

1000 Important English Vocabulary Words Meaning with Sentence

1). Ambivalent (Adjective)

Meaning: having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone.

Synonyms: equivocal, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, indecisive, inconclusive, irresolute

Usage: Some loved her, some hated her, few were ambivalent about her.

2). Forsake (Verb)

Meaning: abandon or leave.

Synonyms: abandon, desert, leave, quit, depart from, leave behind

Usage: She forsook her child, giving him up for adoption.

3). Impudent (Adjective)

Meaning: not showing due respect for another person; impertinent.

Synonyms: impertinent, insolent, cheeky, audacious, brazen

Usage: He could have strangled this impudent upstart.

4). Inept (Adjective)

Meaning: having or showing no skill; clumsy.

Synonyms: incompetent, unskillful, unskilled, inexpert, amateurish

Usage: My attempts at baking were inept but I fumbled on.

5). Novice (Verb)

Meaning: a person new to and inexperienced in a job or situation.

Synonyms: beginner, learner, inexperienced person

Usage: He was a complete novice in foreign affairs.

6). Salient (Adjective)

Meaning: most noticeable or important.

Synonyms: important, main, principal, major, chief, primary, notable

Usage: The salient points stuck out clearly in her mind.

7). Umbrage (Noun)

Meaning: offence or annoyance.

Synonyms: take offence, be offended, take exception, bridle, take something personally **Usage:** She took umbrage at his remarks.

8). Serendipity (Noun)

Meaning: the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.

Synonyms: chance, happy chance, accident, happy accident, fluke

Usage: Technical innovation may be the result of pure serendipity.

9). Quaint (Adjective)

Meaning: attractively unusual or old-fashioned.

Synonyms: picturesque, charming, sweet, attractive, pleasantly old-fashioned

Usage: Narrow streets lead to a quaint bridge over the river.

10). Truculent (Adjective)

Meaning: eager or quick to argue or fight; aggressively defiant.

Synonyms: defiant, aggressive, antagonistic, belligerent, pugnacious, bellicose

Usage: The truculent attitude of farmers to cheaper imports.

11). Intractable (adjective) Meaning:

hard to control or deal with. **Synonyms:**

unmanageable, uncontrollable, ungovernable, out of control.

Usage: Their problems have become more acute and intractable.

12). Delineate (Verb)

Meaning: describe or portray (something) precisely.

Synonyms: describe, set forth, set out, present, outline, depict, portray.

Usage: The law should delineate and prohibit behaviour which is socially abhorrent.

13). Ascetic (adjective)

Meaning: characterized by severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons.

Synonyms: austere, self-denying, abstinent, abstemious.

Usage: An ascetic life of prayer, fasting, and manual labour.

14). Daunt (verb)

Meaning: make (someone) feel intimidated or apprehensive.

Synonyms: intimidate, abash, take aback, shake, ruffle, throw.

Usage: Some people are daunted by technology.

15). Idyllic (adjective)

Meaning: like an idyll; extremely happy, peaceful, or picturesque.

Synonyms: perfect, ideal, idealized, wonderful, blissful.

Usage: An attractive hotel in an idyllic setting.

16). Burgeon (verb)

Meaning: begin to grow or increase rapidly; flourish.

Synonyms: grow rapidly, increase rapidly/exponentially, expand.

Usage: Tourism has burgeoned over the last ten years.

17). Anomalous (adjective)

Meaning: deviating from what is standard, normal, or expected.

Synonyms: abnormal, atypical, non-typical, irregular.

Usage: Nuclear weapons testing may have been responsible for the anomalous weather conditions.

18). Friable (adjective)

Meaning: easily crumbled.

Synonyms: crumbly, easily crumbled, powdery, dusty.

Usage: The soil was friable between her fingers.

19). Protean (adjective)

Meaning: tending or able to change frequently or easily.

Synonyms: ever-changing, variable, changeable, mutable, kaleidoscopic.

Usage: The diverse and protean nature of mental disorders.

20). Recondite (adjective)

Meaning: (of a subject or knowledge) little known; abstruse.

Synonyms: obscure, abstruse, arcane, esoteric, little known.

Usage: The book is full of recondite information.

21). Boisterous (adjective)

Meaning: noisy, energetic, and cheerful

Synonyms: lively, active, animated, exuberant, spirited, bouncy, frisky

Usage: A group of boisterous lads.

22). Inveigle (verb)

Meaning: persuade (someone) to do something by means of deception or flattery

Synonyms: cajole, wheedle, coax, persuade, convince, talk

Usage: He was attempting to inveigle them into doing his will.

23). Sodden (adjective)

Meaning: saturated with liquid, especially water; soaked through.

Synonyms: soaking, soaking wet, soaked, soaked through, wet through

Usage: His clothes were sodden.

24). Perfidious (adjective) Meaning:

deceitful and untrustworthy **Synonyms:** treacherous, duplicitous, deceitful, disloyal, faithless

Usage: It is highly risk to hire a perfidious labour.

25). Conundrum (noun)

Meaning: a confusing and difficult problem or question.

Synonyms: problem, difficult question, vexed question, difficulty

Usage: One of the most difficult conundrums for the experts.

26). Denouement (noun)

Meaning: The final part of a play, film, or narrative in which the strands of the plot are drawn together and matters are explained or resolved **Synonyms:** final scene, final act, last act

Usage: The film's denouement was unsatisfying and ambiguous.

27). Stolid (adjective)

Meaning: calm, dependable, and showing little emotion or animation

Synonyms: impassive, phlegmatic, unemotional, calm **Usage:** A stolid, slow-speaking man.

28). Dissemble (verb)

Meaning: conceal or disguise one's true feelings or beliefs

Synonyms: dissimulate, pretend, deceive, feign, act **Usage:** An honest, sincere person with no need to dissemble.

29). Dilatory (adjective)

Meaning: slow to act

Synonyms: slow, unhurried, tardy, unpunctual, lax, slack

Usage: They were dilatory in providing the researchers with information.

30). Garner (Verb)

Meaning: gather or collect (something, especially information or approval)

Synonyms: accumulate, amass, assemble; store

Usage: The police struggled to garner sufficient evidence.

31. Contentious (adjective)

Meaning: causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial.

Synonyms: controversial, disputable, debatable, and disputed

Usage: The contentious issue of abortion.

32. Antipathy (noun)

Meaning: a deep-seated feeling of aversion.

Synonyms: hostility, antagonism, animosity, aversion, animus

Usage: His fundamental antipathy to capitalism.

33. Countenance (noun)

Meaning: a person's face or facial expression

Synonyms: face, features, physiognomy, profile; facial expression

Usage: His impenetrable eyes and inscrutable countenance give little away.

34. Dogmatic (adjective)

Meaning: inclined to lay down principles as undeniably true

Synonyms: opinionated, peremptory, assertive, imperative, insistent

Usage: She was not tempted to be dogmatic about what she believed.

35. Apropos (adjective)

Meaning: very appropriate to a particular situation

Synonyms: appropriate, pertinent, relevant, apposite, apt

Usage: The song feels apropos to a midnight jaunt.

36. Raffish (adjective)

Meaning: unconventional and slightly disreputable, especially in an attractive way

Synonyms: rakish, jaunty, dapper, dashing, sporty, flashy; unconventional

Usage: His cosmopolitan, raffish air.

37. Vituperate (verb)

Meaning: blame or insult (someone) in strong or violent language

Synonyms: revile, rail against, inveigh against, fulminate against

Usage: He vituperated against all presidents with equal gusto.

38. Diffidence (noun)

Meaning: modesty or shyness resulting from a lack of self-confidence

Synonyms: shyness, bashfulness, unassertiveness, modesty, modestness

Usage: He regretted his diffidence and awkwardness in large groups.

39. Fulminate (verb)

Meaning: express vehement protest

Synonyms: protest, rail, rage, rant, thunder, storm, declaim, inveigh

Usage: Ministers and preachers fulminated against the new curriculum.

40. Assay (noun)

Meaning: the testing of a metal or ore to determine its ingredients and quality

Synonyms: evaluation, assessment, analysis, examination, test

Usage: New plate was taxed when it was brought for assay.

41. Turbid (adjective)

Meaning: (of a liquid) cloudy, opaque, or thick with suspended matter

Synonyms: murky, muddy, thick; opaque, cloudy

Usage: The turbid waters of the river.

42. Erudite (adjective)

Meaning: having or showing great knowledge or learning.

Synonyms: learned, scholarly, well educated, knowledgeable

Usage: He was so erudite that only men who were his equals in scholarship could understand him.

43. Saturnine (adjective)

Meaning: (of a person or their manner) gloomy.

Synonyms: sombre, melancholy, melancholic, moody, miserable

Usage: He was a rather saturnine individual who never spoke an unnecessary word.

44. Abeyance (noun)

Meaning: a state of temporary disuse or suspension.

Synonyms: suspension, a state of suspension, a state of dormancy, a state of latency, a state of uncertainty

Usage: The project was left in abeyance for the time being.

45. Diaphanous (adjective)

Meaning: (especially of fabric) light, delicate, and translucent.

Synonyms: sheer, fine, ultra-fine, delicate, light, lightweight, thin

Usage: She wore a diaphanous dress of pale gold.

46). Epitome (noun)

Meaning: a person or thing that is a perfect example of a particular quality or type.

Synonyms: personification, embodiment, incarnation, paragon; essence

Usage: She looked the epitome of elegance and good taste.

47). Castigate (verb)

Meaning: reprimand (someone) severely.

Synonyms: reprimand, rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, reprove

Usage: He was castigated for not setting a good example.

48). Apprehension (noun)

Meaning: anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen.

Synonyms: alarm, worry, uneasiness, unease, nervousness,

Usage: He had been filled with apprehension at having to report his failure.

49). Approbation (noun)

Meaning: approval or praise.

Synonyms: acceptance, assent, endorsement, encouragement

Usage: He yearned for popular approbation.

50). Refractory (adjective)

Meaning: stubborn or unmanageable.

Synonyms: obstinate, mulish, bull-headed, intractable

Usage: The refractory students spend a great deal of time in the detention room.

51). Pique (noun)

Meaning: A feeling of irritation or resentment resulting from a slight, especially to one's pride.

Synonyms: irritation, annoyance, resentment, anger, displeasure

Usage: He left in a fit of pique.

52). Turgid (adjective)

Meaning: Swollen and distended or congested.

Synonyms: swollen, congested; in spate, in flood

Usage: A turgid and fast-moving river.

53). Multifarious (adjective)

Meaning: Having many varied parts or aspects.

Synonyms: diverse, many, numerous, various, varied

Usage: The multifarious local and ethnic traditions that are found in the USA.

54). Torpor (noun)

Meaning: A state of physical or mental inactivity; lethargy.

Synonyms: lethargy, torpidity, sluggishness, inertia, inertness, inactivity

Usage: He spent most of the journey in a state of torpor.

55). Audacious (adjective)

Meaning: Showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks.

Synonyms: bold, daring, fearless, intrepid, brave, unafraid

Usage: The audience were left gasping at his audacious exploits.

56). Tenacity (noun)

Meaning: The quality or fact of being able to grip something firmly; grip.

Synonyms: persistence, pertinacity, determination, perseverance, doggedness

Usage: The tenacity with which he stuck to his story.

57). Apostate (noun)

Meaning: A person who renounces a religious or political belief or principle.

Synonyms: dissenter, heretic, nonconformist; defector, deserter

Usage: After 50 years as an apostate, he returned to the faith.

58). Discomfit (verb)

Meaning: Make (someone) feel uneasy or embarrassed.

Synonyms: embarrass, make uncomfortable, make uneasy, abash

Usage: He was not noticeably discomfited by her tone.

59). Laconic (adjective)

Meaning: (of a person, speech, or style of writing) using very few words.

Synonyms: brief, concise, terse, succinct, short, economical, elliptical

Usage: His laconic reply suggested a lack of interest in the topic.

60). Ossify (verb)

Meaning: Turn into bone or bony tissue.

Synonyms: turn into bone, become bony, harden, solidify, stiffen

Usage: These cartilages may ossify.

61). Accretion (noun)

Meaning: growth or increase by the gradual accumulation of additional layers or matter.

Synonyms: Accumulation, collecting, gathering, amassing, cumulation.

Usage: The accretion of sediments in coastal mangroves.

62). Acumen (noun)

Meaning: the ability to make good judgements and take quick decisions.

Synonyms: Astuteness, awareness, acuity, sharpness.

Usage: A gullible young man with little or no business acumen.

63). Ephemeral (adjective) Meaning: lasting for a very short time. **Synonyms:** Transitory, transient, fleeting, passing. **Usage:** Fashions are ephemeral: new ones regularly drive out the old.

64). Garrulous (adjective)

Meaning: excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters.

Synonyms: Talkative, voluble, chatty.

Usage: A garrulous old man who chattered like a magpie.

65). Fetter (noun)

Meaning: a chain or manacle used to restrain a prisoner, typically placed around the ankles.

Synonyms: shackles, manacles, handcuffs, irons, leg irons, chains.

Usage: He lay bound with fetters of iron.

66). Inure (verb)

Meaning: accustom (someone) to something, especially something unpleasant.

Synonyms: Harden, toughen, season, temper.

Usage: These children have been inured to violence.

67). Pejorative (Adjective)

Meaning: expressing contempt or disapproval.

Synonyms: Disparaging, derogatory, denigratory.

Usage: Permissiveness is used almost universally as a pejorative term.

68). Tirade (noun)

Meaning: a long, angry speech of criticism or accusation.

Synonyms: Diatribe, invective, polemic, attack.

Usage: She rounded on Nathan with a devastating tirade.

69). Yoke (noun)

Meaning: a wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to the plough or cart that they are to pull.

Synonyms: Harness, collar, tackle, tack.

Usage: The horses were loosened from the yoke.

70). Umbrage (noun) Meaning:

offence or annoyance.

Synonyms: take offence, be offended, take exception, bridle.

Usage: She took umbrage at his remarks.

71). Abysmal (adjective) Meaning:

extremely bad; appalling

Synonyms: very bad, dreadful, awful, terrible, frightful

Usage: some of the teaching was abysmal.

72). Tawdry (adjective)

Meaning: showy but cheap and of poor quality

Synonyms: gaudy, flashy, showy, garish, loud; tasteless

Usage: she had cheap, tawdry rings on her fingers.

73). Dross (noun)

Meaning: something regarded as worthless; rubbish.

Synonyms: rubbish, junk, debris, chaff, draff, detritus

Usage: sometimes it's possible to find a little gem amongst the mass-produced dross.

74). Ardour (noun)

Meaning: great enthusiasm or passion.

Synonyms: passion, avidity, fervour, zeal, wholeheartedness, eagerness

Usage: she was unaccustomed to being kissed with such ardour.

75). Insouciant (adjective)

Meaning: showing a casual lack of concern

Synonyms: nonchalant, untroubled, unworried, unruffled, unconcerned

Usage: he had an insouciant attitude to their money problems.

76). Dulcet (adjective)

Meaning: (especially of sound) sweet and soothing (often used ironically).

Synonyms: sweet, sweet-sounding, mellifluous, euphonious, soothing, mellow

Usage: record the dulcet tones of your family and friends.

77). Desiccate (Verb)

Meaning: remove the moisture from (something), typically in order to preserve it.

Synonyms: dried, dried up, dry, dehydrated, powdered

Usage: We can use the desiccated coconut for cooking.

78). Pellucid (adjective)

Meaning: translucently clear.

Synonyms: translucent, transparent, clear, crystal clear, crystalline

Usage: mountains reflected in the pellucid waters.

79). Pariah (noun)

Meaning: an outcast.

Synonyms: outcast, persona non grata, leper, reject, untouchable

Usage: they were treated as social pariahs.

80). Taciturn (adjective)

Meaning: (of a person) reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little.

Synonyms: untalkative, uncommunicative, reticent, unforthcoming, quiet

Usage: after such gatherings she would be taciturn and morose.

81). Perfunctory (adjective)

Meaning: (of an action) carried out without real interest, feeling, or effort.

Synonyms: cursory, desultory; quick, brief, hasty, hurried, rapid

Usage: The guards gave a perfunctory look up and down the carriage.

82). Transient (adjective)

Meaning: lasting only for a short time; impermanent.

Synonyms: transitory, temporary, short-lived, short-term, ephemeral

Usage: A transient post-war baby boom.

83). Reprobate (noun) Meaning:

an unprincipled person.

Synonyms: rogue, rascal, scoundrel, good-for-nothing, villain, wretch

Usage: He had to present himself as more of a lovable reprobate than a spirit of Corruption.

84). Libertine (noun)

Meaning: a person, especially a man, who freely indulges in sensual pleasures without regard to moral principles.

Synonyms: philanderer, ladies' man, playboy, rake

Usage: His image as an unbridled libertine is a total myth.

85). Tractable (adjective)

Meaning: (of a person) easy to control or influence.

Synonyms: controllable, manageable, malleable, governable, yielding,

Usage: She has always been tractable and obedient, even as a child.

86). Sedulous (adjective)

Meaning: (of a person or action) showing dedication and diligence.

Synonyms: diligent, careful, meticulous, thorough, assiduous

Usage: He watched himself with the most sedulous care.

87). Intrepid (adjective)

Meaning: fearless; adventurous (often used for rhetorical or humorous effect).

Synonyms: fearless, unafraid, undaunted, dauntless, undismayed

Usage: The intrepid band braved a precipitous mountain track.

88). Morose (adjective) Meaning:

sullen and ill-tempered.

Synonyms: sullen, sulky, gloomy, bad-tempered, ill-tempered

Usage: She was morose and silent when she got home.

89). Demur (verb)

Meaning: raise objections or show reluctance.

Synonyms: raise objections, object, take exception, take issue

Usage: Normally she would have accepted the challenge, but she demurred.

90). Equipoise (noun)

Meaning: balance of forces or interests.

Synonyms: equilibrium, balance, evenness, symmetry, parity

Usage: This wine represents a marvellous equipoise of power and elegance.

91). Garrulity (Noun)

Meaning: excessive talkativeness, especially on trivial matters.

Synonyms: talkativeness, garrulousness, loquacity, loquaciousness, volubility, verbosity,

Usage: They were irritated by his ungovernable garrulity.

92). Arrant (Adjective)

Meaning: complete, utter

Synonyms: downright, thoroughgoing, absolute, complete, thorough

Usage: What he is talking is arrant nonsense!

93). Consequential (Adjective) Meaning:

following as a result or effect. **Synonyms:** resulting, resultant, ensuing, consequent; following

Usage: A loss of confidence and a consequential withdrawal of funds.

94). Attenuate (Verb)

Meaning: reduce the force, effect, or value of.

Synonyms: weakened, reduced, lessened, decreased, diminished, impaired

Usage: Her intolerance was attenuated by an unexpected liberalism.

95). Precarious (Adjective)

Meaning: dependent on chance; uncertain

Synonyms: uncertain, insecure, unreliable, unsure, unpredictable

Usage: He made a precarious living as a painter.

96). Enervate (Verb)

Meaning: make (someone) feel drained of energy or vitality.

Synonyms: exhaust, tire, fatigue, weary, wear out, devitalize

Usage: The scorching sun enervated her.

97). Equivocate (Verb)

Meaning: use ambiguous language so as to conceal the truth or avoid committing oneself.

Synonyms: prevaricate, be evasive, be non-committal, be vague, be ambiguous

Usage: The government have equivocated too often in the past.

98). Assiduous (Adjective)

Meaning: showing great care and perseverance.

Synonyms: diligent, careful, meticulous, thorough, sedulous, attentive

Usage: She was assiduous in pointing out every feature.

99). Lassitude (Noun)

Meaning: a state of physical or mental weariness; lack of energy

Synonyms: lethargy, listlessness, weariness, languor, sluggishness, enervation

Usage: She was overcome by lassitude and retired to bed.

100). Sycophant (Noun)

Meaning: a person who acts obsequiously towards someone important in order to gain advantage.

Synonyms: toady, creep, crawler, fawner, flatterer, flunkey, truckler

Usage: He was surrounded by flatterers and sycophants.

101). Infant (Noun)

Meaning: a very young child or baby.

Synonyms: Baby, newborn, young child, little child

Usage: Their first year at infant school.

102). Mortality (Noun)

Meaning: the state of being subject to death.

Synonyms: Impermanence, temporality, transience, perishability

Usage: the work is increasingly haunted by thoughts of mortality.

103). Hapless (Adjective)

Meaning: unfortunate

Synonyms: unlucky, luckless, out of luck, cursed, doomed

Usage: The hapless victims of the disaster.

104). Persuade (Verb)

Meaning: induce (someone) to do something through reasoning or argument.

Synonyms: talk someone into, coax, convince, make, get, induce, coerce, prompt

Usage: it wasn't easy, but I persuaded him to do the right thing.

105). Deserters (Noun)

Meaning: a member of the armed forces who deserts.

Synonyms: Runaway, renegade, fugitive, escapee

Usage: deserters from the army.

106). Tenure (Noun)

Meaning: the holding of an office.

Synonyms: incumbency, term of office, term, period of office, time

Usage: his tenure of the premiership would be threatened.

107). Bureaucracy (Noun)

Meaning: excessively complicated administrative procedure.

Synonyms: red tape, rules and regulations, protocol, officialdom

Usage: the unnecessary bureaucracy in local government.

108). Entangle (Verb)

Meaning: cause to become twisted together with or caught in.

Synonyms: Intertwine, entwine, tangle, intertwist, twist, ravel,

Usage: Fish attempt to swim through the mesh and become entangled.

109). Legitimate (Adjective)

Meaning: able to be defended with logic or justification; valid.

Synonyms: valid, sound, admissible, acceptable, well founded

Usage: these are legitimate grounds for unease.

110). Echelons (Noun)

Meaning: a level or rank in an organization, a profession, or society.

Synonyms: Level, rank, grade, step, rung, tier, plane, order, division

Usage: the upper echelons of the business world.

111). Ambivalent (Adjective)

Meaning: having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone.

Synonyms: equivocal, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, indecisive, inconclusive, irresolute

Usage: Some loved her, some hated her, few were ambivalent about her.

112). Forsake (Verb)

Meaning: abandon or leave.

Synonyms: abandon, desert, leave, quit, depart from, leave behind

Usage: She forsook her child, giving him up for adoption.

113). Impudent (Adjective)

Meaning: not showing due respect for another person; impertinent.

Synonyms: impertinent, insolent, cheeky, audacious, brazen

Usage: He could have strangled this impudent upstart.

114). Inept (Adjective)

Meaning: having or showing no skill; clumsy.

Synonyms: incompetent, unskilful, unskilled, inexperienced, amateurish

Usage: My attempts at baking were inept but I fumbled on.

115). Novice (Verb)

Meaning: a person new to and inexperienced in a job or situation.

Synonyms: beginner, learner, inexperienced person

Usage: He was a complete novice in foreign affairs.

116). Salient (Adjective)

Meaning: most noticeable or important.

Synonyms: important, main, principal, major, chief, primary, notable

Usage: The salient points stuck out clearly in her mind.

117). Umbrage (Noun)

Meaning: offence or annoyance.

Synonyms: take offence, be offended, take

exception, bridle, take something personally **Usage:** She took umbrage at his remarks.

118). Serendipity (Noun)

Meaning: the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.

Synonyms: chance, happy chance, accident, happy accident, fluke

Usage: Technical innovation may be the result of pure serendipity.

119). Quaint (Adjective)

Meaning: attractively unusual or old-fashioned.

Synonyms: picturesque, charming, sweet, attractive, pleasantly old-fashioned

Usage: Narrow streets lead to a quaint bridge over the river.

120). Truculent (Adjective)

Meaning: eager or quick to argue or fight; aggressively defiant.

Synonyms: defiant, aggressive, antagonistic, belligerent, pugnacious, bellicose

Usage: The truculent attitude of farmers to cheaper imports.

121). Persuade (verb)

Definition: induce (someone) to do something through reasoning or argument.

Meaning: prevail on, talk someone into, coax, convince, make, get, press someone into

Usage: He tried to persuade her to come with him.

122). Traverse (Verb)

Definition: travel across or through

Meaning: travel over/across, cross, journey over/across, make one's way across

Usage: He traversed the deserts of Persia and Baluchistan.

123). Indulge (Verb)

Definition: allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of.

Meaning: wallow in, give oneself up to, give way to, yield to, abandon oneself to **Usage:** We indulged in a cream tea.

124). Sway (verb)

Definition: move or cause to move slowly or rhythmically backwards and forwards or from side to side.

Meaning: swing, shake, oscillate, rock, undulate, move from side to side

Usage: The curtains were swaying in the breeze.

125). Deteriorated (Verb)

Definition: become progressively worse. **Meaning:** worsen, get worse, decline, be in decline, degenerate, decay

Usage: His condition has deteriorated in the intensive care unit.

126). Ramification (Noun)

Definition: a complex or unwelcome consequence of an action or event.

Meaning: consequence, result, aftermath, outcome, effect, upshot, issue

Usage: Any change is bound to have legal ramifications.

127). Heap (verb)

Definition: put (objects or a loose substance) in a heap. **Meaning:** Pile up, pile, stack up, stack, make a pile of, make a stack of

Usage: She heaped logs on the fire.

Definition: a person who rises in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader. **Meaning:** revolutionary, insurgent, mutineer agitator **Usage:** The rebels took control of the capital.

129). Substantial (adjective)

Definition: of considerable importance, size, or worth. **Meaning:** considerable, real, material, weighty, soild, sizeable

Usage: Substantial progress had been made.

130). Utterly (adverb)

Definition: completely and without qualification; absolutely.

Meaning: completely, totally, absolutely, entirely, fully

Usage: He looked utterly ridiculous.

131). Congenial

Meaning: (of a person) pleasing or liked on account of having qualities or interests that are similar to one's own.

Synonyms: like-minded, compatible, kindred, well suited, easy to get along with

Usage: I was working with a bunch of very congenial people.

132). Strident

Meaning: (of a sound) loud and harsh; grating.

Synonyms: harsh, raucous, rough, grating, rasping, jarring, loud

Usage: A strident voice interrupted the consultation.

133). Confluence

Meaning: the junction of two rivers, especially rivers of approximately equal width.

Synonyms: convergence, meeting, junction, joining, conflux, watersmeet

Usage: The confluence of the Rivers Ouse and Foss.

134). Lavish

Meaning: sumptuously rich, elaborate, or luxurious.

Synonyms: sumptuous, luxurious, luxuriant, lush, gorgeous, costly

Usage: He held lavish dinner parties at his home.

135). Insolent

Meaning: showing a rude and arrogant lack of respect.

Synonyms: impertinent, impudent, cheeky, ill-mannered

Usage: She hated the insolent tone of his voice.

136). Vagrant

137). Gregarious

Meaning: (of a person) fond of company; sociable.

Synonyms: sociable, social, company-loving, companionable, convivial

Usage: He was a popular and gregarious man.

138). Enigma

Meaning: a person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand.

Synonyms: mystery, puzzle, riddle, conundrum, paradox, problem,

Usage: How it works is a complete enigma to me.

139). Assuage

Meaning: make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense.

Synonyms: Relieve, ease, alleviate, soothe, mitigate, dampen

Usage: The letter assuaged the fears of most members.

140). Sanguine

Meaning: optimistic or positive, especially in an apparently bad or difficult situation.

Synonyms: optimistic, bullish, hopeful, buoyant, positive

Usage: He is sanguine about prospects for the global economy.

141). Apocryphal

Meaning: (of a story or statement) of doubtful authenticity, although widely circulated as being true.

Synonyms: fictitious, made-up, untrue, fabricated, false,

Usage: An apocryphal story about a former president

142). Adage

Meaning: a proverb or short statement expressing a general truth.

Synonyms: saying, maxim, axiom, proverb, slogan

Usage: It is vital for every pilot to remember the old adage 'safety first

143). Ersatz

Meaning: (of a product) made or used as a substitute, typically an inferior one, for something else.

Synonyms: artificial, substitute, imitation, fake, false

Usage: Ersatz emotion

144). Espionage

Meaning: the practice of spying or of using spies, typically by governments to obtain political and military information.

Synonyms: spying, undercover work, cloak-and-dagger activities, surveillance, reconnaissance

Usage: The camouflage and secrecy of espionage

145). Restive

Meaning: (of a person) unable to remain still, silent, or submissive, especially because of boredom or dissatisfaction.

Synonyms: restless, fidgety, edgy, on edge, tense, uneasy

Usage: The crowd had been waiting for hours and many were becoming restive.

146). Accolade

Meaning: an award or privilege granted as a special honour or as an acknowledgement of merit.

Synonyms: honour, recognition, privilege, award, gift, title

Usage: The hotel has won numerous accolades

147). Harbinger

Meaning: a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another.

Synonyms: sign, indicator, signal,

Usage: Witch hazels are the harbingers of spring.

148). Restraint

Meaning: unemotional, dispassionate, or moderate behaviour; self-control.

Synonyms: self-control, self-restraint, self-discipline, control

Usage: The customary restraint of the British police

149). Trepidation

Meaning: a feeling of fear or anxiety about something that may happen

Synonyms: fear, apprehension, dread, fearfulness,

Usage: He sat in the waiting room, full of trepidation

150). Imperturbable

Meaning: unable to be upset or excited; calm.

Synonyms: self-possessed, composed, collected, calm, cool, calm

Usage: My father was a solid, imperturbable man

151). Inevitable

Definition: certain to happen; unavoidable.

Meaning: unavoidable, inescapable, bound to happen, sure to happen, unpreventable, **Usage:** His resignation was inevitable.

152). Unassailable

Definition: unable to be attacked, questioned, or defeated.

Meaning: impregnable, invulnerable, impenetrable, inviolable

Usage: The world's most unassailable fortress.

153). Queer

Definition: strange; odd.

Meaning: odd, strange, unusual, funny, peculiar, curious, bizarre

Usage: It seemed queer to see the windows all dark.

154). Preponderance

Definition: the quality or fact of being greater in number, quantity, or importance.

Meaning: prevalence, predominance, dominance

Usage: The preponderance of women among older people.

155). Redundant

Definition: not or no longer needed or useful; superfluous.

Meaning: unnecessary, not required, inessential, unessential

Usage: An appropriate use for a redundant church.

156). Consensus

Definition: a general agreement.

Meaning: agreement, harmony, concord, like-mindedness, concurrence, consent

Usage: There is a growing consensus that the current regime has failed.

157). Debacle

Definition: a sudden and ignominious failure; a fiasco.

Meaning: failure, catastrophe, disaster, disintegration, mess, wreck, ruin; downfall,

Usage: The only man to reach double figures in the second-innings debacle.

158). Beleaguer

Definition: lay siege to.

Meaning: besieged, under siege, blockaded, surrounded, encircled, hemmed in, under attack

Usage: He led a relief force to the aid of the beleaguered city.

159). Lacklustre

Definition: lacking in vitality, force, or conviction; uninspired or uninspiring

Meaning: uninspired, uninspiring, unimaginative, dull, humdrum, colourless,

Usage: No excuses were made for the team's lacklustre performance.

160). Menace

Definition: a person or thing that is likely to cause harm; a threat or danger.

Meaning: danger, peril, risk, hazard, threat; jeopardy

Usage: A new initiative aimed at beating the menace of drugs.

161). Dampen

Meaning: Humidify, moisten, wet

Definition: Make slightly wet.

Usage: The fine rain dampened her face.

162). Vest

Meaning: invest in, grant to, give to

Definition: confer or bestow (power, authority, property, etc.) on someone.

Usage: Executive power is vested in the President

163). Illicit

Meaning: illegal, unlawful, banned

Definition: forbidden by law, rules, or custom. **Usage:** Police were searching for the illicit drugs in the room.

164). glimpse

Meaning: brief look, glance

Definition: a momentary or partial view.

Usage: She caught a glimpse of the ocean

165). Delineation

Meaning: Presentation, description

Definition: the action of describing or portraying something precisely.

Usage: The artist's exquisite delineation of costume and jewellery

166). Intermittent

Meaning: broken, irregular, discontinuous

Definition: occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady.

Usage: They heard intermittent bursts of gunfire

167). Transgression

Meaning: offence, crime, sin, wrong

Definition: an act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct; an offence.

Usage: They were granted full amnesty for their transgressions .

168). Sovereignty

Meaning: Power, dominion, supermacy

Definition: Supreme power or authority.

Usage: Full West German sovereignty was achieved in 1955.

169). Blatant

Meaning: flagrant, glaring, obvious

Definition: (of bad behaviour) done openly and unashamedly.

Usage: She forced herself to resist his blatant charm

170). Periphery

Meaning: edge, margin, boundary

Definition: the outer limits or edge of an area or object.

Usage: New buildings on the periphery of the hospital site.

171). Derelict

Meaning: Unsafe, dangerous, hazardous, perilous, insecure

Definition: in a very poor condition as a result of disuse and neglect

Usage: A derelict Georgian mansion

172). Fascinating

Meaning: Engrossing, captivating, absorbing, interesting, enchanting, beguiling, enthralling, riveting

Definition: extremely interesting

Usage: A fascinating book

173). Invoked

Meaning: Pray to, call on, appeal to, plead with, Supplicate, solicit

Definition: call on (a deity or spirit) in prayer, as a witness, or for inspiration

Usage: the antiquated defence of insanity is rarely invoked in England

174). Gadfly

Meaning: as a horsefly, botfly, or warble fly

Definition: a person who annoys others especially with constant criticism

Usage: loud sports commentator who was a tactless gadfly during post-game interviews with the losing team

175). Dissent

Meaning: Disagreement, lack of agreement, difference of opinion, argument, dispute

Definition: the holding or expression of opinions at variance with those commonly or officially held.

Usage: there was no dissent from this view

176). Relevance

Meaning: applicability, application, appositeness, bearing, concernment, germaneness, materiality, pertinence, pertinency, relevancy

Definition: the quality or state of being closely connected or appropriate.

Usage: This film has contemporary relevance

177). Critique

Meaning: Analysis, evaluation, assessment, appraisal, review

Definition: a detailed analysis and assessment of something, especially a literary, philosophical, or political theory

Usage: A critique of Marxist historicism

178). Gestures

Meaning: Signal, signaling, sign, signing, motion, wave, ondication

Definition: a movement of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express an idea or meaning.

Usage: he threw out both hands in a gesture of surrender

179). Audacity

Meaning: Boldness, daring, bravery, courage, pluck, insolence

Definition: a willingness to take bold risks.

Usage: he whistled at the sheer audacity of the plan

180). Exemplify

Meaning: typify, epitomize, symbolize, be a typical example of

Definition: illustrate or clarify by giving an example.

Usage: he exemplified his point with an anecdote

181). Assent

Meaning: Agree to, accept, approve, consent to

Definition: express approval or agreement

Usage: the Prime Minister assented to the change

182). Accord

Meaning: Give, grant, tender, present, award, hand, yield

Definition: give or grant someone (power, status, or recognition).

Usage: the powers accorded to the head of state

183). Porch

Meaning: vestibule, foyer, hall, entry, lobby, portal
Definition: a covered shelter projecting in front of the entrance of a building
Usage: the north porch of Hereford Cathedral

184). Fiesta

Meaning: Festival, carnival, holiday, party
Definition: an event marked by festivities or celebration
Usage: the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

185). Fusion

Meaning: Blend, combination, amalgamation, joining, bonding
Definition: the process or result of joining two or more things together to form a single entity.
Usage: the election results produced pressure for fusion of the parties

186). Traverse

Meaning: cross, negotiate, travel over/across
Definition: travel across or through.
Usage: he traversed the forest

187). Genesis

Meaning: origin, source, root, beginning, start, outset
Definition: the origin or mode of formation of something
Usage: this tale had its genesis in fireside stories

188). Civic

Meaning: Municipal, city, town, urban, metropolitan
Definition: relating to a city or town, especially its administration; municipal.
Usage: a meeting of civic and business leaders

189). Cooper

Meaning: Make, repair, barrel
Definition: a maker or repairer of casks and barrels.
Usage: my father coopered casks and barrels for the ships

190). Rover

Meaning: wanderer, traveler, drifter, brid of passage
Definition: a person who spends their time wandering.
Usage: they became rovers who departed further and further from civilization

191). Regiment

Meaning: Unit, outfit, force
Definition: a permanent unit of an army typically commanded by a lieutenant colonel and divided into

several companies, squadrons, or batteries and often into two battalions
Usage: the Royal Highland Regiment

192). Infiltrate

Meaning: penetrate, invade, intrude on, permeate, enter
Definition: enter or gain access to (an organization, place, etc.) surreptitiously and gradually, especially in order to acquire secret information..
Usage: the organization has been infiltrated by informers

193). Interrogation

Meaning: questioning, vross-questioning, carechism, quizzing
Definition: the action of interrogating or the process of being interrogated.
Usage: would he keep his mouth shut under interrogation ?

