash floods just about any time.*

Rural (adjective)

relating to or characteristic of the countryside rather than the town

*Marriage patterns in **rural** Turkey are noticeably influenced by endogamous preferences within both villages and kinship groups.*

Rush (verb)

move or act with urgent haste; transport or produce with urgent haste

*In the mid-1870s, gold was discovered, and press reports brought a **rush** of prospectors.*

Rustle (verb)

to act or move with energy or speed; to forage food

*The big ears of a bat detect the returning echoes, as well as the sounds of prey, such as insects **rustling** in the leaves.*

Sabotage (noun)

a deliberate and underhanded effort to defeat or do harm to an endeavor

*To **sabotage** his friend's grades, John's roommate accused him of cheating on a Philosophy exam.*

Sacred (adjective)

regarded with particular reverence or respect

*In 1772, von Colloredo retained Wolfgang as concertmaster at a token salary. In this capacity Mozart composed a large number of **sacred** and secular works.*

Safeguard (verb)

to make safe, to protect

*Putin's tough stand was seen by analysts as an attempt to protect Russian interests in Iraq -- Moscow wants to **safeguard** its multi-billion dollar debt payments and contracts signed with Baghdad in existence before the war.*

Sail (verb)

to move swiftly through the water through the use of boat

*Thorvaldsen Eriksson, son of Erik the Red, **sailed** from Greenland to the New World which he had been told about by his brother Leif.*

Salivate (verb)

to produce an abnormal flow of saliva—the result of secretion of water in the mouth

*Pavlov noticed that the dogs in his laboratory **salivated** not only when they ate their food, but also before they had taken a bite.*

Sanctioned by (verb)

adhering to beliefs or practices approved by authority or tradition

*Many same-sex couples participate in their own ceremonies, **sanctioned by** their friends, families and spiritual communities.*

Sanctuary (noun)

a sacred or holy place; the state of being protected or safeguarded, as from danger or hardship

*William Faulkner's written description of the gardens would later be revised for the closing of his novel **Sanctuary**.*

Sanitation (noun)

the act or process of being readily kept in cleanliness

*Nearly three-fifths of the 4.8 billion people in developing countries lack basic **sanitation**, almost a third have no access to clean water, a quarter lack adequate housing, and a fifth lack access to modern health services.*

Satire (noun)

a work, as a novel or play, that exposes folly by the use of humor or irony

*Political **satire**, found in newspapers across the US, aims at prominent leaders such as the president, governors, and leaders of congress.*

Savage (verb)

so intense as to cause extreme suffering

*During the early 1940's, Germany created many **savage** labor camps which were not liberated by the allies until 1945.*

Scarce (adjective)

not enough to meet a demand or requirement

*Recently, wind power has become an appealing alternative to fossil based fuels, especially in countries with **scarce** petroleum and ample wind.*

Scarecrow (noun)

an object usually suggesting a human figure that is set up to scare birds

*Some farmers put up **scarecrows** to keep crows from invading their cornfields.*

Scatter (verb)

to cause to separate and go in various directions

*Immigrants who have recently moved into the United States are **scattered** among the 50 states.*

Scavenger (noun)

an organism that feeds habitually on garbage or dead and putrefying flesh

*New research casts T-Rex dinosaurs as little more than a **scavenger**, hunting out the kills of other carnivores and stealing them.*

Scenario (noun)

a sequence of events especially when imagined; *especially*: an account or synopsis of a

possible course of action or events

*NASA is likely to launch its first space shuttle since the Columbia tragedy in the first three months of next year that **scenario** would mean a one year stand down after the Feb. 1 Columbia crash, compared to a nearly three year wait following the 1986 Challenger accident.*

Score (musical)

an arrangement of music for a specific performance medium

*In 1971, she wrote the original screenplay and musical **score** for the film Georgia, Georgia, and was both author and executive producer of a five-part television miniseries "Three Way Choice."*

Scrabble (noun)

a repeated scratching or clawing

*Three fossil skulls recovered from the windswept **scrabble** of Ethiopia's dry and barren Afar rift valley lend archaeological credence to the theory that modern humans evolved in Africa before spreading around the world.*

Scribble (verb)

to write hastily or carelessly without regard to legibility of thought

*Check the meaning of unfamiliar words if they seem to be key words. In that case, if the author uses them more than once, **scribble** a brief definition at the bottom of the page or at the end of the essay.*

Scrutiny (noun)

the act of examining carefully

*Despite this fact, the mission had to pass **scrutiny** from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for violations of the space agency's "planetary protection" rules.*

Searing (adverb)

at a manner of having damage by or as if by fire

*As a large group of Keota's warriors traveling with their families passed the crater of Kilauea Volcano, there was a sudden explosive eruption of **searing** hot ash and gas.*

Seaweed (noun)

a mass of growth of marine plants

Many types of **seaweed** and other plants that do not appear to be green also have chlorophyll and therefore can convert the sun's energy into food.

Secretion (noun)

a product of secretion, i.e. saliva, from an animal or plant

*It is here that the final process of digestion and nutrient absorption takes place from the two gallons of food, liquid and digestive **secretions** processed each day.*

Secular (adjective)

not religious in subject matter, form, or use

*Mozart composed a large number of sacred and **secular** works.*

Secured (verb)

to render certain

*Adams helped draft the Declaration of Independence, **secured** its unanimous adoption in Congress, and wrote his wife on July 3, 1776, that "the most memorable Epoch in the History of America has begun."*

Sediment (noun)

the matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid; material deposited by water, wind, or glaciers

*The rover, Opportunity, and its sister rover, Spirit, which was launched earlier this month, will act as robotic geologists during their three months of exploration. They will send back images of **sediment** and mineral deposits that can help scientists determine whether there was ever enough water on Mars to sustain life.*

Seek out (verb)

to strive toward a goal; to try to find

*As effective as the methods I am about to outline in this lecture are, you are still advised to **seek out** for yourself other or even devise new methods to help your flexibility.*

Segregation (noun)

the policy or practice of excluding a minority group from full freedom or participation in a society

*On December 5, 1955, five days after Montgomery civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to obey the city's rules mandating **segregation** on buses, black residents launched a bus boycott.*

Selective (adjective)

able to recognize small differences or draw fine distinctions

*Sir Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin, was interested in the measurement of intelligence because he wanted to increase it through **selective** breeding.*

Self-esteem (noun)

a sense of one's own dignity or worth

*Face refers to the respect that an individual has for him or herself, and maintaining "**self-esteem**" in public or in private situations.*

Semi aquatic (adjective)

frequently but not living completely in water

*As penguins adapted to marine life, their wings changed to flippers and their feathers to a waterproof covering, hence suiting the birds to a **semi aquatic** existence.*

Sensation (noun)

the capacity for or an act of responding to a stimulus

*Cognitive Psychology is concerned with mental processes and their effects on human behavior and focuses on phenomena such as: **sensation**, perception, motor control, attention, memory, learning, language, reasoning, problem solving, and decision making.*

Sentinel (noun)

something or someone that watches over

*When feeding in a field, crows usually post a **sentinel** on a lofty perch to sound a warning if any danger should approach.*

Serendipitous (adjective)

characterized by the faculty of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for

*Until modern methods of oil prospecting were put into place, most oil strikes were **serendipitous**.*

Set apart (verb)

to make noticeable or different

*But every metro area that's **set apart** geographically — a Houston, a Denver, and a Burlington, Vermont qualifies as a city-state too.*

Settle (verb)

to take up permanent residence in a certain area

*After this incident, the colonists decided to return to Greenland rather than **settle** in Vinland.*

Severely (adjective)

with a gloomy, harsh manner or appearance

*The hot weather in Palm Springs had **severely** tired the bicyclists.*

Sexist (adjective)

having prejudice or discrimination, especially against women, on the grounds of sex

*On the other hand, there are those who decry marriage as a **sexist** and patriarchal institution that should be avoided at all costs.*

Shack (noun)

a room or similar enclosed structure for a particular person or use

*They're getting people [as contestants] who watch the show already, not someone from a **shack** in Kampala.*

Shadow (verb)

to shelter, especially from light

*Some scientists have speculated that the polar regions of the moon might have areas that are permanently **shadowed**, hence permanently cold.*

Shaft (noun)

a vertical or inclined opening of uniform and limited cross section made for finding or mining ore, raising water, or ventilating underground workings (as in a cave)

*Josiah Hornblower came over with the engine to assemble and install it at the mine, where Schuyler hoped to use it to pump water from the **shafts**.*

Sharpen (verb)

to give a sharp edge to; to improve the intellect of someone

*A student who doubles his reading speed **sharpens** his mind, hence becoming more mentally efficient.*

Sharply (adverb)

Chimpanzees require massive regimented teaching sequences contrived by humans to acquire quite rudimentary abilities. These contrasts **sharply** with human children, who pick up thousands of words spontaneously, combine them in structured sequences where every word has a determinate role.