194). Adjunct

Meaning: Supplement, addition, complement, extra
Definition: a thing added to something else as a supplementary rather than an essential part.
Usage: computer technology is an adjunct to learning

195). Armada

Meaning: fleet, flotilla, navy, squadron
Definition: a fleet of warships.
Usage: an armada of forty-five warships

196). Canon

Meaning: principle, rule, law, tenet, formula
Definition: a general law, rule, principle, or criterion by which something is judged.
Usage: the appointment violated the canons of fair play and equal opportunity

197). Vulnerable

Meaning: at risk, in peril, in danger, unsafe, unprotected
Definition: exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally
Usage: we were in a vulnerable position

198). Thrall

Meaning: power, control, grip, grasp, yoke
Definition: the state of being in someone's power, or of having great power over someone.
Usage: she was in thrall to her abusive husband

199). Trammel

Meaning: restraint, curb, check, impediment, barrier

Definition: restrictions or impediments to freedom of action.

Usage: we will forge our own future, free from the trammels of materialism

200). Revere

Meaning: respect, admire, prize, treasure, value

Definition: feel deep respect or admiration for (something) .

Usage: Cezanne's still lifes were revered by his contemporaries

201). Robust

Meaning: durable, resilient, tough, hard-wearing, long-lasting, well made,

Definition: (of an object) sturdy in construction

Usage: a robust metal cabinet

202). Perhaps

Meaning: maybe, possibly, conceivably, feasibly

Definition: used to express uncertainty or possibility.

Usage: perhaps I should have been frank with him

203). Towering

Meaning: high, tall, lofty, sky-high, steep

Definition: extremely tall, especially in comparison with the surroundings.

Usage: Hari looked up at the towering buildings

204). Progenitor

Meaning: ancestor, forefather, forebear, parent

Definition: a person who originates a cultural or intellectual movement.

Usage: his children were the progenitors of many of Scotland's noble families

205). Dynamism

Meaning: activity, progress

Definition: the quality of being characterized by vigorous activity and progress.

Usage: the dynamism and strength of the economy

206). Asymmetric

Meaning: lopsided, unsymmetrical, crooked

Definition: having parts which fail to correspond to one another in shape, size, or arrangement; lacking symmetry.

Usage: the church has an asymmetrical plan with an aisle only on one side

207). Prop

Meaning: buttress, support, brace, underpin, reinforce

Definition: support or keep in position

Usage: she propped her chin in the palm of her right hand

208). Assiduous

Meaning: diligent, careful, meticulous, thorough, sedulous, attentive

Definition: showing great care and perseverance.

Usage: She was assiduous in pointing out every feature

209). Episodic

Meaning: intermittent, irregular, sporadic, periodic, fitful

Definition: occurring occasionally and at irregular intervals.

Usage: volcanic activity is highly episodic in nature

210). Impervious

Meaning: impermeable, impenetrable, waterproof

Definition: not allowing fluid to pass through.

Usage: an impervious layer of basaltic clay

211). Capricious

Meaning: fickle, inconstant, changeable, variable, unstable, mercurial, erratic

Definition: given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behaviour..

Usage: A capricious and often brutal administration

212). Empirical

Meaning: seen, factual, actual, real, verifiable, first-hand

Definition: based on, concerned with, or verifiable by observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic.

Usage: They provided considerable empirical evidence to support their argument

213). Esoteric

Meaning: abstruse, obscure, arcane, cryptic, difficult, puzzling

Definition: intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest.

Usage: Esoteric philosophical debates

214). Inevitable

Meaning: unavoidable, certain, sure, fated, inexorable

Definition: certain to happen; unavoidable.

Usage: war was inevitable

215). Ostentatious

Meaning: showy, loud, fancy, ornate, affected, actorly, kitsch

Definition: characterized by pretentious or showy display; designed to impress.

Usage: A simple design that is glamorous without being ostentatious

216). Poignant

Meaning: moving, sad, touching, tearful, pitiful, tragic

Definition: evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret.

Usage: A poignant reminder of the passing of time

217). Sarcastic

Meaning: Sardonic, ironic, satirical

Definition: marked by or given to using irony in order to mock or convey contempt **Usage:** Making sarcastic comments

218). Vain

Meaning: conceited, egoistic, egocentric, self-loving

Definition: having or showing an excessively high opinion of one's appearance, abilities, or worth.

Usage: Their flattery made him vain

219). Trauma

Meaning: Injury, damage, hurt, wound, sore, cut, lesion

Definition: physical injury.

Usage: Rupture of the diaphragm caused by blunt trauma

220). Aloof

Meaning: distant, detached, unresponsive, remote, stuffy

Definition: not friendly or forthcoming; cool and distant.

Usage: They were courteous but faintly aloof

221). Indefatigable

Meaning: tireless, untiring, unwearied, unflagging

Definition: (of a person or their efforts) persisting tirelessly.

Usage: An indefatigable defender of human rights

222). Dilatory

Meaning: slow, unhurried, tardy, lax, slack, idle, lazy

Definition: slow to act.

Usage: He had been dilatory in appointing a solicitor

223). Martinet

Meaning: disciplinarian, taskmaster, tyrant, drill sergeant

Definition: a person who demands complete obedience; a strict disciplinarian.

Usage: The woman in charge was a martinet who treated all those beneath her like children

224). Unlawful

Meaning: illegal, illicit, illegitimate, against the law

Definition: not conforming to, permitted by, or recognized by law or rules.

Usage: The use of unlawful violence

225). Bequest

Meaning: legacy, inheritance, endowment, estate, heritage, bestowal, donation

Definition: the action of bequeathing something.

Usage: A painting acquired by bequest

226). Gullible

Meaning: credulous, trustful, naïve, innocent, ignorant, simple, unguared

Definition: easily persuaded to believe something; credulous

Usage: an attempt to persuade a gullible public to spend their money

227). Deceptive

Meaning: misleading, illusory, illusive, ambiguous, delusive,

Definition: giving an appearance or impression different from the true one; misleading

Usage: He put the question with deceptive casualness

228). Elusive

Meaning: difficult to catch/find, difficult to track down

Definition: difficult to find, catch, or achieve.

Usage: Success will become ever more elusive

229). Tyranny

Meaning: despotism, absolutism, autocracy, dictatorship

Definition: cruel and oppressive government or rule.

Usage: Refugees fleeing tyranny and oppression

230). Rebate

Meaning: refund, repayment, partial refund

Definition: a partial refund to someone who has paid too much for tax, rent, or a utility.

Usage: The scheme eases the move to the council tax by giving rebates in the first year

231). Adhesion

Meaning: sticking, adherence, gluing, fixing, union, festening

Definition: the action or process of adhering to a surface or object.

Usage: The adhesion of the gum strip to the paper

232). Virtuoso

Meaning: genius, expert, master, artist, doyen

Definition: a person highly skilled in music or another artistic pursuit

Usage: A celebrated clarinet virtuoso

233). Waif

Meaning: ragamuffin, guttersnipe

Definition: a homeless, neglected, or abandoned person, especially a child.

Usage: she is foster-mother to various waifs and strays

234). Ulterior

Meaning: Secondary, underlying, undisclosed, unexpressed, unapparent, hidden, covert

Definition: existing beyond what is obvious or admitted; intentionally hidden.

Usage: could there be an ulterior motive behind his request?

235). Telltale

Meaning: revealing, revelatory, meaningful, significant, meaning

Definition: revealing, indicating, or betraying something.

Usage: The telltale bulge of a concealed weapon

236). Stupor

Meaning: daze, state of senselessness

Definition: a state of near-unconsciousness or insensibility

Usage: A drunken stupor

237). Rescind

Meaning: revoke, repeal, cancel, overtrun, annul, withdraw

Definition: revoke, cancel, or repeal (a law, order, or agreement).

Usage: the government eventually rescinded the directive

238). Acrimony

Meaning: rancor, ill feeling, bad blood, animosity, bitterness

Definition: bitterness or ill feeling.

Usage: the AGM dissolved into acrimony

239). Diminish

Meaning: decrease, decline, reduce, lessen

Definition: make or become less.

Usage: The new law is expected to diminish the government's chances

240). Mirth

Meaning: merriment, high spirits, cheer, gaiety, fun, jollity, joy

Definition: amusement, especially as expressed in laughter.

Usage: his six-foot frame shook with mirth

241). Corporeal

Meaning: bodily, fleshly, carnal, human, mortal, earthly

Definition: relating to a person's body, especially as opposed to their spirit.

Usage: He was frank about his corporeal appetites

242). Epigram

Meaning: quip, witticism, gem, jest, pun, sally

Definition: a pithy saying or remark expressing an idea in a clever and amusing way **Usage:** a Wildean epigram

243). Laudable

Meaning: admirable, worthy, deserving, noteworthy, reputable, sterling

Definition: (of an action, idea, or aim) deserving praise and commendation.

Usage: laudable though the aim might be, the results have been criticized

244). Reluctant

Meaning: unwilling, disinclined, unenthusiastic, grudging, resisting

Definition: unwilling and hesitant; disinclined.

Usage: She seemed reluctant to answer

245). Plebiscite

Meaning: Vote, ballot, referendum,

Definition: the direct vote of all the members of an electorate on an important public question such as a change in the constitution.

Usage: the administration will hold a plebiscite for the approval of constitutional reforms

246). Amateur

Meaning: non-professional, layman, layperson

Definition: a person who engages in a pursuit, especially a sport, on an unpaid basis.

Usage: it takes five years for a top amateur to become a real Tour de France rider

247). Exorcise

Meaning: drive out, cast out, expel

Definition: rid (a person or place) of a supposed evil spirit.

Usage: infants were exorcised prior to baptism

248). Antagonist

Meaning: adversary, opponent, enemy, foe, rival, competitor

Definition: a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary.

Usage: the woman was forcing her antagonist's face into the mud

249). Aberration

Meaning: anomaly, deviation, abnormality, variation, quirk

Definition: a departure from what is normal, usual, or expected, typically an unwelcome one.

Usage: they described the outbreak of violence in the area as an aberration

250). Brusque

Meaning: curt, abrupt, blunt, short, terse, brisk, crisp

Definition: abrupt or offhand in speech or manner

Usage: She could be brusque and impatient

251). Quirky

Meaning: eccentric, odd, outlandish, offbeat, zany, weird

Definition: having or characterized by peculiar or unexpected traits or aspects.

Usage: Her sense of humour was decidedly quirky

252). Reconnaissance

Meaning: survey, exploration, observation, probe, scan

Definition: military observation of a region to locate an enemy or ascertain strategic features

Usage: An excellent aircraft for low-level reconnaissance

253). Humdrum

Meaning: Dull, boring, tedious, monotonous, banal, ordinary, everyday

Definition: lacking excitement or variety; boringly monotonous.

Usage: humdrum routine work

254). Revamp

Meaning: renovate, redecorate, refurbish, recondition, rehabilitate, rebuild, overhaul

Definition: give new and improved form, structure, or appearance to.

Usage: An attempt to revamp the museum's image

255). Covet

Meaning: desire, crave, have one's heart set on

Definition: yearn to possess (something, especially something belonging to another).

Usage: I covet one of their smart bags

256). Inadvertently

Meaning: Accidentally, by accident, unwittingly

Definition: without intention; accidentally.

Usage: His name had been inadvertently omitted from the list

257). Misconstrue

Meaning: misunderstand, misinterpret, misconceive, miss, confuse, confound

Definition: interpret (a person's words or actions) wrongly.

Usage: my advice was deliberately misconstrued

258). Nonchalant

Meaning: Feeling, relaxed, calm

Definition: (of a person or manner) feeling or appearing casually calm and relaxed; not displaying anxiety, interest, or enthusiasm.

Usage: She gave a nonchalant shrug

259). Nexus

Meaning: Connection, focal point

Definition: a connection or series of connections linking two or more things.

Usage: The nexus between industry and political power

260). Arson

Meaning: incendiarism, pyromania, fire-raising, firebombing

Definition: the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property

Usage: Police are treating the fire as arson

261). Bankrupt

Meaning: Insolvent, without, denuded of, vacant of
Definition: completely lacking in a particular good quality.

Usage: His father went bankrupt and the family had to sell their home

262). Abundant

Meaning: Plentiful, copious, ample, profuse, rich, lavish, liberal, bountiful, bumper

Definition: existing or available in large quantities; plentiful

Usage: there was abundant evidence to support the theory

263). Acquittal

Meaning: Absolution, clearing, exoneration, exculpation,

Definition: a judgement or verdict that a person is not guilty of the crime with which they have been charged.

Usage: the trial resulted in an acquittal

264). Rudimentary

Meaning: Basic, elementary, introductory, early, primary, initial, first

Definition: involving or limited to basic principles.

Usage: He received a rudimentary education

265). Scruple

Meaning: hesitation, compunction, reservation, thought

Definition: a feeling of doubt or hesitation with regard to the morality or propriety of a course of action.

Usage: I had no scruples about eavesdropping

266). Specious

Meaning: misleading, deceptive, false, unsound

Definition: superficially plausible, but actually wrong.

Usage: A specious argument

267). Tenacious

Meaning: firm, tight, fast, clinging, good **Definition:** tending to keep a firm hold of something; clinging or adhering closely.

Usage: A tenacious grip

268). Unutterable

Meaning: indescribable, beyond words, unthinkable, inconceivable

Definition: too great or awful to describe.

Usage: Moments of unutterable grief

269). Dissident

Meaning: dissenting, differing, discordant, negative

Definition: in opposition to a majority or official opinion.

Usage: dissident voices were castigated as 'hopeless bureaucrats

270). Cynicism

Meaning: scepticism, doubt, mistrust, distrust

Definition: an inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest; scepticism

Usage: public cynicism about politics

271). Abhorrent

Meaning: detestable, hateful, loathsome, execrable

Definition: inspiring disgust and loathing; repugnant.

Usage: Racism was abhorrent to us all

272). Renounce

Meaning: reject, repudiate, abandon, resign

Definition: formally declare one's abandonment of (a claim, right, or possession)

Usage: Isabella offered to renounce her son's claim to the French Crown

273). Bizarre

Meaning: Strange, peculiar, odd, funny, curious, offbeat, outlandish, queer **Definition:** very strange or unusual.

Usage: a bizarre situation

274). Scurrilous

Meaning: abusive, vituperative, derogatory, pejorative, libelous

Definition: making or spreading scandalous claims about someone with the intention of damaging their reputation.

Usage: A scurrilous attack on his integrity

275). Calumny

Meaning: slander, libel, character assassination, calumny

Definition: the making of false and defamatory statements about someone in order to damage their reputation; slander.

Usage: A bitter struggle marked by calumny and litigation

276). Abundant

Meaning: plentiful, copious, ample, profuse, rich, liberal, opulent

Definition: existing or available in large quantities; plentiful.

Usage: There was abundant evidence to support the theory

277). Applaud

Meaning: clap, cheer, whistle, praise, commend, salute

Definition: show approval or praise by clapping.

Usage: The crowd whistled and applauded

278). Exonerate

Meaning: absolve, clear, acquit, discharge, release, relive, free

Definition: (of an official body) absolve (someone) from blame for a fault or wrongdoing.

Usage: an inquiry exonerated those involved

279). Meritorious

Meaning: praiseworthy, admirable, estimable, creditable, excellent

Definition: deserving reward or praise.

Usage: A medal for meritorious conduct

280). Reproach

Meaning: rebuke, reproof, reproof, admonition, scolding

Definition: the expression of disapproval or disappointment

Usage: He gave her a look of reproach

281). Reticence

Meaning: reserve, restraint, inhibition, shyness, modesty

Definition: the quality of being reticent; reserve.

Usage: The traditional emotional reticence of the British

282). Ruse

Meaning: Ploy, stratagem, tactic, move, device, scheme, trick

Definition: an action intended to deceive someone; a trick

Usage: Emma tried to think of a ruse to get Paul out of the house

283). Preempt

Meaning: Foretell, prevent, secure

Definition: take action in order to prevent (an anticipated event) happening; forestall

Usage: The government pre-empted a coup attempt

284). Rancour

Meaning: bitterness, spite, hate, ill will, vitriol

Definition: bitterness or resentfulness, especially when long standing.

Usage: He spoke without rancour

285). Recluse

Meaning: hermit, ascetic

Definition: a person who lives a solitary life and tends to avoid other people.

Usage: She has turned into a virtual recluse

286). Remorse

Meaning: contrition, repentance, guilt, sorrow, compunction

Definition: deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed.

Usage: They were filled with remorse and shame

287). Sensual

Meaning: physical, carnal, bodily, animal

Definition: of or arousing gratification of the senses and physical, especially sexual, pleasure.

Usage: The production of the ballet is sensual and passionate

288). Undulate

Meaning: rise and fall, surge, wave, billow, roll, swell, ripple

Definition: move with a smooth wave-like motion.

Usage: Her body undulated to the thumping rhythm of the music

289). Wary

Meaning: cautious, careful, chary, alert, prudent

Definition: feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems.

Usage: Dogs which have been mistreated often remain very wary of strangers

290). Trite

Meaning: hackneyed, banal, vapid, ordinary, predictable

Definition: (of a remark or idea) lacking originality or freshness; dull on account of overuse

Usage: This point may now seem obvious and trite

291). Dilatory

Meaning: Slow, unhurried, tardy, lax, sluggish, idle, indolent

Definition: slow to act.

Usage: He had been dilatory in appointing a solicitor

292). Cardinal

Meaning: Fundamental, basic, main, chief, primary, prime, first

Definition: of the greatest importance; fundamental..

Usage: Two cardinal points must be borne in mind

293). Braggart

Meaning: Brag, show-off, trumpeter, poser, egotist

Definition: a person who boasts about their achievements or possessions

Usage: braggart men

294). Assuage

Meaning: Relieve, ease, alleviate, smother, lessen, lower

Definition: make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense

Usage: The letter assuaged the fears of most members

295). Penury

Meaning: extreme/dire poverty, pennilessness, impecuniousness, impoverishment, indigence

Definition: the state of being very poor; extreme poverty.

Usage: He couldn't face another year of penury

296). Tenuous

Meaning: Slight, flimsy, weak, fragile, shaky

Definition: very weak or slight

Usage: The tenuous link between interest rates and investment

297). Turbid

Meaning: murky, muddy, thick,

Definition: (of a liquid) cloudy, opaque, or thick with suspended matter.

Usage: The turbid estuary

298). Verbose

Meaning: wordy, garrulous, talkative, voluble, effusive

Definition: (using or expressed in more words than are needed.

Usage: Much academic language is obscure and verbose

299). Venerate

Meaning: revere, respect, worship, hallow, deify

Definition: regard with great respect; revere

Usage: Philip of Beverley was venerated as a saint

300). Viscous

Meaning: Sticky, gummy, tacky, syrupy

Definition: having a thick, sticky consistency between solid and liquid; having a high viscosity

Usage: Viscous lava

301). Abeyance

Meaning: Suspension, remission, reserve, suspense

Definition: a state of temporary disuse or suspension.

Usage: Matters were held in abeyance pending further enquiries

302). Vacillate

Meaning: dither, teeter, temporize, hesitate, fluctuate

Definition: waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive.

Usage: I vacillated between teaching and journalism

303). Tantamount

Meaning: equivalent to, equal to, amounting to, as good as, more or less, synonymous with, virtually the same as, much the same as

Definition: equivalent in seriousness to; virtually the same as

Usage: The resignations were tantamount to an admission of guilt

304). Proximity

Meaning: Closeness, nearness, presence, propinquity

Definition: a nearness in space, time, or relationship

Usage: Do not operate microphones in close proximity to television sets

305). Fulsome

Meaning: ample, profuse, generous, liberal, lavish

Definition: complimentary or flattering to an excessive degree

Usage: The press are embarrassingly fulsome in their appreciation

306). Extol

Meaning: praise enthusiastically, go into raptures about/over, wax lyrical about, sing the praises of, praise to the skies, heap praise on,

Definition: praise enthusiastically

Usage: He extolled the virtues of the Russian peoples

307). Insipid

Meaning: tasteless, unflavoured, bland, weak, thin

Definition: lacking flavour; weak or tasteless

Usage: Mugs of insipid coffee

308). Incisive

Meaning: Penetrating, acute, sharp, keen, canny, clever, smart, quick

Definition: (of a person or mental process)

intelligently analytical and clear-thinking. **Usage:** She was an incisive critic

309). Idolatry

Meaning: idolization, idolizing, fetishization, worship, worshipping, adulation, adoration, adoring, reverence, glorification

Definition: extreme admiration, love, or reverence for something or someone..

Usage: We must not allow our idolatry of art to obscure issues of political significance

310). Disdain

Meaning: scorn, deride, slight, undervalue,

Definition: consider to be unworthy of one's consideration..

Usage: He disdained his patients as an inferior rabble

311). Accolade

Meaning: Honour, recognition, privilege, award, gift, title

Definition: an award or privilege granted as a special honour or as an acknowledgement of merit.

Usage: The hotel has won numerous accolades

312). Acrid

Meaning: pungent, bitter, sharp, sour, tart, harsh, acid, acidic

Definition: unpleasantly bitter or pungent.

Usage: Acrid smoke

313). Adjunct

Meaning: Supplement, addition, accompaniment, complement, additive, accessory

Definition: a thing added to something else as a supplementary rather than an essential part.

Usage: Computer technology is an adjunct to learning

314). Bolster

Meaning: pillow, cushion, support, pad, rest

Definition: a long, thick pillow that is placed under other pillows for support

Usage: the fall in interest rates is starting to bolster confidence

315). Orator

Meaning: Speaker, lecturer, declaimer **Definition:** a public speaker, especially one who is eloquent or skilled.

Usage: A theatrically effective orator

316). Pacifist

Meaning: Objector, pacifier, conscientious

Definition: a person who believes that war and violence are unjustifiable

Usage: she was a committed pacifist all her life

317). Savour

Meaning: Suggest, smack of, have a suggestion of

Definition: have a suggestion or trace of (a quality or attribute, typically one considered bad).

Usage: Their genuflections savoured of superstition and popery

318). Surfeit

Meaning: Excess, surplus, abundance, oversupply, avalanche, deluge

Definition: an excessive amount of something.

Usage: A surfeit of food and drink

319). Taciturn

Meaning: untalkative, reticent, quiet, mute, dumb, inarticulate

Definition: (of a person) reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little.

Usage: After such gatherings she would be taciturn and morose

320). Witticism

Meaning: Joke, quip, witty remark, flash of wit, jest, pun, pleasantry

Definition: a witty remark.

Usage: Maurice roared with laughter at his own witticisms

321). Abdicate

Meaning: resign, retire, quit, stand down

Definition: (of a monarch) renounce one's throne.

Usage: in 1918 Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated as German emperor

322). Atrophy

Meaning: waste, become emaciate, wither, shrivel, wilt

Definition: (of body tissue or an organ) waste away, especially as a result of the degeneration of cells, or become vestigial during evolution

Usage: The calf muscles will atrophy

323). Axiom

Meaning: Accepted truth, general truth, dictum, truism, principle

Definition: a statement or proposition which is regarded as being established, accepted, or self-evidently true.

Usage: The axiom that sport builds character

324). Burnish

Meaning: Shine, brighten, smooth, glaze

Definition: polish (something, especially metal) by rubbing..

Usage: Highly burnished armour

325). Cataclysm

Meaning: disaster, calamity, tragedy, art of God, crisis

Definition: a sudden violent political or social upheaval.

Usage: The cataclysm of the First World War

326). Converge

Meaning: Meet, intersect, cross, connect, link up, coincide

Definition: (of lines) tend to meet at a point..

Usage: a pair of lines of longitude are parallel at the equator but converge toward the poles

327). Delineate

Meaning: describe, set forth, set out, present, outline, depict, portray, represent

Definition: describe or portray (something) precisely..

Usage: The law should delineate and prohibit behaviour which is socially abhorrent

328). Devious

Meaning: underhand, deceitful, dishonest, dubious, dirty

Definition: Showing a skilful use of underhand tactics to achieve goals.

Usage: he's as devious as a politician needs to be

329). Enervate

Meaning: exhaust, tire, weary, devitalize, drain, sap, weaken, enfeeble

Definition: make (someone) feel drained of energy or vitality.

Usage: Enervating heat

330). Esoteric

Meaning: abstruse, obscure, arcane, cryptic, Delphic

Definition: intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest

Usage: Esoteric philosophical debates

331). Innate

Meaning: inborn, natural, inbred, inherent, intrinsic, intuitive, untaught

Definition: inborn; natural.

Usage: Her innate capacity for organization

332). Austere

Meaning: Severe, harsh, stiff, reserved, remote, serious

Definition: severe or strict in manner or attitude

Usage: he was an austere man, with a rigidly puritanical outlook

333). Onerous

Meaning: burdensome, heavy, awkward, oppressive

Definition: (of a task or responsibility) involving a great deal of effort, trouble, or difficulty. **Usage:** He found his duties increasingly onerous

334). Wanton

Meaning: deliberate, willful, malicious, spiteful, vicious, evil

Definition: (of a cruel or violent action) deliberate and unprovoked.

Usage: Sheer wanton vandalism

335). Loquacious

Meaning: Talkative, voluble, wordy, rambling

Definition: tending to talk a great deal; talkative.

Usage: Never loquacious, Sarah was now totally lost for words

336). Mortify

Meaning: embarrass, shame, abash, appal, crush

Definition: cause (someone) to feel very embarrassed or ashamed.

Usage: She was mortified to see her wrinkles in the mirror

337). Perdition

Meaning: damnation, eternal punishment

Definition: (in Christian theology) a state of eternal punishment and damnation into which a sinful and unrepentant person passes after death.

Usage: She used her last banknote to buy herself a square meal before perdition

338). Penance

Meaning: atonement, expiation, self-mortification, penalty

Definition: punishment inflicted on oneself as an outward expression of repentance for wrongdoing.

Usage: He had done public penance for those hasty words

339). Vicissitude

Meaning: Change, alteration, transformation, shift, switch, turn

Definition: a change of circumstances or fortune, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant.

Usage: Her husband's sharp vicissitudes of fortune

340). Punctilious

Meaning: meticulous, careful, diligent, attentive, studious, rigorous

Definition: showing great attention to detail or correct behaviour..

Usage: He was punctilious in providing every amenity for his guests

341). Terrestrial

Meaning: Earthy, worldly, mundane, earthbound

Definition: on or relating to the earth..

Usage: Increased ultraviolet radiation may disrupt terrestrial ecosystems

342). Laggard

Meaning: layabout, lagger, slug, snail, idler, lounger

Definition: a person who makes slow progress and falls behind others

Usage: Staff were under enormous pressure and there was no time for laggards

343). Aghast

Meaning: horrified, appalled, in shock, wide-eyed, shell-shocked, dismayed

Definition: filled with horror or shock.

Usage: She winced, aghost at his cruelty

344). Pristine

Meaning: immaculate, fresh, new, clean, virgin, pure

Definition: in its original condition; unspoilt.

Usage: Pristine copies of an early magazine

345). Altercation

Meaning: Argument, quarrel, fight, dissension, quarrel

Definition: a noisy argument or disagreement, especially in public.

Usage: I had an altercation with the ticket collector

346). Opulent

Meaning: Luxurious, sumptuous, palatial, grand, magnificent, rich, lush

Definition: ostentatiously costly and luxurious..

Usage: The opulent comfort of a limousine

347). Eulogize

Meaning: praise enthusiastically, go into raptures about/over, wax lyrical about, acclaim, extol

Definition: praise highly in speech or writing.

Usage: He was eulogized as a rock star

348). Astute

Meaning: shrewd, sharp, bright, brilliant, smart, canny, wise, incisive

Definition: having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage.

Usage: An astute businessman

349). Sombre

Meaning: dark, dark-coloured, dull, drab,shady

Definition: dark or dull in colour or tone.

Usage: The night skies were sombre and starless.

350). Errant

Meaning: guilty, culpable, aberrant, deviant, lawless

Definition: erring or straying from the accepted course or standards.

Usage: An errant husband coming back from a night on the tiles

351). Perturb

Meaning: worry, upset, disturb, trouble

Definition: make (someone) anxious or unsettled.

Usage: They were perturbed by her capricious behaviour

352). Imbibe

Meaning: drink, consume, sup, sip, quaff, swallow, down, guzzle, swill, lap

Definition: drink (alcohol).

Usage: They were imbibing far too many pitchers of beer

353). Perjury

Meaning: lying under oath, violation of an oath, giving false evidence/testimony, bearing false witness/testimony

Definition: the offence of wilfully telling an untruth or making a misrepresentation under oath.

Usage: He claimed two witnesses at his trial had committed perjury

354). Vanquish

Meaning: conquer, trounce, annihilate, worst, overcome, overwhelm,

Definition: defeat thoroughly.

Usage: he successfully vanquished his rival

355). Sombre

Meaning: dark, dark-coloured, dull, drab, dingy, shady

Definition: dark or dull in colour or tone.

Usage: The night skies were sombre and starless

356). Sojourn

Meaning: Stay, visit, stop, stopover, residence

Definition: a temporary stay.

Usage: Her sojourn in Rome

357). Insouciant

Meaning: nonchalant, untroubled, unworried, unruffled, calm, breezy

Definition: showing a casual lack of concern.

Usage: An insouciant shrug

358). Labyrinth

Meaning: Maze, warren, network, web, coil, entanglement

Definition: a complicated irregular network of passages or paths in which it is difficult to find one's way; a maze.

Usage: You lose yourself in a labyrinth of little streets

359). Modicum

Meaning: little bit, small amount, particle, degree, speck, fragment, scrap, crumb

Definition: a small quantity of a particular thing, especially something desirable or valuable. **Usage:** His statement had a modicum of truth.

360). Sonorous

Meaning: resonant, rich, full, booming, vibrant, deep, clear

Definition: (of a person's voice or other sound) imposingly deep and full.

Usage: He read aloud with a sonorous and musical voice

361). Monotonous

Meaning: tedious, dull, unexciting, tiresome, unvaried, prosaic, dreary, colourless

Definition: dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest..

Usage: The statistics that he quotes with monotonous regularity

362). Annihilate

Meaning: destroy, obliterate, liquidate, eradicate, extinguish, extinguish

Definition: destroy utterly; obliterate..

Usage: A simple bomb of this type could annihilate them all

363). Expurgate

Meaning: censor, bowdlerize, blue-pencil, redact, cut, edit

Definition: remove matter thought to be objectionable or unsuitable from (a text or account). **Usage:** An expurgated English translation

364). Insanity

Meaning: mental illness, lunacy, instability, madness, loss of reason

Definition: the state of being seriously mentally ill; madness..

Usage: He suffered from bouts of insanity

365). Indignation

Meaning: resentment, affront, anger, distress, unhappiness, hurt, pain, upset, pique, spleen

Definition: anger or annoyance provoked by what is perceived as unfair treatment.

Usage: The letter filled Lucy with indignation

366). Passionate

Meaning: intense, ardent, fervent, zealous, fiery, heated, eager, animated, spirited

Definition: having, showing, or caused by strong feelings or beliefs.

Usage: Passionate pleas for help

367). Infuriate

Meaning: enrage, incense, anger, inflame, send into a rage

Definition: make (someone) extremely angry and impatient.

Usage: I was infuriated by your article

368). Brood

Meaning: offspring, young, progeny, spawn

Definition: a family of birds or other young animals produced at one hatching or birth **Usage:** A brood of chicks

369). Panacea

Meaning: universal cure, cure-all, wonder drug, magic formula, magic bullet

Definition: a solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases.

Usage: The panacea for all corporate ills.

370). Reproachful

Meaning: disapproving, reproving, critical, censorious, admonitory

Definition: expressing disapproval or disappointment.

Usage: She gave him a reproachful look

371). Jubilant

Meaning: Overjoyed, exultant, joyful, rejoicing, gleeful, euphoric, ecstatic, transported

Definition: feeling or expressing great happiness and triumph.

Usage: a large number of jubilant fans ran on to the pitch

372). Comprehend

Meaning: understand, grasp, take in, see, apprehend, follow, make sense of, fathom, make out

Definition: grasp mentally; understand.

Usage: he couldn't comprehend her reasons for marrying Lovat

373). Moratorium

Meaning: embargo, ban, prohibition, suspension, stay, stoppage, halt

Definition: a temporary prohibition of an activity

Usage: a moratorium on the use of drift nets

374). Feud

Meaning: quarrel, fight, argue, bicker, squabble, dispute, clash

Definition: be engaged in a prolonged and bitter quarrel or dispute.

Usage: Hoover feuded with the CIA for decades

375). Deafen

Meaning: Make deaf, make temporarily deaf,

Definition: cause (someone) to lose the power of hearing permanently or temporarily. **Usage:** We were deafened by the explosion

376). Fortune

Meaning: chance, accident, coincidence, destiny, foruity

Definition: chance or luck as an arbitrary force affecting human affairs.

Usage: some malicious act of fortune keeps them separate

377). Envy

Meaning: Jealousy, desire, enciousness

Definition: a feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck.

Usage: She felt a twinge of envy for the people on board

378). Flaunt

Meaning: parade, exhibit, show off, draw attention to

Definition: display (something) ostentatiously, especially in order to provoke envy or admiration or to show defiance

Usage: newly rich consumers eager to flaunt their prosperity

379). Jibe

Meaning: taunt, sneer, jeer, insult, barb

Definition: an insulting or mocking remark; a taunt.

Usage: a jibe at his old rivals.

380). Grisly

Meaning: gruesome, horrid, fearful, hideous, macabre, dire, awful

Definition: causing horror or disgust.

Usage: The town was shaken by a series of grisly crimes

381). Persuade

Meaning: Coax, sway, prompt, inveigle, entice, tempt, make, get

Definition: induce (someone) to do something through reasoning or argument.

Usage: It wasn't easy, but I persuaded him to do the right thing

382). Fluff

Meaning: Fuzz, lint, dust

Definition: soft fibres from fabrics such as wool or cotton which accumulate in small light clumps.

Usage: he brushed his sleeve to remove the fluff

383). Hail

Meaning: Sleet, precipitation, beat, rain, fall, drop

Definition: pellets of frozen rain which fall in showers from cumulonimbus clouds

Usage: rain and hail bounced on the tiled roof

384). Allude

Meaning: refer to, suggest, hint at, imply, mention, touch on, cite

Definition: suggest or call attention to indirectly; hint at.

Usage: She had a way of alluding to Jean but never saying her name

385). Defy

Meaning: disobey, refuse to obey, flout, disregard, ignore

Definition: openly resist or refuse to obey.

Usage: a woman who defies convention

386). Elude

Meaning: evade, avoid, get away from, dodge, flee, escape(from)

Definition: escape from or avoid (a danger, enemy, or pursuer), typically in a skilful or cunning way.

Usage: he tried to elude the security men by sneaking through a back door

387). Ambivalent

Meaning: Equivocal, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, indecisive, irresolute, unresolved, mixed

Definition: having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone.

Usage: some loved her, some hated her, few were ambivalent about her

388). Anecdote

Meaning: Story, tale, narrative, sketch

Definition: a short amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person

Usage: He told anecdotes about his job

389). Demur

Meaning: object, protest, take issue, take exception, cavil

Definition: raise objections or show reluctance.

Usage: normally she would have accepted the challenge, but she demurred.

390). Discreet

Meaning: careful, circumspect, cautious, wary, chary, guarded, close-mouthed

Definition: careful and prudent in one's speech or actions, especially in order to keep something confidential or to avoid embarrassment. **Usage:**

We made some discreet inquiries

391). Revive

Meaning: resuscitate, bring back from the edge of death

Definition: restore to life or consciousness.

Usage: both men collapsed, but were revived

392). Eerie

Meaning: uncanny, sinister, ghostly, unnatural, strange, odd, queer, unreal **Definition:** strange and frightening.

Usage: An eerie green glow in the sky

393). Confront

Meaning: trouble, bother, burden, distress, vex, irritate, worry, face

Definition: (of a problem or difficulty) present itself to (someone) so that action must be taken.

Usage: The new government was confronted with many profound difficulties.

394). Subside

Meaning: calm, lull, fade, wane, ebb, still, cease, terminate

Definition: become less intense, violent, or severe.

Usage: I'll wait a few minutes until the storm subsides

395). Defendant

Meaning: accused, prisoner at the bar

Definition: an individual, company, or institution sued or accused in a court of law..

Usage: The defendant tried to claim that it was self-defence

396). Encumbered

Meaning: hamper, hinder, obstruct, impede, check, cramp, limit, slow

Definition: restrict or impede (someone or something) in such a way that free action or movement is difficult.

Usage: She was encumbered by her heavy skirts

397). Calamitous

Meaning: disastrous, woeful, dire, tragic, fatal, direful

Definition: involving calamity; catastrophic or disastrous

Usage: Such calamitous events as fires, hurricanes, and floods

398). Slothful

Meaning: Lazy, idle, indolent, work-shy, inactive, inert, sluggish, dull, heavy

Definition: lazy.

Usage: Fatigue made him slothful

399). Catharsis

Meaning: purgation, relief, exorcism, release, purging

Definition: the process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions.