Shatter (verb)

to cause the complete ruin or wreckage of; to split into fragments by a blow

*By sailing into the New World, Christopher Columbus **shattered** the belief that the world was flat.*

Shoaling (adjective)

referring to an area of shallow water

*Consequently, as the tsunami's speed diminishes as it travels into shallower water, its height grows. Because of this **shoaling** effect, a tsunami, imperceptible at sea, may grow to be several meters or more in height near the coast.*

Shortchange (verb)

to give less than the correct amount of change; to deprive of or give less than due

*Emotionally and physically depleted caregivers may **shortchange** their own needs, risking burnout, poor health and depression.*

Short-haul (adjective)

transporting or carrying someone or something over a relatively short distance

*Due to the popularity of trains in European cities, airlines are halting or reducing **short-haul** service and focusing more on the longer runs.*

Showcasing (adjective)

presenting, especially attractively, to the general attention of someone

*Denver, **showcasing** its snowcapped Rocky Mountains and lush vegetation, is one of the most beautiful cities for this time of the year.*

Shrink (verb)

to reduce in size by or as if by drawing together

*The neutron star continues to **shrink** until it finally becomes a black hole.*

Shroud (verb)

to cut off from view: obscure

*Fog **shrouded** parts of the California coast between San Francisco and Los Angeles.*

Sideshow (noun)

an incidental diversion or spectacle

*As irritating as they are, the subsidies, which mostly take the form of government loans, are a **sideshow** to the main contest, as Bombardier and Embracer jockey for position in a market that, while stagnant today, is expected to explode with demand.*

Siege (noun)

a military blockade of a city or fortified place to compel it to surrender

*Rebels pulled out of the city Friday after a four day **siege** by artillery and rockets, and after fighting that left an estimated 500 civilians dead.*

Signature (adjective)

describing a tune, musical number, or sound effect or in television a characteristic used to identify a program, entertainer, or orchestra

*The film widely regarded as Wood Allen's best, with Diane Keaton's **signature** role, "Annie Hall," plays at 7:30 p.m. at the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences.*

Sizzling (adjective)

marked by much heat

*In July, the Sahara Desert is characterized by **sizzling** days and sultry nights.*

Skepticism (noun)

a lack of conviction or certainty

*His continued **skepticism**, however, shaped his subsequent theological studies at Crosier Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, and at Boston University, where he received a doctorate in systematic theology in 1955.*

Skim (verb)

to pass quickly and lightly through

*Part of maintaining a pool is to **skim** the surface daily for leaves, drowned insects, and other forms of debris.*

Skyward (adverb)

moving toward the sky; going in an upward direction

*After the countdown, the space shuttle explosively launched itself **skyward** and ultimately reached speeds of 25,000 miles per hours while in orbit.*

Slab (noun)

a relatively long, straight, rigid piece of metal or other solid material

*There are many different types of avalanches, but the one that worries us the most is the **slab** avalanche, in which a mass of cohesive snow releases as a unit.*

Slant (verb)

to move from true vertical or horizontal

*In the Sierra Nevada mountain range, trees growing at altitudes of at least 9,000 feet **slant** away from the prevailing Northern winds.*

Slender (adjective)

having little flesh or fat on the body

*Running five miles day helps to create a **slender** body.*

Slightly (adverb)

with little significance; moderately

*Temperature variations on Mercury are the most extreme in the solar system ranging from 90 K to 700 K. The temperature on Venus is **slightly** hotter but very stable.*

Slip (verb)

to shift or be shifted out of place

*Around the margins of the Pacific Ocean, for example, denser oceanic plates **slip** under continental plates in a process known as seduction.*

Slump (noun)

a period of poor or losing play by a team or individual

*Derek Jeter and Alfonso Soriano continued their **slumps** at the top of the order, going a combined 0 for 8.*

Smack (verb)

to strike so as to produce a sharp slap or blow

*At some point in the geological future a large chunk of rock and ice will **smack** into Earth and destroy life as we know it.*

Smashing (verb)

to deliver a powerful blow suddenly and sharply so as to cause something to split into fragments

*Michael A' Hearn will lead a team that's planning to find out what's inside comet Temple 1 by **smashing** into it with a 771 pound copper "hammer" the biggest they could loft into space.*

Smattering (noun)

a small scattered number or amount

*Even though only a **smattering** of digital programming is currently available, digital televisions will eventually become the norm, as surely as color replaced black and white.*

Sober (adjective)

marked by sedate or gravely or earnestly thoughtful character or demeanor

It is almost certain that Earth will one day be hit by an asteroid large enough to exterminate a large percentage of our planet's life.

Societal (adjective)

relating to society

*Over the past 30 years, same-sex couples have sought **societal** recognition of their families.*

Sociological (adjective)

relating to the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective behavior of organized groups of human beings

***Sociological** research influences the way we think about work and organizational life, and enables us to discover new knowledge.*

Sodomy (noun)

copulation with a member of the same sex or with an animal; non-coital and especially anal or oral copulation with a member of the opposite sex

*Issues still before the court which could be decided Thursday include a Texas ban on **sodomy**.*

Solidarity (noun)

an identity or coincidence of interests, purposes, or sympathies among the members of a group

*This outcome is a reflection of strong sense of **solidarity** within the corporate peasant community, also apparent in the tendency for almost every man to remain within his village over his lifetime.*

Soil (noun)

the upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed and in which plants grow

*The volcanic **soil** in Hawaii is fertile, and the warm climate makes it possible to grow crops all year around.*

Solder (verb)

to become united or repaired by or as if by a metal or metallic alloy used when melted to join metallic surfaces; especially: an alloy of lead and tin so used

*Responsible for generating all images on your monitor, the graphics subsystem ships in PCs either as a removable expansion board or as a chip **soldered** permanently to the motherboard.*

Sooth (verb)

to bring comfort, solace, or reassurance to

*A rise in lodging and housing costs pushed underlying U.S. inflation up in May at the fastest rate in nine months, the government said on Tuesday in a report that **soothed** deflation fears.*

Soothsayer (noun)

a person who predicts the future by magical, intuitive, or more rational means

*An agitated Montezuma demanded that his **soothsayers** explain the meaning of these dire signs and was told that they prophesied the destruction of his kingdom.*

Sophisticated (adjective)

experienced in the ways of the world; lacking natural simplicity

*Even today's most **sophisticated** forecast models cannot peg mountain convection well enough to assess how it might trigger storm complexes downstream.*

Soundness (noun)

the condition of being free from defects or flaws

*To cure means to restore to health, **soundness**, or normality.*

Span (verb)

a specific length of time characterized by the occurrence of certain conditions or events

*His career **spans** nearly all types of popular music from jazz to rock to dance and all genres between.*