Usage: Music is a means of catharsis for them.

400). Revile

Meaning: criticize, censure, attack, lambaste, brand, denounce

Definition: criticize in an abusive or angrily insulting manner.

Usage: He was now reviled by the party that he had helped to lead.

401). Contours

Meaning: outline, shape, form

Definition: an outline representing or bounding the shape or form of something.

Usage: She traced the contours of his face with her finger

402). Anarchy

Meaning: rebellion, disorder, misrule, chaos, tumult, nihilism, mobocracy

Definition: a state of disorder due to absence or non-recognition of authority or other controlling systems

Usage: He must ensure public order in a country threatened with anarchy

403). Convalesce

Meaning: recuperate, get better, recover, get well

Definition: recover one's health and strength over a period of time after an illness or medical treatment.

Usage: He spent eight months convalescing after the stroke.

404). Fragile

Meaning: breakable, brittle, frangible, flimsy, fine

Definition: (of an object) easily broken or damaged.

Usage: Fragile items such as glass and china

405). Dissuade

Meaning: discourage, deter, prevent, divert, sidetrack
Definition: persuade (someone) not to take a particular course of action.

Usage: His friends tried to dissuade him from flying

406). Lurking

Meaning: skulk, loiter, hide, take cover
Definition: be or remain hidden so as to wait in ambush for someone or something

Usage: A ruthless killer still lurked in the darkness

407). Besmirch

Meaning: sully, tarnish, blacken, stain, taint, smear, spoil, ruin

Definition: damage (someone's reputation).

Usage: He had besmirched the good name of his family

408). Neophyte

Meaning: beginner, learner, novice, newcomer, tyro, fledgling

Definition: a person who is new to a subject or activity

Usage: Four-day cooking classes are offered to neophytes and experts

409). Austere

Meaning: severe, stern, strict, formal, stiff, dour, grim, cold

Definition: severe or strict in manner or attitude.

Usage: He was an austere man, with a rigidly puritanical outlook.

410). Onus

Meaning: burden, responsibility, liability, obligation, duty, weight, load, charge, mantle

Definition: something that is one's duty or responsibility.

Usage: The onus is on you to show that you have suffered loss

411). Intrigue

Meaning: Interest, be of interest to, fascinate, attract, draw, lure, tempt

Definition: arouse the curiosity or interest of; fascinate.

Usage: I was intrigued by your question

412). Nuance

Meaning: shade, gradation, degree, variation

Definition: a subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound

Usage: He was familiar with the nuances of the local dialect

413). Accord

Meaning: give, grant, tender, award, hand, yield

Definition: give or grant someone (power, status, or recognition)

Usage: The powers accorded to the head of state.

414). Titter

Meaning: giggle, snigger, tee-hee

Definition: give a short, half-suppressed laugh; giggle

Usage: Her stutter caused the children to titter

415). Cabal

Meaning: clique, faction, group, set, band, camp

Definition: a secret political clique or faction.

Usage: A cabal of dissidents

416). Pious

Meaning: devout, dedicated, reverent, holy, godly, faithful, dutiful, righteous
Definition: devoutly religious

Usage: A deeply pious woman

417). Grotesque

Meaning: Malformed, deformed, distorted, twisted

Definition: comically or repulsively ugly or distorted..

Usage: A figure wearing a grotesque mask

418). Entrench

Meaning: establish, settle, ensconce, lodge, set, root, install

Definition: establish (an attitude, habit, or belief) so firmly that change is very difficult or unlikely

Usage: Ageism is entrenched in our society

419). Obscure

Meaning: unclear, unknown, hidden, doubtful, indeterminate

Definition: not discovered or known about; uncertain.

Usage: His origins and parentage are obscure.

420). Harangue

Meaning: tirade, lecture, homily, rant, fulmination, broadside

Definition: a lengthy and aggressive speech.

Usage: They were subjected to a ten-minute harangue by two border guards

421). Perennial

Meaning: everlasting, perpetual, eternal, unending, never-ending, abiding, lasting,

Definition: lasting or existing for a long or apparently infinite time; enduring or continually recurring.

Usage: His perennial distrust of the media

422). Abnegation

Meaning: rejection, refusal, abandonment, abdication, surrender, disavowal

Definition: the action of renouncing or rejecting something..

Usage: Abnegation of political power

423). Mortal

Meaning: deadly, physical, bodily, fleshly, corporal, earthly, fatal, killing

Definition: (of a living human being, often in contrast to a divine being) subject to death. **Usage:** All men are mortal.

424). Somnolent

Meaning: sleepy, drowsy, tired, heavy –eyed, groggy

Definition: sleepy; drowsy

Usage: a somnolent summer day

425). Amicable

Meaning: friendly, cordial, civil, easy, easy-going

Definition: characterized by friendliness and absence of discord.

Usage: An amicable settlement of the dispute

426). Befuddled

Meaning: confused, muddled, addled, dizzy, foggy, fuzzy

Definition: cause to become unable to think clearly

Usage: even in my befuddled state I could see that they meant trouble

427). Callow

Meaning: immature, naïve, green, untried

Definition: (of a young person) inexperienced and immature.

Usage: Earnest and callow undergraduates

428). Foment

Meaning: instigate, incite, provoke, excite, prompt, start, kindle

Definition: instigate or stir up (an undesirable or violent sentiment or course of action)

Usage: They accused him of fomenting political unrest

429). Sneer

Meaning: smirk, snicker, snigger

Definition: a contemptuous or mocking smile, remark, or tone

Usage: He acknowledged their presence with a condescending sneer.

430). Pariah

Meaning: outcast, leper, reject, untouchable, undesirable

Definition: an outcast.

Usage: They were treated as social pariahs.

431). Desist

Meaning: abstain, refrain, forbear, hold back, keep

Definition: stop doing something; cease or abstain.

Usage: Each pledged to desist from acts of sabotage

432). Inscribe

Meaning: carve, write, etch, cut, score, incise

Definition: write or carve (words or symbols) on something, especially as a formal or permanent record.

Usage: His name was inscribed on the new silver trophy

433). Succumb

Meaning: yield, give in, give way, submit, surrender, capitulate, cave in

Definition: fail to resist pressure, temptation, or some other negative force.

Usage: We cannot merely give up and succumb to despair.

434). Mendacious

Meaning: lying, untruthful, dishonest, false, double-dealing, two-faced, perfidious

Definition: not telling the truth; lying

Usage: mendacious propaganda

435). Querulous

Meaning: petulant, testy, touchy, waspish, prickly, crusty, cross, crabby

Definition: complaining in a rather petulant or whining manner..

Usage: She became querulous and demanding

436). Chaos

Meaning: disorder, disarray, confusion, bedlam, furore, babel

Definition: complete disorder and confusion

Usage: Snow caused chaos in the region

437). Alienated

Meaning: estrange, turn away, isolate, detach, distance

Definition: make (someone) feel isolated or estranged.

Usage: An urban environment which would alienate its inhabitants

438). Convalesce

Meaning: recuperate, get better, recover, get well

Definition: recover one's health and strength over a period of time after an illness or medical treatment.

Usage: He spent eight months convalescing after the stroke

439). Besmirch

Meaning: sully, tarnish, blacken, stain, taint, smear, spoil, ruin

Definition: damage (someone's reputation).

Usage: He had besmirched the good name of his family.

440). Disgust

Meaning: revulsion, repugnance, aversion, distaste, loathing

Definition: a feeling of revulsion or strong disapproval aroused by something unpleasant or offensive. **Usage:** The sight filled her with disgust.

441). Discrimination

Meaning: prejudice, bias, bigotry, intolerance, partisanship,

Definition: the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.

Usage: Victims of racial discrimination.

442). Consciousness

Meaning: awareness, alertness, sentience, responsiveness, wakefulness

Definition: the state of being aware of and responsive to one's surroundings.

Usage: She failed to regain consciousness and died two days later

443). Exaggerate

Meaning: overstate, overstress, overvalue, overestimate, magnify

Definition: represent (something) as being larger, better, or worse than it really is.

Usage: She was apt to exaggerate any aches and pains.

444). Debilitate

Meaning: weakening, enervative, tiring, exhausting, devitalizing, draining

Definition: make (someone) very weak and infirm

Usage: He was severely debilitated by a stomach upset

445). Decree

Meaning: order, edict, command, mandate, precept

Definition: an official order that has the force of law.

Usage: The decree guaranteed freedom of assembly

446). Introspection

Meaning: brooding, heart-searching, self-absorption

Definition: the examination or observation of one's own mental and emotional processes.

Usage: Quiet introspection can be extremely valuable

447). Peculiar

Meaning: strange, unusual, odd, funny, curious, weird

Definition: different to what is normal or expected; strange.

Usage: He gave her some very peculiar looks

448). Denial

Meaning: contradiction, rebuttal, repudiation

Definition: the action of denying something.

Usage: She shook her head in denial

449). Probed

Meaning: examine, feel, prod, poke, check

Definition: explore or examine (something), especially with the hands or an instrument.

Usage: Hands probed his body from top to bottom.

450). Engulf

Meaning: flood, deluge, immerse, swamp, inundate

Definition: (of a natural force) sweep over (something) so as to surround or cover it completely. **Usage:** The cafe was engulfed in flames

451). Gallant

Meaning: brave, courageous, valiant, bold, plucky, daring, fearless

Definition: (of a person or their behaviour) brave; heroic.

Usage: She had made gallant efforts to pull herself together

452). Hoax

Meaning: practical, joke, jest, prank, trick, jape

Definition: a humorous or malicious deception.

Usage: The evidence had been planted as part of an elaborate hoax

453). Haggle

Meaning: barter, bargain, negotiate, quibble, wrangle

Definition: dispute or bargain persistently, especially over the cost of something.

Usage: The two sides are haggling over television rights.

454). Glut

Meaning: appoint, induct, install, invest, anoint, consecrate

Definition: An excessively abundant supply of something

Usage: there is a glut of cars on the market

455). Firmament

Meaning: the sky, heaven, the blue,

Definition: the heavens or sky.

Usage: Thunder shakes the firmament

456). Intrusive

Meaning: intruding, invasive, obtrusive, interrupting, trespassing, unwanted

Definition: causing disruption or annoyance through being unwelcome or uninvited **Usage:** That was an intrusive question

457). Temporize

Meaning: equivocate, stall, delay, prevaricate, hesitate

Definition: avoid making a decision or committing oneself in order to gain time.

Usage: The opportunity was missed because the queen still temporized

458). Lampoon

Meaning: saririze, mock, ridicule, rag, tease

Definition: publicly criticize (someone or something) by using ridicule, irony, or sarcasm.

Usage: The actor was lampooned by the press

459). Grapple

Meaning: wrestle, struggle, tussle

Definition: engage in a close fight or struggle without weapons; wrestle.

Usage: passers-by grappled with the man after the knife attack.

460). Dawdle

Meaning: linger, dally, idle, waste time

Definition: waste time; be slow.

Usage: she mustn't dawdle—she had to make the call now.

461). Rampage

Meaning: riot, tear, run amok, storm, charge

Definition: (especially of a large group of people) move through a place in a violent and uncontrollable manner.

Usage: Several thousand demonstrators rampaged through the city

462). Hostility

Meaning: antagonism, bitterness, malevolence, malice, rancor, venom, anger, hatred

Definition: hostile behaviour; unfriendliness or opposition.

Usage: Their hostility to all outsiders

463). Vacillate

Meaning: dither, teeter, temporize, hesitate, fluctuate,

Definition: waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive.

Usage: I vacillated between teaching and journalism.

464). Ordained

Meaning: appoint, induct, install, invest, anoint, consecrate

Definition: make (someone) a priest or minister; confer holy orders on

Usage: He was ordained a minister before entering Parliament

465). Provision

Meaning: supply, delivery, furnishing, allocation, distribution, presentation

Definition: The action of providing or supplying something for use.

Usage: New contracts for the provision of services

466). Stipulation

Meaning: condition, precondition, provision, prerequisite, specification

Definition: a condition or requirement that is specified or demanded as part of an agreement

Usage: They donated their collection of prints with the stipulation that they never be publicly exhibited

467). Mausoleum

Meaning: tomb, sepulcher, crypt, vault, catacomb

Definition: a stately or impressive building housing a tomb or group of tombs

Usage: The cathedral was built in 1517 as a royal mausoleum

468). Entrench

Meaning: establish, settle, lodge, set, root, install, plant, embed, anchor, seat

Definition: establish (an attitude, habit, or belief) so firmly that change is very difficult or unlikely.

Usage: Ageism is entrenched in our society

469). Deception

Meaning: deceit, duplicity, fraud, guile, pretence, artifice

Definition: the action of deceiving someone.

Usage: Obtaining property by deception.

470). Astounding

Meaning: amazing, astonishing, shocking, surprising, stunning

Definition: surprisingly impressive or notable

Usage: The summit offers astounding views.

471). Trepidation

Meaning: fear, apprehension, dread, agitation, dismay, alarm

Definition: a feeling of fear or anxiety about something that may happen.

Usage: The men set off in fear and trepidation

472). Certainty

Meaning: Confidence, certitude, fact, truth, validity

Definition: firm conviction that something is the case.

Usage: She knew with absolute certainty that they were dead

473). Scandalising

Meaning: shock, appal, outrage, revolt, repel, sicken

Definition: shock or horrify (someone) by a real or imagined violation of propriety or morality.

Usage: Their lack of manners scandalized their hosts.

474). Stringent

Meaning: Strict, firm, rigid, severe, harsh, tight, exacting, demanding, stiff

Definition: (of regulations, requirements, or conditions) strict, precise, and exacting

Usage: stringent guidelines on air pollution

475). Strained

Meaning: austere, abstinent, Spartan, monastic, simple

Definition: characterized by severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons

Usage: an ascetic life of prayer, fasting, and manual labour

476). Entrench

Meaning: establish, settle, ensconce, lodge, set, root, install, plant

Definition: establish (an attitude, habit, or belief) so firmly that change is very difficult or unlikely

Usage: Ageism is entrenched in our society

477). Impair

Meaning: damage, harm, diminish, reduce, weaken, lessen, blunt, impede, disable

Definition: weaken or damage (something, especially a faculty or function)

Usage: a noisy job could permanently impair their hearing

478). Astounding

Meaning: amazing, astonishing, shocking, surprising, striking

Definition: surprisingly impressive or notable.

Usage: The summit offers astounding views

479). Contemplate

Meaning: look at, view, regard, examine, inspect, observe, survey, study

Definition: look thoughtfully for a long time at.

Usage: He contemplated his image in the mirrors.

480). Stupefy

Meaning: stun, daze, knock out, benumb, numb

Definition: make (someone) unable to think or feel properly

Usage: The offence of administering drugs to a woman with intent to stupefy her.

481). Erratic

Meaning: unpredictable, variable, inconstant, uncertain, unstable,

Definition: not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable.

Usage: Her breathing was erratic

482). Prominent

Meaning: important, well known, leading, eminent, pre-eminent, noted, public, foremost, famed, big, top, great, chief, main

Definition: important; famous.

Usage: She was a prominent member of the city council

483). Instincts

Meaning: inclination, drive, compulsion, need

Definition: a natural or intuitive way of acting or thinking.

Usage: They retain their old authoritarian instincts.

484). Prerequisites

Meaning: precondition, condition, essential, requirement, imperative, basic

Definition: a thing that is required as a prior condition for something else to happen or exist

Usage: sponsorship is not a prerequisite for any of our courses

485). Strained

Meaning: drawn, careworn, worn, pinched, tried, weary

Definition: truthful and straightforward; frank

Usage: Jean's pale, strained face

486). Spout

Meaning: nozzle, lip, rose

Definition: a tube or lip projecting from a container, through which liquid can be poured. **Usage:** A teapot with a chipped spout

487). Disown

Meaning: reject, cast off, cast aside, abandon, repudiate, renounce, deny

Definition: refuse to acknowledge or maintain any connection with.

Usage: Lovell's rich family had disowned him because of his marriage

488). Speculation

Meaning: conjecture, supposition, guesswork

Definition: the forming of a theory or conjecture without firm evidence.

Usage: There has been widespread speculation that he plans to quit

489). Fragile

Meaning: breakable, brittle, frangible, flimsy, delicate, fine

Definition: (of an object) easily broken or damaged.

Usage: Fragile items such as glass and china.

490). Articulate

Meaning: fluent, eloquent, effective, persuasive, lucid, vocal

Definition: having or showing the ability to speak fluently and coherently

Usage: She was not very articulate.

491). Legitimate

Meaning: legal, lawful, authorized, permitted, permissible, allowable

Definition: conforming to the law or to rules.

Usage: His claims to legitimate authority

492). Snazzy

Meaning: stylish, smart, attractive, lovely, gorgeous, stunning

Definition: stylish and attractive.

Usage: snazzy little silk dresses

493). Sophisticated

Meaning: Underneath, below, further down, lower down

Definition: having, revealing, or involving a great deal of worldly experience and knowledge of fashion and culture.

Usage: a chic, sophisticated woman.

494). Arbitrations

Meaning: adjudication, mediation, negotiation, intervention, interposition

Definition: The use of an arbitrator to settle a dispute

Usage: Tayside Regional Council called for arbitration to settle the dispute

495). Candid

Meaning: frank, outspoken, forthright, open, honest, truthful, direct, bluff

Definition: truthful and straightforward; frank

Usage: His responses were remarkably candid

496). Bicker

Meaning: Squabble, argue

Definition: argue about petty and trivial matters.

Usage: couples who bicker over who gets what from the divorce

497). Fluctuate

Meaning: vary, differ, shift, change, alter, waver, swing, alternate

Definition: rise and fall irregularly in number or amount.

Usage: Trade with other countries tends to fluctuate from year to year

498). Cogent

Meaning: convincing, compelling, strong, forceful, powerful, potent, weighty

Definition: (of an argument or case) clear, logical, and convincing.

Usage: They put forward cogent arguments for British membership

499). Narrative

Meaning: account, story, tale, history, description, record, portrayal, report, rehearsal, recital

Definition: a spoken or written account of connected events; a story.

Usage: A gripping narrative.

500). Plagues

Meaning: afflict, bedevil, torture, torment, trouble, beset, dog

Definition: cause continual trouble or distress to

Usage: He has been plagued by ill health.

501). Proclaim

Meaning: Indicate, show, signify, reveal, manifest, betray, demonstrate

Definition: his high, intelligent forehead proclaimed a strength of mind that was almost tangible. **Usage:** indicate clearly

502). Debtor

Meaning: borrower, mortgagor,

Definition: a person, country, or organization that owes money.

Usage: Generally, debtors must negotiate with each creditor separately

503). Hypocrisy

Meaning: cant, humbug, pretence, posturing, empty talk, pietism

Definition: the practice of claiming to have higher standards or more noble beliefs than is the case.

Usage: his target was the hypocrisy of suburban life.

504). Influx

Meaning: inundation, inrush, rush, stream, flood, ingress

Definition: an arrival or entry of large numbers of people or things

Usage: A massive influx of tourists

505). Imperative

Meaning: vital, crucial, critical, essential, exigent, pressing, urgent

Definition: of vital importance; crucial

Usage: immediate action was imperative.

506). Compensate

Meaning: Recompense, repay, pay back, recoup, requite

Definition: give (someone) something, typically money, in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury incurred; recompense.

Usage: Payments were made to farmers to compensate them for cuts in subsidies

507). Diligence

Meaning: assiduity, rigour, heedfulness, carefulness, studiousness

Definition: careful and persistent work or effort.

Usage: Few party members challenge his diligence as an MP

508). Obsolete

Meaning: Out of date, outdated, outmoded, old-fashioned

Definition: no longer produced or used; out of date

Usage: The disposal of old and obsolete machinery

509). Integrate

Meaning: combine, amalgamate, mix, intermix, join, fuse, blend

Definition: combine (one thing) with another to form a whole

Usage: Transport planning should be integrated with energy policy.

510). Alleviate

Meaning: Reduce, ease, relieve, dull, lessen, quiet, blunt, moderate

Definition: make (suffering, deficiency, or a problem) less severe.

Usage: He couldn't prevent her pain, only alleviate it.

511). Affirm

Meaning: Declare, state, aver, proclaim, pronounce, attest, swear, avow, vow, guarantee, promise, certify

Definition: state emphatically or publicly.

Usage: He affirmed the country's commitment to peace

512). Travesty

Meaning: misrepresentation, distortion, corruption, poor imitation, parody

Definition: a false, absurd, or distorted representation of something.

Usage: The absurdly lenient sentence is a travesty of justice

513). Reparation

Meaning: amends, restitution, redress, compensation, repayment, atonement.

Definition: the action of making amends for a wrong one has done, by providing payment or other assistance to those who have been wronged.

Usage: The courts required a convicted offender to make financial reparation to his victim.

514). Dissent

Meaning: disagreement, argument, dispute, demur

Definition: the holding or expression of opinions at variance with those commonly or officially held.

Usage: There was no dissent from this view

515). Oppress

Meaning: persecute, abuse, maltreat, ill-treat, suppress, repress, subject

Definition: keep (someone) in subjection and hardship, especially by the unjust exercise of authority **Usage:** A system which oppressed working people.

516). Cacophonous

Meaning: loud, noisy, ear-splitting, blaring, booming, deafening,

Definition: involving or producing a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds.

Usage: The cacophonous sound of slot machines

517). Glimpse

Meaning: brief look, quick look

Definition: a momentary or partial view

Usage: She caught a glimpse of the ocean

518). Integrity

Meaning: honest, probity, rectitude, honour, ethics, sincerity, truthfulness, virtue, decency **Definition:** the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

Usage: A gentleman of complete integrity.

519). Intolerance

Meaning: bigotry, dogmatism, illiberality, parochialism, insularity

Definition: unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, or behaviour that differ from one's own

Usage: A struggle against religious intolerance.

520). Elusive

Meaning: Difficult to catch/find, difficult to track down

Definition: difficult to find, catch, or achieve.

Usage: Success will become ever more elusive.

521). Deem

Meaning: regard as, consider, judge, adjudge, rate, fin, count, esteem, reckon, account

Definition: regard or consider in a specified way.

Usage: The event was deemed a great success

522). Taboo

Meaning: Prohibition, proscription, veto, ban, restriction

Definition: a social or religious custom prohibiting or restricting a particular practice or forbidding association with a particular person, place, or thing

Usage: many taboos have developed around physical exposure

523). Harmonize

Meaning: Coordinate, match, blend, mix, balance

Definition: produce a pleasing visual combination.

Usage: Steeply pitched roofs which harmonize with the form of the main roof.

524). Prolong

Meaning: Lengthen, make longer, extend, elongate

Definition: extend the duration of

Usage: An idea which prolonged the life of the engine by many years

525). Hatch

Meaning: devise, conceive, concoct, brew, invent, plan, design, formulate

Definition: conspire to devise (a plot or plan)

Usage: The little plot that you and Sylvia hatched up last night

526). Pioneer

Meaning: Settler, colonist, explorer, trailblazer

Definition: a person who is among the first to explore or settle a new country or area. **Usage:** The pioneers of the Wild West

527). Prone

Meaning: Susceptible, vulnerable, liable, given, disposed

Definition: likely or liable to suffer from, do, or experience something unpleasant or regrettable.

Usage: Farmed fish are prone to disease

528). Implications

Meaning: Suggestions, inference, innuendo, hint, intimation

Definition: the conclusion that can be drawn from something although it is not explicitly stated

Usage: The implication is that no one person at the bank is responsible

529). Utopian

Meaning: unworldly, non-material, immaterial

Definition: modelled on or aiming for a state in which everything is perfect; idealistic.

Usage: It is based on a utopian ideology.

530). Spur

Meaning: stimulus, incentive, encouragement, stimulant, inducement, prompt

Definition: a thing that prompts or encourages someone; an incentive

Usage: Wars act as a spur to practical invention.

531). Legitimate

Meaning: legal, lawful, licit, authorized, valid, upright, allowable

Definition: conforming to the law or to rules.

Usage: His claims to legitimate authority

532). Fiction

Meaning: Novels, stories, narration, story telling

Definition: literature in the form of prose, especially novels, that describes imaginary events and people.

Usage: they were supposed to be keeping up the fiction that they were happily married

533). Abide

Meaning: obey, observe, follow, keep to, conform to, accept, accede to

Definition: accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision, or recommendation).

Usage: I said I would abide by their decision.

534). Espionage

Meaning: Spying, undercover work, intelligence, cyber-espionage, counter-espionage

Definition: the practice of spying or of using spies, typically by governments to obtain political and military information

Usage: The camouflage and secrecy of espionage

535). Manslaughter

Meaning: Killing, murder, slaying

Definition: the crime of killing a human being without malice aforethought, or in circumstances not amounting to murder

Usage: The defendant was convicted of manslaughter

536). Bankrupt

Meaning: insolvent, without, bare of, denuded of

Definition: (of a person or organization) declared in law as unable to pay their debts.

Usage: His father went bankrupt and the family had to sell their home

537). Prevalent

Meaning: widespread, frequent, usual, common, general, universal

Definition: widespread in a particular area or at a particular time.

Usage: The social ills prevalent in society today

538). Eradicating

Meaning: eliminate, do away with, remove, suppress

Definition: destroy completely; put an end to

Usage: This disease has been eradicated from the world

539). Stern

Meaning: serious, unsmiling, stony, flinty, steely, disapproving, sober

Definition: (of a person or their manner) serious and unrelenting, especially in the assertion of authority and exercise of discipline.

Usage: A smile transformed his stern face.

540). Guts

Meaning: instinctive, intuitive, impulsive, natural, basic, emotinal

Definition: used in reference to a feeling or reaction based on an instinctive emotional response rather than considered thought

Usage: I had a gut feeling that something was wrong.

541). Blatant

Meaning: Flagrant, glaring, obvious, undisguised, overt, open, manifest

Definition: (of bad behaviour) done openly and unashamedly.

Usage: Blatant lies.

542). Exorbitant

Meaning: extortionate, excessive, sky-high, inordinate, huge, enormous

Definition: (of a price or amount charged) unreasonably high..

Usage: Some hotels charge exorbitant rates for phone calls

543). Frivolous

Meaning: flippant, glib, waggish, joking, jokey, non-serious.

Definition: not having any serious purpose or value.

Usage: Frivolous ribbons and lacy frills.

544). Unprecedented

Meaning: unparalleled, unequalled, unmatched, unrivalled, without equal

Definition: never done or known before

Usage: The government took the unprecedented step of releasing confidential correspondence

545). Dread

Meaning: fear, be afraid of, worry about

Definition: anticipate with great apprehension or fear

Usage: Jane was dreading the party.

546). Disparate

Meaning: contrasting, different, differing, unlike, dissimilar,

Definition: essentially different in kind; not able to be compared.

Usage: They inhabit disparate worlds of thought

547). Accentuate

Meaning: point up, heighten, stress, spotlight, foreground, frature

Definition: make more noticeable or prominent..

Usage: His jacket unfortunately accentuated his paunch

548). Exacerbate

Meaning: aggravate, make worse, worsen, inflame

Definition: make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse.

Usage: Rising inflation was exacerbated by the collapse of oil prices.

549). Credence

Meaning: acceptance, belief, faith, trust, confidence, reliance, traction

Definition: belief in or acceptance of something as true

Usage: Psychoanalysis finds little credence among laymen.

550). Suffice

Meaning: be enough, be sufficient, do, serve,

Definition: be enough or adequate.

Usage: A quick look should suffice.

551). Intrusive

Meaning: obtrusive, unwanted, interrupting, unwelcome

Definition: causing disruption or annoyance through being unwelcome or uninvited. **Usage:** That was an intrusive question

552). Hesitation

Meaning: pausing, delay, waiting

Definition: the action of pausing before saying or doing something.

Usage: She answered without hesitation.

553). Consequence

Meaning: result, upshot, outcome

Definition: a result or effect, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant.

Usage: Inflation is a consequence of a rapid growth in the money supply.

554). Envisage

Meaning: predict, forecast, foretell, expect

Definition: contemplate or conceive of as a possibility or a desirable future event.

Usage: The Rome Treaty envisaged free movement across frontiers.

555). Conventional

Meaning: normal, standard, regular, ordinary

Definition: based on or in accordance with what is generally done or believed.

Usage: A conventional morality had dictated behaviour.

556). Rupture

Meaning: break, fracture, crack

Definition: (especially of a pipe or container, or bodily part such as an organ or membrane) break or burst suddenly.

Usage: If the main artery ruptures he could die.

557). Bumpy

Meaning: uneven, rough, irregular

Definition: (of a surface) uneven, with many patches raised above the rest.

Usage: The car jolted on the bumpy road.

558). Emanate

Meaning: emerge, flow, pour

Definition: (of a feeling, quality, or sensation) issue or spread out from (a source).

Usage: Policy statements which emanate from government departments.

559). Consent

Meaning: agreement, assent, accord

Definition: permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.

Usage: No change may be made without the consent of all the partners.

560). Ostensible

Meaning: apparent, seeming, outward, surface

Definition: stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so.

Usage: The real dispute which lay behind the ostensible complaint.

561). Bolster

Meaning: Pillow, cushion, pad, support

Definition: a long, thick pillow that is placed under other pillows for support.

Usage: Most of them were sitting on the floor which was strewn with cushions, bolsters, and rugs.

562). Hover

Meaning: be suspended, be poised, hang, float

Definition: remain in one place in the air.

Usage: Army helicopters hovered overhead.

563). Embark

Meaning: board ship, go on board,

Definition: go on board a ship or aircraft.

Usage: He embarked for India in 1817.

564). Recession

Meaning: economic decline, downturn, depression

Definition: a period of temporary economic decline during which trade and industrial activity are reduced, generally identified by a fall in GDP in two successive quarters.

Usage: the country is in the depths of a recession.

565). Metaphor

Meaning: figure of speech, image, trope, figurative expression

Definition: a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

Usage: When we speak of gene maps and gene mapping, we use a cartographic metaphor.

566). Pacifism

Meaning: peacemaking, conscientious objection(s), passive resistance, love of peace

Definition: the belief that war and violence are unjustifiable and that all disputes should be settled by peaceful means.

Usage: there remains a powerful undercurrent of pacifism.

567). Nuance

Meaning: fine distinction, shade, shading, gradation, variation

Definition: a subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound.

Usage: He was familiar with the nuances of the local dialect.

568). Unrelenting

Meaning: implacable, inflexible, uncompromising, unyielding

Definition: not yielding in strength, severity, or determination.

Usage: He was an unrelenting opponent of the Jacobite cause.

569). Camouflage

Meaning: disguise, hide, conceal, mask, screen

Definition: hide or disguise the presence of (a person, animal, or object) by means of camouflage.

Usage: The caravan was camouflaged with netting and branches from trees.

570). Surmise

Meaning: guess, conjecture, suspect, deduce, infer

Definition: suppose that something is true without having evidence to confirm it.

Usage: He surmised that something must be wrong.

571). Troupe

Meaning: group, company, band, ensemble, set, cast

Definition: a group of dancers, actors, or other entertainers who tour to different venues.

Usage: A dance troupe.

572). Avaricious

Meaning: grasping, acquisitive, covetous, greedy, rapacious, mercenary

Definition: having or showing an extreme greed for wealth or material gain.

Usage: An avaricious, manipulative woman

573). Disconcert

Meaning: unsettle, nonplus, discomfit, confuse, perplex, ruffle, shake, worry.

Definition: disturb the composure of; unsettle.

Usage: The abrupt change of subject disconcerted her.

574). Harangue

Meaning: tirade, lecture, diatribe, homily, polemic, rant, fulmination, broadside, invective

Definition: a lengthy and aggressive speech

Usage: They were subjected to a ten-minute harangue by two border guards

575). Unscrupulous

Meaning: unprincipled, immoral, amoral, dishonest, cunning, furtive, sly, bad, evil, wicked

Definition: having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair.

Usage: Unscrupulous landlords might be tempted to harass existing tenants.

576). Preachy

Meaning: moralistic, didactic, dogmatic

Definition: having or showing a tendency to give moral advice in a tedious or self-righteous way.

Usage: His patriotic pictures had a preachy tone

577). Unabashed

Meaning: unashamed, shameless, brazen, confident, immodest, unshrinking, fearless

Definition: not embarrassed, disconcerted, or ashamed

Usage: He was unabashed by the furore his words provoked

578). Melodramatic

Meaning: histrionic, extravagant, overdone, overripe, overemotional, sentimental

Definition: characteristic of melodrama, especially in being exaggerated or overemotional.

Usage: He flung the door open with a melodramatic flourish.

579). Mimic

Meaning: imitate, copy, mock, parody, lampoon, caricature

Definition: imitate (someone or their actions or words), especially in order to entertain or ridicule **Usage:** He mimicked Super Star Rajini voice.

580). Protagonist

Meaning: supporter, adherent, backer, proponent, advocate, promoter, exponent, prime mover

Definition: an advocate or champion of a particular cause or idea.

Usage: He's a strenuous protagonist of the new agricultural policy.

581). Jargon

Meaning: Slang, cant, idiom, argot, patter

Definition: special words or expressions used by a profession or group that are difficult for others to understand.

Usage: legal jargon

582). Evocative

Meaning: Reminiscent, suggestive, redolent

Definition: bringing strong images, memories, or feelings to mind

Usage: Powerfully evocative lyrics

583). Beneath

Meaning: Underneath, below, further down, lower down

Definition: extending or directly underneath something.

Usage: A house built on stilts to allow air to circulate beneath.

584). Sheer

Meaning: utter, complete, absolute, total, pure, perfect, patent

Definition: nothing other than; unmitigated (used for emphasis)

Usage: she giggled with sheer delight

585). Plague

Meaning: afflict, bedevil, torment, trouble, beset, dog, curse

Definition: cause continual trouble or distress to

Usage: He has been plagued by ill health

586). Archive

Meaning: file, log, catalogue, pigeonhole

Definition: place or store (something) in an archive.

Usage: The entire directory will be archived

587). Liberate

Meaning: set free, free, release, let out, let go, discharge, deliver

Definition: set (someone) free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression.

Usage: The serfs had been liberated

588). Retreat

Meaning: withdraw, retire, draw back, pull back, pull out, fall back, give way

Definition: (of an army) withdraw from enemy forces as a result of their superior power or after a defeat **Usage:** The French retreated in disarray

589). Combat

Meaning: battle, fighting, action, conflict, war, warfare

Definition: fighting between armed forces.

Usage: Five Hurricanes were shot down in combat.

590). Retract

Meaning: Pull in, draw in, pull back, sheathe, put away

Definition: draw or be drawn back or back in

Usage: She retracted her hand as if she'd been burn.

591). ENDURANCE

Meaning: tolerance, bearing, sufferance **Definition:** the ability to endure an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way. **Usage:** She was close to the limit of her endurance.

592). ANXIETY

Meaning: worry, concern, apprehension

Definition: a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome.

Usage: His anxiety grew as his messages were all left unanswered

593). SECRETIVE

Meaning: uncommunicative, secret, silent **Definition:** (of a person or an organization) inclined to conceal feelings and intentions or not to disclose information.

Usage: She was very secretive about her past.

594). INTRUSIVE

Meaning: invasive, obtrusive, unwanted **Definition:** causing disruption or annoyance through being unwelcome or uninvited. **Usage:** That was an intrusive question.

595). IMPRESARIO

Meaning: organizer, manager, producer **Definition:** a person who organizes and often finances concerts, plays, or operas. **Usage:** A theatrical impresario.

596). BLATANT

Meaning: flagrant, glaring, obvious, undisguised **Definition:** (of bad behaviour) done openly and unashamedly. **Usage:** A blatant lie.

597). SACROSANCT

Meaning: sacred, respected, inviolate **Definition:** (especially of a principle, place, or routine) regarded as too important or valuable to be interfered with. **Usage:** The individual's right to work has been upheld as sacrosanct.

598). PERCOLATE

Meaning: filter, drain, drip **Definition:** (of a liquid or gas) filter gradually through a porous surface or substance. **Usage:** The water percolating through the soil may leach out minerals.

599). ENVIRON

Meaning: surround, encircle, enclose, ring, envelop; **Definition:** surround; enclose. **Usage:** The stone circle was environed by an expanse of peat soil

600). USHER

Meaning: escort, accompany, help, assist **Definition:** show or guide (someone) somewhere. **Usage:** He ushered him to a window seat.

601). Pledge

Meaning: Mortgage, guarantee, pawn **Definition:** give as security on a loan.

Usage: The creditor to whom the land is pledged

602). Tumultuous

Meaning: loud, deafening, thunderous, thundering, ear-splitting, noisy, vociferous **Definition:** making an uproar or loud, confused noise. **Usage:** Tumultuous applause

603). Coalition

Meaning: alliance, union, partnership, affiliation, bloc, caucus. **Definition:** a temporary alliance for combined action, especially of political parties forming a government. **Usage:** A coalition between Liberals and Conservatives.