Spark (noun)

a hot glowing particle struck from a larger mass

*If fires are always suppressed, dense underbrush soon becomes so abundant that a simple **spark** can start a fire within minutes.*

Spawned (verb)

to give rise to a particular development; to cause to come into existence

*A growing trend toward emphasis on neural aspects of various cognitive processes has **spawned** what is referred to as the Cognitive Neuropsychology track, with students studying jointly in cognitive and in clinical neuropsychology.*

Specialized (adjective)

designed or fitted to one particular purpose or occupation

*One should look for an entry level job, gain experience through internships, and watch for opportunities of **specialized** training or advanced education.*

Specimen (noun)

one that is representative of a group or class

*The live Western Diamondback rattlesnake on display in this aquarium is a perfect **specimen** for us to examine in today's biology class.*

Speck (noun)

a small discoloration or spot especially from stain or decay; a very small amount

*The other, a composite of four wide angle images, shows the moon as a **speck** just as it sets below the Martian horizon.*

Spec (abbreviation)

short for specification

*From CPUs to RAM to optical storage, we'll break down the jargon--and tell you which **specs** are most important to your purchase.*

Spectacular (adjective)

an impressive exhibition

*Their eruptions are typically characterized by the relatively quiet outflow of very fluid lava and by sometimes **spectacular** lava fountains.*

Spectrum (noun)

a continuous range or sequence

*She continues to produce a wide **spectrum** of music and is truly a musical treasure.*

Speculation (noun)

the act or process of thinking, reasoning, or theorizing

*Many **speculations** exist about the origin and composition of dark matter.*

Speedily (adverb)

at a high rate of speed

*Anxious to finish since it was the last day of class; the students **speedily** completed the exam.*

Spell (noun)

a rather short period

*A **spell** of freezing weather before the onset of winter is usually enough to kill any remaining mosquitoes or larvae.*

Spike (noun)

an usually high and sharply defined maximum

*In cores from Antarctica and Greenland, researchers have pinpointed the beginning of atomic bomb testing in the mid 1950s. They have also identified **spike** representing fallout from stepped up atmospheric testing that took place just prior to the 1963 Test Ban Treaty, which allowed for underground tests only.*

Splendid (adjective)

particularly excellent

*When he returned to Salzburg he was given the position of court organist (1779) and produced a **splendid** series of church works, including the famous Coronation Mass.*

Splotch (noun)

a blend of the word spot and blotch; a small area visibly different (as in color, finish, or material) from the surrounding area

*Prior to joining the Smithsonian, Langley had spent many years documenting the cyclic appearance of dark **splotches** on the sun now referred to as sunspots and had traveled across the world to observe total solar eclipses.*

Spontaneously (adverb)

on impulse without a prior plan

*This contrasts sharply with human children, who pick up thousands of words **spontaneously**.*

Sprawling (adjective)

to spread or grow outward

*The rising costs of housing in Los Angeles have caused a **sprawling** metropolis of interconnected cities in the inland areas of Southern California.*

Spread out (verb)

to extend over a wide area

*The temperature will drop in the envelope as well, as the particles become so **spread out** that they no longer are colliding enough to create tremendous heat.*

Springboard (noun)

a point of departure; a jumping-off place

*A degree in psychology is an excellent **springboard** for entering the world of business, industry, and organizations.*

Squeeze (verb)

to extract liquid by applying pressure

*When venom is **squeezed** out of the gland by muscles, it enters the fang through an opening at the upper end.*

Stability (noun)

reliability in withstanding pressure, force, or stress

*Some soil and rock types are more prone to land sliding than others, and landowners should determine the inherent geologic **stability** of their property before beginning construction activities.*

Stack up (verb)

to add up; to measure up

*The trick to the principle of the three red flags is to recognize when these events are beginning to **stack up** and work against you.*

Stake (noun)

at issue : in jeopardy

*Primary and secondary schools have a **stake** because, to create diverse classrooms, some of the nation's 15,000 districts use race in setting attendance policies and school boundaries.*

Stance (noun)

intellectual or emotional attitude

*Japan has been one of the few developed countries willing to engage directly with Myanmar and the aid warning is being seen as a significant toughening of its **stance**.*

Stand with (verb)

to be united with; to bring or come together into a united whole

*Sitting Bull and the Sioux realized they could not defeat the army alone, and they must **stand with** other tribes.*

Standardize (verb)

to bring into conformity with a standard

*Traditionally diamonds and gemstones were weighed against these seeds until the system was **standardized**, and one carat was fixed at 0.2 grams.*

Starch (noun)

a white odorless tasteless granular or powdery complex carbohydrate that is the chief storage form of carbohydrates in plants is an important foodstuff, and is used also in adhesives and sizes, in laundering, and in pharmacy and medicine

***Starch** and cellulose are complex carbohydrates is an important foodstuff*

Startlingly (adverb)

causing momentary fright, surprise, or astonishment

*The aftermath of the battle, with thousands of dead soldiers spread along the landscape, reflected a **startlingly** realistic picture of the horrors of war.*

Starvation (noun)

the act of going for an extended period of time without food

*Anorexia nervosa is a pattern of self **starvation** and is most common among well educated girls who experience a lot of pressure to be thin.*

Statesman (noun)

a person actively involved in the principles or art of government

*In addition to being a great **statesman**, Thomas Jefferson is also known for his scientific works and inventions.*

Static (adjective)

showing little change

*The political atmosphere of this country is far from being **static**.*

Statistically (adverb)

of, or relating to, or employing the principles of statistics

*Possible causative agents for brain cancer in firefighters include vinyl chloride, acrylonitrile and formaldehyde. Studies show an elevated (but so far not **statistically** significant) risk of lymphatic and hematopoietic cancers for most firefighters.*

Status (noun)

the level of credit or respect at which a person or thing is regarded by others

*Someone once remarked "a language is a dialect with an army," meaning that only the identity of a modern state can give a form of speech that **status**.*

Steadier (adjective)

consistently reliable, especially in the face of external pressures

*There has been a **steadier** increase in crime in the inner cities this year than that of previous years.*

Steeple (noun)

a tall structure usually having a small spire at the top and surmounting a church tower

*With at least 2,500 supporters crammed into a brick lined town square, the **steeple** of a Unitarian church behind him, the former Vermont governor pledged to speak "for a new American century and a new generation of Americans."*

Steer (verb)

to control the course of

*What they may not remember is that this was the war that **steered** the United States to center stage as a world power.*

Stem (noun)

the main body or stalk of a plant

*Like other rodents, the gerbil lives in semiarid regions and prefers to eat the roots and **stems** of a variety of plants.*

Stepchild (noun)

a child of one's wife or husband by a former marriage

*Remote sensing, a **stepchild** of the space age, is prying out many of Earth's innermost secrets.*

Stepped-up (adjective)

to become greater in number, amount, or intensity

*Scientists have identified a spike representing fallout from **stepped-up** atmospheric testing that took place just prior to the 1963 Test Ban Treaty, which allowed for underground tests only.*

Stifling (adjective)

oppressive due to a lack of fresh air

*Due to noxious smog, there is a **stifling** heat in the Inland Empire during the summer.*

Stigmata (noun)

bodily marks or pains resembling the wounds of the crucified Christ and sometimes accompanying religious ecstasy

*St. Francis is depicted wearing a brown habit worn by Franciscan Monks and by the **stigmata** over the heart.*

Stimulate (verb)

to arouse to action; to elicit a strong emotional response from

*Studies have proven that using one's vocal cords **stimulates** natural memory.*

Stipulate (verb)

to demand an express term in an agreement -- used with *for*

*The General has **stipulated** that there will be no weapons after 72 hours," said the spokesman for the international force, Colonel Gerard Dubois. "Weapons that remain in Bunya will be confiscated," he told reporters in Bunya.*

Stock (noun)

the original as a person, race, language, or animal from which others derive: source

*The low cost technology pioneered by Seahorse Ireland could be transferred to poorer parts of the world where seahorse **stocks** are fast becoming depleted.*

Strenuous (adjective)

marked by vigorous physical exertion; requiring great effort

*As an individual gets older, he starts to lose his ability to perform **strenuous** activities such as running or swimming.*

Stretching (verb)

pull an object in different directions

*Increasing body heat also reduces the risk of muscular damage when **stretching** that can happen to 'cold' muscles.*

Striated (verb)

to mark with a line or band of different color or texture

*To the east of the Amargosa Range is the Amargosa Desert, **striated** by the wide washes of the Amargosa River which intermittently flows south from Beatty, Nevada, through Death Valley Junction, curving to the west and then north to enter Death Valley.*

Strife (noun)

a state of disagreement and disharmony

*The late 1780's were years of great **strife** on the Island of Hawaii. Kamehameha, who later became the first king of the Hawaiian Islands, was at war with his rival Keoua.*

Strike (noun)

to set upon with violence force

*More important, the records allow researchers to predict the impact of significant events from volcanic eruptions to global warming that could **strike** us today.*

Strip (verb)

to remove clothing, covering, or surface matter from; to deprive of possessions

*But the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) says the new rules would **strip** overtime from millions of other middle-income jobholders.*

Stroke (noun)

sudden diminution or loss of consciousness, sensation, and voluntary motion caused by rupture or obstruction (as by a clot) of an artery of the brain

*Insufficient angiogenesis can occur following **stroke**.*

Stumble (verb)

to make an error

*Too many job seekers **stumble** through interviews as if the questions are coming out of left field.*

Subdivisions (noun)

one of the parts into which something is divided

*Another way of identifying the thesis is to ask, "What is the unifying principle of this essay"? Or "What idea does everything in this essay talk about"? Or "Under what single main statement could all the **subdivisions** fit"?*

Subdue (verb)

to make or become less severe or extreme

*Intent on using the land for raising cattle and growing crops, early pioneers did not **subdue** nature's rawness.*

Subliminal (adjective)

existing or functioning outside the area of conscious awareness

*In 1957, a controversy developed in the United States over **subliminal** stimuli in which a movie theater over a period of six weeks flashed messages for 1/3,000 of a second: "Hungry? Eat popcorn!" A sixty percent increase in the sale of popcorn was reported.*

Submerged (adjective)

being beneath the surface or the bottom of a liquid

*The most distinguished feature of the Atlantic is the mid-ocean ridge, a gigantic **submerged** mountain range larger in area than the Alps and the Himalayas combined.*

Subsequent (adjective)

following something else in time

*His continued skepticism, however, shaped his **subsequent** theological studies at Crosier Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, and at Boston University, where he received a doctorate in systematic theology in 1955.*

Subside (verb)

to become less active or intense

*When large areas of the sea floor elevate or **subside**, a tsunami can be created.*

Subsidy (noun)

a grant by a government to a private person or company to assist an enterprise deemed advantageous to the public

*The rivalry involves two of the best-run companies in the hemisphere, yet each side protests that the other doesn't play fair because it relies on taxpayer **subsidies**.*

Subsistent (noun)

the minimum as of food and shelter necessary to support life

***Subsistent** farming, in which a family is completely self-reliant, has decreased rapidly since the advent of the industrial revolution.*

Substitute for (verb)

one that takes the place of another; to give up in return for something else

*Although these maps are valuable for the general location of unstable areas, they can not be **substituted for** a careful on site investigation.*

Subtle (adjective)

so slight as to be difficult to notice or appreciate

*The **subtle** differences indicating the onset of a flu or cold may be difficult to distinguish.*

Sue (verb)

to institute or subject to legal proceedings

*Even if a murder suspect is found innocent of all charges in a criminal court, he or she may be **sued** in a civil court for a large sum of money.*

Suffocating (adjective)

so powerful as to stop the breathing of

*In 1912, Garret Morgan invented what is now called a gas mask; the then called "Safety Hood and Smoke Protector" contained enough air to allow someone to stay in a room full of **suffocating** gases and smoke from fifteen to twenty minutes.*

Sugary (adjective)

having or suggesting the taste of sugar

*The digestive system changes the large carbohydrates in mashed potatoes into **sugary** glucose.*

Suicidal (adjective)

having the tendency to take one's own life voluntarily and intentionally

*People with Multiple Personality Disorder may experience any of the following: depression, mood swings, **suicidal** tendencies, and sleep disorders.*

Sum up (verb)

to recapitulate the salient facts of

*There are four types of politeness strategies, described by Brown and Levinson, that **sum up** human "politeness" behavior: Bald On Record, Negative Politeness, Positive Politeness, and Off-Record-Indirect Strategy.*

Summon (verb)

to demand to appear, come, or assemble

***Summoned** by von Colloredo to Vienna in 1781, he was dismissed after a series of arguments.*

Superimpose (verb)

to place or lay over or above something

*With conventional two-dimensional X-ray pictures, things at different depths are **superimposed**, causing potential confusion to the viewer.*

Supernatural (adjective)

of or relating to an order of existence beyond the visible observable universe; especially of or relating to God or a god, demigod, spirit, or devil

*But in spite of their **supernatural** powers, many gods, goddesses, and heroes of mythology have human characteristics.*

Supersonic (adjective)

of, being, or relating to speeds from one to five times the speed of sound in air

*The idea of a **supersonic** passenger plane gained momentum in the 1950s, after Chuck Yeager's 1947 blast through the sound barrier.*

Superstition (noun)

irrational fear of the unknown

*Due to events which sometimes cannot be explained, communities have developed **superstitions** which have been passed from one generation to the next.*

Suppress (verb)

to hold something in check

*If fires are always **suppressed**, dense underbrush soon becomes so abundant that a simple spark can start a fire within minutes.*

Supremacy (noun)

the condition or fact of being dominant

*After Admiral Nelson won a victory at Trafalgar, Spain in 1805, England established a naval **supremacy** that would last for 100 hundred years.*

Surpass (verb)

to be greater or better than; to go beyond the limits of

*The Grand Canyon, a long narrow gorge in Arizona, **surpasses** in its enormity and beauty any other geological wonder in the United States.*

Surrender (verb)

to undergo capture, defeat, or ruin

*As the battles continued, many of Sitting Bull's followers **surrendered**.*

Surveillance (noun)

close watch kept over someone or something as by a detective

*The Pentagon is developing an urban **surveillance** system that would use computers and thousands of cameras to track record and analyze the movement of every vehicle in a foreign city.*

Survey (verb)

to look over; to view broadly or from a height

*Before a person reads a book, he should **survey** the chapter, the title, headings, and subheadings, captions under pictures, charts, graphs or maps.*

Sustaining (adjective)

to keep in a condition of good repair, efficiency, or use

*An abundant supply of water on the Moon would make establishment of a self **sustaining** lunar colony much more feasible and less expensive than presently thought.*

Sustenance (noun)

the means to support life

*During the early colonial years in America, many people traveled on horseback and relied on corn for **sustenance**.*

Swallowing (noun)

the act of causing food to pass from the mouth into the stomach

*Our larynxes are low in our throats, and our vocal tracts have a sharp right angle bend that creates two independently modifiable resonant cavities which is physiological design to making breathing, **swallowing**, and chewing less efficient.*

Swamp (noun)

a usually low-lying area of waterlogged ground and standing water

*All lakes undergo an aging process, in which a crystal clear lake becomes a **swamp** full of plant growth called algae.*

Swell (verb)

to make or become greater or larger

*The wind generated **swell** one sees at a California beach, for example, spawned by a storm out in the Pacific and rhythmically rolling in, one wave after another, might have a period of about 10 seconds and a wave length of 150 m.*

Sweeping (adjective)

marked by wholesale and indiscriminate inclusion: extensive

*In a victory for President Bush, both houses of Congress approved **sweeping** Medicare legislation early Friday to give seniors a prescription drug benefit while creating a broad new role for private insurance in the government run program.*