604). Inhibit

Meaning: impede, hinder, hamper, discourage, obstruct, slow, retard **Definition:** hinder, restrain, or prevent (an action or process) **Usage:** Cold inhibits plant growth

605). Squirm

Meaning: wriggle, wiggle, writhe, twist, slide, slither, turn, shift, fidget **Definition:** wriggle or twist the body from side to side, especially as a result of nervousness or discomfort **Usage:** He looked uncomfortable and squirmed in his chair.

606). Allegedly

Meaning: reportedly, supposedly, reputedly, ostensibly, apparently, presumedly **Definition:** used to convey that something is claimed to be the case or have taken place, although there is no proof **Usage:** He was allegedly a leading participant in the coup attempt

607). Creep

Meaning: crawl, squirm, wriggle, writhe, worm, inch, edge **Definition:** move slowly and carefully in order to avoid being heard or noticed **Usage:** He crept downstairs, hardly making any noise

608). Gimmick

Meaning: stunt, contrivance, scheme, trick, dodge, ploy, stratagem **Definition:** a trick or device intended to attract attention, publicity, or trade.

Usage: It is not so much a programme to improve services as a gimmick to gain votes.

609). Provocative

Meaning: annoying, irritating, infuriating, provoking, maddening, goading

Definition: causing anger or another strong reaction, especially deliberately

Usage: A provocative article.

610). Orthodoxy

Meaning: doctrine, belief, creed, dogma, credo, theory, view, idea, practice

Definition: authorized or generally accepted theory, doctrine, or practice.

Usage: Monetarist orthodoxy.

611). Tendentious

Meaning: partisan, expressing, intending

Definition: expressing or intending to promote a particular cause or point of view, especially a controversial one.

Usage: A tendentious reading of history

612). Credence

Meaning: acceptance, belief, faith, trust, confidence, reliance, traction

Definition: belief in or acceptance of something as true.

Usage: Psychoanalysis finds little credence among laymen

613). Reluctant

Meaning: unwilling, disinclined, grudging, resistant, opposed, antipathetic.

Definition: unwilling and hesitant; disinclined..

Usage: She seemed reluctant to answer.

614). Disingenuous

Meaning: dishonest, deceitful, underhand, underhanded, duplicitous, lying, false **Definition:** not candid or sincere, typically by pretending that one knows less about something than one really does.

Usage: This journalist was being somewhat disingenuous as well as cynical

615). Ascribing

Meaning: attribute, assign, put down, set down, accredit, credit

Definition: regard something as being due to (a cause).

Usage: He ascribed Jane's short temper to her upset stomach.

616). Maverick

Meaning: individualist, nonconformist, free spirit, eccentric, outside

Definition: an unorthodox or independent-minded person.

Usage: He's the maverick of the senate

617). Verdict

Meaning: judgement, adjudication, decision, finding, ruling, resolution, decree, order

Definition: a decision on an issue of fact in a civil or criminal case or an inquest

Usage: The jury returned a verdict of not guilty

618). Embroil

Meaning: Involve, entangle, ensnare, enmesh, catch up, mix up, bog down, mire

Definition: involve (someone) deeply in an argument, conflict, or difficult situation.

Usage: The organization is currently embroiled in running battles with pressure groups.

619). Reckless

Meaning: rash, careless, thoughtless, incautions, heedless, unheeding, inattentive, precipitate

Definition: heedless of danger or the consequences of one's actions; rash or impetuous **Usage:** You mustn't be so reckless".

620). Legislative

Meaning: law-making, judicial, juridical, administrative

Definition: having the power to make laws..

Usage: The country's supreme legislative body.

621). Scepticism

Meaning: Doubt, doubtfulness, Dubiousness, lack of conviction

Definition: a sceptical attitude; doubt as to the truth of something.

Usage: These claims were treated with scepticism.

622). Contingent

Meaning: Chance, accidental, fortuitous, possible, unforeseen, unpredictable **Definition:** subject to chance.

Usage: The contingent nature of the job.

623). Culmination

Meaning: Climax, pinnacle, peak, high point, Height, crest, zenith

Definition: the highest or climactic point of something, especially as attained after a long time.

Usage: The deal marked the culmination of years of negotiation.

624). Surrogate

Meaning: substitute, proxy, replacement

Definition: a substitute, especially a person deputizing for another in a specific role or office.

Usage: Wives of MPs are looked on as surrogates for their husbands while the latter are at Westminster.

625). Enumerate

Meaning: List, itemize, catalogue, set out, set forth, give

Definition: mention (a number of things) one by one.

Usage: There is not space to enumerate all his works.

626). Altruistic

Meaning: Unselfish, selfless, self-denying

Definition: showing a disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others; unselfish.

Usage: It was an entirely altruistic act.

627). Maverick

Meaning: Individualist, nonconformist, free spirit, eccentric, outsider, trendsetter

Definition: an unorthodox or independent-minded person.

Usage: he's the maverick of the senate.

628). Promulgate

Meaning: make public, publicize, announce, proclaim, circulate

Definition: promote or make widely known (an idea or cause).

Usage: These objectives have to be promulgated within the organization .

629). pecuniary

Meaning: financial, money, monetary, fiscal, capital, commercial

Definition: relating to or consisting of money.

Usage: He admitted obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception.

630). Ponderous

Meaning: clumsy, slow, heavy, awkward, graceless

Definition: slow and clumsy because of great weight.

Usage: A swarthy, ponderous giant of a man.

631). Expedite

Meaning: Speed up, accelerate, hurry, hasten, step up, quicken

Definition: make (an action or process) happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly.

Usage: He promised to expedite economic reforms.

632). Conscience

Meaning: moral sense, sense of right, still small voice

Definition: a person's moral sense of right and wrong, viewed as acting as a guide to one's behaviour.

Usage: He had a guilty conscience about his desires

633). Contravene

Meaning: Break, breach, violate.

Definition: offend against the prohibition or order of (a law, treaty, or code of conduct).

Usage: He contravened the Official Secrets Act.

634). Sanctum

Meaning: Holy place, shrine, altar, refuge, foxhole, hiding place

Definition: a sacred place, especially a shrine within a temple or church

Usage: An icon installed within the sanctum of the temple

635). Whopping

Meaning: Huge, massive, enormous, gigantic, very big, very large

Definition: very large

Usage: A whopping \$74 million loss.

636). Assassination

Meaning: Murder, killing, political execution, slaughter, butchery, extermination, termination

Definition: the action of assassinating someone

Usage: The assassination of President Kennedy

637). Foil

Meaning: thwart, oppose, baulk, disappoint, impede, obstruct

Definition: prevent (something considered wrong or undesirable) from succeeding.

Usage: A brave policewoman foiled the armed robbery

638). Motley

Meaning: Mixed, diverse, assorted, sundry, varied, disparate

Definition: incongruously varied in appearance or character; disparate.

Usage: A motley crew of discontents and zealots.

639). Facetious

Meaning: Flippant, flip, glib, joking, jocular, playful, impish

Definition: treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humour; flippant **Usage:** A facetious remark.

640). Murky

Meaning: dark, gloomy, grey, leaden, dull, dim, cloudy

Definition: dark and gloomy, especially due to thick mist.

Usage: The sky was murky and a thin drizzle was falling.

641). Lynch

Synonyms: hang, hang by the neck

Meaning: (of a group of people) kill (someone) for an alleged offence without a legal trial, especially by hanging.

Usage: Her father had been lynched by whites.

642). Arid

Synonyms: dry, dried up, waterless, as dry as a bone, thirsty, Dull

Meaning: lacking in interest, excitement, or meaning..

Usage: His arid years in suburbia

643). Impresario

Synonyms: Organizer, manager, producer, stage manager

Meaning: a person who organizes and often finances concerts, plays, or operas

Usage: Amit Shah plays impresario to this knee-jerk nationalism.

644). Gravitas

Synonyms: dignity, seriousness, solemnity, gravity, loftiness, grandeur

Meaning: dignity, seriousness, or solemnity of manner..

Usage: A post for which he has the expertise and the gravitas

645). Manace

Synonyms: Danger, peril, risk, hazard, threat

Meaning: a person or thing that is likely to cause harm; a threat or danger.

Usage: A new initiative aimed at beating the menace of drugs

646). Fetish

Synonyms: fixation, obsession, compulsion, mania

Meaning: a form of sexual desire in which gratification is linked to an abnormal degree to a particular object, item of clothing, part of the body, etc.. **Usage:** A man with a fetish for surgical masks

647). Blatant

Synonyms: flagrant, manifest, unmistakable, open, obvious

Meaning: (of bad behaviour) done openly and unashamedly

Usage: Blatant lies

648). Sacrosanct

Synonyms: sacred, hallowed, inviolable, inviolate, untouchable

Meaning: (especially of a principle, place, or routine) regarded as too important or valuable to be interfered with

Usage: The individual's right to work has been upheld as sacrosanct

649). Martyr

Synonyms: suffer from, be a constant sufferer from, have chronic

Meaning: a person who displays or exaggerates their discomfort or distress in order to obtain sympathy **Usage:** She wanted to play the martyr

650). Swoop

Synonyms: dive, descend, drop, plunge, pitch

Meaning: (especially of a bird) move rapidly downwards through the air.

Usage: The barn owl can swoop down on a mouse in total darkness

651). Flare

Meaning: Blaze, flash, flame, burn up

Definition: burn or shine with a sudden intensity.

Usage: The bonfire crackled and flared up

652). Trigger

Meaning: Activate, set off, set going, trip

Definition: cause (a device) to function.

Usage: Burglars fled empty-handed after triggering the alarm

653). Evacuate

Meaning: remove, clear, move out, shift, take away, expel, evict.

Definition: remove (someone) from a place of danger to a safer place.

Usage: Several families were evacuated from their homes.

654). Advocacy

Meaning: support for, argument for, arguing for, calling for, pushing for

Definition: public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy

Usage: His outspoken advocacy of the agreement has won no friends

655). Allegation

Meaning: claim, assertion, declaration, witness, evidence, hint, intimation

Definition: a claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong, typically one made without proof.

Usage: He made allegations of corruption against the administration

656). Agitation

Meaning: anxiety, perturbation, distress, concern, alarm, worry

Definition: a state of anxiety or nervous excitement.

Usage: She was wringing her hands in agitation

657). Eradicate

Meaning: get rid of, eliminate, do away with, remove, suppress

Definition: destroy completely; put an end to

Usage: This disease has been eradicated from the world

658). Turmoil

Meaning: confusion, tumult, disorder, commotion, unrest, trouble, upset

Definition: a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.

Usage: The country was in turmoil.

659). Assent

Meaning: agree to, approve, bless

Definition: express approval or agreement

Usage: The Prime Minister assented to the change.

670). Assist

Meaning: help, aid, abet, give assistance

Definition: help (someone), typically by doing a share of the work.

Usage: A senior academic would assist him in his work.

671). Flared

Meaning: Blaze, flash, flame

Definition: burn or shine with a sudden intensity.

Usage: A match flared as he lit a cigarette.

672). Triggered

Meaning: activate, set off, set going, trip

Definition: cause (a device) to function.

Usage: Burglars fled empty-handed after triggering the alarm.

673). Advocacy

Meaning: support for, argument for, arguing for, calling for

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675). Agitation

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Usage: She was wringing her hands in agitation.

676). Eradicate

Meaning: get rid of, eliminate, do away with, remove

Definition: destroy completely; put an end to.

Usage: This disease has been eradicated from the world.

677). Turmoil

Meaning: confusion, disorder, disturbance

Definition: a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.

Usage: A time of great political turmoil.

678). Fumigate

Meaning: disinfect, purify, sterilize

Definition: disinfect or purify (an area) with the fumes of certain chemicals.

Usage: We got sulphur candles to fumigate the house.

679). Veer

Meaning: career, swing, wheel, twist

Definition: change direction suddenly.

Usage: An oil tanker that had veered off course.

680). Valiant

Meaning: brave, courageous, fearless

Definition: possessing or showing courage or determination.

Usage: She made a valiant effort to hold her anger in check.

681). Posterity

Meaning: future generations, succeeding generations

Definition: all future generations of people.

Usage: the names of those who died are recorded for posterity on a framed scroll.

682). Relinquish

Meaning: renounce, give up, part with turn over

Definition: voluntarily cease to keep or claim; give up.

Usage: he relinquished his managerial role to become chief executive.

683). Persuade

Meaning: convince, talk someone into, induce

Definition: induce (someone) to do something through reasoning or argument.

Usage: it wasn't easy, but I persuaded him to do the right thing.

684). Ancestry

Meaning: forebears, forefathers, parentage

Definition: one's family or ethnic descent.

Usage: he was proud of his Irish ancestry.

685). Propulsion

Meaning: thrust, motive force, impulse

Definition: the action of driving or pushing forwards.

Usage: they dive and use their wings for propulsion under water.

686). Ephemeral

Meaning: transient, fleeting, passing

Definition: lasting for a very short time.

Usage: fashions are ephemeral: new ones regularly drive out the old.

687). Dissuade

Meaning: discourage, deter, prevent, disincline

Definition: persuade (someone) not to take a particular course of action.

Usage: his friends tried to dissuade him from flying.

688). Persist

Meaning: persevere, continue, carry on

Definition: continue in an opinion or course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.

Usage: the minority of drivers who persist in drinking.

689). Scarce

Meaning: short, in short supply, scant

Definition: (especially of food, money, or some other resource) insufficient for the demand.

Usage: as raw materials became scarce, synthetics were developed.

690). Perpetual

Meaning: everlasting, never-ending, eternal, permanent

Definition: never ending or changing.

Usage: the population lived in a perpetual state of fear.

691). Shrewd

Meaning: astute, sharp, acute, intelligent

Definition: having or showing sharp powers of judgement; astute.

Usage: She was shrewd enough to guess the motive behind his gesture.

692). Subvert

Meaning: destabilize, unsettle, overthrow, overturn

Definition: undermine the power and authority of (an established system or institution).

Usage: An attempt to subvert democratic government

693). Emergence

Meaning: disclosure, exposure, publication

Definition: the process of becoming visible after being concealed.

Usage: I misjudged the timing of my emergence.

694). Muster

Meaning: assemble, bring together, mobilize

Definition: assemble (troops), especially for inspection or in preparation for battle.

Usage: They had mustered 50,000 troops.

695). Ordeal

Meaning: trial, tribulation, test.

Definition: a very unpleasant and prolonged experience.

Usage: The ordeal of having to give evidence.

696). Infallible

Meaning: error free, flawless, perfect

Definition: incapable of making mistakes or being wrong.

Usage: She had an infallible sense of timing.

697). Assiduous

Meaning: careful, diligent, attentive

Definition: showing great care and perseverance.

Usage: She was assiduous in pointing out every feature.

698). Shoddy

Meaning: Poor Quality, inferior, rubbishy

Definition: badly made or done.

Usage: We're not paying good money for shoddy goods.

699). Inducement

Meaning: incentive, attraction, encouragement, temptation

Definition: a thing that persuades or leads someone to do something.

Usage: Companies were prepared to build only in return for massive inducements

700). Contemptuous

Meaning: scornful, disdainful, disrespectful, insulting, insolent

Definition: showing contempt; scornful.

Usage: She was intolerant and contemptuous of the majority of the human race.

701). Provincial

Meaning: small-town, non-metropolitan, non-urban, back woods, backwater

Definition: of or concerning a province of a country or empire of or concerning a province of a country or empire.

Usage: Provincial elections.

702). Rebuke

Meaning: reprimand, reproach, scold, admonish, chide, upbraid, criticize

Definition: express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behaviour or actions
express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behaviour or actions.

Usage: she had rebuked him for drinking too much.

703). Lambasted

Meaning: criticize, castigate, chastise, censure, condemn

Definition: criticize (someone or something) harshly.

Usage: They lambasted the report as a gross distortion of the truth.

704). Blare

Meaning: Blast, sound loudly, toot, honk, shriek, screech

Definition: make or cause to make a loud, harsh sound.

Usage: The ambulance arrived outside, siren blaring.

705). Tinkle

Meaning: ring, jingle, jangle, chime, peal, ding, ping

Definition: make or cause to make a light, clear ringing sound.

Usage: Cool water tinkled in the stone fountains.

706). trumpet

Meaning: proclaim, announce, declare, broadcast, blazon

Definition: proclaim widely or loudly.

Usage: The press trumpeted another defeat for the government.

707). Percussion

Meaning: crash, bang, smash, clash, bump, thump
Definition: the striking of one solid object with or against another with some degree of force.

Usage: the clattering percussion of objects striking the walls and the shutters.

708). Wade

Meaning: paddle, wallow, dabble, slop, plod

Definition: walk with effort through water or another liquid or viscous substance. **Usage:** He waded out to the boat.

709). Impeccable

Meaning: flawless, faultless, unblemished, spotless, perfect, exemplary

Definition: in accordance with the highest standards; faultless.

Usage: He had impeccable manners.

710). Perplex

Meaning: puzzle, baffle, mystify, worry, befuddle, addle, fog, throw

Definition: make (someone) feel completely baffled

Usage: She was perplexed by her husband's moodiness.

711). Inadvertent

Meaning: unintentional, unintended, accidental, unpremeditated

Definition: not resulting from or achieved through deliberate planning.

Usage: An inadvertent administrative error occurred that resulted in an over payment.

712). Exonerate

Meaning: absolve, clear, acquit,

Definition: (of an official body) absolve (someone) from blame for a fault or wrongdoing.

Usage: The inquiry exonerated Lewis and his company.

713). Hostile

Meaning: antagonistic, aggressive, confrontational, belligerent

Definition: showing or feeling opposition or dislike; unfriendly.

Usage: He wrote a ferociously hostile attack.

714). Stimulus

Meaning: Spur, encouragement, boost, prompt

Definition: a thing that arouses activity or energy in someone or something; a spur or incentive.

Usage: If the tax were abolished, it would act as a stimulus to exports.

715). Constrain

Meaning: compel, force, drive, oblige

Definition: compel or force (someone) to follow a particular course of action.

Usage: Children are constrained to work in the way the book dictates.

716). Receptive

Meaning: Open-minded, responsive, flexible

Definition: willing to consider or accept new suggestions and ideas.

Usage: A receptive audience.

717). Lethargy

Meaning: sluggishness, inertia, inactivity, inaction,

Definition: a lack of energy and enthusiasm.

Usage: There was an air of lethargy about him.

718). Debilitate

Meaning: weakening, enfeebling, enervating, enervative

Definition: make (someone) very weak and infirm.

Usage: He was severely debilitated by a stomach upset.

719). Aggregate

Meaning:

Definition: a material or structure formed from a mass of fragments or particles loosely compacted together.

Usage: The specimen is an aggregate of rock and mineral fragments.

720). Tumultuous

Meaning: loud, thunderous, ear-shattering

Definition: making an uproar or loud, confused noise.

Usage: He left the stage to tumultuous applause.

721). Rehabilitate

Synonyms: reintegrate, readapt, retrain

Meaning: restore (someone) to health or normal life by training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness.

Usage : helping to rehabilitate former criminals

722). Asylums

Synonyms: mental hospital, mental institution, psychiatric hospital

Meaning: an institution for the care of people who are mentally ill.

Usage : he'd been committed to an asylum

723). Prevarication

Synonyms: dishonesty, distortion, lie, equivocation

Meaning: a person dishonest to his organization **Usage :** My hesitation and prevarication had apparently not inspired my interlocutor with confidence in me.

724). Exacerbating

Synonyms: aggravate, make worse, worsen, inflame, compound

Meaning: make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse.

Usage : Rising inflation was exacerbated by the collapse of oil prices

725). Indecorously

Synonyms: improper, unseemly, unbecoming, undignified, immodest, indecent, immoral

Meaning: not in keeping with good taste and propriety; improper

Usage : a pub crawl with sundry indecorous adventures

726). Assertion

Synonyms: declaration, contention, statement, claim, submission, swearing

Meaning: a confident and forceful statement of fact or belief

Usage : His assertion that his father had deserted the family

727). Incongruity

Synonyms: inappropriateness, dissonance, difference, inconsistency, lack of harmony

Meaning: the state of being incongruous; incompatibility

Usage : the incongruity of his fleshy face and skinny body disturbed her the incongruity of his fleshy face and skinny body disturbed her

728). Adjudication**Synonyms:** arbitration, refereeing, umpiring**Meaning:** The action or process of adjudicating**Usage :** The matter may have to go to court for adjudication**729). Pervasive****Synonyms:** prevalent, penetrating, extensive, general, common, universal, rife**Meaning:** (especially of an unwelcome influence or physical effect) spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people.**Usage :** ageism is pervasive and entrenched in our society**730). Vacillate****Synonyms:** dither, teeter, waver, hesitate, oscillate, fluctuate**Meaning:** waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive.**Usage :** I vacillated between teaching and journalism**731). Pivotal****Synonyms:** central, crucial, vital**Meaning:** of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else.**Usage:** Japan's pivotal role in the world economy**732). Afloat****Synonyms:** floating, drifting, non-submerged**Meaning:** floating in water; not sinking.**Usage:** A swimmer fighting to stay afloat**733). Sabotage****Synonyms:** wreck, damage**Meaning:** deliberately destroy, damage, or obstruct (something), especially for political or military advantage.**Usage:** Power lines from South Africa were sabotaged by rebel forces**734). Contingent****Synonyms:** chance, accidental, possible**Meaning:** subject to chance.**Usage:** The contingent nature of the job**735). Nullify****Synonyms:** annul, void, invalidate**Meaning:** make legally null and void; invalidate.**Usage:** Judges were unwilling to nullify government decisions**736). Verdict****Synonyms:** judgment, adjudication, decision, finding**Meaning:** a decision on an issue of fact in a civil or criminal case or an inquest.**Usage:** The coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure**737). Erstwhile****Synonyms:** old, past, one-time**Meaning:** former**Usage:** Written in memory of the composer's erstwhile teacher**738). Conspiracy Synonyms:**

plot, scheme, plan

Meaning: a secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful.**Usage:** The company was involved in a conspiracy with bookmakers to manipulate starting prices**739). Coterie****Synonyms:** set, circle, crowd**Meaning:** a small group of people with shared interests or tastes, especially one that is exclusive of other people.**Usage:** All prime ministers develop a small coterie of kindred spirits**740). Pervasive****Synonyms:** prevalent, penetrating, extensive**Meaning:** (especially of an unwelcome influence or physical effect) spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people.**Usage:** Ageism is pervasive and entrenched in our society.**741). Commemorative****Meaning:** Memorial, remembrance, celebratory, celebrative**Definition:** acting as a memorial of an event or person. **Usage:** Minister of State ManojSinha today released a commemorative postage stamp on Tourism in India on the occasion of 70th Independence day**742). Disaster****Meaning:** catastrophe, tragedy, act of god, calamity**Definition:** a sudden accident or a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life.**Usage:** US President Barack Obama issued a disaster declaration for flood-devastated Louisiana**743). Ravage****Meaning:** ruin, destroy, raze, damage, lay waste, wipe out.**Definition:** cause severe and extensive damage to.

Usage: The hurricane ravaged southern Florida.

744). Swell

Meaning: Expand, bulge, distend, inflate, balloon, bloat, grow, increase, rise

Definition: become or make greater in intensity, number, amount, or volume

Usage: The flooding submerged large parts of the region on Sunday, three days after water-swelled streams and rivers began rising

745). Interim

Meaning: meantime, meanwhile, interval, interlude

Definition: the intervening time

Usage: In the interim I'll just keep my fingers crossed.

746). Curtain

Meaning: hanging, screen, blind, window hanging

Definition: a screen of heavy cloth or other material that can be raised or lowered at the front of a stage

Usage: She drew the curtains and lit the fire

747). Boast

Meaning: Brag, crow, swagger, swank, own, enjoy, have

Definition: talk with excessive pride and self-satisfaction about one's achievements, possessions, or abilities

Usage: She boasted about her many conquests

748). Intercept

Meaning: Stop, head off, cut off

Definition: obstruct (someone or something) so as to prevent them from continuing to a destination.

Usage: Intelligence agencies intercepted a series of telephone calls.

749). Pave

Meaning: Cover, surface, floor, top, finish

Definition: cover (a piece of ground) with flat stones or bricks; lay paving over

Usage: China Satellite will pave the way to a hack-proof communication system.

750). Feasibility

Meaning: Practicability, practicality, workability, viability

Definition: the state or degree of being easily or conveniently done.

Usage: The feasibility of screening athletes for cardiac disease.

751). Quixotic

Meaning: idealistic, unbusinesslike, romantic, extravagant, visionary, unworldly

Definition: extremely idealistic; unrealistic and impractical

Usage: A vast and perhaps quixotic project.

752). Brazen

Meaning: bold, shameless, forward, unashamed, unabashed, unblushing

Definition: bold and without shame.

Usage: He went about his illegal business with a brazen assurance

753). Ingenious

Meaning: inventive, creative, imaginative, original, innovative, resourceful, inspired

Definition: (of a person) clever, original, and inventive.

Usage: He was ingenious enough to overcome the limited budget

754). Naive

Meaning: innocent, artless, guileless, trustful, unaffected, fond, wide-eyed, simple

Definition: (of a person) natural and unaffected; innocent

Usage: Andy had a sweet, naive look when he smiled

755). Suave

Meaning: charming, sophisticated, debonair, urbane, polished, dignified, gentlemanly, gallant

Definition: (especially of a man) charming, confident, and elegant.

Usage: All the waiters were suave and deferential

756). Epicure

Meaning: gourmet, gourmand, connoisseur, gastronome

Definition: a person who takes particular pleasure in fine food and drink

Usage: They see themselves as epicures—delighting in food that is properly prepared

757). Magnanimous

Meaning: generous, charitable, benevolent, open-handed, bountiful, liberal, princely, kind, kindly

Definition: generous or forgiving, especially towards a rival or less powerful person

Usage: She should be magnanimous in victory

758). Paragon

Meaning: Model, good example, apotheosis, exemplar, paradigm, acme, shining example

Definition: a person or thing viewed as a model of excellence

Usage: Your cook is a paragon.

759). Aesthetic

Meaning: Connoisseur, genteel

Definition: concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty

Usage: The pictures give great aesthetic pleasure.

760). Gregarious

Meaning: sociable, social, companionable, clubbable, convivial

Definition: (of a person) fond of company; sociable

Usage: He was a popular and gregarious man.

761). Abandon

Meaning: Desert, Leave, cast aside,

Definition: cease to support or look after (someone); desert.

Usage: Her natural mother had abandoned her at an early age.

762). Patronage

Meaning: Sponsorship, backing, funding, promotion, support, guaranty, protection

Definition: the support given by a patron.

Usage: The arts could no longer depend on private patronage

763). Traverse

Meaning: cross, negotiate, cross, pass over.

Definition: travel across or through.

Usage: He traversed the forest

764). Recuperate

Meaning: get better, recover, convalesce, get back to normal

Definition: recover from illness or exertion

Usage: She has been recuperating from a knee injury.

765). Alms

Meaning: charity, bounty, subsidy, largesse, endowment

Definition: (in historical contexts) money or food given to poor people

Usage: The riders stopped to distribute alms.

766). Attenuate

Meaning: diminished, impaired, reduced, decreased

Definition: reduce the force, effect, or value of

Usage: Her intolerance was attenuated by an unexpected liberalism

767). Vindictive

Meaning: Vengeful, out for revenge, revengeful, avenging, unforgiving, implacable, bitter

Definition: having or showing a strong or unreasoning desire for revenge

Usage: The criticism was both vindictive and personalized

768). Discomfit

Meaning: embarrass, discomfort, unsettle, unnerve, upset, disturb, perturb, distress

Definition: make (someone) feel uneasy or embarrassed.

Usage: He was not noticeably discomfited by her tone.

769). Accusation

Meaning: allegation, charge, claim, asseveration, blame, criticism, complaint

Definition: a charge or claim that someone has done something illegal or wrong **Usage:** accusations of bribery.

770). Indict

Meaning: Charge with, arraign for, take to court for, put on trial for

Definition: formally accuse of or charge with a crime.

Usage: His former manager was indicted for fraud.

771). cacophony

Meaning: din, racket, noise, discord, dissonance, jarring, grating, rasping

Definition: A harsh discordant mixture of sounds

Usage: A cacophony of deafening alarm bells.

772). Brink

Meaning: edge, verge, margin, rim, lip

Definition: the extreme edge of land before a steep slope or a body of water.

Usage: The brink of the cliffs

773). Conscious

Meaning: aware, awake, compos mentis, alert, responsive, reactive, feeling, sentient

Definition: aware of and responding to one's surroundings.

Usage: Although I was in pain, I was conscious

774). Induct

Meaning: admit to, allow into, introduce to, install in,

Definition: admit (someone) formally to a post or organization

Usage: Arrangements for inducting new members to an organization

775). Perceive

Meaning: discern, recognize, tell, grasp, understand, deduce, conclude, sense, divine, intuit

Definition: become aware or conscious of (something); come to realize or understand

Usage: His mouth fell open as he perceived the truth

776). Emphasis

Meaning: Prominence, importance, significance

Definition: special importance, value, or prominence given to something

Usage: They placed great emphasis on the individual's freedom

777). Evident

Meaning: Obvious, apparent, noticeable, conspicuous, perceptible.

Definition: clearly seen or understood; obvious

Usage: She ate the biscuits with evident enjoyment

778). Impatient

Meaning: Irritate, annoyed, angry, testy, tetchy, snappy, cross, crabby, moody

Definition: having or showing a tendency to be quickly irritated or provoked

Usage: An impatient motorist blaring his horn.

779). Sonnet

Meaning: ballad, lyric

Definition: a poem of fourteen lines using any of a number of formal rhyme schemes, in English typically having ten syllables per line **Usage:** compose sonnets.

780). Mediocre

Meaning: ordinary, common, commonplace, average

Definition: of only average quality; not very good

Usage: He is an enthusiastic if mediocre painter.

781). Despicable

Meaning: Contemptible, loathsome, hateful, detestable, reprehensible, awful, heinous

Definition: deserving hatred and contempt.

Usage: A despicable crime.

782). Traumatize

Meaning: disturb, shock, bother, hurt, mortify, pain, upset

Definition: subject to lasting shock as a result of a disturbing experience or physical injury.

Usage: The children were traumatized by separation from their families

783). Atrocity

Meaning: iniquity, violation, crime, wrong, offence, affront, scandal, injustice.

Definition: an extremely wicked or cruel act, typically one involving physical violence or injury.

Usage: A textbook which detailed war atrocities

784). incalculable

Meaning: inestimable, untold, immeasurable, uncountable, indeterminable, incomputable

Definition: too great to be calculated or estimated

Usage: An archive of incalculable value.

785). Myopic

Meaning: unimaginative, uncreative, narrow-minded, short-term, small-mind

Definition: lacking foresight or intellectual insight

Usage: The government still has a myopic attitude to public spending.

786). Pertinent

Meaning: Relevant, apposite, appropriate, suitable, fitting, fit, apt, apropos

Definition: relevant or applicable to a particular matter; apposite

Usage: She asked me a lot of very pertinent questions

787). Unsavoury

Meaning: unpalatable, unappetizing, unpleasant, disagreeable, uninviting, unattractive

Definition: disagreeable to taste, smell, or look at

Usage: They looked at the scanty, unsavoury portions of food doled out to them

788). Perspective

Meaning: Outlook, view, viewpoint, point of view, standpoint, position, stand, attitude

Definition: a particular attitude towards or way of regarding something; a point of view.

Usage: Most guidebook history is written from the editor's perspective.

789). Rapture

Meaning: ecstasy, bliss, euphoria, exaltation, joy, transport, rhapsody, delight, pleasure

Definition: a feeling of intense pleasure or joy

Usage: Leonora listened with rapture.

790). Curse

Meaning: Execrate, imprecate, hoodoo

Definition: invoke or use a curse against.

Usage: It often seemed as if the family had been cursed.

791). Hinge

Meaning: depend, hang, rest, turn, pivot, centre, be conditional

Definition: attach or join with or as if with a hinge

Usage: The ironing board was set into the wall and hinged at the bottom.

792). Ballot

Meaning: Vote, poll, election, straw poll, plebiscite

Definition: a system of voting secretly and in writing on a particular issue.

Usage: A strike ballot

793). Disenchant

Meaning: disillusioned, disappointed, let down, fed up, discontented

Definition: cause (someone) to be disappointed

Usage: He may have been disenchanted by the loss of his huge following

794). Cohort

Meaning: unit, outfit, force

Definition: an ancient Roman military unit, comprising six centuries, equal to one tenth of a legion.

Usage: A cohort of civil servants patiently drafting legislation

795). Presumption

Meaning: brazenness, audacity, boldness, temerity, front, pertness, forwardness

Definition: behaviour perceived as arrogant, disrespectful, and transgressing the limits of what is permitted or appropriate

Usage: He lifted her off the ground, and she was enraged at his presumption.

796). Bigoted

Meaning: prejudiced, biased, partial, one-sided, sectarian, discriminatory

Definition: obstinately or unreasonably attached to a belief, opinion, or faction, and intolerant towards other people's beliefs and practices.

Usage: A bigoted group of reactionaries

797). persuade

Meaning: prevail on, induce, win someone over, coax, convince, make get

Definition: induce (someone) to do something through reasoning or argument.

Usage: It wasn't easy, but I persuaded him to do the right thing.

798). Persona

Meaning: image, face, public face, character, personality, identity, self

Definition: the aspect of someone's character that is presented to or perceived by others

Usage: Her public persona.

799). Astonish

Meaning: surprise, stagger, startle, stun, confound, dumbfound

Definition: surprise or impress (someone) greatly.

Usage: You never fail to astonish me.

800). Vicious

Meaning: brutal, savage, violent, dangerous, ruthless, heartless, callous, cruel

Definition: deliberately cruel or violent

Usage: A vicious assault.

801). Adherent

Meaning: follower, supporter, defender, advocate, disciple, votary, member, friend

Definition: someone who supports a particular party, person, or set of ideas

Usage: He was a strong adherent of monetarism.

802). Bystander

Meaning: onlooker, watcher, looker-on, passer-by, eyewitness

Definition: a person who is present at an event or incident but does not take part.

Usage: Water cannons were turned on marchers and innocent bystanders alike

803). Diligence

Meaning: assiduity, rigour, carefulness, conscientiousness, intentness

Definition: careful and persistent work or effort.

Usage: Few party members challenge his diligence as an MP

804). Eulogy

Meaning: accolade, panegyric, paean, encomium, tribute, testimonial

Definition: a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly, especially a tribute to someone who has just died.

Usage: A eulogy to the Queen Mother.

805). Flaccid

Meaning: soft, loose, flabby, yielding, slack, lax, toneless.

Definition: soft and hanging loosely or limply, especially so as to look or feel unpleasant.

Usage: She took his flaccid hand in hers.

806). Demise

Meaning: dying, death, passing, expiry, expiration, end

Definition: a person's death

Usage: Mr Grisenthwaite's tragic demise.

807). Delusion

Meaning: misapprehension, misconception, misleading, mistake, deception, misbelief

Definition: the action of deluding or the state of being deluded.

Usage: What a capacity television has for delusion.

808). Arbitrary

Meaning: capricious, whimsical, random, chance, erratic, unpredictable, wild, casual

Definition: based on random choice or personal whim rather than any reason or system. **Usage:** An arbitrary decision.

809). Cynical

Meaning: misanthropic, pessimistic

Definition: believing that people are motivated purely by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity.

Usage: He was brutally cynical and hardened to every sob story under the sun

810). Concise

Meaning: Succinct, short, brief, pithy, incisive, crisp.

Definition: giving a lot of information clearly and in a few words; brief but comprehensive.

Usage: A concise account of the country's history.

811). Spawned

Meaning: releases, deposit egg,

Definition: (of a fish, frog, mollusc, crustacean, etc.) release or deposit eggs

Usage: The fish spawn among fine-leaved plants.

812). Casuistry

Meaning: sophistry, sophism, chicanery, quibbling,

Definition: the use of clever but unsound reasoning, especially in relation to moral questions; sophistry.

Usage: The minister is engaging in nothing more or less than casuistry

813). Callous

Meaning: Heartless, unfeeling, uncaring, cold, hard, cruel, harsh

Definition: showing or having an insensitive and cruel disregard for others.

Usage: His callous comments about the murder made me shiver

814). Slovenly

Meaning: scruffy, untidy, messy, unkempt, slatternly, dishavelled, blowsy, down at heel

Definition: (especially of a person or their appearance) untidy and dirty

Usage: A fat, slovenly ex-rock star

815). Verbose

Meaning: wordy, loquacious, garrulous, talkative, voluble, orotund, expansive, babbling, prating

Definition: using or expressed in more words than are needed

Usage: Much academic language is obscure and verbose.

816). Mandate

Meaning: instruction, directive, direction, decree, command, order, injunction, edict, charge

Definition: an official order or commission to do something.