Switch (noun)

device for making and breaking the connection in an electrical circuit

*In several famous and controversial demonstrations, chimpanzees have been taught to use some hand signs based on American Sign Language, to manipulate colored **switches** or tokens, and to understand some spoken commands.*

Symbiotic (adjective)

the intimate living together of two dissimilar organisms in a mutually beneficial relationship; a cooperative relationship

*Giraffes have a **symbiotic** relationship with tickbirds. These small birds ride on the giraffe's back, eating pesky insects off of its skin. In return for food, the birds serve as an early warning signal, alerting giraffes to any approaching predators with a loud chirp.*

Sympathetic (adjective)

cognizant of and comprehending the needs, problems, and views of others

*The latter, at first **sympathetic** to the Mozart's, later became irritated by Wolfgang's prolonged absences and stubborn ways.*

Synthesize (verb)

to combine and adapt in order to attain a particular effect

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., **synthesized** ideas drawn from many different cultural traditions. Born in Atlanta on January 15, 1929, King's roots were in the African American Baptist church.*

Tableau (noun)

a graphic description or representation

A small introductory gallery shows 18th- and 19th-century electrostatic apparatus, including a globe machine probably designed by Benjamin Franklin, several leyden jars for storing electric charges, and a twin-plate generator of about 1800 in an active **tableau** of a parlor game called the electric kiss.

Tackle (verb)

to start work on vigorously

*After getting detailed instructions from their professor, the students went to the library to **tackle** their research project.*

Tactile (adjective)

discernible by touch

*The octopus has two separate areas for storage in its brain: one for visual memories, the other for **tactile** memories.*

Tagger (noun)

one who makes an inscription or drawing made on some public surface such as a rock or wall

*In the graffiti wars in Philadelphia, the city is winning. **Taggers** are turning their talents to painting murals -- 1,200 to date -- which not only decorate, but revitalize these urban neighborhoods.*

Tailored (adjective)

made to individual specifications

*Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing for the majority, rejected the arguments made by the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush that affirmative action policies should be voided, noting that the U.S. Constitution "does not prohibit the law school's narrowly **tailored** use of race in admissions."*

Tamper (verb)

to interfere so as to weaken or change for the worse--used with "with"

Jackson and Cleveland pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence and agreed to testify.

Tangle (noun)

a complicated situation or problem

*That way we avoid all those political **tangles** that have nothing to do with degrees of difference between languages.*

Tee totaling (adjective)

characterized as having complete abstinence from alcoholic drinks

*"We trust state and local officials," Peters said, suggesting it doesn't make sense to promote pedestrian safety for South Dakota's wide-open spaces or drunken-driving programs in largely **tee totaling** Utah.*

Temperate (adjective)

used to describe a climate that has a range of temperatures within moderate limits

*Situated close to the Pacific Ocean, San Diego has a **temperate** climate with temperatures ranging from 60 - 75 degrees F.*

Tempting (adjective)

causing craving or desire to arise

*It is **tempting** to think that if language evolved by gradual Darwinian natural selection, we must be able to find some precursor of it in our closest relatives, the chimpanzees.*

Tendency (noun)

a way that somebody or something typically behaves or is likely to react or behave

*Some people with mental disorders have a **tendency** toward self-persecution, self-sabotage, and even violence.*

Tender (noun)

something offered, as in money

*Gold and silver were declared as legal **tender**, and as such were used for all payments.*

Tentative (adjective)

likely to have many later changes before it becomes final and complete

*Today, we believe science is testable, explanatory, and **tentative**.*

Terrify (verb)

to make somebody feel very frightened or alarmed

*They represent a **terrifying** and destructive force that kills more than two out of every five Americans.*

Textbook example (noun phrase)

one by which others are compared; a standard of comparison

*Hawaii's volcanoes have, therefore, become the **textbook example** of non-explosive volcanism, and the term "Hawaiian type" is used to refer to such eruptions.*

Theatrical (adjective)

full of exaggerated or false emotion

*Starting with the Retablo de Maese, Pedro Cervantes, demonstrates a mastery of **theatrical** illusion which, absent from part one, becomes another narrative function in part two.*

Theocracy (noun)

government of a state by immediate divine guidance or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided

*The Puritan government of Massachusetts in the 1600's and 1700's has been called a **theocracy**.*

Theological (adjective)

of, or relating to the study of God and his relation to the world

*His continued skepticism, however, shaped his subsequent **theological** studies at Crosier Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, and at Boston University, where he received a doctorate in systematic theology in 1955.*

Theoretical (adjective)

about, involving, or based on a belief used as the basis for action

*The causes of crime can be explained through several **theoretical** perspectives.*

Therapists (adjective)

somebody trained to treat disease, disorders, or injuries, especially somebody who uses methods other than drugs and surgery

*According to **therapists** who specialize in Multiple Personality Disorder, the host (the victim/survivor's basic personality) is not necessarily aware of the existence of these alters.*

Thermal (noun)

a rising body of warm air

When a hang-glider gets caught in a **thermal**, his aircraft will spiral upward for hundreds of feet.

Thermonuclear (adjective)

of or relating to the transformations in the nucleus of atoms of low atomic weight as hydrogen that require a very high temperature for their inception as in the hydrogen bomb or in the sun

*Fusion produces the energy of the sun and other stars and the explosive force of **thermonuclear** weapons.*

Thesis (noun)

a proposition advanced as an argument

*The **thesis** of a reading passage determines the structure, so the structure, once a reader begins to sense it, can lead him to the thesis.*

Thievery (noun)

stealing something from a person or place

*In Roman mythology, Mercury is the god of commerce, travel and **thievery**, the Roman counterpart of the Greek god Hermes, the messenger of the Gods.*

Thoroughfare (noun)

a course affording passage from one place to another

*Situated close to busy **thoroughfares**, McDonald's make its profits on high volume and quick turnover.*

Thrall (noun)

to make a slave of

*Twenty thousand years ago, the Earth was held in **thrall** by a relentless ice age.*

Threats (noun)

the expression of a deliberate intention to cause harm or pain

*If such a multi-day sequence could be forecast, valuable lead time might be gained on flooding **threats**.*

Threshold (noun)

a level, point, or value above which something is true or will take place and below which it is not or will not

Supporters and opponents alike agree the income **threshold** needs to be raised.

Thrive (verb)

to fare well; to grow rapidly and luxuriantly

*Many businesses **thrived** while William Jefferson Clinton was President of the United States.*

Tide (noun)

something suggestive of running water

*When it finally reaches the coast, a tsunami may appear as a rapidly rising or falling **tide**, a series of breaking waves, or even a bore.*

Tier (noun)

a row, rank, or layer of articles; *especially*: one of two or more rows, levels, or ranks arranged one above another; a group of political or geographical divisions that form a row across the map

*The middle **tier** is serious candidates who have yet to catch fire: Joe Lieberman (despite high name recognition in the polls), John Edwards (despite financial support from his fellow trial lawyers and some creative speeches about specific issues) and Bob Graham.*

Tilt (verb)

to slant or cause something to slant

*Unstable areas may sometimes be identified by trees or telephone poles **tilted** at odd angles, or by curved tree trunks.*

Tip (verb)

to move from true vertical or horizontal; to shift the balance of power or influence

*After one of several indecisive battles, probably in 1790, the balance was suddenly **tipped** in favor of Kamehameha when a natural disaster struck.*

Tissue (noun)

organic body material in animals and plants made up of large numbers of cells that are similar in form and function and their related intercellular substances

*They enter the heart of the palms and feed on the tender **tissues** within.*

Titter (noun)

the act of laughing in a nervous, affected, or partly suppressed manner

*The aim of this site is to help you avoid low grades, lost employment opportunities, lost business, and **titters** of amusement at the way you write or speak.*

Token (noun)

something that represents, expresses, or is a symbol of something else

*In several famous and controversial demonstrations, chimpanzees have been taught some hand signs based on American Sign Language, to manipulate colored switches or **tokens**, and to understand some spoken commands.*

Tolerance (noun)

the acceptance of the differing views of other people, for example, in religious or political matters, and fairness toward the people who hold these different views

*The Constitution guarantees religious **tolerance**, which is why many people decided to settle in America.*

Toll (noun)

a grievous or ruinous price—*especially*: cost in life or health

*By that time, she said, age and an assassination attempt had taken its **toll** on the man who once proclaimed, "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."*

Ton (noun)

unit of weight equivalent to 2,000 pounds

*Some of the wagons, on which the early pioneers depended, were capable of carrying up to eight **tons** of supplies.*

Topography (noun)

the features on the surface of a particular area of land

*Things such as wind, temperature, relative humidity, **topography**, and fuel levels all need to be taken into account.*

Torch (noun)

a stick of wood dipped in wax or with one end wrapped in combustible material, set on fire and carried, especially in the past, as a source of light

*Forestry officials used drip **torches** to start the fire, avoiding large logs on the ground that was home to small animals.*

Torrential (adjective)

relating to large amounts of liquids such as water or lava

*Sometimes a slow moving sequence of mesoscale convective systems will extend over several days, causing **torrential** rains over a large area.*

Torture (noun)

excruciating punishment; the act of subjecting another to extreme physical cruelty, as in punishing

*The Sun Dance was a type of self **torture** which included a loss of consciousness.*

Totality (noun)

the state of being complete or total

*At its worst, it could cause some to disagree with the **totality** of the comments.*

Tout (verb)

to praise or recommend somebody or something enthusiastically

*Jones and Dewey are respectively **touted** as prominent west coast and east coast psychics.*

Toxin (noun)

a poison produced by a living organism, especially bacteria, capable of causing disease and also of stimulating the production within the body of antibodies to counter their effects

*General causes for primary brain cancer can include a prior head injury, infections, exposure to chemical **toxins** such as insecticides and fungicides and exposure to radiation such as microwave or radio frequencies.*

Tract (noun)

system of body parts or organs that collectively serve some purpose

*Vomiting and diarrhea are dangerous and can cause damage to the digestive **tract**.*

Traction (noun)

a pulling force exerted on something

*The developing world is slower to catch on, but a movement by astronomers and geoscientists in South Africa to establish a National Working Group to assess NEO impact risk and mitigation is gaining **traction**.*

Trait (noun)

a distinctive element

*A unique **trait** to the Sperm Whale is that it can dive down deep into the ocean for long periods of time.*

Trance (noun)

a state in which somebody is dazed or stunned or in some other way unaware of the environment and unable to respond to stimuli

*Specialists generally believe that people with Multiple Personality Disorder may experience any of the following: depression, mood swings, suicidal tendencies, sleep disorders, headaches, amnesia, time loss, **trances**, and 'out of body experiences.*

Transform (verb)

to change people or things completely, especially improving their appearance or usefulness

*The pupae will require another 1.5 to 2 months before it **transforms** into an adult and becomes a threat to the palms.*

Transplantation (noun)

the act of moving something from one place into another

*The **transplantation** of a pig heart into a human body revolutionized modern surgical medicine.*

Trap (verb)

to prevent air, gas, heat, or a fluid from escaping

*Gases **trapped** in ice cores show the dramatic impact that human activities have had on the planet since the Industrial Revolution.*

Trauma (noun)

an extremely distressing experience that causes severe emotional shock and may have long lasting psychological effects

*Since the 1970s, therapists who believe in the reality of Multiple Personality Disorder generally believe it to be caused by very severe abuse during childhood violence so extreme that the child cannot absorb the **trauma** in its entirety.*

Tread (verb)

to step or walk on or over

*West Africa promised a peace force of at least 5,000 troops for Liberia if warring sides halt fighting, and France suggested Saturday it was open to contributing troops — stepping in where the United States, has so far declined to **tread**.*

Treadmill (noun)

an automatic machine allowing runners to run in place

*Because of the intense cold and snow, Minnesota long distance runners often use **treadmills** during the winter.*

Treaty (noun)

a formal contract or agreement negotiated between countries or other political entities

*They have also identified spike representing fallout from stepped up atmospheric testing that took place just prior to the 1963 Test Ban **Treaty**, which allowed for underground tests only.*

Trek (verb)

to make one's way arduously

*The students had been missing since Saturday, when they **trekked** into the woods after visiting the telescope.*

Tremendous (adjective)

extremely large, powerful, or great

*The fusion process released **tremendous** amounts of heat and light which could then combat the compressing force of gravity; eventually, the two forces reached equilibrium.*

Trend (noun)

a general tendency, movement, or direction

*A growing **trend** toward emphasis on neural aspects of various cognitive processes has spawned what is referred to as the Cognitive Neuropsychology track, with students studying jointly in cognitive and in clinical neuropsychology.*

Tribe (noun)

a group of people sharing a common ancestry

*Sitting Bull and the Sioux realized they could not defeat the army alone, and they must stand with other **tribes**.*

Tributary (noun)

channeling material, supplies, into something more inclusive

*Many **tributaries** flow into the Mississippi River, making it one of the longest rivers in the world.*

Trigger (verb)

to set something off, bring something about, or make something happen

*Slab and other avalanches can be hard or soft, wet or dry and can be **triggered** naturally or artificially.*

Triumph (verb)

to conquer or win a victory over, as in battle or a competition

*During the Civil War, the Union Army **triumphed** over the Confederate Army in the bloodiest battle ever fought in American History.*

Trough (noun)

a long shallow often v-shaped receptacle for the drinking water or feed of domestic animals

*In the 17th century, the Conestoga wagon had a **trough** attached to its rear end, so the horses could feed.*

Trounce (verb)

to render totally ineffective by decisive defeat

*The San Antonio Spurs **trounced** the Los Angeles Lakers in the playoffs.*

Tsunami (noun)

a long high sea wave caused by an earthquake on the ocean floor

***Tsunamis** are unlike wind generated waves, which many of us may have observed on a local lake or at a coastal beach, in that they are characterized as shallow water waves, with long periods and wave lengths.*

Turmoil (noun)

a state or condition of extreme confusion, agitation, or commotion

*To escape the escalating **turmoil**, Church headquarters moved from New York to Ohio, then to Missouri, and later to Illinois.*

Twilight (noun)

the period between afternoon and nighttime

*It is recommended that drivers turn on their headlights at the first sign of **twilight**.*

Ubiquitous (adjective)

ever present in all places

*The Coconut Palm, considered to some as the Tree of Life, is a **ubiquitous** species to the Pacific Islands.*

Ultra cold (adjective)

marked by an extremely low temperature

*To reduce the number of other effects that could create similar signals, physicists shield the detector and keep it **ultra cold**.*

Ultrafast (adjective)

marked by an extremely high rate of speed

*A hydroelectric dam is built in mountainous land, where the water will have a steep drop that will build up pressure to keep the turbines turning **ultrafast**.*

Ultraviolet (adjective)

situated beyond the visible spectrum at its violet end used of radiation having a wavelength shorter than wavelengths of visible light and longer than those of X rays

*Some air pollutants have reduced the capacity of the atmosphere to filter out the sun's harmful **ultraviolet** radiation.*

Unanimous (adjective)

shared as a view by all of the people concerned, with nobody disagreeing

*Adams helped draft the Declaration of Independence, secured its **unanimous** adoption in Congress, and wrote his wife on July 3, 1776, that "the most memorable Epoch in the History of America has begun."*

Underbrush (noun)

shrubs, small trees, or other vegetation growing beneath the trees in a forest

*If fires are always suppressed, dense **underbrush** soon becomes so abundant that a simple spark can start a fire within minutes.*