Usage: A mandate to seek the release of political prisoners

817). Smacks

Meaning: slap, blow, spank, cuff, clout, thump, punch, rap, swat, crack

Definition: a sharp slap or blow, typically one given with the palm of the hand.

Usage: She gave Mark a smack across the face.

818). Relentless

Meaning: persistent, continuing, constant, continual, non-stop, lasting, never-ending, steady

Definition: unceasingly intense

Usage: The relentless heat of the desert.

819). Crucify

Meaning: condemn, attack, tear apart, arraign, denounce, pillory, malign, revile, vilify

Definition: criticize (someone) severely and unrelentingly.

Usage: Our fans would crucify us if we lost.

820). Stringent

Meaning: strict, firm, rigid, rigorous, severe, harsh, tight, exacting, stiff

Definition: (of regulations, requirements, or conditions) strict, precise, and exacting

Usage: Stringent guidelines on air pollution.

821). Harness

Meaning: hitch up, put something, saddle, yoke, couple,

Definition: put a harness on (a horse or other draught animal)

Usage: How to groom a horse and harness it.

822). Burgeoning

Meaning: Expand, spring up, shoot up, mushroom, boom, multiply, snowball

Definition: begin to grow or increase rapidly; flourish.

Usage: Manufacturers are keen to cash in on the burgeoning demand

823). Quest

Meaning: Search, hunt, pursuit

Definition: a long or arduous search for something.

Usage: The quest for a reliable vaccine has intensified

824). Evolve

Meaning: develop, progress, make progress, spread, extend

Definition: develop gradually

Usage: The company has evolved into a major chemical manufacturer

825). Obsolete

Meaning: Out of date, outdated, outmoded

Definition: no longer produced or used; out of date

Usage: The disposal of old and obsolete machinery.

826). Affluent

Meaning: wealthy, rich, prosperous, opulent, well off, moneyed, comfortable

Definition: (especially of a group or area) having a great deal of money; wealthy.

Usage: The affluent societies of the western world

827). Relevant

Meaning: pertinent, applicable, apposite, material, apropos, to the point

Definition: closely connected or appropriate to the matter in hand.

Usage: What small companies need is relevant advice.

828). Woe

Meaning: misery, sorrow, distress, sadness, unhappiness, heartache

Definition: great sorrow or distress (often used hyperbolically)

Usage: The Everton tale of woe continued.

829). Multitude

Meaning: army, sea, abundance, profusion, host, horde, mass

Definition: a large number of people or things.

Usage: A multitude of medical conditions are due to being overweight.

830). Herald

Meaning: single, indicate, announce, point to, spell, presage, augur, portent, promise

Definition: be a sign that (something) is about to happen

Usage: The speech heralded a change in policy.

831). Brevity

Meaning: Conciseness, concision, pith, briefness, shortness, compression, crispness

Definition: concise and exact use of words in writing or speech

Usage: The staff will edit manuscripts with a view to brevity and clarity.

832). Feeble

Meaning: Weak, weakly, puny, infirm, delicate, sickly, ailing, failing, helpless, powerless

Definition: lacking physical strength, especially as a result of age or illness.

Usage: By now, he was too feeble to leave his room

833). Miserable

Meaning: Unhappy, sad, dejected, depressed, downcast, downhearted, glum, gloomy, blue, forlorn

Definition: (of a person) wretchedly unhappy or uncomfortable

Usage: Their happiness made Anne feel even more miserable

834). Scanty

Meaning: meagre, scant, minimal, limited, modest, restricted, sparse

Definition: small or insufficient in quantity or amount.

Usage: They paid whatever they could out of their scanty wages to their families

835). Brutal

Meaning: savage, cruel, bloodthirsty, vicious, barbaric, wicked, harsh

Definition: savagely violent

Usage: A brutal murder.

836). Filthy

Meaning: dirty, mucky, grimy, muddy, murky, slimy, unclean

Definition: disgustingly dirty.

Usage: A filthy hospital with no sanitation

837). Combat

Meaning: battle, fighting, action, conflict, armed conflict, war, warfare

Definition: fighting between armed forces.

Usage: Five Hurricanes were shot down in combat.

838). Obstinate

Meaning: Stubborn, headstrong, wilful, unyielding, inflexible, dogged, inexorable

Definition: stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or chosen course of action, despite attempts to persuade one to do so

Usage: Her obstinate determination to pursue a career in radio.

839). Eloquent

Meaning: persuasive, expressive, articulate, fluent

Definition: fluent or persuasive in speaking or writing.

Usage: An eloquent speech.

840). Impetuous

Meaning: impulsive, rash, hasty, reckless, heedless, foolhardy, injudicious, unthinking

Definition: acting or done quickly and without thought or care

Usage: She might live to rue this impetuous decision.

841). Ballast

Meaning: Heavy material, sand, iron

Definition: heavy material, such as gravel, sand, or iron, placed in the bilge of a ship to ensure its stability

Usage: The hull had insufficient ballast.

842). Deceit

Meaning: deception, duplicity, fraud, craft, chicanery, guile, simulation, lying, bluff

Definition: the use of clever but unsound reasoning, especially in relation to moral questions; sophistry.

Usage: The minister is engaging in nothing more or less than casuistry

843). Synthetic

Meaning: artificial, fake, false, faux, imitation, mock, simulated, ersatz

Definition: (of a substance) made by chemical synthesis, especially to imitate a natural product.

Usage: Synthetic rubber

844). Cohesive

Meaning: adhesive, united

Definition: characterized by or causing cohesion

Usage: Each parish was formerly a cohesive unit

845). Wane

Meaning: disappear, decrease, diminish, dwindle

Definition: (of the moon) have a progressively smaller part of its visible surface illuminated, so that it appears to decrease in size

Usage: The moon is waning.

846). Foster

Meaning: Encourage, promote, further, stimulate, forward, cultivate

Definition: encourage the development of (something, especially something desirable)..

Usage: The teacher's task is to foster learning

847). Swift

Meaning: prompt, rapid, sudden, immediate, instant, without delay

Definition: happening quickly or promptly

Usage: A remarkably swift recovery.

848). Formidable

Meaning: intimidation, forbidding, redoubtable, daunting, alarming, frightening, brooding, awesome, fearsome

Definition: inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable

Usage: A formidable opponent

849). Emphatic

Meaning: vehement, firm, forceful, forcible, energetic, vigorous, ardent

Definition: expressing something forcibly and clearly.

Usage: The children were emphatic that they would like to repeat the experience.

850). Drastic

Meaning: extreme, serious, forceful, dire, radical, substantial

Definition: likely to have a strong or far-reaching effect; radical and extreme

Usage: A drastic reduction of staffing levels.

851). Abstain

Meaning: Not vote, decline/refuse to vote

Definition: formally decline to vote either for or against a proposal or motion

Usage: Forty-one voted with the Opposition, and some sixty more abstained.

852). Adulterate

Meaning: Make impure, degrade, debase, spoil, taint, defile, foul, sully

Definition: render (something) poorer in quality by adding another substance.

Usage: The brewer is said to adulterate his beer

853). Laconic

Meaning: brief, terse, succinct, shot, economical, elliptical, crisp, pithy

Definition: (of a substance) made by chemical synthesis, especially to imitate a natural product.

Usage: Synthetic rubber

854). Capricious

Meaning: fickle, inconstant, changeable, variable, unstable, mercurial, volatile

Definition: given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behaviour

Usage: A capricious and often brutal administration

855). Laudable

Meaning: estimable, of note, worthy, admirable, commendable, deserving, reputable

Definition: (of an action, idea, or aim) deserving praise and commendation

Usage: Laudable though the aim might be, the results have been criticized

856). Corroborate

Meaning: confirm, verify, endorse, ratify, validate, certify

Definition: confirm or give support to (a statement, theory, or finding).

Usage: The witness had corroborated the boy's account of the attack

857). Desiccate

Meaning: dried, dried up, dry, powered

Definition: remove the moisture from (something), typically in order to preserve it

Usage: Desiccated coconut.

858). Pedant

Meaning: purist, formalist, doctrinaire, dogmatist

Definition: a person who is excessively concerned with minor details and rules or with displaying academic learning

Usage: The royal palace (some pedants would say the ex-royal palace)

859). Engender

Meaning: Cause, create, generate, rouse, incite, provoke, kindle, trigger, effect

Definition: cause or give rise to (a feeling, situation, or condition).

Usage: The issue engendered continuing controversy.

860). Gullible

Meaning: credulous, trustful, naïve, innocent, unwary, simple

Definition: easily persuaded to believe something; credulous

Usage: An attempt to persuade a gullible public to spend their money.

861). Vacillate

Meaning: Dither, be indecisive, hesitate, oscillate, waver, teeter, temporize

Definition: waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive

Usage: I vacillated between teaching and journalism.

862). Mitigate

Meaning: reduce, diminish, lessen, weaken, lighten, damp, dull, appease, soothe, still, quell, quiet,

Definition: make (something bad) less severe, serious, or painful.

Usage: Drainage schemes have helped to mitigate this problem

863). Propriety

Meaning: decorum, modesty, civility, courtesy, politeness

Definition: conformity to conventionally accepted standards of behavior or morals.

Usage: He always behaved with the utmost propriety

864). Volatile

Meaning: tense, strained, fraught, uneasy, charged, explosive, turbulent

Definition: liable to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse

Usage: The political situation was becoming more volatile

865). Malleable

Meaning: pliable, ductile, soft, workable

Definition: (of a metal or other material) able to be hammered or pressed into shape without breaking or cracking.

Usage: A malleable metal can be beaten into a sheet

866). Ostentation

Meaning: showiness, show, showing off,

Definition: the pretentious or showy display of wealth and luxury, designed to impress

Usage: The office was spacious, but without any trace of ostentation

867). Philanthropist

Meaning: benefactor, donor, backer, helper, patron

Definition: a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others, especially by the generous donation of money to good causes

Usage: The trust was founded by an American philanthropist.

868). Enervate

Meaning: exhaust, tire, weary, drain, sap, weaken, enfeeble, indisposed

Definition: make (someone) feel drained of energy or vitality

Usage: Enervating heat.

869). Eulogy

Meaning: Accolade, panegyric, paean, tribute

Definition: a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly, especially a tribute to someone who has just died

Usage: A eulogy to the Queen Mother.

870). Garrulous

Meaning: talkative, voluble, long-winded, chatty, expansive

Definition: excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters

Usage: A garrulous cab driver.

871). Extirpate

Meaning: Weed out, eradicate, stamp out, root out, eliminate, suppress

Definition: eradicate or destroy completely

Usage: Timber wolves were extirpated from New England more than a century ago.

872). Mirth

Meaning: merriment, high spirits, levity, revelry, fun, enjoyment, jollity

Definition: amusement, especially as expressed in laughter.

Usage: His six-foot frame shook with mirth

873). Sagacious

Meaning: wise, clever, intelligent, knowledgeable, sensible

Definition: having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgement; wise or shrewd

Usage: They were sagacious enough to avoid any outright confrontation

874). Sabbatical

Meaning: furlough, leave of absence, recess, time off, break, holiday, liberty, vacation

Definition: a period of paid leave granted to a university teacher for study or travel, traditionally one year for every seven years worked **Usage:** She's away on sabbatical

875). Seemly

Meaning: decorous, proper, becoming, fitting, suitable, apt

Definition: conforming to accepted notions of propriety or good taste; decorous

Usage: I felt it was not seemly to observe too closely.

876). Shrew

Meaning: virago, dragon, vixen, cat, fishwife, witch, hellcat, she-devil

Definition: a bad-tempered or aggressively assertive woman.

Usage: The girls became shrews and harridans

877). Hegemony

Meaning: Leadership, dominance, dominion, supremacy, ascendancy, power, control, mastery

Definition: leadership or dominance, especially by one state or social group over others.

Usage: Germany was united under Prussian hegemony after 1871.

878). Sadistic

Meaning: callous, barbarous, bestial, vicious, brutal, cruel, savage, cold-blooded, inhuman, ruthless, heartless

Definition: deriving pleasure from inflicting pain, suffering, or humiliation on others

Usage: She took a sadistic pleasure in tormenting him.

879). Facile

Meaning: simplistic, superficial, over simple, schematic, black and white

Definition: ignoring the true complexities of an issue; superficial.

Usage: Facile generalizations.

880). Quack

Meaning: swindler, charlatan, rogue, villain, fraud, trickster

Definition: a person who dishonestly claims to have special knowledge and skill in some field, typically medicine.

Usage: A quack doctor.

881). Reckoning

Meaning: calculation, estimation, computation, working out, summation

Definition: the action or process of calculating or estimating something.

Usage: The sixth, or by another reckoning eleventh, Earl of Mar.

882). Preacher

Meaning: Minister (of religion), parson, clergyman, clergywoman, apostle, missionary, gospeller

Definition: a person who preaches, especially a minister of religion.

Usage: To preach the Truth to the face of Falsehood!

883). acquisition

Meaning: purchase, accession, addition, asset,

Definition: an asset or object bought or obtained, typically by a library or museum.

Usage: The legacy will be used for new acquisitions

884). Anxiety

Meaning: worry, concern, apprehension, fear, tension, suspense

Definition: a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome **Usage:** He felt a surge of anxiety.

885). Jeopardize

Meaning: threaten, endanger, imperil, menace, risk

Definition: put (someone or something) into a situation in which there is a danger of loss, harm, or failure

Usage: A devaluation of the dollar would jeopardize New York's position as a financial centre.

886). Oppressive

Meaning: Harsh, cruel, repressive, tyrannical, autocratic, dictatorial

Definition: inflicting harsh and authoritarian treatment.

Usage: An oppressive dictatorship.

887). Deplorable

Meaning: disgraceful, shameful, unpardonable, unforgivable

Definition: deserving strong condemnation; completely unacceptable.

Usage: Children living in deplorable conditions.

888). Contingent

Meaning: Chance, accidental, fortuitous, possible, unforeseen

Definition: subject to chance..

Usage: The contingent nature of the job.

889). Barricade

Meaning: Blockade, obstruct, closeup, bar, block off, fortify

Definition: block or defend with a barricade.

Usage: They barricaded the building and occupied it all night.

890). Reiterate

Meaning: repeat, say again, retell, iterate, harp on, dwell on

Definition: say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity.

Usage: She reiterated that the government would remain steadfast in its support.

891). Authentic

Meaning: Genuine, original, real, actual, pukka, bona fide, ture, veritable

Definition: of undisputed origin and not a copy; genuine.

Usage: The letter is now accepted as an authentic document.

892). Predilection

Meaning: Liking, fondness, preference, partially, taste, penchant, weakness, leaning, bias, love

Definition: a preference or special liking for something; a bias in favour of something.

Usage: Your predilection for pretty girls.

893). Devout

Meaning: pious, religious, devoted, dedicated, reverent, believing, godly

Definition: having or showing deep religious feeling or commitment.

Usage: She was a devout Catholic

894). Inadvertently

Meaning: accidentally, by accident, unwittingly

Definition: without intention; accidentally

Usage: His name had been inadvertently omitted from the list.

895). Lunacy

Meaning: insanity, madness, mental illness, dementia, mania, frenzy

Definition: the state of being a lunatic; insanity (not in technical use).

Usage: It has been suggested that originality demands a degree of lunacy.

896). Reprimand

Meaning: rebuke, reproof, admonition, reproach, reproof, scolding

Definition: a formal expression of disapproval. **Usage:** The golfer received a reprimand for a breach of rules.

897). Endeavour

Meaning: try, attempt, venture, undertake, aspire, aim

Definition: try hard to do or achieve something.

Usage: He is endeavouring to help the Third World.

898). Blunt

Meaning: Not sharp, unsharpened, dull, worn, edgeless

Definition: (of a cutting implement) not having a sharp edge or point.

Usage: A blunt knife.

899). Prerogative

Meaning: entitlement, right, privilege, advantage, due, birthright

Definition: a right or privilege exclusive to a particular individual or class.

Usage: In some countries, higher education is predominantly the prerogative of the rich.

900). Sycophant

Meaning: toady, creep, crawler, fawner, flatterer, flunkey, truckler, groveller, minion,

Definition: a person who acts obsequiously towards someone important in order to gain advantage.

Usage: My sister is a shallow sycophant who will flatter anyone for a free designer handbag.

901). Agile

Meaning: nimble, lithe, supple, light-footed, graceful

Definition: able to move quickly and easily.

Usage: Ruth was as agile as a monkey.

902). Bewilder

Meaning: Baffle, mystify, puzzle, confuse, confound, nonplus,

Definition: cause (someone) to become perplexed and confused.

Usage: She was bewildered by his sudden change of mood

903). Garner

Meaning: gather, collect, assemble

Definition: gather or collect (something, especially information or approval).

Usage: The police struggled to garner sufficient evidence

904). Remorse

Meaning: contrition, deep regret, repentance, penitence, guilt, feeling of guilt

Definition: deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed

Usage: They were filled with remorse and shame

905). Antsy

Meaning: Agitated, impatient, restless

Definition: the state of being restless or anxious

Usage: Being a complete introvert, Henry is shy and gets antsy when he has to speak to a girl.

906). Audacity

Meaning: daring, boldness, fearlessness, intrepidity, courage, heroism, pluck

Definition: a willingness to take bold risks.

Usage: He whistled at the sheer audacity of the plan.

907). Unceremonious

Meaning: abrupt, sudden, hasty, summary, rude, offhand

Definition: having or showing a lack of courtesy; rough or abrupt.

Usage: He was known for his strong views and unceremonious manners.

908). Complacent

Meaning: smug, self-satisfied, pleased with oneself, proud of oneself

Definition: showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements

Usage: You can't afford to be complacent about security.

909). Expedite

Meaning: Speed up, accelerate, hurry, hasten, step up, quicken, rush

Definition: make (an action or process) happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly.

Usage: He promised to expedite economic reforms.

910). Superficial

Meaning: Surface, exterior, external, outer, outside, outermost, slight

Definition: existing or occurring at or on the surface.
Usage: The building suffered only superficial damage.

911). Anomaly

Meaning: Oddity, peculiarity, irregularity, inconsistency, incongruity, quirk

Definition: something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected

Usage: There are a number of anomalies in the present system

912). Equivocal

Meaning: hazy, foggy, vague, indefinite, inexplicit, nebulous, borderline

Definition: (of a person) using ambiguous or evasive language

Usage: The equivocal nature of her remarks

913). Lucid

Meaning: cogent, coherent, communicative, articulate, eloquent

Definition: expressed clearly; easy to understand

Usage: A lucid account

914). Precipitate

Meaning: bring about, cause, lead to, occasion, trigger, provoke, hasten

Definition: (cause (an event or situation, typically one that is undesirable) to happen suddenly, unexpectedly, or prematurely

Usage: The incident precipitated a political crisis

915). Assuage

Meaning: relieve, ease, alleviate, soothe, calm, reduce, lower, dilute

Definition: make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense

Usage: The letter assuaged the fears of most members

916). Erudite

Meaning: Learned, scholarly, well educated, well read, civilized

Definition: having or showing great knowledge or learning

Usage: Ken could turn any conversation into an erudite discussion

917). Antipathy

Meaning: hostility, antagonism, aversion, animus, opposition, enmity, hate, loathing
Definition: a deep-seated feeling of aversion

Usage: His fundamental antipathy to capitalism

918). Opaque

Meaning: Non-transparent, cloudy, filmy, blurred, misty, dirty, dingy

Definition: not able to be seen through; not transparent

Usage: Bottles filled with a pale opaque liquid

919). Bolster

Meaning: Pillow, cushion, pad, support, rest

Definition: a long, thick pillow that is placed under other pillows for support

Usage: The fall in interest rates is starting to bolster confidence

920). Deride

Meaning: ridicule, mock, jeer at, scoff at, make fun of, pillory

Definition: express contempt for; ridicule

Usage: The decision was derided by environmentalists

921). Recede

Meaning: retreat, go back, move back, move away

Definition: go or move back or further away from a previous position

Usage: The floodwaters had receded.

922). Critical

Meaning: censorious, condemnatory, scathing, criticizing, disapproving, negative

Definition: expressing adverse or disapproving comments or judgements.

Usage: I was very critical of the previous regime.

923). Prominent

Meaning: Important, well known, leading, noted, public, foremost, big, top, great, famed

Definition: important; famous.

Usage: She was a prominent member of the city council.

924). Gullible

Meaning: credulous, innocent, simple, unsceptical, unworldly, ignorant

Definition: easily persuaded to believe something; credulous.

Usage: An attempt to persuade a gullible public to spend their money.

925). Forgoing

Meaning: do without, go without, give up, surrender, eschew

Definition: go without (something desirable).

Usage: She wanted to forgo the tea and leave while they could.

926). Gauge

Meaning: measure, calculate, compute, work out, determine, ascertain

Definition: estimate or determine the amount, level, or volume of.

Usage: Astronomers can gauge the star's intrinsic brightness.

927). Incipient

Meaning: developing, impending, growing, emerging, emergent, dawning

Definition: (of a person) developing into a specified type or role.

Usage: We seemed more like friends than incipient lovers.

928). Malevolent

Meaning: malicious, spiteful, hostile, evil-minded, baleful, bitter

Definition: having or showing a wish to do evil to others.

Usage: The glint of dark, malevolent eyes.

929). Proposition

Meaning: theory, hypothesis, thesis, argument, premise, postulation, theorem, concept, idea, statement

Definition: a statement or assertion that expresses a judgement or opinion.

Usage: The proposition that high taxation is undesirable.

930). Soar

Meaning: fly up, wing, wing its way

Definition: fly or rise high in the air.

Usage: The bird spread its wings and soared into the air.

931). Jubilation

Meaning: Exultation, Joy, elation, glee, triumph

Definition: a feeling of great happiness and triumph.

Usage: Unbelievable scenes of jubilation.

932). Plummet

Meaning: Plunge, fall headlong, hurtle, dive, drop, crash, nosedive

Definition: fall or drop straight down at high speed.

Usage: A climber was killed when he plummeted 300 feet down an icy gully.

933). Unscrupulous

Meaning: unprincipled, unethical, immoral, amoral, sly, bad, improper, wicked, sinful,

Definition: having or showing no moral principles; not honest or fair

Usage: Unscrupulous landlords might be tempted to harass existing tenants.

934). Unpalatable

Meaning: disagreeable, unpleasant, displeasing, unattractive, regrettable, unwelcome, nasty, horrible

Definition: difficult to put up with or accept

Usage: The unpalatable fact that many of the world's people are starving.

935). Substantial

Meaning: Considerable, real, material, weighty, solid, sizeable, meaningful, Major, marked, useful

Definition: of considerable importance, size, or worth. **Usage:** A substantial amount of cash.

936). Exacerbate

Meaning: Aggravate, make worse, worsen, inflame, compound

Definition: make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse.

Usage: Rising inflation was exacerbated by the collapse of oil prices.

937). Empirical

Meaning: Observed, seen, factual, actual, real, first-hand

Definition: based on, concerned with, or verifiable by observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic.

Usage: They provided considerable empirical evidence to support their argument.

938). Rigour

Meaning: accuracy, correctness, exactitude, diligence, carefulness, exactness

Definition: the quality of being extremely thorough and careful.

Usage: His analysis is lacking in rigour.

939). Inexorable

Meaning: relentless, unstoppable, inevitable, inescapable

Definition: impossible to stop or prevent.

Usage: The seemingly inexorable march of new technology.

940). Lackluster

Meaning: Dry, flat, lifeless, tame, tired, colourless, dull

Definition: lacking in vitality, force, or conviction; uninspired or uninspiring.

Usage: No excuses were made for the team's lackluster performance.

941). Leniency

Meaning: mercifulness, mercy, clemency, lenity, forgiveness

Definition: The fact or quality of being more merciful or tolerant than expected; clemency. **Usage:** The court could show leniency.

942). Reluctant

Meaning: Unwilling, disinclined, grudging, resisting, opposed

Definition: unwilling and hesitant; disinclined.

Usage: She seemed reluctant to answer.

943). Curb

Meaning: Restraint, restriction, check, brake, rein, control, limit

Definition: a check or restraint on something.

Usage: Plans to introduce tougher curbs on insider dealing.

944). Frustrate

Meaning: defeat, foil, block, stop, counter, spoil, check, dash, crush

Definition: prevent (a plan or attempted action) from progressing, succeeding, or being fulfilled

Usage: The rescue attempt was frustrated by bad weather.

945). Enact

Meaning: make law, pass, approve, ratify, validate, sanction, authorize, accept

Definition: make (a bill or other proposal) law.

Usage: legislation was enacted to attract international companies.

946). Betray

Meaning: break one's promise to, be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, break faith with, play someone false, fail, let down

Definition: expose (one's country, a group, or a person) to danger by treacherously giving information to an enemy.

Usage: A double agent who betrayed some 400 British and French agents to the Germans.

947). Alleviate

Meaning: Reduce, quiet, relieve, dilute, modify, moderate

Definition: make (suffering, deficiency, or a problem) less severe.

Usage: He couldn't prevent her pain, only alleviate it.

948). Tangible

Meaning: touchable, palpable, tactile, material, physical, real, substantial **Definition:** perceptible by touch.

Usage: the atmosphere of neglect and abandonment was almost tangible.

949). Demonstrate

Meaning: reveal, bespeak, indicate, signify, signal, denote, show, display

Definition: clearly show the existence or truth of (something) by giving proof or evidence.

Usage: Their shameful silence demonstrates their ineptitude.

950). Narrate

Meaning: tell, relate, report, relay, retail, detail, unfold

Definition: give a spoken or written account of.

Usage: The story is narrated by the heroine.

951). Recede

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Definition: a statement or assertion that expresses a judgement or opinion.

Usage: The proposition that high taxation is undesirable.

960). Soar

Meaning: fly up, wing, wing its way

Definition: fly or rise high in the air.

Usage: The bird spread its wings and soared into the air.

961). Brutalize

Meaning: attack, abuse, assault, beat, thump, pummel, pound

Definition: treat (someone) in a savage and violent way

Usage: They brutalize and torture persons in their custody.

962). Cantankerous

Meaning: irritable, cross, fraction, testy, touchy

Definition: bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative.

Usage: He can be a cantankerous old fossil at times.

963). Obstacle

Meaning: Barrier, hurdle, stumbling block, bar, block, problem, deterrent, handicap

Definition: a thing that blocks one's way or prevents or hinders progress.

Usage: The major obstacle to achieving that goal is money.

964). Trite

Meaning: hackneyed, banal, cliched, vapid, ordinary

Definition: (of a remark or idea) lacking originality or freshness; dull on account of overuse.

Usage: This point may now seem obvious and trite.

965). Derision

Meaning: Mockery, ridicule, jeering, sneers, scoffing

Definition: contemptuous ridicule or mockery.

Usage: My stories were greeted with derision and disbelief.

966). Meandering

Meaning: winding, windy, zigzag, turning, curving, twisting, snaky

Definition: following a winding course.

Usage: Meandering rivers flow at vastly different rates.

967). Fervent

Meaning: impassioned, intense, ardent, sincere, feeling, heartfelt

Definition: having or displaying a passionate intensity.

Usage: A fervent supporter of the revolution.

968). Florid

Meaning: ruby, red, rosy, red faced, pinkish

Definition: having a red or flushed complexion.

Usage: A stout man with a florid face.

969). Unanimity

Meaning: agreement, accord, concord, unity, union, solidarity

Definition: agreement by all people involved; consensus.

Usage: There is almost complete unanimity on this issue.

970). Vice

Meaning: immorality, wrong, badness, wickedness, evil, impurity

Definition: immoral or wicked behaviour.

Usage: An open sewer of vice and crime.

971). Disputable

Meaning: debatable, open to debate, Open to discussion, open to question, doubtful

Definition: not established as a fact, and so open to question or debate.

Usage: whether it can be described as art criticism may be disputable.

972). Reveal

Meaning: Open up, tell, bring out, disclose, release, leak

Definition: make (previously unknown or secret information) known to others.

Usage: Brenda was forced to reveal Robbie's whereabouts.

973). Deliberate

Meaning: Intentional, calculated, meant, prearranged, studied, done on purpose

Definition: done consciously and intentionally.

Usage: A deliberate attempt to provoke conflict.

974). Stimulate

Meaning: Tonic, restorative, bracing, refreshing

Definition: raise levels of physiological or nervous activity in (the body or any biological system).

Usage: The women are given fertility drugs to stimulate their ovaries.

975). Perilous

Meaning: Dangerous, hazardous, fraught with danger

Definition: full of danger or risk.

Usage: She a perilous journey south.

976). Jubilant

Meaning: Overjoyed, exultant, joyful, gleeful, thrilled

Definition: feeling or expressing great happiness and triumph.

Usage: A large number of jubilant fans ran on to the pitch.

977). Arraign

Meaning: Criticize, censure, attack, condemn, reprove, berate, find fault with

Definition: call or bring (someone) before a court to answer a criminal charge.

Usage: Her sister was arraigned on charges of attempted murder.

978). Accomplice

Meaning: Abettor, associate, collaborator

Definition: a person who helps another commit a crime.

Usage: An accomplice in the murder.

979). Meticulous

Meaning: careful, exacting, demanding, accurate, correct

Definition: showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise.

Usage: The designs are hand-glazed with meticulous care.

980). Accord

Meaning: Give, grant, tender, award, present, hand, yield

Definition: give or grant someone (power, status, or recognition).

Usage: The powers accorded to the head of state.

981). Ascent

Meaning: climb, scaling, scramble, clamber

Definition: a climb or walk to the summit of a mountain or hill.

Usage: The first ascent of the Matterhorn.

982). Eulogy

Meaning: Accolade, paean, tribute, compliment, commendation

Definition: a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly, especially a tribute to someone who has just died.

Usage: A eulogy to the Queen Mother.

983). Hyperbole

Meaning: Overstatement, magnification, embroidery, excess, overkill, overplaying

Definition: exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally

Usage: He vowed revenge with oaths and hyperboles.

984). Mammoth

Meaning: Huge, enormous, giant, massive, towering, titanic, epic, massive, vast

Definition: huge

Usage: A mammoth corporation.

985). Amalgamate

Meaning: Combine, merge, unite, integrate, fuse, blend, mix, incorporate

Definition: combine or unite to form one organization or structure.

Usage: He amalgamated his company with another.

986). Influx

Meaning: in rush, rush, stream, flood, ingress

Definition: an arrival or entry of large numbers of people or things.

Usage: A massive influx of tourists.

987). Impeccable

Meaning: flawless, spotless, stainless, perfect, ideal, model

Definition: in accordance with the highest standards; faultless.

Usage: He had impeccable manners.

988). Zenith

Meaning: Highest point, crowning point, height, top, peak, climax, maximum, flower

Definition: the time at which something is most powerful or successful.

Usage: In 1977, punk was at its zenith.

989). Orderly

Meaning: neat, trim, well kept, straight, tidy

Definition: neatly and methodically arranged.

Usage: An orderly arrangement of objects.

990). Endorse

Meaning: autograph, initial, superscribe, inscribe, countersign

Definition: declare one's public approval or support of.

Usage: The report was endorsed by the college.

991). Ailment

Meaning: illness, disease, sickness

Definition: an illness, typically a minor one.

Usage: We spend more on almost any article of bodily ailment than on our mental ailment.

992). Contaminated

Meaning: pollute, corrupt, infect

Definition: make (something) impure by exposure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance.

Usage: The site was found to be contaminated by radioactivity

993). Largesse

Meaning: liberality, bounty, generosity

Definition: Generosity in bestowing money or gifts upon others

Usage: Presumably public money is not dispensed with such largesse to anyone else

994). Flee

Meaning: run, escape, take off

Definition: Run away from a place or situation of danger

Usage: To escape the fighting, his family fled from their village

995). Outrage

Meaning: indignation, fury, anger

Definition: An extremely strong reaction of anger, shock, or indignation

Usage: Her voice trembled with outrage

996). Groom

Meaning: curry, brush, comb

Definition: Brush and clean the coat of (a horse, dog, or other animal)

Usage: The horses were groomed and taken to shows

997). Litigation

Meaning: case, legal proceeding, legal dispute

Definition: The process of taking legal action

Usage: The company wishes to avoid litigation

998). Trajectory

Meaning: course, route, path

Definition: The path followed by a projectile flying or an object moving under the action of given forces

Usage: The missile's trajectory was preset

999). Agitation

Meaning: anxiety, perturbation, disquiet, distress

Definition: A state of anxiety or nervous excitement

Usage: She was wringing her hands in agitation

1000). Premises

Meaning: property, site, place

Definition: A house or building, together with its land and outbuildings, occupied by a business or considered in an official context

Usage: The company has moved to new premises

Vocabulary Top 1000 With Meaning and Sentence

The top 1,000 vocabulary words have been carefully chosen to represent difficult but common words that appear in everyday academic and business writing.

To create this list, we started with the words that give our users the most trouble and then ranked them by how frequently they appear in our corpus of billions of words from edited sources. If you only have time to study one list of words, this is the list.

1. consider

deem to be

At the moment, artemisinin-based therapies are **considered** the best treatment, but cost about \$10 per dose - far too much for impoverished communities. [Seattle Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#).

2. minute

infinitely or immeasurably small

The **minute** stain on the document was not visible to the naked eye.

3. accord

concurrence of opinion

The committee worked in **accord** on the bill, and it eventually passed.

4. evident

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment

That confidence was certainly **evident** in the way Smith handled the winning play with 14 seconds left on the clock.

5. practice

a customary way of operation or behavior

He directed and acted in plays every season and became known for exploring Elizabethan theatre **practices**.

6. intend

have in mind as a purpose

“Lipstick, as a product **intended** for topical use with limited absorption, is ingested only in very small quantities,” the agency said on its website.

7. concern

something that interests you because it is important

The scandal broke out in October after former chief executive Michael Woodford claimed he was fired for raising **concerns** about the company's accounting practices.

8. commit

perform an act, usually with a negative connotation

In an unprecedented front page article in 2003 The Times reported that Mr. Blair, a young reporter on its staff, had **committed** journalistic fraud. New York Times (Feb 15, 2012)

9. issue

some situation or event that is thought about

As a result, the privacy **issues** surrounding mobile computing are becoming ever-more complex.

10. approach

move towards

Spain's jobless rate for people ages 16 to 24 is **approaching** 50 percent. New York Times (Feb 15, 2012)

11. establish

set up or found

A small French colony, Port Louis, was **established** on East Falkland in 1764 and handed to the Spanish three years later.

12. utter

without qualification

No one can blame an honest mechanic for holding a wealthy snob in **utter** contempt. Ingersoll, Robert Green

13. conduct

direct the course of; manage or control

Scientists have been **conducting** studies of individual genes for years.

14. engage

consume all of one's attention or time

We had nearly two hundred passengers, who were seated about on the sofas, reading, or playing games, or **engaged** in conversation. Field, Henry M. (Henry Martyn)

15. obtain

come into possession of

He delayed making the unclassified report public while awaiting an Army review, but Rolling Stone magazine **obtained** the report and posted it Friday night. New York Times (Feb 11, 2012)

16. scarce

deficient in quantity or number compared with the demand

Meanwhile, heating oil could grow more **scarce** in the Northeast this winter, the Energy Department warned last month. New York Times (Jan 21, 2012)

17. policy

a plan of action adopted by an individual or social group

Inflation has lagged behind the central bank's 2 percent target, giving **policy** makers extra scope to cut rates.

18. straight

successive, without a break

After three **straight** losing seasons, Hoosiers fans were just hoping for a winning record. Seattle Times (Feb 15, 2012)

19. stock

capital raised by a corporation through the issue of shares

In other words, Apple's **stock** is cheap, and you should buy it. Forbes (Feb 16, 2012)

20. apparent

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment

But the elderly creak is beginning to become **apparent** in McCartney's voice.

21. property

a basic or essential attribute shared by members of a class

Owing to these magic **properties**, it was often planted near dwellings to keep away evil spirits. Parsons, Mary Elizabeth

22. fancy

imagine; conceive of; see in one's mind

For a time, indeed, he had **fancied** that things were changed. Weyman, Stanley J.

23. concept

an abstract or general idea inferred from specific instances

As a psychologist, I have always found the **concept** of speed dating fascinating. Scientific American (Feb 13, 2012)

24. appoint

assign a duty, responsibility, or obligation to

In 1863 he was **appointed** by the general assembly professor of oriental languages at New College. Various

25. passage

a section of text, particularly a section of medium length

His interpretation of many obscure scriptural **passages** by means of native manners and customs and traditions is particularly helpful and informing. Sheets, Emily Churchill Thompson

26. vain

unproductive of success

An attempt was made to ignore this brilliant and irregular book, but in **vain**; it was read all over Europe. Various

27. instance

an occurrence of something

In many **instances** large districts or towns would have fewer representatives than smaller ones, or perhaps none at all. Clarke, Helen Archibald

28. project

a planned undertaking

The funds are aimed at helping build public **projects** including mass transit, electricity networks, water utility and ports, it said.