Underclassman (noun)

a member of the freshman or sophomore class in a school or college

*Juniors, too, may have their math grades substituted for their test scores, though **underclassmen** that did not pass will have to retake the exam.*

Undercut (verb)

to offer to sell at lower prices than or to work for lower wages than a competitor

*Even computer maker Gateway has joined the fray. It **undercut** competitors last fall with its debut of a \$3,000 42-inch plasma TV and promises to have a dozen other plasma, LCD and rear-projection models for sale later this year.*

Undergo (verb)

to participate in or partake of personally

*Some patients suffering from chronic pain **undergo** hypnosis, a highly concentrated but relaxed awareness, in which the perception of pain is altered.*

Underlying (adjective)

arising from or going to the root of the source

*Contrary to what is popularly believed, the **underlying** cause of the Civil War was the issue of state rights.*

Underpin (verb)

support, substantiate

*Laws forbidding homosexual sex, once universal, now are rare. Those on the books are rarely enforced but **underpin** other kinds of discrimination, lawyers for two Texas men had argued to the court.*

Undertook (verb)

to begin to do something or to set out on something

*In 1770, Leopold and Wolfgang **undertook** a tour through Italy.*

Undistinguished (adjective)

without definite or distinctive characteristics

*Having **undistinguished** progeny, Abraham Lincoln was born of humble beginnings*

Undulating (adjective)

having or causing to have a curved or sinuous form or surface

Sounds waves like other types of frequencies are often transmitted in an **undulating** manner.

Unflattering (adjective)

not pleasingly suited to the wearer

*Sweaters with stripes are **unflattering** to the wearer because they can make her look fatter than she actually is.*

Unfold (verb)

to be disclosed gradually

*The details of the double murder **unfolded** during the three month trial.*

Uniformity (noun)

a particular style or other feature that identifies somebody or something as a member of a certain group

*The tiny seeds of this tree are well known for their **uniformity** and consistent weight.*

Unprecedented (adjective)

having no earlier parallel or equivalent

*Collectively, these frozen archives give scientists **unprecedented** views of global climate over the eons.*

Unruly (adjective)

difficult to control, manage, discipline, or govern

*Children with autism are not **unruly** kids who choose not to behave.*

Unsustainable (adjective)

not capable of giving support or relief to

*Misuse or depletion of the Earth's treasures to meet those needs, for example **unsustainable** logging, poor farming practices, and overfishing, threatens human life and health around the world.*

Unveil (verb)

to make public

*In celebration of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art's 15th anniversary on the National Mall, the museum **unveiled** a major interior redesign of its entrance pavilion on October 3.*

Upgrade (verb)

to raise the quality of

*America's Bicentennial gift from the people of West Germany, the Einstein Planetarium has been **upgraded** to include a first-of-its-kind, Sky Vision™ dual digital projection system and six-channel digital surround sound.*

Uphold (verb)

to keep from yielding or failing during stress or difficulty

*The war had overthrown peace-time standards and ideals, and not even President Woodrow Wilson could **uphold** them.*

Upholstered (adjective)

relating to materials such as fabric, padding, and springs used to make a soft covering especially of a seat

*A cross between fast-food and restaurant dining, the family restaurant, characterized by its soft lights, **upholstered** booths, and food prepared to order, is the fastest growing phenomenon in the food service industry today.*

Uplift (verb)

to raise the spirits of

*Accentuating the positive **uplifts** a worker, which can increase the productivity of a workforce.*

Upright (adjective)

standing vertically or straight upward

*According to legend, St Francis was observed standing **upright** in his tomb after his death. Zurbaran attempted to capture the fact that it is a corpse by painting a somewhat frightening face.*

Uprising (noun)

an act or instance of rising up, *especially* a usually localized act of popular violence in defiance usually of an established government: rebellion

*In the office, however, a booming subwoofer may trigger an **uprising** among your coworkers.*

Upturn (adjective)

overturned completely; to turn or cause to turn from a vertical or horizontal position

*Due to the massive wind-driven waves, the ship was **upturned**, hence causing all on board the ship to drown.*

Upward (adjective)

in, to, or toward a higher place, level, or position

*The eyes are staring **upward** and the lips are parted.*

Urbanity (noun)

refined, effortless beauty of manner, form, and style

*Mark Twain, known for his **urbanity** and his artistic integrity, developed a love for writing about the South.*

Utilize (verb)

to put into action or use

*To best **utilize** a writing center tutor, a student should take a copy of the writing assignment and have a rough draft ready for review.*

Vacuous (adjective)

devoid of serious occupation : idle; marked by lack of ideas or intelligence: stupid

*Even if, in the end, all they collectively learn is that a household of African twenty something's can be as self-obsessed, **vacuous** and obnoxious as reality-television contestants in other parts of the world.*

Vaguely (adv)

in a way that is not detailed or exact

*We find relationships that are **vaguely** reminiscent of the way biologists can group species into families, and these in turn into the larger classes, phyla, and so on.*

Vain (adjective)

excessively proud, especially of your appearance

*In a pungent diary, vivid letters, learned tracts, and patriotic speeches he revealed himself as a quintessential Puritan, patriarch of an illustrious family, tough minded philosopher of the republic, sage, and sometimes a **vain**, stubborn, and vitriolic partisan.*

Valve (noun)

a device controlling the flow of liquid through a pipe

*“Lefty loosey” and “righty tighty” is a saying which helps one to remember how to turn a **valve** on or off.*

Vaporized (adjective)

characterized as converting (as by the application of heat or by spraying) into a substance in the gaseous state as distinguished from the liquid or solid state

*Treating these states of matter differently in the simulation could explain another peculiar aspect of the moon's composition: its dearth of easily **vaporized** "volatile" compounds such as water.*

Varied (adjective)

showing or characterized by many different forms or kinds

*She said that it can be found over **varied** country, embracing the mountains up to altitudes of 8000 ft, the seacoasts levels, inland plains, desert areas.*

Vast (adjective)

of extraordinary size and power

*The ocean is believed to be a **vast** storehouse of natural resources, the exploitation of which depends on three factors: knowledge of geology, advances in technology, and the legal protection for investments of national governments or private industry.*

Veiled (adjective)

obscured as if by a veil: disguised

*At the time, the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Organization for Women opposed a guardian for the fetus, calling such a proposed move a **veiled** attempt by the governor to eliminate the possibility of an abortion.*

Velocity (noun)

the speed at which something moves, happens, or is done

*As the body is crushed into a smaller and smaller volume, the gravitational attraction increases hence the escape **velocity** gets bigger.*

Venerable (adjective)

calling forth respect through age, character, and attainments; *broadly*: conveying an

impression of aged goodness and benevolence; impressive by reason of age

*Like the steam engine, the internal-combustion engine has a long and **venerable** history.*

Venom (noun)

a poisonous fluid produced by an animal and injected by a bite or sting in order to immobilize prey or defend itself.