29. circumstances

one's overall condition in life

The **circumstances** leading up to the shootings was not immediately available.

30. constitute

compose or represent

Oil and natural gas **constituted** almost 50 percent of Russian government revenue last year.

31. affect

have an influence upon

The central bank will start distributing low-interest loans in early March to individuals and small- and medium-sized companies **affected** by the flooding.

32. institute

set up or lay the groundwork for

Corporations have to be more and more focused on **instituting** higher labor standards. Washington Post (Feb 7, 2012)

33. render

give an interpretation of

But authorities had **rendered** the weapon and the explosive device inoperable, officials said. Chicago Tribune (Feb 17, 2012)

34. appeal

be attractive to

To get traditional women's accessories to **appeal** to men, some designers are giving them manly names and styles. New York Times (Feb 19, 2012)

35. generate

bring into existence

Qualities such as these are not **generated** under bad working practices of any sort. Hungerford, Edward

36. theory

a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the world

Testing that **theory** begins Saturday night, as the Capitals take on Tampa Bay in another important contest. Washington Post (Feb 18, 2012)

37. range

a variety of different things or activities

Like American community colleges, admission at an open university is not competitive, but the schools offer a **range** of programs, including doctoral degrees.

38. league

an association of sports teams that organizes matches

"When I broke into the big **leagues** until a month ago, Gary kept in touch," Mets third baseman David Wright said. Seattle Times (Feb 17, 2012)

39. labor

any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted

More **labor** is entailed, more time is required, greater delay is occasioned in cleaning up, and the amount of water used is much greater. Hoskin, Arthur J.

40. confer

have a meeting in order to talk something over

Ms. Stewart said Mrs. Bachmann **conferred** with her family and a few aides after her disappointing showing on Tuesday evening. New York Times (Jan 4, 2012)

41. grant
allow to have

He had been **granted** entry into the White House only for the daily briefing, later that afternoon. New York Times (Feb 17, 2012)

42. dwell
think moodily or anxiously about something

But it is hardly necessary to **dwell** on so normal an event. Vinogradoff, Paul

43. entertain
provide amusement for

The first Super Bowl in 1967 featured college marching bands **entertaining** the crowds at halftime.

44. contract
a binding agreement that is enforceable by law

Contracts with utilities will be signed starting next month, he said.

45. earnest
characterized by a firm, sincere belief in one's opinions

Too much praise cannot be given to the **earnest** and efficient missionaries who founded and have maintained this mission. Miller, George A.

46. yield
give or supply

It is a very important honey plant, as it **yields** an exceptionally pure nectar and remains in bloom a long time. Parsons, Mary Elizabeth

47. wander
move or cause to move in a sinuous or circular course

While each animal **wandered** through the maze, its brain was working furiously. New York Times (Feb 16, 2012)

48. insist
be emphatic or resolute and refuse to budge

Interior Department officials **insisted** that they had conducted an extensive scientific inquiry before moving ahead with the spill response plan. New York Times (Feb 17, 2012)

49. knight
a person of noble birth trained to arms and chivalry

The **knight** was gallant not only in war, but in love also. Crothers, Samuel McChord

50. inspire

serve as the inciting cause of

His surprising performance **inspired** an outpouring of fan adoration that has been dubbed "Linsanity." Chicago Tribune (Feb 19, 2012).

51. convention

a large formal assembly

Last year, the industry's main trade **convention**, the Inside Self-Storage World Expo, organized workshops in Las Vegas focusing on lien laws and auction sales. New York Times (Feb 17, 2012).

52. skill

an ability that has been acquired by training

He says many new drivers are terrified of motorway driving because they do not have the **skills** or confidence needed.

53. financial

involving fiscal matters

Meanwhile, universities have raised tuition every year, putting many students in a **financial** bind. New York Times (Feb 20, 2012).

54. reflect

show an image of

Teens ranting over chores and whatnot can often **reflect** deeper feelings of alienation or perceived uncaring on the part of parents.

55. novel

an extended fictional work in prose

Before Robert Barr publishes a **novel** he spends years in thinking the thing out. Anonymous

56. furnish

provide with objects or articles that make a room usable

Instead, according to court documents, the money went toward **furnishing** mansions, flying in private jets, and retaining a \$120,000-a-year personal hairstylist. BusinessWeek (Feb 1, 2012).

57. compel

force somebody to do something

But the flames grew too large, **compelling** firefighters to call off the rescue. New York Times (Feb 18, 2012).

58. venture

proceed somewhere despite the risk of possible dangers

Clearly he would not **venture** to descend while his enemy moved. Strang, Herbert

59. territory

the geographical area under the jurisdiction of a state

On Friday, West Africa regional group Ecowas condemned the rebels, urging them to end hostilities and surrender all occupied **territory**.

60. temper

a characteristic state of feeling

Oscar Wilde, to do him justice, bore this sort of rebuff with astonishing good **temper** and sweetness. Anonymous

61. bent

fixed in your purpose

The business-oriented constituency of the Republican Party, Jacobs said, has been weakened by a faction **bent** on lowering taxes and cutting spending.

62. intimate

marked by close acquaintance, association, or familiarity

The female spider can choose when to cut off **intimate** relations by eating her partner, or kicking him out. Scientific American (Jan 31, 2012)

63. undertake

enter upon an activity or enterprise

An autopsy has reportedly been **undertaken** but the results are not expected for several weeks.

64. majority

more than half of the votes in an election

Republicans need just four seats in the Senate to take control as the **majority** party.

65. assert

declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

In your talk you **asserted** the pill's risks of blood clotting, lung artery blockage, heart attack and stroke are minimal.

66. crew

the people who work on a vehicle

Several pilots and **crew** members would have to escape at once, while safety divers watched, ready to rescue anyone who became stuck. New York Times (Feb 6, 2012)

67. chamber

a natural or artificial enclosed space

"Today," said the old man, "you must push through with me into my most solitary **chamber**, that we may not be disturbed." Carlyle, Thomas

68. scheme

an elaborate and systematic plan of action

Some companies in the Globe District of Arizona have started extensive underground **schemes** for mining large tonnages very cheaply by "caving" methods.Hoskin, Arthur J.

69. keen

demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions

Not one of his movements escaped her **keen** observation; she drank in every shiver.Wingfield, Lewis

70. liberal

having political views favoring reform and progress

Romney's actually done well in open primaries where fiscally conservative yet socially **liberal** independents have backed him over his opponents.

71. despair

a state in which all hope is lost or absent

There were wounded love, and wounded pride, and **despair**, and coming madness, all in that piteous cry.Reade, Charles

72. tide

the periodic rise and fall of the sea level

In the case of mobile connectivity, a rising **tide** does not lift all boats.Slate (Feb 9, 2012)

73. attitude

a complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings

"Behaviours have changed and **attitudes** have changed," Mr Taylor said.

74. justify

show to be reasonable or provide adequate ground for

He felt sure that if the circumstances **justified** it, the necessary proceedings could be taken."Anonymous

75. flag

a rectangular piece of cloth of distinctive design

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared three days of mourning and ordered **flags** flown at half staff.New York Times (Feb 16, 2012)

76. merit

any admirable or beneficial attribute

Thus far in our inquiry extraordinary **merits** have been offset by extraordinary defects.Ayres, Harry Morgan

77. manifest

reveal its presence or make an appearance

A too rapid transformation of existing conditions might very easily lead to an economic crisis, symptoms of which are already beginning to **manifest** themselves. Vay, P?ter

78. notion

a general inclusive concept

Does that old **notion** that defense wins championships still hold up these days? Seattle Times (Jan 13, 2012).

79. formal

characteristic of or befitting a person in authority

A **formal** decision to call off the search is likely on Wednesday, rescue officials said. New York Times (Jan 31, 2012)

80. resource

a new or reserve supply that can be drawn upon when needed

“Economists assume that, under normal conditions, markets will allocate **resources** efficiently,” he added.

81. persist

continue to exist

Old ideas, long after the conditions under which they were produced have passed away, often **persist** in surviving. Ingersoll, Robert Green

82. contempt

lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

And with his backhanded **contempt** for all things ordinary, Blake is making some of the catchiest, most difficult music in recent memory.

83. tour

a route all the way around a particular place or area

He typed in “South Park” and took senior executives on a **tour** of Web sites offering pirated episodes. New York Times (Feb 8, 2012).

84. plead

enter a defendant's answer

Aria **pleaded** not guilty, but he acknowledged that he had violated some laws. New York Times (Feb 18, 2012).

85. weigh

be oppressive or burdensome

So far, the political turmoil has not appeared to have discouraged visitors, but prolonged strife could **weigh** on tourism. New York Times (Feb 11, 2012).

86. mode

how something is done or how it happens

Speaking of science, he says, in language far in advance of his times: 'There are two **modes** of knowing—by argument and by experiment.Adams, W. H. Davenport (William Henry Davenport)

87. distinction

a discrimination between things as different

But such a **distinction** is quite external; at heart the men may be very much alike.Anonymous

88. inclined

at an angle to the horizontal or vertical position

Such an **inclined** passage following a seam of coal is known as a slope.Hoskin, Arthur J.

89. attribute

a quality belonging to or characteristic of an entity

The authors found that when the available prospects varied more in **attributes** such as age, height, occupation and educational background, people made fewer dating proposals.Scientific American (Feb 13, 2012).

90. exert

make a great effort at a mental or physical task

School boards may come to **exert** even greater influence over what students read.Forbes (Jan 23, 2012).

91. oppress

come down on or keep down by unjust use of one's authority

Those who managed to survive were later **oppressed** by Poland's post-war communist authorities.

92. contend

compete for something

But eight men, however bold and stout-hearted, could not long **contend** with an enemy at least four times their number.Strang, Herbert

93. stake

a strong wooden or metal post driven into the ground

His remains were buried in Cannon Street, and a **stake** was driven through the body.Andrews, William

94. toil
work hard

He **toiled** in the sweat of his brow, tilling the stubborn ground, taking out stones, building fences. Adler, Felix

95. perish
pass from physical life

Simon Wiesenthal's parents are long since deceased, with his father dying in World War I and his mother **perishing** in the Holocaust.

96. rail
complain bitterly

Mr. Gray **railed** against lengthy stage directions, saying he crossed them out in scripts before he would begin rehearsals with his actors. New York Times (Feb 7, 2012)

97. cardinal
one of a group of prominent bishops in the Sacred College

Each time he names **cardinals** he puts his stamp on Roman Catholicism's future by choosing men who share his views. Chicago Tribune (Feb 18, 2012)

98. boast
talk about oneself with excessive pride or self-regard

Mr. Estes was also well connected politically, **boasting** that the president of the United States took his calls. New York Times (Dec 10, 2011)

99. advocate
a person who pleads for a person, cause, or idea

Well, safety **advocates**, consumers and the government dragged the automobile industry toward including seat belts, air bags, more visible taillights and other safety features. New York Times (Feb 19, 2012)

100. bestow
present

He **bestowed** public buildings and river improvements in return for votes. Gilbert, Clinton W. (Clinton Wallace)

101. allege
report or maintain

It is being fired into enclosed areas and homes, the human rights group **alleges**.

102. notwithstanding
despite anything to the contrary

He seems to have taken things easily enough, **notwithstanding** the sorrow and suffering that surrounded him on every side. Adams, W. H. Davenport (William Henry Davenport)

103. lofty
of imposing height; especially standing out above others

He found himself in an enormous hall with a **lofty** ceiling. Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente

104. multitude
a large indefinite number

Department store chains in general have been strained in recent years as a "**multitude**" of alternatives has emerged, all competing for customers. Chicago Tribune (Dec 28, 2011)

105. steep
having a sharp inclination

It was narrow and very **steep**, and had precipices in all parts, so that they could not mount upward except one at a time. Various

106. heed
pay close attention to

But Cain was already too far gone to **heed** the warning voice. Adler, Felix

107. modest
not large but sufficient in size or amount

A healthy person living in an unfashionable city with no student loans to pay off can get by on a fairly **modest** income. Slate (Feb 17, 2012)

108. partial
being or affecting only a segment

Generalizations of this sweeping order are apt to contain only **partial** truth. Clarke, Helen Archibald

109. apt
naturally disposed toward

Another reason to display beds at an electronics show: consumers are **apt** to use high-tech devices while tucked in. New York Times (Jan 9, 2012)

110. esteem
the condition of being honored

Despite being held in the highest **esteem** by his fellow poets, Redgrove never quite achieved the critical reception or readership he deserved.

111. provoke

provide the needed stimulus for

It **provoked** a bigger reaction than we could ever have anticipated.

112. ascertain

learn or discover with confidence

Health care providers and manufacturers can **ascertain** alternative treatment more effectively by tackling predicted drug shortage incidences early in the process. Forbes (Feb 13, 2012).

113. fare

proceed, get along, or succeed

A recent study breaks down how graduates with various college degrees are **faring** in today's difficult job market. Washington Post (Feb 17, 2012).

114. cede

relinquish possession or control over

Some militia chiefs say they will only **cede** command of their fighters once an organized military and security apparatus is in place.

115. perpetual

continuing forever or indefinitely

The river is a **perpetual** enjoyment, always something going on. Waddington, Mary King

116. decree

a legally binding command or decision

While the **decree** takes effect immediately, it requires Parliament's approval within 60 days to remain in force.

117. contrive

make or work out a plan for; devise

The wily Roc, never taken much by surprise, **contrived** to escape, but old Tributor and his men were all captured. Thornbury, Walter

118. derived

formed or developed from something else; not original

Modern kale, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and kohlrabi are all members of the same species, **derived** from a single prehistoric plant variety. Slate (Feb 21, 2012).

119. elaborate

marked by complexity and richness of detail

But the tobacco industry and owners of other convenience stores say tribal cigarette manufacturing is just an **elaborate** form of tax evasion. New York Times (Feb 22, 2012)

120. substantial

real; having a material or factual existence

Defence lawyers said the large number of forensic tests which had been carried out had failed to find any **substantial** evidence linked to the accused.

121. frontier

a wilderness at the edge of a settled area of a country

Adding to the precarious security situation, tribesmen kidnapped 18 Egyptian border guards along the **frontier** with Israel in Sinai Peninsula. New York Times (Feb 9, 2012)

122. facile

arrived at without due care or effort; lacking depth

As one teacher remarks about a troubled student, "There is no **facile** solution." New York Times (Oct 11, 2011)

123. cite

make reference to

The Federal Reserve has pledged low interest rates until late 2014, **citing** in part the weakness of the job market.

124. warrant

show to be reasonable or provide adequate ground for

In the United Kingdom and Europe the devices are not used unless the need is **warranted** by the patient's medical condition.

125. sob

weep convulsively

He cried and trembled, **sobbing**, while they spoke, like the child he was. Weyman, Stanley J.

126. rider

a traveler who actively sits and travels on an animal

In horseback riding, a **rider** will give commands by squeezing or lengthening the reins and altering the position of his legs.

127. dense

permitting little if any light to pass through

Dense black smoke rose in the distance as demonstrators burned tires in Shiite villages.

128. afflict

cause physical pain or suffering in

Melanoma globally **afflicts** nearly 160,000 new people each year.

129. flourish

grow vigorously

His business had been all along steadily **flourishing**, his patrons had been of high social position, some most illustrious, others actually royal. Petherick, Horace William

130. ordain

invest with ministerial or priestly authority

One of the present bishops was consecrated when quite a young boy, and deacons are often **ordained** at sixteen, and even much earlier. Bird, Isabella L. (Isabella Lucy)

131. pious

having or showing or expressing reverence for a deity

Mother, you see, is a very **pious** woman, and she attributes it all to Providence, saying that it was the Divine interference in her behalf. Various

132. vex

disturb, especially by minor irritations

There are **vexing** problems slowing the growth and the practical implementation of big data technologies. Forbes (Oct 21, 2011)

133. gravity

the force of attraction between all masses in the universe

Once captured, the combined object will have a new center of **gravity** and may be spinning in an uncontrolled way.

134. suspended

supported or kept from sinking or falling by buoyancy

Frustrating enough at ground level, but can you imagine the agony about a stranded, ever-soggier Oreo being **suspended** 11 feet above the ground? Washington Post (Feb 21, 2012)

135. conspicuous

obvious to the eye or mind

Its bright scarlet fruits are **conspicuous** in late autumn. Anonymous

136. retort

a quick reply to a question or remark

Having put him in ill humour with this **retort**, she fled away rejoicing. Coster, Charles Theodore Henri de

137. jet

an airplane powered by gas turbines

Typhoon fighter **jets**, helicopters, two warships and bomb disposal experts will also be on duty to guard against security threats. Seattle Times (Feb 20, 2012)

138. bolt

run away

The blare of bugles was heard, and a few seconds afterwards Jackson, still facing the enemy, shouted: "By Jupiter, they're **bolting**, sir." Strang, Herbert

139. assent

agree or express agreement

His two companions readily **assented**, and the promise was mutually given and received. Keightley, Thomas

140. purse

a sum spoken of as the contents of a money container

She watched over her husband, kept his accounts, held the family **purse**, managed all his affairs. Shorter, Clement K.

141. plus

the arithmetic operation of summing

The survey's margin of error was **plus** or minus four percentage points.

142. sanction

give authority or permission to

The Securities and Exchange Commission said last year it had **sanctioned** 39 senior officers for conduct related to the housing market meltdown.

143. proceeding

a sequence of steps by which legal judgments are invoked

Chu attended the special court-martial **proceeding** on Monday in Hawaii, Hill said.

144. exalt

praise, glorify, or honor

Some **exalt** themselves by anonymously posting their own laudatory reviews. New York Times (Jan 26, 2012).

145. siege

an action of an armed force that surrounds a fortified place

Rebellion broke out, and finally the aged Caliph, after enduring a **siege** of several weeks, was murdered in his own house. Nicholson, Reynold

146. malice

the desire to see others suffer

He viewed the moths with **malice**, their fluttering wings fanning his resentment. Lyman, Olin L.

147. extravagant

recklessly wasteful

Advisers say new millionaires are prone to mistakes, like making **extravagant** purchases or risky deals with friends.

148. wax

increase in phase

Carols had existed for centuries, though their popularity **waxed** and waned as different governments and religious movements periodically declared them sinful.

149. throng

press tightly together or cram

Deafening cheers rent the air as he landed; hundreds **thronged** around him to clasp his hand. Strang, Herbert

150. venerate

regard with feelings of respect and reverence

He **venerated** me like a being descended from an upper world. Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente

151. assail

attack someone physically or emotionally

His campaign even issued a press release **assailing** other rivals for, in Mr. Paul's view, taking Mr. Romney's quote about firing people out of context. New York Times (Feb 16, 2012).

152. sublime

of high moral or intellectual value

He was uneven, disproportioned, saying ordinary things on great occasions, and now and then, without the slightest provocation, uttering the **sublimest** and most beautiful thoughts. Ingersoll, Robert Green

153. exploit

draw from; make good use of

As humans increasingly **exploit** the deep seas for fish, oil and mining, understanding how species are dispersed is crucial, Copley said. Scientific American (Jan 3, 2012)

154. exertion

use of physical or mental energy; hard work

One day overcome by **exertion**, she fainted in the street. Ingersoll, Robert Green

155. kindle

catch fire

Then a match was **kindled** and fire applied. Warner, Susan

156. endow

furnish with a capital fund

The grammar school here, founded in 1533, is liberally **endowed**, with scholarships and exhibitions. Various

157. imposed

set forth authoritatively as obligatory

The Arab League has already suspended Syria and **imposed** economic sanctions.

158. humiliate

cause to feel shame

The letter claims pensioners are too often patronised, **humiliated**, denied privacy or even medical treatment.

159. suffrage

a legal right to vote

There has been a great deal said in this country of late in regard to giving the right of **suffrage** to women. Ingersoll, Robert Green

160. ensue

take place or happen afterward or as a result

An uproar **ensued** months after the approval, when opponents realized the online gambling measure had been slipped in. New York Times (Feb 16, 2012)

161. brook

a natural stream of water smaller than a river

He walked across the little bridge over the **brook** and at once his mood changed.Mason, A. E. W. (Alfred Edward Woodley)

162. gale

a strong wind moving 34–40 knots

The **gale** was accompanied, as usual, by incessant rain and thick weather, and a heavy confused sea kept our decks always flooded.Fitzroy, Robert

163. muse

reflect deeply on a subject

Musing about the Big Picture may be a lot more gratifying than focusing on the details of the specific policies that aren't working.

164. satire

witty language used to convey insults or scorn

There's plenty of humor on Russian television, though not much political **satire**; Mr. Putin put a stop to that long ago.New York Times (Feb 13, 2012)

165. intrigue

cause to be interested or curious

Designing and building models that **intrigue** and educate without overwhelming has been challenging.Science Magazine (Nov 24, 2011)

166. indication

something that serves to suggest

Authorities said an autopsy found no **indications** of foul play or obvious signs of trauma on Houston.Seattle Times (Feb 15, 2012)

167. dispatch

send away towards a designated goal

More than one assassin was **dispatched** by the Turkish authorities to murder Napoleon.Various

168. cover

crouch or curl up

The knaves lowered their weapons and shrank back **cowering** before him.Weyman, Stanley J.

169. wont

an established custom

He made his customary slick feeds to open teammates, but as is their **wont**, the Nets struggled at times to convert points on his passes.New York Times (Feb 20, 2012)

170. tract

a system of body parts that serves some specialized purpose

When probiotics flourish in the digestive **tract**, nutrients are better absorbed and bad bugs are held at bay, research suggests. Seattle Times (Jan 10, 2012)

171. canon

a collection of books accepted as holy scripture

For me, all novels of any consequence are literary, and they take their place, high and low, in the **canon** of English literature.

172. impel

cause to move forward with force

Some power beyond his comprehension was **impelling** him toward the neighboring city. Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente

173. latitude

freedom from normal restraints in conduct

Great employees often get more **latitude** to bring up controversial subjects in a group setting because their performance allows greater freedom.

174. vacate

leave behind empty; move out of

Their number diminished sharply after Villaraigosa announced last week that he wanted protesters to **vacate** the grounds by Monday or be forcibly removed. Chicago Tribune (Nov 30, 2011)

175. slay

kill intentionally and with premeditation

"It were shame," said Lancelot, "for an armed to **slay** an unarmed man." Unknown

176. predecessor

one who goes before you in time

Heller fills in the blanks about Taft, overshadowed by colorful **predecessor** Teddy Roosevelt. Seattle Times (Feb 22, 2012)

177. forsake

leave someone who needs or counts on you; leave in the lurch

"I'm surprised," said Philip, cautiously opening fire, "that you were ever allowed to **forsake** your native land." Hay, Ian

178. beseech

ask for or request earnestly

Utterly distraught, he ran up and down the bank, hunting for his clothes, calling, crying out, imploring, **beseeching** help from somewhere. Frank, Ulrich

179. grove

a small growth of trees without underbrush

Soon after we came to Pasadena, father bought an orange **grove** of twenty-five acres.Chamberlain, James Franklin

180. frustrate

hinder or prevent, as an effort, plan, or desire

Frustrated after two years of missed budget targets, finance chiefs demanded Greek officials put their verbal commitments into law.

181. illustrious

widely known and esteemed

She will be joining an **illustrious** list of recipients that include Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II and Princess Diana.

182. device

an instrumentality invented for a particular purpose

You've probably also noticed that the telephone and computer are no longer the only **devices** on your employees' desks.Forbes (Feb 26, 2012)

183. pomp

cheap or pretentious or vain display

Throughout U.S. history, Americans have been fascinated by royal **pomp** -- even on a movie screen.

184. entreat

ask for or request earnestly

"Let me go now, please," she **entreated**, her eyes unable to meet his any longer.Hope, Anthony

185. impart

transmit, as knowledge or a skill

Long before writing and books were in common use, proverbs were the principal means of **imparting** instruction.Preston, Thomas

186. propriety

correct behavior

I felt a trifle doubtful about the **propriety** of taking a short cut across private grounds, and said as much.Sutphen, Van Tassel

187. consecrate

render holy by means of religious rites

The building was **consecrated** as a Protestant Episcopal church in May, 1814.Faris, John T. (John Thomson)

188. proceeds
the income or profit arising from a transaction

His own share in the **proceeds** was about a hundred thousand dollars. Stark, James H.

189. objective
the goal intended to be attained

The **objective** was to mobilize students from 18 high schools across the city to provide community services and inspire others. New York Times (Feb 5, 2012).

190. clad
wearing or provided with clothing

A few of the villagers came behind, **clad** in mourning robes, and bearing lighted tapers. Various

191. partisan
devoted to a cause or political group

But given the bitter **partisan** divide in an election year, Democrats said they would never be able to get such legislation passed. Chicago Tribune (Mar 30, 2012).

192. faction
a dissenting clique

One **faction** declared it would begin an armed struggle against the government of the United States. Slate (Feb 29, 2012).

193. venerable
impressive by reason of age

Thus, after much more than two hundred years, the **venerable** building looks almost as it did when the first students entered its doors. Faris, John T. (John Thomson)

194. restrained
not showy or obtrusive

By contrast, Mr. Pei's **restrained** design took time to claim my attention, particularly since it sat quietly next door to Saarinen's concrete gull wings. New York Times (Oct 6, 2011).

195. besiege
harass, as with questions or requests

He can't trot down the street without being **besieged** by paparazzi. New York Times (Mar 18, 2012).

196. manifestation
a clear appearance

Singing and dancing are **manifestations** of what many Syrians describe as a much broader cultural flowering. New York Times (Dec 19, 2011).

197. rebuke

an act or expression of criticism and censure

Afterward, the leaders fought court orders to release records showing what they had done, drawing an uncommonly sharp **rebuke** from a federal judge. Washington Post (Mar 14, 2012)

198. insurgent

in opposition to a civil authority or government

The Free Syrian Army, an **insurgent** group made of defecting soldiers and based in southern Turkey, claimed responsibility for both attacks. New York Times (Nov 20, 2011)

199. rhetoric

using language effectively to please or persuade

His fiery **rhetoric** in support of limiting cuts to projected defense spending has surprised and impressed some of Obama's toughest Republican critics.

200. scrupulous

having ethical or moral principles

The reason is that the vast majority of businesses are **scrupulous** and treat their employees well.

201. ratify

approve and express assent, responsibility, or obligation

Company officials at Safeway said those replacement workers will remain on standby until the agreement is **ratified** by union members. Washington Post (Mar 29, 2012)

202. stump

cause to be perplexed or confounded

Though family members long suspected Evans, a local handyman who frequently hired local youths, the case **stumped** investigators for years. Washington Post (Aug 30, 2011)

203. discreet

marked by prudence or modesty and wise self-restraint

Sarkozy has attempted to tone down his image, becoming more **discreet** about his private life.

204. imposing

impressive in appearance

These buildings were grand and stylized with intricate details and a bit of an **imposing** presence. Scientific American (Mar 5, 2012)

205. mortify

cause to feel shame

Intensely **mortified** at this humiliation, the king fell sick, and henceforth his health failed rapidly. Various

206. ripple

stir up so as to form small waves

That could precipitate higher interest rates that would **ripple** across the economy. Washington Post (Jul 27, 2011)

207. premise

a statement that is held to be true

Success, real success, comes to the jack of all trades, a major **premise** handed down from pioneer days. Gilbert, Clinton W. (Clinton Wallace)

208. subside

wear off or die down

Affliction is allayed, grief **subsides**, sorrow is soothed, distress is mitigated. Webster, Noah

209. adverse

contrary to your interests or welfare

High doses can have **adverse** effects and even cause death. Seattle Times (Mar 26, 2012)

210. comprehensive

broad in scope

The United States Army developed a **comprehensive** plan to address problematic race relations in the 1970s, recognizing that they were hampering military effectiveness. New York Times (Feb 6, 2012)

211. accede

yield to another's wish or opinion

Therefore he made up his mind to **accede** to his uncle's desire. Streckfuss, Adolph

212. fervent

characterized by intense emotion

But, to **fervent** applause and scattered fist pumps from two sets of worshipers, he pledged to legally challenge the claims against him. New York Times (Sep 26, 2010)

213. cohere

cause to form a united, orderly, and consistent whole

Two antagonistic values may **cohere** in the same object. Anderson, Benjamin M. (Benjamin McAlester)

214. tribunal

an assembly to conduct judicial business

The military has historically been protected from civilian courts, with any crimes committed by soldiers being decided in closed military **tribunals**.

215. austere

severely simple

A certain **austere** simplicity was noticeable all over Longfellow's house. Anonymous

216. recovering

returning to health after illness or debility

“The **recovering** economy is bringing more people back into the market. Washington Post (Mar 22, 2012).

217. stratum

a group of people sharing similar wealth and status

She belonged to the upper **stratum** of the profession, and, knowing it, could not sink. George, Walter Lionel

218. conscientious

characterized by extreme care and great effort

A **conscientious** hostess would be very much mortified if she served chicken out of its proper course. Reed, Myrtle

219. arbitrary

based on or subject to individual discretion or preference

Sandra Nurse, a member of Occupy's direct action working group, said police treated demonstrators roughly and made **arbitrary** arrests. Time (Mar 18, 2012).

220. exasperate

irritate

Shopkeepers, **exasperated** at the impact of higher taxes and reduced consumer spending, are planning to close down for the day. New York Times (Feb 7, 2012).

221. conjure

summon into action or bring into existence

Vacation homes typically **conjure** up dreams of blue skies, pristine sand and crystalline waters. Wall Street Journal (Feb 28, 2012).

222. ominous

threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments

The Count's words were so **ominous**, so full of sinister meaning that for the moment he felt like crying out with fear. Hocking, Joseph

223. edifice

a structure that has a roof and walls

They are here erecting a fine stone **edifice** for an Episcopal Church.Clark, John A.

224. elude

escape, either physically or mentally

But despite racking up world titles, Olympic gold was **eluding** him.

225. pervade

spread or diffuse through

An air of intense anticipation **pervaded** the General's dining room.Burnett, Carolyn Judson

226. foster

promote the growth of

Mr. Horne accused the district's Mexican-American studies program of using an antiwhite curriculum to **foster** social activism.New York Times (Mar 19, 2012)

227. admonish

scold or reprimand; take to task

"Children, children, stop quarrelling, right here in public!" **admonished** Mrs. Dering, in a low, shocked tone.Perry, Nora

228. repeal

cancel officially

If Republicans **repeal** the law, Ms. Schakowsky said, they would be "taking away benefits that seniors are already getting."New York Times (Mar 19, 2012)

229. retiring

not arrogant or presuming

Foster was an extremely modest, unworldly, **retiring** gentleman.Rosenbach, A. S. W.

230. incidental

not of prime or central importance

The models themselves are **incidental** on "Scouted," merely empty planets around which revolve some fascinating characters and plenty more dull ones.New York Times (Nov 27, 2011)

231. slew

a large number or amount or extent

In fact, intense focus may be one reason why so-called savants become so extraordinary at performing extensive calculations or remembering a **slew** of facts.Scientific American (Mar 3, 2012)

232. usurp

seize and take control without authority

More than anything, though, officials expressed concern about reigniting longstanding Mexican concerns about the United States' **usurping** Mexico's authority.New York Times (Mar 15, 2011)

233. precision

the quality of being exact

At this time, home ranges of small rodents can not be measured with great **precision**, therefore any such calculations are, at best, only approximations.Douglas, Charles L.

234. depose

force to leave an office

Late Wednesday, Mr. Touré, the **deposed** president, spoke out from hiding for the first time.New York Times (Mar 30, 2012)

235. wanton

unprovoked or without motive or justification

I am not a sentimentalist by any means, yet I abominate **wanton** cruelty.Stables, Gordon

236. odium

state of disgrace resulting from detestable behavior

This was one of the men who bring **odium** on the whole class of prisoners, and prejudice society against them.Henderson, Frank

237. precept

a rule of personal conduct

The law of nature has but one **precept**, "Be strong."Williams, C. M.

238. deference

a courteous expression of esteem or regard

Other rules, as indicated in Mr. Collins' book, concerned deportment, and demanded constant **deference** to superiors.Faris, John T. (John Thomson)

239. fray

a noisy fight

Armed rebels have joined the **fray** in recent months.

240. candid

openly straightforward and direct without secretiveness

The actor was **candid** about his own difficult childhood growing up with alcoholic parents.Seattle Times (Feb 17, 2012)

241. enduring
unceasing

What makes the galumphing hubby such an **enduring** stock character?Slate (Mar 26, 2012)

242. impertinent
improperly forward or bold

Imagine calling a famous writer by his first name—it seemed **impertinent**, to say the least.Watkins, Shirley

243. bland
lacking stimulating characteristics; uninteresting

Many critics were less than enamored with the kind of “easy listening” Mr. Williams embodied, deriding his approach as **bland** and unchallenging.New York Times (Oct 9, 2011)

244. insinuate
suggest in an indirect or covert way; give to understand

"Good heavens, do you mean to **insinuate** that I did anything crooked?" said Bojo loudly, yet at the bottom ill at ease.Johnson, Owen

245. nominal
insignificantly small; a matter of form only

He sought **nominal** damages of one dollar from each defendant.

246. suppliant
humbly entreating

The colonists asked for nothing but what was clearly right and asked in the most respectful and even **suppliant** manner.Judson, L. Carroll

247. languid
lacking spirit or liveliness

Many viewers, bored by the **languid** pace of the show, tuned out early.New York Times (Dec 30, 2011)

248. rave
praise enthusiastically

I have heard lots of women simply **rave** about him.Kauffman, Reginald Wright

249. monetary
relating to or involving money

A hundred years ago, **monetary** policy – control over interest rates and the availability of credit – was viewed as a highly contentious political issue.New York Times (Mar 29, 2012)

250. headlong

in a hasty and foolhardy manner

“They may not be wishing to rush **headlong** back into the same sort of risks just yet.”

251. infallible

incapable of failure or error

But conductors are no more **infallible** than other people, and once in a blue moon in going through a train they miss a passenger.Lynde, Francis

252. coax

influence or persuade by gentle and persistent urging

He used his most enticing manner and did his best to **coax** the little animal out again.Kay, Ross

253. explicate

elaborate, as of theories and hypotheses

He urged judges to resist the rigid guidelines and to write opinions **explicating** their reasons for doing so.New York Times (Jan 22, 2010)

254. gaunt

very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

Gaunt, starved, and ragged, the men marched northwards, leaving the Touat country upon their left hand.Mason, A. E. W. (Alfred Edward Woodley)

255. morbid

suggesting the horror of death and decay

Earlier in the day, however, his demise was watched by spectators with a **morbid** fascination.New York Times (Aug 16, 2010)

256. pacify

ease the anger, agitation, or strong emotion of

How they **pacified** him I don't know, but at the end of two hours he had cooled off enough to let us go aboard.Quincy, Samuel M.

257. pastoral

idyllically rustic

He made a considerable reputation as an accomplished painter of quiet **pastoral** subjects and carefully elaborated landscapes with cattle.Various

258. dogged

stubbornly unyielding

Some analysts expect Mr. Falcone, who is known for his **dogged** determination, to just continue to limp along while slashing costs.New York Times (Feb 15, 2012)

259. ebb

fall away or decline

Although Gardner's competitive appetite **ebbed** after 2004, other cravings did not.New York Times (Jan 28, 2012)

260. aide

someone who acts as an assistant

She later found work as a teacher's **aide** in a Head Start program in Harlem.New York Times (Jan 12, 2012)

261. appease

cause to be more favorably inclined; gain the good will of

The king also has tried to **appease** public anger over corruption.New York Times (Feb 9, 2012)

262. stipulate

make an express demand or provision in an agreement

The mayor has an executive order in place **stipulating** that all top officials, except those granted a waiver, live in the city.New York Times (Sep 22, 2011)

263. recourse

something or someone turned to for assistance or security

Bargain hunters and holiday shoppers are bad guys' favorite targets and have little or no **recourse** when shoddy or fake merchandise arrives.Forbes (Nov 22, 2011)

264. constrained

lacking spontaneity; not natural

All his goodness, however, will be of a forced, **constrained**, artificial, and at bottom unreal character.Hyde, William De Witt

265. bate

moderate or restrain; lessen the force of

"You called her 'an interfering, disagreeable old woman!'" whispered Bertha with **bated** breath, glancing half fearfully at the door as she spoke.Vaizey, George de Horne, Mrs.

266. conceit

an artistic device or effect

An urban panorama is viewed from a high vantage point, a **conceit** used in topographic art to render vast perspectives.New York Times (Sep 30, 2011)

267. loath

strongly opposed

Friends and political allies are **loath** to talk about her, knowing the family's intense obsession with privacy.New York Times (Aug 14, 2011)

268. rampart

an embankment built around a space for defensive purposes

The night was gloomy, dark, and wet; the soldiers, wearied with watching at the **ramparts**, dozed, leaning on their weapons. Sienkiewicz, Henryk

269. extort

obtain by coercion or intimidation

The owners, in turn, have called the lawyers shakedown artists bent on ruining their good reputations to **extort** money. New York Times (Jan 27, 2012)

270. tarry

leave slowly and hesitantly

For two days I **tarried** in Paris, settling my little property. Ford, Paul Leicester

271. perpetrate

perform an act, usually with a negative connotation

Come on it's just a cruel joke **perpetrated** by the airline industry." Forbes (Dec 11, 2011)

272. decorum

propriety in manners and conduct

Wishing to observe the rules of **decorum** she invited him to stay for supper, though absolutely nothing had been prepared for a guest. Sudermann, Hermann

273. luxuriant

produced or growing in extreme abundance

Her **luxuriant** curly hair, restrained by no net, but held together simply by a flowering spray, waved over her shoulders in all its rich abundance. Elisabeth Burstenbinder (AKA E. Werner)

274. cant

insincere talk about religion or morals

It was the familiar **cant** of the man rich enough to affect disdain for money, and Wade was not impressed. Day, Holman

275. enjoin

give instructions to or direct somebody to do something

He turned to beckon the others forward with one hand, while laying the other over his mouth in a gesture **enjoining** silence. Breckenridge, Gerald

276. avarice

extreme greed for material wealth

The old man's fears were assailed with threats, and his **avarice** was approached by bribes, and he very soon capitulated. Abbott, John S. C. (John Stevens Cabot)

277. edict

a formal or authoritative proclamation

An **edict** was issued by him forbidding any Christian to give instruction in Greek literature under any circumstances. Lightfoot, J. B.

278. disconcert

cause to lose one's composure

Perplexed and **disconcerted**, I found no words to answer such an amazing sally. Chambers, Robert W. (Robert William)

279. symmetry

balance among the parts of something

Even the staging displays **symmetry**, with actors lined up on either side in formal precision. New York Times (Jan 24, 2011)

280. arbitrate

act between parties with a view to reconciling differences

The Scottish throne was now disputed by many claimants, and the Scots asked Edward to **arbitrate** between them. Various

281. cleave

separate or cut with a tool, such as a sharp instrument

Instead someone shouts "Go" and he is bearing down on me and almost **cleaves** my shield in two with his first blow.

282. append

add to the very end

Some specimens will appear in the papers **appended** to this report. Various

283. horde

a moving crowd

Hordes of puzzled tourists, many with rolling suitcases attached, poured down the staircases. New York Times (Jan 1, 2012)

284. chastise

scold or criticize severely

She remembers an upsetting incident when a headmistress **chastised** her for working too much.

285. foil

hinder or prevent, as an effort, plan, or desire

On March 1st, a Turkish newspaper reported that the country's intelligence service had **foiled** an attempt by Syrian agents to kidnap the colonel.

286. veritable

being truly so called; real or genuine

The heavy rain had reduced this low-lying ground to a **veritable** quagmire, making progress very difficult even for one as unburdened as he was. Putnam Weale, B. L. (Bertram Lenox)

287. grapple

work hard to come to terms with or deal with something

But, he said, all coastal communities will have to **grapple** with rising seas. New York Times (Mar 24, 2012).

288. gentry

the most powerful members of a society

The mode of travel of the **gentry** was riding horses, but most people traveled by walking. Reilly, S. A.

289. pall

a sudden feeling of dread or gloominess

Residents who fled in recent days spoke of the smell of death and piles of garbage drifting like snowbanks, casting a **pall** over the city. New York Times (Mar 7, 2012).

290. maxim

a saying that is widely accepted on its own merits

The **maxim** "All is fair in love and war" was applied literally. Thomson, Basil

291. projection

a prediction made by extrapolating from past observations

Volume is down 25 percent from five years ago, and **projections** show even further declines, said Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe. New York Times (Mar 22, 2012).

292. pro prowess

a superior skill learned by study and practice

While our engineering **pro prowess** has advanced a great deal over the past sixty years, the principles of innovation largely have not.

293. dingy

thickly covered with ingrained dirt or soot

Though composed amid the unromantic surroundings of a **dingy**, dusty, and neglected back room, the speech has become a memorable document. Herndon, William H.

294. semblance

the outward or apparent appearance or form of something

He was perceptibly older, in the way in which people look older all at once after having long kept the **semblance** of youth.King, Basil

295. tout

advertise in strongly positive terms

Testing is being **touted** as the means of making the U.S. education system competitive, even world-class.Washington Post (Mar 23, 2012)

296. fortitude

strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity

Leigh Hunt bore himself in his captivity with cheerful **fortitude**, suffering severely in health but flagging little in spirits or industry.Colvin, Sidney

297. asunder

into parts or pieces

In 1854, as I have already remarked, Nicaragua was split **asunder** by civil war.Powell, E. Alexander (Edward Alexander)

298. rout

an overwhelming defeat

It's how Seattle won Sunday's game in Chicago, scoring 31 consecutive second-half points as an impressive comeback became an overwhelming **rout**.Seattle Times (Dec 19, 2011)

299. staid

characterized by dignity and propriety

He was prim and **staid** and liked to do things in an orderly fashion.Doyle, A. Conan

300. beguile

influence by slyness

I can no longer remain silent in the presence of the schemers who seek to **beguile** you.Bolanden, Conrad von

301. purport

have the often misleading appearance of being or intending

Of course, none of these **purported** medical benefits have any grounding in science.Scientific American (Jan 28, 2012)

302. deprave

corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality

The people who make up this typical Gorky offering are drunkards, thieves, **depraved** creatures of every kind.Kilmer, Joyce

303. bequeath

leave or give, especially by will after one's death

No matter how often she changed her will, she told me, that diamond pin was always **bequeathed** to me. Wells, Carolyn

304. enigma

something that baffles understanding and cannot be explained

Tails are often an **enigma**; many creatures have them, but scientists know little about their function, particularly for extinct species.

305. assiduous

marked by care and persistent effort

He's an **assiduous** diary-keeper and regularly rereads ancient entries to check up on himself.

306. vassal

a person who owes allegiance and service to a feudal lord

And what was of still greater importance, he could only obtain taxes and soldiers from among the **vassals**, by the consent of their feudal lords. Freytag, Gustav

307. quail

draw back, as with fear or pain

He **quailed** before me, and forgetting his new part in old habits, muttered an apology. Weyman, Stanley John

308. outskirts

area relatively far from the center, as of a city or town

Ms. Waters talked about how she had spent the day at an organic farm on the **outskirts** of Beijing looking at vegetables for the dinner. New York Times (Nov 14, 2011)

309. bulwark

a protective structure of stone or concrete

The cliffs are of imposing height, nearly three hundred feet: a formidable **bulwark**. White, Walter

310. swerve

an erratic turn from an intended course

However, I was not going to **swerve** from my word. Johnstone, James Johnstone, chevalier de

311. gird

prepare oneself for action or a confrontation

Protesters are **girding** for another police raid as several City Council members have called on protesters to leave. Washington Post (Nov 11, 2011)

312. betrothed

pledged to be married

We are not **betrothed**'—her eyes filled with tears,—'he can never marry me; and he and my father have quarrelled.Fleming, George

313. prospective

of or concerned with or related to the future

Most **prospective** homesteaders make the same mistake I did in buying horses, unless they are experienced.Micheaux, Oscar

314. advert

make reference to

In the family circle it was rarely **adverted** to, and never except when some allusion to the approaching separation had to be made.Werner, E. T. C. (Edward Theodore Chalmers)

315. peremptory

not allowing contradiction or refusal

This time it was not a request but a **peremptory** order to go at once to Cuba and undertake the work.Johnson, Willis Fletcher

316. rudiment

the elementary stage of any subject

He retraced his steps, and came to Cape Girardeau, in Missouri, where he remained some time, acquiring the **rudiments** of the English language.Anonymous

317. deduce

reason from the general to the particular

They then used models of global wind circulation to **deduce** which dust sources have become stronger and which weaker.

318. halting

proceeding in a fragmentary, hesitant, or ineffective way

"I so much love cricket," he said, shyly, in **halting** English.New York Times (Feb 22, 2012)

319. ignominy

a state of dishonor

After all, we love nothing better than seeing the powerful and formerly smug dragged across the front pages in **ignominy**.

320. ideology

an orientation that characterizes the thinking of a group

Bill O'Reilly and others picked up on the theme, summing up left-wing **ideology** as "San Francisco values."Slate (Jan 19, 2012)

321. pallid
lacking in vitality or interest or effectiveness

But too often the music sounded thin and **pallid**.New York Times (Apr 25, 2010)

322. chagrin
strong feelings of embarrassment

But he was feeling deeply **chagrined** and mortified over his last escapade.White, Fred M. (Fred Merrick)

323. obtrude
thrust oneself in as if by force

She had no right to **obtrude** herself into his life and to disturb it.Packard, Frank L. (Frank Lucius)

324. audacious
disposed to venture or take risks

In an **audacious** operation that unfolded like a Hollywood thriller, the Navy Seals executed a daring raid deep into Pakistan to kill Osama bin Laden.New York Times (Sep 4, 2011)

325. construe
make sense of; assign a meaning to

But nothing that was said Tuesday can be **construed** as good news.Washington Post (Sep 14, 2011)

326. ford
cross a river where it's shallow

Sometimes they drive their teams through unsettled country, without roads, swimming and **for**ding streams, clearing away obstructions, and camping where night overtakes them.Folsom, William Henry Carman

327. repast
the food served and eaten at one time

Fragrant coffee, light rolls, fresh butter, ham and eggs, fried crocuses and soft crabs, formed the **repast**.Reid, Mayne

328. stint
an unbroken period of time during which you do something

He found his unionized warehouse job after a **stint** working for his father, an accountant.New York Times (Mar 21, 2012)

329. fresco
a mural done with watercolors on wet plaster

The little church has an ancient **fresco** of St. Christopher, placed, as usual, opposite the entrance.Conybeare, Edward

330. dutiful

willingly obedient out of a sense of respect

Perhaps he thinks an engaged young lady should be demure and **dutiful**, having no eyes or ears for any one except her betrothed.Harland, Marion

331. hew

make or shape as with an axe

They bought a log chain, and lumber for a door; the window frames were **hewed** from logs.Daughters of the American Revolution. Nebraska

332. parity

functional equality

How many of the world's problems would be solved, or at least greatly reduced, if women had true **parity** with men?New York Times (Dec 15, 2011)

333. affable

diffusing warmth and friendliness

He was well liked and respected in these islands, for his **affable** manners had obtained for him much popularity.Various

334. interminable

tiresomely long; seemingly without end

All was going well, but slowly, the time taken for the last few feet seeming to be **interminable**.Cumberland, Barlow

335. pillage

steal goods; take as spoils

In addition great material losses were inflicted: seven hundred houses were destroyed, six hundred stores **pillaged**, and thousands of families utterly ruined.Straus, Oscar S.

336. foreboding

a feeling of evil to come

Mr. Harding had strong **forebodings** that the trouble, so far from being ended, was only just beginning.Marsh, Richard

337. rend

tear or be torn violently

In the distance heavy artillery was growling, and high explosive shells were bursting with a violence that seemed to **rend** the sky.Tracy, Louis

338. livelihood

the financial means whereby one supports oneself

With businesses shut, fields untended and fishing abandoned many have lost their **livelihoods** as well as their homes, our correspondent says.

339. deign

do something that one considers to be below one's dignity

To Mr. Gompers' courteous letter Czar Gary did not **deign** to reply. Foster, William Z.

340. capricious

determined by chance or impulse rather than by necessity

Her admirers were **capricious**, returning to her at times, and then holding aloof again; and as for suitors, they entirely disappeared. Schubert, Ossip

341. stupendous

so great in size, force, or extent as to elicit awe

The fact was so **stupendous** that Terry felt almost frightened over the great good fortune. Sabin, Edwin L. (Edwin Legrand)

342. chaff

material consisting of seed coverings and pieces of stem

The wheat, being heavy, falls, while the **chaff** is blown away. Starr, Frederick

343. innate

not established by conditioning or learning

In other words, one of our most essential abilities as humans--reading--is the product of a combination of **innate** and learned traits.

344. reverie

an abstracted state of absorption

He stood still, seemingly lost in **reverie**, and quite oblivious to the group about him. Frey, Hildegard G. (Hildegard Gertrude)

345. wrangle

quarrel noisily, angrily, or disruptively

Here were many fierce and bitter **wrangles** over vexed questions, turbulent scenes, displays of sectional feelings. Raymond, Evelyn

346. crevice

a long narrow opening

The disruptive power of tree roots, growing in the **crevices** of rocks, is well known. Various

347. ostensible

appearing as such but not necessarily so

This already-exhaustive book is studded with diary entries, academic papers and other **ostensible** evidence that its fictitious stories of destruction are true. New York Times (Jun 6, 2010)

348. craven

lacking even the rudiments of courage; abjectly fearful

Was it for them to follow the **craven** footsteps of a cowardly generation?Robinson, Victor

349. vestige

an indication that something has been present

Now, there was no **vestige** of vegetation; no living thing.Hopkins, William John

350. plumb

examine thoroughly and in great depth

Tellingly, Ms. Liao said she had great difficulty finding three actors willing to **plumb** their own personalities.New York Times (Jun 1, 2011)

351. reticent

not inclined to talk or provide information

No questions were asked, and few indeed were the words spoken, his **reticent** manner preventing any undue familiarity.Maclean, John

352. propensity

an inclination to do something

A longtime colleague, Gate Theatre director Michael Colgan, noted Kelly's old-school charms, punctuated by his **propensity** for bow ties and smart suits.Seattle Times (Feb 15, 2012)

353. chide

scold or reprimand severely or angrily

He **chided** reporters as having "stalked" family members, demanding that his relatives be left alone.New York Times (Nov 8, 2011)

354. espouse

choose and follow a theory, idea, policy, etc.

He said Islam should not be equated with terrorism or the kind of violence **espoused** by Bin Laden.

355. raiment

especially fine or decorative clothing

Clothed in fine **raiment** and faring sumptuously every day, he soon developed into a handsome lad.Oxley, J. Macdonald (James Macdonald)

356. intrepid

invulnerable to fear or intimidation

There are some very courageous and **intrepid** reporters in Afghanistan, including some who work for American media outlets.

357. seemly

according with custom or propriety

The Baron was less conscientious, for he ate more beefsteak than was **seemly**, and talked a great deal of stupid nonsense, as was his wont.Hoffmann, Ernst Theodor Wilhelm

358. allay

lessen the intensity of or calm

Our boy was scared and confused; we tried to **allay** his fears.New York Times (Mar 30, 2012)

359. fitful

occurring in spells and often abruptly

She had lost her composure, her breath came in **fitful**, uneven gasps, and as she sat there she pressed one hand over her heart.Davis, Owen

360. erode

become ground down or deteriorate

Another report today showed home prices fell more than forecast in November, **eroding** the wealth of families as they seek to rebuild savings.

361. unaffected

free of artificiality; sincere and genuine

His conversation was **unaffectedly** simple and frank; his language natural; always abounding in curious anecdotes.Conway, Moncure Daniel

362. canto

a major division of a long poem

Folengo's next production was the Orlandino, an Italian poem of eight **cantos**, written in rhymed octaves.Various

363. docile

easily handled or managed

Time and again humans have domesticated wild , producing tame individuals with softer appearances and more **docile** temperaments, such as dogs and guinea pigs.Scientific American (Jan 25, 2012)

364. patronize

treat condescendingly

Ms. Paul herself noted that “glib talk about appreciating dyslexia as a ‘gift’ is unhelpful at best and **patronizing** at worst.”New York Times (Feb 6, 2012)

365. teem

be full of or abuzz with

The coast, once **teeming** with traffic, is now lonely and deserted.Mahaffy, J. P.

366. estrangle

arouse hostility or indifference in

An atmosphere of distrust, suspicion and fear can cause workers to feel **estranged** from one another, Dr. Wright has written. New York Times (Jan 28, 2012)

367. spat

a quarrel about petty points

Public **spats** are rare in the asset-management industry, where companies typically resolve disputes behind closed doors.

368. warble

sing or play with trills

Meadow larks, as you have undoubtedly noticed, **warble** many different songs. Barrett, R. E.

369. mien

a person's appearance, manner, or demeanor

Nevertheless, before going to meet Samuel, she assumed a calm and dignified **mien**. Kraszewski, Jo?zef Ignacy.

370. sate

fill to contentment

His appetite was not **sated** by any means, but he knew the danger of overloading his stomach, so he stopped. Dewey, Edward Hooker

371. constituency

the body of voters who elect a representative for their area

Each posited that the blue-collar Democratic **constituency** rooted in the New Deal had grown increasingly conservative, alienated from "big government." New York Times (Jan 14, 2012)

372. patrician

characteristic of the nobility or aristocracy

Respectable ladies, long resident, wearing black poke bonnets and camel's-hair shawls, lifted their **patrician** eyebrows with disapproval. Brooks, Charles Stephen

373. parry

avoid or try to avoid fulfilling, answering, or performing

The boys asked a few guarded questions, but gained no information whatever, their questions being **parried** in every instance. Mears, James R.

374. practitioner

someone who carries out a learned profession

In particular, modern medical **practitioners** are coming around to the idea that certain illnesses cannot be reduced to one isolatable, treatable cause. Nature (Dec 21, 2011)

375. ravel

disentangle or separate out

Overcasting is done by taking loose stitches over the raw edge of the cloth, to keep it from **ravelling** or fraying. Ontario. Ministry of Education

376. infest

occupy in large numbers or live on a host

Many lived in dilapidated apartments with leaky pipes, broken windows, rooms full of mold, and walls **infested** with cockroaches and rats. New York Times (Jul 28, 2011)

377. actuate

give an incentive for doing something

He knew that men were **actuated** by other motives, good and bad, than self-interest. Bleese, Walter Lyon

378. surlly

unfriendly and inclined toward anger or irritation

But Blake, being **surlly** and quarrelsome even when sober, gave the lapel a savage jerk, and reached out with his other hand. Chisholm, A. M. (Arthur Murray)

379. convalesce

get over an illness or shock

Patients **convalescing** from pneumonia were evacuated to England or given Base Duty. Jahns, Lewis E.

380. demoralize

lower someone's spirits; make downhearted

The storm clobbered many communities still recovering from the flooding two months ago caused by Hurricane Irene, leaving weary homeowners exhausted and **demoralized**. Washington Post (Nov 1, 2011)

381. devolve

grow worse

As the rhetoric heated up inside, the violence outside **devolved** into chaos.

382. alacrity

liveliness and eagerness

Every one exerted himself not only without murmuring and discontent, but even with an **alacrity** which almost approached to cheerfulness. Kippis, Andrew

383. waive

do without or cease to hold or adhere to

Low rates have also led retail brokerages to **waive** fees on money market funds to avoid negative returns for their clients.

384. unwonted

out of the ordinary

He must rush off to see his people, who no doubt were quite confounded by his **unwonted** energy. Speed, Nell

385. seethe

be in an agitated emotional state

Outwardly quite calm and matter-of-fact, his mind was in a **seething** turmoil. Douglas, Hudson

386. scrutinize

look at critically or searchingly, or in minute detail

Fans and commentators are **scrutinizing** every blemish: his turnovers, his weak left hand, his jump shot. New York Times (Mar 5, 2012)

387. diffident

lacking self-confidence

Shyly **diffident** in the presence of strangers, her head was lowered. Packard, Frank L. (Frank Lucius)

388. execrate

curse or declare to be evil or anathema

When all Great Britain was **execrating** Napoleon, picturing him as a devil with horns and hoofs, Byron looked upon him as the world's hero. Hubbard, Elbert

389. implacable

incapable of being appeased or pacified

This man was a savage in his **implacable** desire for revenge. Kelly, Florence Finch

390. pique

a sudden outburst of anger

A talented youngster who smashes his guitar in a fit of **pique** finds it magically reassembled just in time for a crucial concert.

391. mite
a slight but appreciable amount

I never saw anybody so pleased with monkeys as she is, and not one **mite** afraid.Raymond, Evelyn

392. encumber
hold back, impede, or weigh down

Two others were making slower progress for the reason that each was **encumbered** by supporting a disabled man.Westerman, Percy F. (Percy Francis)

393. uncouth
lacking refinement or cultivation or taste

He had not stopped to consider her rough speech and **uncouth** manners.Johnston, Annie F. (Annie Fellows)

394. petulant
easily irritated or annoyed

The black eyes emitted an angry flash, the voice that answered was sharp and **petulant**.Fleming, May Agnes

395. expiate
make amends for

Wulphere was absolved on condition that he should **expiate** his crime by founding churches and monasteries all over his kingdom.Clifton, A. B.

396. cavalier
showing a lack of concern or seriousness

Some would have given Nicklaus a **cavalier** response: polite nod while thinking, "Yeah, whatever."New York Times (Jun 18, 2011)

397. banter
light teasing repartee

Our easy **banter** had suddenly been replaced by strained and awkward interaction.Slate (Feb 15, 2012)

398. bluster
act in an arrogant, overly self-assured, or conceited manner

Slade, despite his swaggers and **blustering**, was at heart a coward.Landon, Herman

399. debase
corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality

Long oppression had not, on the whole, either blunted their intellects or **debased** their morals.Adler, Felix

400. retainer

a person working in the service of another

This faithful and trusted **retainer** is greatly valued by his employers.Black, Helen C.

401. subjugate

make subservient; force to submit or subdue

The Confederacy was led by thoroughgoing racists who wanted to keep blacks **subjugated** for all time because of the color of their skin.Slate (Apr 7, 2010).

402. extol

praise, glorify, or honor

How I praised the duck at that first dinner, and **extolled** Madame's skill in cookery!Warren, Arthur

403. fraught

filled with or attended with

But the ocean remains an unpredictable place, **fraught** with hazards.Scientific American (Apr 5, 2012).

404. august

profoundly honored

At all times reserved in his manner and his bearing full of dignity, never before had she realized the majesty of General Washington's **august** presence.Madison, Lucy Foster

405. fissure

a long narrow depression in a surface

The brown bark is not very rough, though its numerous **fissures** and cracks give it a rugged appearance.Step, Edward

406. knoll

a small natural mound

Opened in 2008, the park serves as a true public space; elderly couples stroll around the artificial lake as toddlers roll down grassy **knolls**.New York Times (May 7, 2010).

407. callous

emotionally hardened

Outwardly merry and good-humoured, he was by nature coldly fierce, calculating, **callous**.Wingfield, Lewis

408. inculcate

teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions

But instruction in history has been for a long time systematically used to **inculcate** certain political sentiments in the pupils.Liebknecht, Karl Paul August Friedrich

409. nettle

disturb, especially by minor irritations

Lincoln began these remarks by good-humored but **nettling** chaffing of his opponent. Various

410. blanch

turn pale, as if in fear

He is silent, as if struck dumb, his face showing **blanched** and bloodless, while she utters a shriek, half terrified, half in frenzied anger. Reid, Mayne

411. inscrutable

difficult or impossible to understand

The fashion industry is notoriously opaque and often **inscrutable** for outsiders, even ones as well connected as him. Seattle Times (Oct 1, 2011)

412. tenacious

stubbornly unyielding

She was a **tenacious** woman, one who would even hold fast a thing which she no longer valued, simply because it belonged to her. Morris, Clara

413. thrall

the state of being under the control of another person

Then Kiss commenced in earnest, and quickly held his audience in **thrall**. Farjeon, Benjamin Leopold

414. exigency

a pressing or urgent situation

The **exigency** of the situation roused Mr. Popkiss' sluggish faculties into prompt action. Magnay, William

415. disconsolate

sad beyond comforting; incapable of being soothed

Was there a bereaved mother or **disconsolate** sister weeping over their dead? Steward, T. G. (Theophilus Gould)

416. impetus

a force that makes something happen

Critics say it has known mixed success at best, although supporters hope the U.S. drawdown could provide just the **impetus** it needs to thrive.

417. imposition

an uncalled-for burden

On that far-away day he had considered the little, lost girl a nuisance and an **imposition**. Chisholm, A. M. (Arthur Murray)

418. auspices

kindly endorsement and guidance

In March 2009, negotiations between Israel and Hamas were held in Cairo, under the **auspices** of the Egyptian intelligence agency. New York Times (Nov 9, 2011).

419. sonorous

full and loud and deep

His voice rang out firmly now, a deep and **sonorous** bass. Bedford-Jones, H.

420. exploitation

an act that victimizes someone

In a scathing report released last year, Amnesty International found there was widespread **exploitation** of migrants in Malaysia.

421. bane

something causing misery or death

Knee pain is the **bane** of many runners, sometimes causing them to give up altogether. Seattle Times (Jun 7, 2010)

422. dint

force or effort

If only certain puzzles could be solved by **dint** of sheer hard thinking! Marsh, Richard

423. ignominious

deserving or bringing disgrace or shame

The great Ottawa chief saw his partially accomplished scheme withering into **ignominious** failure. Rudd, John

424. amicable

characterized by friendship and good will

After a short colloquy the two men evidently came to an **amicable** understanding, for they shook hands. Kraszewski, Jo?zef Ignacy

425. onset

the beginning or early stages

Thousands of families are living in makeshift camps as temperatures fall to freezing with the **onset** of winter. New York Times (Nov 10, 2011).

426. conservatory

a schoolhouse with special facilities for fine arts

The young instrumental talent that is coming out of local music schools and **conservatories** is as amazingly good as you are going to find anywhere.

427. zenith

the highest point of something

In other words it never reaches the **zenith**, a point directly overhead.George H. Lowery.

428. voluble

marked by a ready flow of speech

I find him charming: shy – yet easy to talk to – **voluble** and funny once he gets going.

429. yeoman

a free man who cultivates his own land

On one extreme was the well-to-do **yeoman** farmer farming his own land.Reilly, S. A.

430. levity

a manner lacking seriousness

The same balance of seriousness and **levity** runs through her plays, which put an absurdist spin on everyday problems.New York Times (May 7, 2010)

431. rapt

feeling great delight and interest

She was watching the development of the investigation with **rapt**, eager attention.Mitford, Bertram

432. sultry

characterized by oppressive heat and humidity

New guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics arrive just as school sports ramp up in **sultry** August temperatures.Washington Post (Aug 9, 2011)

433. pinion

restrain or bind

The prisoners having dismounted, were placed in a line on the ground facing the guillotine, their arms **pinioned**.Various

434. axiom

a proposition that is not susceptible of proof or disproof

The fundamental **axiom** of scientific thought is that there is not, never has been, and never will be, any disorder in nature.Huxley, Thomas H.

435. descry

catch sight of

Looking off seaward, I could **descry** no sails.Drake, Samuel Adams

436. retinue

the group following and attending to some important person

Despite his **retinue** of security personnel, Atambaev had been poisoned during his short tenure as prime minister.

437. functionary

a worker who holds or is invested with an office

He was the **functionary** of the assize court, impaneling its juries, bringing accused men before it, and carrying out its penalties. Reilly, S. A.

438. imbibe

take in liquids

"We're cornered at last," he said suddenly, as the old man set the bottle down after having **imbibed** the best half of its contents. Douglas, Hudson

439. diversified

having variety of character or form or components

Funds in both categories tend to be highly **diversified**, typically with 100 or more stocks across at least 10 industries. Wall Street Journal (Feb 24, 2012)

440. maraud

raid and rove in search of plunder

Its reporter says armed gangs and looters are **marauding** the streets.

441. grudging

petty or reluctant in giving or spending

Expect delays, scattered outages and surly, **grudging** customer service in the interim.

442. partiality

a predisposition to like something

She still showed a **partiality** for bright colors, by her gown of deep crimson. Sage, William

443. philology

the humanistic study of language and literature

I had determined to study **philology**, chiefly Greek and Latin, but the fare spread out by the professors was much too tempting. Müller, F. Max (Friedrich Max)

444. wry

humorously sarcastic or mocking

She also has a very understated but very **wry** sense of humour; watch out for it.

445. caucus

meet to select a candidate or promote a policy

Representative Ron Paul of Texas isn't campaigning in Florida, instead focusing on Maine, which will **caucus** in late February.

446. permeate

spread or diffuse through

Florida's summertime heat **permeates** almost every scene, becoming something like a character. New York Times (Mar 13, 2012).

447. propitious

presenting favorable circumstances

With the Athens stock market down nearly 30 percent so far this year, it would not seem a **propitious** time for initial public offerings. New York Times (Jun 2, 2010).

448. salient

conspicuous, prominent, or important

Bullying has become an increasingly **salient** problem for school-age children, and in rare cases has ended tragically with victims committing suicide.

449. propitiate

make peace with

King Edward, having subdued the Welsh, "endeavoured to **propitiate** his newly acquired subjects by becoming a resident in the conquered country. Frith, William Powell

450. excise

remove by cutting

Wielding a razor, Jefferson **excised** all passages containing supernaturalistic elements from the gospels, extracting what he took to be Jesus's pure ethical teachings.

451. betoken

be a signal for or a symptom of

The haggard face and sombre eyes **betokened** considerable mental anguish. Young, F.E. Mills

452. palatable

acceptable to the taste or mind

If nicely cooked in this way, cabbage is as **palatable** and as digestible as cauliflower. Ronald, Mary.

453. upbraid

express criticism towards

When Kahn warned of a serious economic "depression", he was **upbraided** by the White House for using such language.

454. renegade

someone who rebels and becomes an outlaw

If he went off to another people he lost all standing among the Sioux and was thereafter treated as an outlaw and a **renegade**. Robinson, Doane

455. hoary

ancient

The device of the trapped young person saved by books is a **hoary** one, but Ms. Winterson makes it seem new, and sulfurous. New York Times (Mar 8, 2012)

456. pedantic

marked by a narrow focus on or display of learning

The reader is treated to **pedantic** little footnotes, and given a good deal of information which is either gratuitous or uninteresting. Hay, Ian

457. coy

showing marked and often playful evasiveness or reluctance

It was funny watching such a solid person, based in faith and education, grow a trifle **coy** about the year of his birth. New York Times (Jul 11, 2010)

458. troth

a solemn pledge of fidelity

She had pledged to him her **troth**, and she would not attempt to go back from her pledge at the first appearance of a difficulty. Trollope, Anthony

459. encroachment

entry to another's property without right or permission

The move may mark yet another attempt by France to rein in what it sees as the **encroachment** of online services on the country's culture. BusinessWeek (Jan 8, 2010)

460. belie

be in contradiction with

"It is a fine morning," he said, taken aback by my sudden movement, but affecting an indifference which the sparkle in his eye **belied**. Weyman, Stanley John

461. armada

a large fleet

An **armada** of three hundred ships manned by eighteen thousand marines assembled in the bay on their way to the conquest of Algiers. Douglas, Frances

462. succor

assistance in time of difficulty

Given his health woes, succession worries and persistent isolation, Mr. Kim may simply be seeking **succor** from what may be his last friend on earth. New York Times (May 5, 2010)

463. imperturbable

marked by extreme calm and composure

Ordinarily **imperturbable**, even in the face of unexpected situations, he was now visibly agitated. Griggs, Sutton E. (Sutton Elbert)

464. irresolute

uncertain how to act or proceed

I stood for a moment before I entered on my arduous undertaking, **irresolute** and hesitating, swayed by two conflicting impulses. Waugh, Joseph Laing

465. knack

a special way of doing something

He had a special **knack** of hunting out farm houses, engaging madame in conversation, and coming away with bread, eggs, or cheese in his knapsack. Price, Lucien

466. unseemly

not in keeping with accepted standards of what is proper

The square mile's upbeat mood may strike some as **unseemly** at a time of national gloom.

467. accentuate

stress or single out as important

This sparkling marvel lies modestly nestled among the law courts, whose plainer modern buildings serve but to **accentuate** its wonderful beauty. Sherrill, Charles Hitchcock

468. divulge

make known to the public information previously kept secret

She hectors her children not to **divulge** personal information like phone numbers online. Seattle Times (Nov 15, 2011)

469. brawn

the trait of possessing muscular strength

He believes Hollywood has often have had an over-reliance on physical **brawn** as the deciding factor for portraying a strong man.

470. burnish

polish and make shiny

Great cleanliness is enforced in all that belongs to a lighthouse, the reflectors and lenses being constantly **burnished**, polished, and cleansed. Whympers, Frederick

471. palpitate

beat rapidly

After supper my heart started racing, **palpitating** like a tick. Isaacson, Lauren Ann

472. promiscuous

not selective of a single class or person

A **promiscuous** assembly had gathered there—men of all creeds and opinions—and an "open-air" meeting was in progress. Whitney, Orson F.

473. dissemble

make believe with the intent to deceive

Pictures have always **dissembled** – there are millions of snaps of miserable families grinning bravely – but now they directly lie.

474. flotilla

a fleet of small craft

She was guarded by a **flotilla** of boats equipped with satellites, Global Positioning System devices, advanced navigation systems and shark shields. New York Times (Aug 11, 2011)

475. invective

abusive language used to express blame or censure

There's much more name-calling, shouting and personal **invective** in American life than anywhere I've ever traveled outside the United States. Washington Post (Jan 15, 2011)

476. hermitage

the abode of a recluse

All the rest of their time is passed in solitude in their **hermitages**, which are built quite separate from one another. Various

477. despoil

destroy and strip of its possession

Wherever his lordship's army went, plantations were **despoiled**, and private houses plundered. Campbell, Charles

478. sully

make dirty or spotty

Why **sully** the reputation of an otherwise fascinating online community with really deeply questionable, troubling content? Forbes (Feb 13, 2012).

479. malevolent

having or exerting a malignant influence

So you don't believe in evil, as an actual **malevolent** force?New York Times (Oct 28, 2011)

480. irksome

tedious or irritating

It was pretty **irksome** passing the time in his enforced prison, and finally Andy went to sleep.Webster, Frank V.

481. prattle

speak about unimportant matters rapidly and incessantly

She **prattled** on about the gossip of the town until Penny and her father were thoroughly bored.Clark, Joan

482. subaltern

inferior in rank or status

The careful commanding officer of a regiment discourages his young **subalterns** from taking leave to Hill Stations.Casserly, Gordon

483. welt

a raised mark on the skin

But red, itchy **welts** typically appear within 24 to 48 hours of being bitten.

484. wreak

cause to happen or to occur as a consequence

The burden of paying for college is **wreaking** havoc on the finances of an unexpected demographic: senior citizens.Washington Post (Apr 1, 2012)

485. tenable

based on sound reasoning or evidence

First, it is no longer really **tenable** – and in fact a bit disrespectful – to call a country like China an emerging economy.

486. inimitable

matchless

Leave aside Spain, where Barcelona breeds its own, **inimitable** style, and the answer might be that we are rushing toward uniformity.New York Times (Sep 26, 2010)

487. depredation

a destructive action

Wild elephants abound and commit many **depredations**, entering villages in large herds, and consuming everything suitable to their tastes.Various

488. amalgamate

bring or combine together or with something else

Where two weak tribes **amalgamated** into one, there it exceptionally happened that two closely related dialects were simultaneously spoken in the same tribe. Engels, Friedrich

489. immutable

not subject or susceptible to change or variation

We are mistaken to imagine a work of literature is or should be **immutable**, sculpted in marble and similarly impervious to change.

490. proxy

a person authorized to act for another

Ideally, everybody over 18 should execute a living will and select a health care **proxy** — someone to represent you in medical matters. New York Times (Jan 17, 2011)

491. dote

shower with love; show excessive affection for

He **doted** on him, just dearly loved him, and thought he could do no wrong,” Kredell said. Washington Post (Oct 17, 2011)

492. reactionary

extremely conservative or resistant to change

Old people are often accused of being too conservative, and even **reactionary**. Chinard, Gilbert

493. rationalism

the doctrine that reason is the basis for regulating conduct

Offering a religious rationale for policy goals threatens what for many has become the cherished principle of secular **rationalism** in public life.

494. endue

give qualities or abilities to

To say the least of it, he was **endued** with sufficient intelligence to acquire an ordinary knowledge of such matters. Various

495. discriminating

showing or indicating careful judgment and discernment

Jobs' Apple specializes in delighting the most **discriminating**, hard-to-please customers. Forbes (Oct 12, 2011)

496. brooch

a decorative pin

Upon her breast she wore a **brooch** of gold set with many precious stones.Butler, Pierce

497. pert

characterized by a lightly saucy or impudent quality

Her **pert**, lively manner said she hadn't taken any wooden nickels lately.Schoenherr, John

498. disembark

exit from a ship, vehicle, or aircraft

The immigrants **disembarked** from their ships tired and underfed—generally in poor health.Hughes, Thomas Proctor

499. aria

an elaborate song for solo voice

Ms. Netrebko sang an elegantly sad **aria** with lustrous warmth, aching vulnerability and floating high notes.New York Times (Sep 27, 2011)

500. trappings

ornaments; embellishments to or characteristic signs of

They were caparisoned in Indian fashion with gay colors and fancy **trappings**.Roy, Lillian Elizabeth

501. abet

assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing

"Since YouTube, digital culture has aided and enhanced -- or maybe the better word is **abetted** -- the celebrity meltdown," said Wired magazine senior editor Nancy Miller.