*The **venom** of the rattlesnake is injected through fangs which fold back when the mouth is closed.*

Venture (verb)

to take a risk in the hope of gaining advantage

*Some businesspersons **venture** in real estate and the stock market as possible ways of getting a lucrative return on their investments.*

Verdant (adjective)

green with growing plants

*Locusts prefer warm, damp, **verdant** places in which they settle, feed, and reproduce.*

Verity (noun)

the quality of being true or real

*More than simply a renowned Mississippi writer, the Nobel Prize winning novelist and short story writer is acclaimed throughout the world as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century, one who transformed his "postage stamp" of native soil into an apocryphal setting in which he explored, articulated, and challenged "the old **verities** and truths of the heart."*

Vertebrate (noun)

any of the class of animals having a backbone as a distinguishing anatomical feature

*Rhipidistian fishes eventually gave rise to all land **vertebrates**.*

Vertically (adverb)

at a right angle to the horizon or to level ground

*Tsunamis can be generated when the sea floor abruptly deforms and **vertically** displaces the overlying water.*

Vibrant (adjective)

full of or characterized by a lively, emphatic, eager quality

*Having a **vibrant** personality, Gus Sanderson is liked by everyone he knows at work.*

Viewpoint (noun)

a personal perspective from which somebody considers something

*While healthcare strategies abound from **diverse** viewpoints and divergent professional groups, no one strategy has all the answers to reform the medical healthcare enterprise.*

Vigorous (adjective)

extremely strong and active, physically and mentally

*A pamphlet entitled *A Dissertation on the Canon and the Feudal Law* and town instructions denouncing the Stamp Act (1765) marked him as a **vigorous**, patriotic penman, and, holding various local offices, he soon became a leader among Massachusetts radicals.*

Virtually (adv)

near to in quantity or amount

*Except for dietary fibers (nuts, husks, bran, celery strings and such), our gut disassembles **virtually** everything we eat into smaller components that our body can use.*

Virtuoso (noun)

a musician who shows exceptional ability, technique, or artistry

*Both children played the keyboard, but Wolfgang became a violin **virtuoso** as well.*

Virus (noun)

anything that is injurious, destructive, or fatal

*Smallpox, influenza, polio, rabies, and measles are diseases caused by **viruses**.*

Vivid (adjective)

producing strong and distinct mental images

*In a pungent diary, **vivid** letters, learned tracts, and patriotic speeches he revealed himself as a quintessential Puritan.*

Volatile (adjective)

characterized by or subject to rapid or unexpected change

*The Consumer Price Index, the most widely used gauge of U.S. inflation, was unchanged last month, the Labor Department said. But the so called core CPI, which strips out **volatile** food and energy prices, climbed 0.3 percent after two consecutive flat readings.*

Volume (noun)

a single book that belongs to a set of books

*Among her **volumes** of poetry are *A Brave and Startling Truth* (Random House, 1995), *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou* (1994), *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now* (1993), *Now Sheba Sings the Song* (1987), *I Shall Not Be Moved* (1990), and *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Die* (1971), which was nominated for the Pulitzer prize.*

Vomit (verb)

to expel the contents of the stomach through the mouth as a result of a series of involuntary spasms of the stomach muscles

*Bulimia nervosa, on the other hand, is when a person consumes large amounts of food, but then induces **vomiting** or diarrhea in an attempt to avoid weight gain.*

Vortex (noun)

any whirling motion or mass; a whirlpool or whirlwind

*Scientists Christopher Davis, Stanley Trier, and colleagues have also gained new insight on a type of low pressure center that connects one mesoscale convective **vortex** to the next.*

Vow (noun)

a solemn promise or assertion; specifically : one by which a person is bound to an act, service, or condition

*A spouse may feel that he or she is fulfilling wedding **vows**.*

Voyage (noun)

a course or period of traveling by other than land routes

*Henry sent out more than 50 expeditions but went on none of these **voyages** himself.*

Wandering (adjective)

leading the life of a person or animal without a fixed home; moving from place to place

*To survive the ice ages, man learned to anticipate and to adapt to the habits of animals, including their **wandering** migrations.*

Wanton (adjective)

merciless, inhumane

*There are reports that several hundred innocent civilians have been killed in fighting in and around Monrovia and of **wanton** destruction of property and widespread looting.*

Wares (noun)

manufactured articles; goods

*Because there was a colonial preference for imported **wares** and because there were bad economic conditions, the glass business of Caspar Wistar failed in 1774.*

Warrant (verb)

to be proper or sufficient occasion for

*When conditions **warranted**, gold and silver miners arrived in California.*

Wary (adjective)

trying attentively to avoid danger, risk, or error

*People **wary** of aggressive drivers make good defensive drivers who are less likely to have an accident.*

Watery (adjective)

lower than normal in strength or concentration due to a mixture

*Once all the "good stuff" is removed from the small intestine, our gut passes the indigestible **watery** gruel that is left to the colon.*

Waver (verb)

to become unsure or begin to change from a previous opinion

*Although he never **wavered** in his devotion to colonial rights and early committed himself to independence as an unwelcome last resort, Adams's innate conservatism made him determined in 1770 that the British soldiers accused of the Boston Massacre receive a fair hearing.*

Webcast (noun)

a transmission of sound and images (as of an event) via the World Wide Web

*She also answered questions during a live **webcast** from children around the world.*

White-collar (adjective)

of, relating to, or constituting the class of salaried employees whose duties do not call for the wearing of work clothes or protective clothing

*More **white-collar** workers would lose eligibility due to new language that redefines what qualifies as professional, executive and administrative work.*

Wholesale (adjective)

without discrimination; having no particular pattern, purpose, organization, or structure

*The **wholesale** evolutionary restructuring of some reptiles over a period of thousand of years equipped the new animals to escape their predators and to find food more easily.*

Widespread (adjective)

existing or happening in many places, or affecting many people

*Earlier studies of firefighter mortality that did not identify brain cancer as a cause of death were done before the **widespread** introduction of plastics in the 1950s.*

Wield (verb)

to exert one's authority

*Yet he **wielded** political power virtually to the end, prevailing upon President Bush to appoint his 29 year old son, Strom Jr., as U.S. Attorney in South Carolina in 2001.*

Windmill (noun)

a building with a set of wind driven revolving sails or blades attached to the site of its roof that drive a grinding machine inside

*In more modern times in the United States, **windmills** were erected as the West was developed during the late 19th century.*

Wipe out (verb)

to destroy completely: annihilate

*On the other hand, the general public in developing countries has a host of other problems than the possibility that a large bolides could **wipe out** mankind*

Withdrawal (noun)

the act of taking money from a bank account, or the amount of money taken out

*That a **withdrawal** of \$35,000 was made after his wife's murder is evidence that the suspect is a flight risk.*

Wizardry (noun)

the use of supernatural powers to influence or predict events

*It was once believed that witchcraft and **wizardry** was practiced among some of the citizens of Salem, Massachusetts.*

Wobbly (adjective)

lacking stability

*Home buying has jumped as borrowing costs plummet, providing support to a **wobbly** economy.*

Woe (noun)

a condition of deep suffering from misfortune, affliction, or grief

*An economist at Fannie Mae, the top source of U.S. housing finance, said accounting **woes** at the second largest such financing source, Freddie Mac, had little impact on mortgage lending over the last week.*

Wound (verb)

to cause or inflict an injury to the body (as from violence, accident, or surgery) that involves laceration or breaking of a membrane (as the skin) and usually damage to underlying tissues

*In a surprise attack, Little Turtle's forces killed or **wounded** about 900 American soldiers.*

Wreath (noun)

something—usually made of some type of plant—intertwined into a circular shape

*The Russian president also visited Westminster Abbey where he laid a **wreath** on the Grave of the Unknown Warrior.*

Wreckage (noun)

broken and disordered parts or material from something

*One man died in the **wreckage** of a flattened workshop and seven other people were injured in Deshler, about 75 miles southwest of Lincoln near the Kansas line*

Wretchedness (noun)

a state of prolonged anguish and privation

That many poets such as Edgar Allen Poe suffered wretchedness beyond anyone's imagination served as inspiration for their verses.

Wring (verb)

to squeeze or twist especially so as to make dry or to extract moisture or liquid; to extract or obtain by or as if by twisting and compressing

*The rule would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which were the first law preventing employers from **wringing** 60-hour work weeks from their rank-and-file without compensation.*

Yield (noun)

a product; *especially*: the amount or quantity produced or returned

*The introduction of machinery to farming vastly improved crop **yields**.*

Zone (noun)

an area regarded as separate or kept separate, especially one with a particular use or function

*It is learned that a city-state is a region consisting of one or more historic central cities surrounded by cities and towns which have a shared identification, function as a single **zone** for trade, commerce and communication, and are characterized by social, economic and environmental interdependence.*