502. clandestine

conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

For Jordan, this is a **clandestine** relationship it would much prefer to have kept secret.BBC (Jan 5, 2010)

503. distend

swell from or as if from internal pressure

Some kids said LaNiyah's **distended** abdomen looked like she was carrying a baby.Seattle Times (Apr 7, 2011)

504. glib

having only superficial plausibility

The other sort of engineer understands that **glib** comparisons between computers and humans don't do justice to the complexities of either.

505. pucker

gather something into small wrinkles or folds

Godmother,' she went on, **puckering** her forehead again in perplexity, 'it almost feels like feathers.Molesworth, Mrs. (Mary Louisa)

506. rejoinder

a quick reply to a question or remark

"Not at all!" was Aunt Susannah's brisk **rejoinder**.Various

507. spangle

adornment consisting of a small piece of shiny material

Magdalen's garments are rich with **spangles**; her mantle is scarlet; she has flowers in her luxuriant tresses, and looks a vain creature.O'Shea, John Augustus

508. blighted

affected by something that prevents growth or prosperity

Hudec, whose career has been **blighted** by knee injuries and operations, won for the first time in more than four years.New York Times (Feb 4, 2012)

509. nicety

conformity with some standard of correctness or propriety

They accepted the invitation; but Mrs. Rowlandson did not appreciate the **niceties** of Indian etiquette.Abbott, John S. C. (John Stevens Cabot)

510. aggrieve

infringe on the rights of

Some fallout appears evident in donations from Wall Street executives, who feel particularly **aggrieved** by Mr. Obama's criticisms and policies.New York Times (Feb 20, 2012)

511. vestment

a gown worn by the clergy

And then a priest, arrayed in all his **vestments**, came in at the open door, and the prince and princess exchanged rings, and were married.Glinski, A. J.

512. urbane

showing a high degree of refinement

Polished, **urbane** and gentlemanly—his manners were calculated to refine all around him.Judson, L. Carroll

513. defray

bear the expenses of

The legislation also calls for \$1.6 billion in spending cuts to help **defray** the disaster costs.Washington Post (Sep 26, 2011)

514. spectral

resembling or characteristic of a phantom

Hawthorne's figures are somewhat **spectral**; they lack flesh and blood.Merwin, Henry Childs

515. munificent

very generous

They have shown themselves very loving and generous lately, in making a quite **munificent** provision for his traveling.Carlyle, Thomas

516. dictum

an authoritative declaration

In other words, they seemed fully subscribed to Andy Warhol's **dictum** that business art is the best art.New York Times (Dec 10, 2011)

517. fad

an interest followed with exaggerated zeal

According to Chinese media, the hottest new **fad** in China involves selling small live-animal key chains.Time (Apr 5, 2011)

518. scabbard

a sheath for a sword or dagger or bayonet

Drawing his own sabre from its **scabbard**, he pointed to a stain on it, saying, "This is the blood of an Englishman."Reed, Helen Leah

519. adulterate

make impure by adding a foreign or inferior substance

Shady dealers along the supply chain frequently **adulterate** olive oil with low-grade vegetable oils and add artificial coloring.New York Times (Dec 7, 2011)

520. beleaguer

annoy persistently

Rock concert ticket sales dropped sharply last year, sounding another sour note for the **beleaguered** music industry.

521. gripe

complain

If America is going to **gripe** about the yuan's rate, then China will complain about the dollar's role.

522. remission

an abatement in intensity or degree

After a few hours there is a **remission** of the pain, slight perspiration takes place, and the patient may fall asleep.Various

523. exorbitant

greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

Soon, stories began trickling across the Atlantic of crazed fans paying **exorbitant** sums to get into London gigs. Slate (Oct 10, 2011)

524. invocation

the act of appealing for help

These dances are prayers or **invocations** for rain, the crowning blessing in this dry land. Roosevelt, Theodore

525. cajole

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

Hamilton, however, was not to be **cajoled** into friendliness by superficial compliment. Fisher, Harrison

526. inclusive

encompassing much or everything

We are going to adhere to our basic programming strategy of nonpartisan information **inclusive** of all different points of view.

527. interdict

command against

Failing to satisfy his examiners, he was **interdicted** from practice, but ignored the prohibition, and suffered more than one imprisonment in consequence. Worley, George

528. abase

cause to feel shame

Ashamed, **abased**, degraded in his own eyes, he turned away his head. Caine, Hall, Sir

529. obviate

do away with

Comfortable sleeping-cars **obviate** the necessity of stopping by the way for bodily rest, provided the traveller be physically strong and in good health. Ballou, Maturin Murray

530. hurtle

move with or as if with a rushing sound

The hurricane was expected to hit Washington in the early hours of Sunday before **hurtling** toward New York City.

531. unanimity

everyone being of one mind

On all other points of colonial policy, Mackenzie declared, people would be found to differ, but as regards the post office there was absolute **unanimity**. Smith, William, Sir

532. mettle

the courage to carry on

The deployment will also test the emotional **mettle** of soldiers and their families. New York Times (Jun 26, 2010)

533. interpolate

insert words into texts, often falsifying it thereby

Most scholars agree that these lines are **interpolated**, since they do not fit in with the rest of the poem. Various

534. surreptitious

marked by quiet and caution and secrecy

He noticed that the peddler was eying the bag Scotty had picked up, and was trying to be **surreptitious** about it. Goodwin, Harold L. (Harold Leland)

535. dissimulate

hide feelings from other people

From infancy these people have been schooled to **dissimulate** and hide emotion, and ordinarily their faces are as opaque as those of veteran poker players. Kephart, Horace

536. ruse

a deceptive maneuver, especially to avoid capture

Overseas criminals use elaborate **ruses**, including phony websites, to trick job-seekers into helping transfer stolen funds. BusinessWeek (Aug 4, 2011)

537. specious

plausible but false

You might be tempted to think of the biggest airline as the one with the most aircraft, but capacity differences make this reasoning **specious**.

538. revulsion

intense aversion

After a first instinctive cry of horrified **revulsion**, the men reached down under water with their hands and drew out—a corpse. Livingston, Arthur

539. hale
exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health

From a hearty, **hale**, corn-fed boy, he has become pale, lean, and wan.Adams, Abigail

540. palliate
lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or extent of

Divisions and inequalities persist, but government can **palliate** their effects with hard cash.

541. obtuse
lacking in insight or discernment

The affair had been mentioned so plainly that it was impossible for the most dense and **obtuse** person not to have understood the allusion.Brazil, Angela

542. querulous
habitually complaining

He was, at times, as **querulous** as a complaining old man.Williams, Ben Ames

543. vagary
an unexpected and inexplicable change in something

Today such acquisitions are more likely to stay put, destined to survive both market fluctuations and the **vagaries** of style.New York Times (Sep 29, 2010)

544. incipient
only partly in existence; imperfectly formed

Above all, medical teams will need to establish quick surveillance to identify health needs and pinpoint **incipient** outbreaks before they explode.Time (Jan 13, 2010)

545. obdurate
stubbornly persistent in wrongdoing

Several appeared deeply affected, with tears of repentance standing in their eyes, others sullen and **obdurate**.Huth, Alexander

546. grovel
show submission or fear

The two young men who drove them had fallen flat and were **grovelling** and wailing for mercy.Mitford, Bertram

547. refractory
stubbornly resistant to authority or control

Beyond them the gardener struggled with a **refractory** horse that refused to draw his load of brush and dead leaves.Bacon, Josephine Dodge Daskam

548. dregs

sediment that has settled at the bottom of a liquid

"Right got to go," Ali says, draining the **dregs** of his beer.

549. ascendancy

the state when one person or group has power over another

But in a few days he had secured an almost incredible **ascendancy** over the sullen, starved, half-clothed army. Various

550. supercilious

having or showing arrogant superiority

A **supercilious**, patronizing person—son of a wretched country parson—used to loll against the wall of your salon—with his nose in the air. Pinero, Arthur Wing, Sir

551. pundit

someone who has been admitted to membership in a field

Pundits of agricultural science explore the sheds, I believe, the barns, stables, machine-rooms, and so forth, before inspecting the crops. Boyle, Frederick

552. commiserate

feel or express sympathy or compassion

We had spent countless hours together drinking wine and **commiserating** about child-rearing, long Wisconsin winters and interrupted sleep. New York Times (Mar 24, 2011)

553. alcove

a small recess opening off a large room or garden

They showed him where he would sleep, in a little closet-like **alcove** screened from the big room by a gay curtain. Wilson, Harry Leon

554. assay

make an effort or attempt

He decided to **assay** one last project before giving up. New York Times (Mar 30, 2012)

555. parochial

narrowly restricted in outlook or scope

But Republicans in Pennsylvania also have narrower and more **parochial** things to worry about. New York Times (Sep 17, 2011)

556. conjugal

relating to the relationship between a wife and husband

They even had **conjugal** visits for prisoners — five hours in a private room every three months with your wife. New York Times (Nov 23, 2010)

557. abjure

formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief

The caste abstain from liquor, and some of them have **abjured** all flesh food while others partake of it. Russell, R. V. (Robert Vane)

558. frieze

an ornament consisting of a horizontal sculptured band

All the doorways mentioned above have cornices, and in those at Palmyra and Baalbec richly carved **friezes** with side corbels. Various

559. ornate

marked by complexity and richness of detail

Unlike his literary icon, Herman Melville, he doesn't adorn his writing with **ornate** flourishes or complicated scaffolding. Scientific American (Dec 20, 2011)

560. inflammatory

arousing to action or rebellion

We don't know whether **inflammatory** language or images can incite the mentally ill to commit acts of violence. Time (Jan 13, 2011)

561. machination

a crafty and involved plot to achieve your ends

He was continued a member of Congress until 1777 when his enemies succeeded in their long nursed **machinations** against him. Judson, L. Carroll

562. mendicant

a pauper who lives by begging

In others are the broken-down **mendicants** who live on soup-kitchens and begging. Ritchie, J. Ewing (James Ewing)

563. meander

move or cause to move in a winding or curving course

They paused beside one of the low stone walls that **meandered** in a meaningless fashion this way and that over the uplands. Vance, Louis Joseph

564. bullion

gold or silver in bars or ingots

In times of economic turmoil, more people tend to invest in **bullion** gold. Washington Post (Mar 30, 2012)

565. diffidence

lack of self-assurance

His grave **diffidence** and continued hesitation in offering an opinion confirmed me in my own. Froude, James Anthony

566. makeshift

done or made using whatever is available

The house was still under construction, so he climbed up a ladder being used as a **makeshift** stairway, fell and injured his leg. New York Times (Apr 12, 2012)

567. husbandry

the practice of cultivating the land or raising stock

The U.S. can take a lesson from Denmark, which has efficiently raised livestock without hurting farmers, by using better animal **husbandry** practices. Scientific American (Mar 22, 2011)

568. podium

a platform raised above the surrounding level

Leyva beamed as he stood atop the **podium**, nodding as the American flag was raised and "The Star-Spangled Banner" played in his honor. New York Times (Oct 22, 2011)

569. dearth

an insufficient quantity or number

A continuing **dearth** of snow in many U.S. spots usually buried by this time of year has turned life upside down. Washington Post (Jan 5, 2012)

570. granary

a storehouse for threshed grain or animal feed

Here is where he does his husking, and the "clear corn" produced is stored away in some underground **granary** till it is needed. Seton, Ernest Thompson

571. whet

make keen or more acute

While he described the fishing as "pretty good," the silver salmon running in the creek only **whetted** his appetite to return to Alaska. Washington Post (Aug 17, 2011)

572. imposture

pretending to be another person

He got somebody to prosecute him for false pretences and **imposture**, on the ground that Madame was a man. Leland, Charles Godfrey

573. diadem

an ornamental jeweled headdress signifying sovereignty

I dethrone monarchs and the people rejoicing crown me instead, showering **diadems** upon my head. Tilney, Frederick Colin

574. fallow

undeveloped but potentially useful

Several new prostate cancer drugs have been approved in the last couple of years, after a long **fallow** period, and others are in advanced development. New York Times (Nov 3, 2011)

575. hubbub

loud confused noise from many sources

There was some good-humoured pushing and thrusting, the drum beating and the church bells jangling bravely above the **hubbub**. Weyman, Stanley J.

576. dispassionate

unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice

The commission sitting by, judicial, **dispassionate**, presided with cold dignity over the sacrifice, and pronounced it good. Candee, Helen Churchill Hungerford, Mrs.

577. harrowing

causing extreme distress

Belgium found itself in turmoil as hundreds of people came forward to offer **harrowing** accounts of abuse over several decades. New York Times (Jan 16, 2012)

578. askance

with suspicion or disapproval

A secret marriage in these days would be looked upon **askance** by most people. Wood, Mrs. Henry.

579. lancet

a surgical knife with a pointed double-edged blade

His left arm was held by the second physician, while the chief surgeon bent over it, **lancet** in hand. Hay, Marie, Hon. (Agnes Blanche Marie)

580. rankle

make resentful or angry

He was feeling more like himself now, though the memory of the bully's sneering words **rankled**. Chadwick, Lester

581. ramify

have or develop complicating consequences

Cometary science has **ramified** in unexpected ways during the last hundred years. Various

582. gainsay

take exception to

That Whitman entertained a genuine affection for men and women is, of course, too obvious to be **gainsaid**. Rickett, Arthur

583. polity
a governmentally organized unit

China needs a **polity** that can address its increasingly sophisticated society, and to achieve that there must be political reform, Mr. Sun said. New York Times (Mar 21, 2012)

584. credence
the mental attitude that something is believable

"Well-known brand names that promote new products receive more **credence** than newcomers that people don't know about."

585. indemnify
make amends for; pay compensation for

She put her affairs in order and left instructions that those whom she had unwittingly wronged should be **indemnified** out of her private fortune. Butler, Pierce

586. ingratiate
gain favor with somebody by deliberate efforts

He became kindly and coaxing, leaning across the table with an **ingratiating** smile. King, Basil

587. declivity
a downward slope or bend

In this frightful condition, the hunter grappled with the raging beast, and, struggling for life, they rolled together down a steep **declivity**. Goodrich, Samuel G. (Samuel Griswold)

588. importunate
making persistent or urgent requests

The young man was then passionately **importunate** in the protestations of his love. Barr, Amelia Edith Huddleston

589. passe
out of fashion

My friend is very keen on the new crowd; everything else he declares is "**passe**." Holliday, Robert Cortes

590. whittle
cut small bits or pare shavings from

Tad followed, **whittling** on a stick with his knife and kicking at the shavings as they fell. Kjelgaard, James Arthur

591. repine
express discontent

Those poor fellows above, accustomed to the wild freshness and freedom of the sea, how they must mourn and **repine!**O'Shea, John Augustus

592. flay
strip the skin off

Once at the moose and hastily **flaying** the hide from the steaming meat my attention became centered on the task.Sinclair, Bertrand W.

593. larder
a small storeroom for storing foods or wines

Mr. Goncalves's **larder** holds staples like beefsteak, salt cod, sardines, olives, artichokes, hot and sweet peppers and plenty of garlic.New York Times (Feb 18, 2011)

594. threadbare
thin and tattered with age

They were all poor folk, wrapped in **threadbare** cloaks or tattered leather.Brackett, Leigh Douglass

595. grisly
shockingly repellent; inspiring horror

Television video showed a heavily damaged building and a **grisly** scene inside, with clothing and prayer mats scattered across a blood-splattered floor.New York Times (Aug 19, 2011)

596. untoward
not in keeping with accepted standards of what is proper

Responding to criticism that cash payments are a classic means of tax evasion, he said he had done nothing **untoward**.New York Times (Aug 2, 2011)

597. idiosyncrasy
a behavioral attribute peculiar to an individual

One of his well-known **idiosyncrasies** was that he would never allow himself to be photographed.Le Queux, William

598. quip
make jokes or witty remarks

"I could have joined the FBI in a shorter period of time and with less documentation than it took to get that mortgage," she **quipped**.

599. blatant

without any attempt at concealment; completely obvious

There was no **blatant** display of wealth, and every article of furniture bore signs of long though careful use.Bull, Charles Livingston

600. stanch

stop the flow of a liquid

She did not attempt to **stanch** her tears, but sat looking at him with a smiling mouth, while the heavy drops fell down her cheeks.Stockley, Cynthia

601. incongruity

the quality of disagreeing

Hanging out wet clothes and an American flag at the North Pole seemed an amusing **incongruity**.Cook, Frederick A.

602. perfidious

tending to betray

The **perfidious** Italian at length confessed that it was his intention to murder his master, and then rob the house.Billinghurst, Percy J.

603. platitude

a trite or obvious remark

But details are fuzzy and rebel leaders often resort to **platitudes** when dismissing suggestions of discord, saying simply that "Libya is one tribe."Wall Street Journal (Jun 20, 2011)

604. revelry

unrestrained merrymaking

But all this **revelry** — dancing, drinks, exuberant youth — can be hard to manage.New York Times (Jun 3, 2010)

605. delve

turn up, loosen, or remove earth

So she did what any reporter would do: she **delved** into the scientific literature and talked to investigators.New York Times (Dec 27, 2010)

606. extenuate

lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or degree of

Prosecutors often spend time weighing mitigating and **extenuating** circumstances before deciding to seek the death penalty.Washington Post (Oct 15, 2011)

607. polemic

a verbal or written attack, especially of a belief or dogma

Would it be a **polemic** that denounced Western imperialism for using cinema to undermine emerging nations like Kazakhstan?New York Times (Oct 4, 2010)

608. enrapture

hold spellbound

I was delighted, **enraptured**, beside myself--the world had disappeared in an instant.Spielhagen, Friedrich

609. virtuoso

someone who is dazzlingly skilled in any field

Each of the seven instrumentalists was a **virtuoso** in his own right and had ample opportunity to prove it, often in long, soulful solos.New York Times (May 3, 2010)

610. glower

look angry or sullen as if to signal disapproval

A moment later he would collapse, sit **glowering** in his chair, looking angrily at the carpet.Hecht, Ben

611. mundane

found in the ordinary course of events

Now, it would seem, that the Chinese are getting back to their everyday concerns, paying attention to events more **mundane** and less cataclysmic.New York Times (Mar 20, 2012)

612. fatuous

devoid of intelligence

They're too stupid, for one thing; they go on burning houses and breaking windows in their old **fatuous** way.McKenna, Stephen

613. incorrigible

impervious to correction by punishment

She scolded and lectured her sister in vain; Cynthia was **incorrigible**.Various

614. postulate

maintain or assert

In fact, when Einstein formulated his cosmological vision, based on his theory of gravitation, he **postulated** that the universe was finite.Scientific American (Jul 26, 2011)

615. gist

the central meaning or theme of a speech or literary work

The syntax was a little off, even comical at times, but I got the **gist** of what was going on.Time (May 6, 2010)

616. vociferous

conspicuously and offensively loud

The complaints grew so loud and **vociferous** that even President Obama was forced to address the backlash from Lisbon on Saturday.New York Times (Nov 23, 2010)

617. purvey
supply with provisions

And we will agree also to **purvey** food for these horses and people during nine months.Villehardouin, Geoffroi de

618. baleful
deadly or sinister

"But he is dead," put in Fanning, wondering at the **baleful** expression of hatred that had come into the man's face.Burnham, Margaret

619. gibe
laugh at with contempt and derision

So much did their taunts prey upon him that he ran away from school to escape their **gibes**.Hubbard, Elbert

620. dyspeptic
irritable as if suffering from indigestion

One may begin with heroic renunciations and end in undignified envy and **dyspeptic** comments outside the door one has slammed on one's self.Wells, H. G. (Herbert George)

621. prude
a person excessively concerned about propriety and decorum

Criticising high-profile programmes about teenage sex education often means risking being written off as a **prude**.

622. luminary
a celebrity who is an inspiration to others

Founded in 1947, the group's members have included such **luminaries** as Walt Disney, Spencer Tracy and another American president, Ronald Reagan.Seattle Times (Apr 11, 2011)

623. amenable
disposed or willing to comply

He, Jean Boulot, being so **amenable** to sensible argument, would at once fall in with his views.Wingfield, Lewis

624. willful
habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition

I crossed my arms like a **willful** child.New York Times (Aug 18, 2011)

625. overbearing
having or showing arrogant superiority

"True; but——" "Just so," interrupted Mr. Fauntleroy, in his decisive and rather **overbearing** manner.Wood, Mrs. Henry

626. dais

a platform raised above the surrounding level

The throne was elevated on a **dais** of silver steps.Tracy, Louis

627. automate

operate or make run by machines rather than human action

And because leap seconds are needed irregularly their insertion cannot be **automated**, which means that fallible humans must insert them by hand.

628. enervate

weaken physically, mentally, or morally

The reviewers have **enervated** men's minds, and made them indolent; few think for themselves.Rossetti, William Michael

629. wheedle

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

On one level, I expected incessant flattery in attempts to **wheedle** equipment or even money from American forces.New York Times (Aug 16, 2010)

630. gusto

vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment

The audience, surprisingly large given the inclement weather, responded with **gusto**, applauding each song, including those within the Shostakovich cycle.New York Times (Mar 2, 2010)

631. bouillon

a clear seasoned broth

The meat soups are called broths, **bouillon**, or consommé, according to their richness.Ronald, Mary

632. omniscient

knowing, seeing, or understanding everything

Robbe-Grillet responds that his work is in fact far less objective than the godlike, **omniscient** narrator who presides over so many traditional novels.

633. apostate

not faithful to religion or party or cause

They are atheist conservatives — Mr. Khan an **apostate** to his family's Islamic faith, Ms. Mac Donald to her left-wing education.New York Times (Feb 18, 2011)

634. carrion

the dead and rotting body of an animal; unfit for human food

Habitually his diet is not carnivorous, but he will eat at times either **carrion** or living flesh.Reid, Mayne

635. emolument

compensation received by virtue of holding an office

As the TUC has pointed out, those incomes – except for senior executives, whose **emoluments** seem to know few bounds – are rising more slowly than prices.

636. ungainly

lacking grace in movement or posture

Thomas looked up furtively and saw that an **ungainly** human figure with crooked legs was being led into the church. Gogol, Nikolai Vasilievich

637. impiety

unrighteousness by virtue of lacking respect for a god

That, however, is unbelief, extreme **impiety**, and a denial of the most high God. Bente, F. (Friedrich)

638. decadence

the state of being degenerate in mental or moral qualities

But there are people who really do not want to import what they regard as Western **decadence**, especially public drunkenness. BBC (Jun 11, 2011)

639. homily

a sermon on a moral or religious topic

In his New Year's **homily**, the pope said "words were not enough" to bring about peace, particularly in the Middle East.

640. avocation

an auxiliary activity

Unlike many retired doctors, whom he says often have no life outside their profession, he always knew sailing would become his **avocation**. Newsweek (Nov 17, 2010)

641. circumvent

avoid or try to avoid fulfilling, answering, or performing

Mr. Bloomberg said he would take several steps to **circumvent** obstacles to his proposals posed by city labor unions. New York Times (Jan 12, 2012)

642. syllogism

reasoning in which a conclusion is derived from two premises

The conclusions arrived at by means of **syllogisms** are irresistible, provided the form be correct and the premises be true. Webster, W. F. (William Franklin)

643. collation

assembling in proper numerical or logical sequence

In the case of early printed books or manuscripts, which are often not paged, special knowledge is needed for their **collation**. Rooke, Noel

644. haggle

wrangle, as over a price or terms of an agreement

Obama said while officials can **haggle** over the makeup of spending cuts, the policy issues have no place in the measure.

645. waylay

wait in hiding to attack

Sir Samuel Clithering was not, of course, a member of it; but he lurked about outside and **waylaid** us as we went in. Birmingham, George A.

646. savant

a learned person

Frank had studied something of almost everything and imagined himself a **savant**. Roussel, John

647. cohort

a group of people having approximately the same age

The current **cohort** of college students is, as many have pointed out, the first truly digital generation. Washington Post (Dec 1, 2011)

648. unction

excessive but superficial compliments with affected charm

"You couldn't ask too much of me," he returned, with no **unction** of flattery, but the cheerfully frank expression of an ingenuous heart. Ogden, George W. (George Washington)

649. adjure

command solemnly

"I **adjure** thee," she said, "swear to me that you will never go near those Christians again or read their books." Pennell, T. L. (Theodore Leighton)

650. acrimony

a rough and bitter manner

Relations with India have been slowly improving, although talks ended in **acrimony** last July with the two sides indulging in a public spat over Kashmir.

651. clarion

loud and clear

"He has been the single, **clarion** voice for commuter rail in central Florida for 20 years," said Mayor Ken Bradley of Winter Park. New York Times (Jun 27, 2011)

652. turbid

clouded as with sediment

The thick **turbid** sea rolled in, casting up mire and dirt from its depths. Reynolds, Mrs. Baillie

653. cupidity

extreme greed for material wealth

Well educated, but very corrupt at heart, he found in his insatiable **cupidity** many ways of gaining money.Kraszewski, Jozef Ignacy

654. disaffected

discontented as toward authority

The financial crisis, largely caused by banker incompetence, has created legions of **disaffected** customers.Forbes (Sep 15, 2011)

655. preternatural

surpassing the ordinary or normal

In fact, they regarded the Spaniards as superior beings endowed with **preternatural** gifts.Gilson, Jewett Castello

656. eschew

avoid and stay away from deliberately

Morrissey is among those seniors who are **eschewing** nursing homes in favor of independent living.Washington Post (Mar 23, 2012)

657. expatiate

add details, as to an account or idea

He then **expatiated** on his own miseries, which he detailed at full length.Manzoni, Alessandro

658. didactic

instructive, especially excessively

Let us have a book so full of good illustrations that **didactic** instruction shall not be needed.Various

659. sinuous

curved or curving in and out

In origami parlance, Mr. Joisel was a wet-folder, dampening his paper so that he could coax it into **sinuous** curves.New York Times (Oct 20, 2010)

660. rancor

a feeling of deep and bitter anger and ill-will

The current session of Parliament has so far produced only **rancor**, as opposition parties have shut down proceedings with angry, theatrical protests against corruption.New York Times (Aug 14, 2011)

661. puissant

powerful

The ship was not fighting now, but yielding—a complacent leviathan held captive by a most **puissant** and ruthless enemy.Tracy, Louis

662. homespun

characteristic of country life

His rural, **homespun** demeanor ordinarily might elicit snickers from India's urban elite. New York Times (Aug 18, 2011)

663. embroil

force into some kind of situation or course of action

But Mr. Marbury, often **embroiled** in controversy during his N.B.A. days, seems to have found some measure of peace in China. New York Times (Apr 1, 2012)

664. pathological

caused by or evidencing a mentally disturbed condition

"Fixated individuals" — mentally ill people with a **pathological** focus on someone, often a stranger — make up the first group.

665. resonant

characterized by a loud deep sound

His eyes were piercing but sad, his voice grand and **resonant**, suiting well the wrathful, impassioned Calvinism of his sermons. Barr, Amelia Edith Huddleston

666. libretto

the words of an opera or musical play

In many great operas, composers have had to whittle down an epic literary work into a suitable **libretto**. New York Times (Mar 6, 2010)

667. flail

thrash about

Exercise is prescribed, but when she joins an aqua aerobics class, she **flails** embarrassingly. New York Times (Apr 12, 2012)

668. bandy

discuss lightly

Hillary Clinton's name has been **bandied** about, but she's made it clear she's not interested.

669. gratis

costing nothing

"Would you admit them **gratis**?" asked Mr. Castlemaine with a smile, "or would they have to pay, like ordinary residents in an hotel?" Hocking, Joseph

670. upshot

a phenomenon that is caused by some previous phenomenon

The inevitable **upshot** of their growing social power was that brands wanted an expanded visual presence.

671. aphorism

a short pithy instructive saying

General Sherman's famous **aphorism** that "War is Hell," has become classic. Fletcher, Samuel H.

672. redoubtable

worthy of respect or honor

Captain Miles Standish was a **redoubtable** soldier, small in person, but of great activity and courage. Mann, Henry

673. corpulent

excessively large

Obesity is very common, but chiefly among the women, who while still quite young often become enormously **corpulent**. D'Anvers, N.

674. benighted

lacking enlightenment or knowledge or culture

I alone was magnificently and absurdly aware—everyone else was **benightedly** out of it. James, Henry

675. sententious

abounding in or given to pompous or aphoristic moralizing

He is the village wise man; very **sententious**; and full of profound remarks on shallow subjects. Irving, Washington

676. cabal

a clique that seeks power usually through intrigue

Supposedly, see, there's this global **cabal** of scientists conspiring to bring about socialist one-world government.

677. paraphernalia

equipment consisting of miscellaneous articles

It's outfitted with cricket bats and other antique sports **paraphernalia**. Seattle Times (Sep 27, 2011)

678. vitiate

make imperfect

His talent in writing is **vitiated** by his affectation and other faults. Blair, Emma Helen

679. adulation

exaggerated flattery or praise

And celebrities get all this **adulation** for something that is not about character, it's about talent.

680. quaff
swallow hurriedly or greedily or in one draught

Meanwhile the officers under the tree had got served, and, cups in hand, were **quaffing** joyously. Reid, Mayne

681. unassuming
not arrogant

Parr's conduct after his most heroic actions was thoroughly modest and **unassuming**. Greely, Adolphus W.

682. libertine
a dissolute person

Still, Mr. Awlaki was neither among the most conservative Muslim students nor among the **libertines** who tossed aside religious restrictions on drinking and sex. New York Times (May 8, 2010).

683. maul
injure badly

Hundreds of concert goers were **mauled** as they left by what The New York Times called "bands of roving youths." New York Times (Aug 17, 2011).

684. adage
a condensed but memorable saying embodying an important fact

So he focuses on the fans and embraces the **adage**, "Living well is the best revenge." New York Times (Mar 25, 2011)

685. expostulation
the act of expressing earnest opposition or protest

He even believed he saw visions with his own bodily eyes, and no **expostulations** of his friends could drive this belief out of his head. Hoffmann, E. T. A. (Ernst Theodor Amadeus)

686. tawdry
tastelessly showy

It was a **tawdry** affair, all Cupids and cornucopias, like a third-rate wedding cake. Wilde, Oscar

687. trite
repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

The subject—a deathbed scene—might seem at first sight to be a **trite** and common one. Lancey, Magdalene de

688. hireling
a person who works only for money

Why should I?—a mere police detective, who had been hired to do a service and paid for it like any other **hireling**. Hanshew, Thomas W.

689. ensconce

fix firmly

Though she is firmly **ensconced** in a writing career, Ms. Freud, 48, said that in the early days she missed acting terribly. New York Times (Oct 30, 2011)

690. egregious

conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible

“These offenses are very serious, even **egregious**,” the judge said. Washington Post (Sep 12, 2011)

691. cogent

powerfully persuasive

His thesis was too **cogent**, and appealed too powerfully to all classes of the Upper Canada community, to be anything but irresistible. Morison, J. L. (John Lyle)

692. incisive

demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions

A half-hour of informed and **incisive** questioning by Mr. Russert would have demolished Mr. Trump. New York Times (May 1, 2011)

693. errant

straying from the right course or from accepted standards

As the crowd voiced its displeasure, the referees made sure Wisconsin got the ball, but pass was **errant** and rolled out of bounds at midcourt. Seattle Times (Feb 28, 2012)

694. sedulous

marked by care and persistent effort

Sedulous attention and painstaking industry always mark the true worker. Calhoun, Major A.R.

695. incandescent

characterized by ardent emotion, intensity, or brilliance

Kirkwood's anger cooled apace; at worst it had been a flare of passion—**incandescent**. Vance, Louis Joseph

696. derelict

in deplorable condition

Others are clustered under a tin awning by a **derelict** railway station or in similarly run-down school buildings.

697. entomology

the branch of zoology that studies insects

From the department of **entomology** you expect to learn something about the troublesome insects, which are so universal an annoyance. Latham, A. W.

698. execrable
unequivocally detestable

But minds were so overexcited at the time that the parties mutually accused each other, on all occasions, of the most **execrable** crimes.Imbert de Saint-Amand, Arthur Léon, baron

699. sluice
pour as if from a conduit that carries a rapid flow of water

At 4:15 p.m., as the rain was **sluicing** off roofs in sheets, the firemen moved the trucks to higher ground.New York Times (Aug 31, 2011)

700. moot
of no legal significance, as having been previously decided

The statement from Hermitage said even in the Soviet period no defendant had been tried after death, when charges were generally considered **moot**.New York Times (Feb 7, 2012)

701. evanescent
short-lived; tending to vanish or disappear

Time seems stopped but it is moving on, and every glimmer of light is **evanescent**, flitting.

702. vat
a large open vessel for holding or storing liquids

The cream remains in the large **vat** about twenty-four hours before it is churned.Chamberlain, James Franklin

703. dapper
marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners

Thoroughly **dapper**, he took off his black-and-white pinstriped suit jacket — with its pocket-square flair — and weaved in and out among them, his voice ever rising.New York Times (Jan 22, 2011)

704. asperity
harshness of manner

All this proceeds from the old man, whose proper character it is to be angry and bitter, and to exhibit rancor and **asperity**.Arndt, Johann

705. flair
a natural talent

In fact, while Lamarr qualified as an inventive genius for her artistic **flair**, she fell somewhat short on her scientific acumen.Slate (Nov 28, 2011)

706. mote

a tiny piece of anything

He took his discharge out of his pocket, brushed every **mote** of dust from the table, and spread the document before their eyes. Auerbach, Berthold

707. circumspect

careful to consider potential consequences and avoid risk

Obama administration officials argue that new regulations are forcing insurers to be more **circumspect** about raising rates. New York Times (Sep 27, 2011)

708. inimical

tending to obstruct or cause harm

The Hindu idea is that so long as justice and equity characterise a king's rule, even beasts naturally **inimical** are disposed to live in friendship. Kingscote, Mrs. Howard

709. apropos

of a suitable, fitting, or pertinent nature

I found myself thinking vaguely about things that were not at all **apropos** to the situation. Stockley, Cynthia

710. gruel

a thin porridge

He says, keep them on just two pints of Indian-meal **gruel**—by which he appears to mean thin hasty pudding—a day, and no more. Alcott, William A. (William Andrus)

711. gentility

elegance by virtue of fineness of manner and expression

This was no rough bully of the seas; Carew's bearing and dandified apparel bespoke **gentility**. Springer, Norman

712. disapprobation

an expression of strong disapproval

Mr Ruthven shook his head and declared that he regarded the conduct of her persecutors with grave moral **disapprobation**. Wheeler, E.J.

713. cameo

engraving or carving in low relief on a stone

The trinket was a small round **cameo** cut out of mother-of-pearl and set in gold; it represented St. George and the dragon. J?kai, M?r

714. gouge

swindle; obtain by coercion

Shortages also have raised concerns about higher prices and **gouging** by wholesale drug companies that obtain supplies of hard-to-get drugs and jack up the costs. Seattle Times (Jan 20, 2012)

715. oratorio

a musical composition for voices and orchestra

Mendelssohn had no sooner completed his first **oratorio**, "St. Paul," than he began to think about setting another Bible story to music.Edwards, Frederick George

716. inclement

severe, of weather

Be prepared for **inclement** weather and possible ice and snow on park roads.Seattle Times (Oct 16, 2011)

717. scintilla

a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

Gardner "never expressed one **scintilla** of remorse for his attack upon the victim" despite overwhelming evidence, prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memo.

718. confluence

a flowing together

And indeed, before the 13th century, there was an extraordinary **confluence** of genius and innovation, particularly around Baghdad.New York Times (Dec 28, 2010)

719. squalor

sordid dirtiness

What can be expected of human beings, crowded in such miserable habitations, living in filth and **squalor**, and often pinched with hunger?Field, Henry M. (Henry Martyn)

720. stricture

severe criticism

While gratefully accepting the generous praises of our friends, we must briefly reply to some **strictures** by our critics.Stanton, Elizabeth Cady

721. emblazon

decorate with heraldic arms

His coat of arms was **emblazoned** on the cover.Mason, A. E. W. (Alfred Edward Woodley)

722. augury

an event indicating important things to come

This is always an encouraging sign, and an **augury** of success.Alger, Horatio

723. abut

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

It depicts a mountain landscape near Kingston, a historic town **abutting** the Hudson River.New York Times (Jan 8, 2010)

724. banal

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

Highly dramatic incidents are juxtaposed with comparatively **banal** ones; particular attention is given to tales of doomed love affairs.New York Times (Dec 4, 2011)

725. congeal

solidify, thicken, or come together

Boil down the syrup to half its original quantity, but take care that it does not boil long enough to **congeal** or become thick.Baru?, Sulpice

726. pilfer

make off with belongings of others

Many young people scavenge for reusable garbage, living on proceeds from **pilfered** construction material and other recyclables.Seattle Times (Feb 8, 2012)

727. malcontent

a person who is unsatisfied or disgusted

Now, unfortunately, some **malcontents** among the hands here have spread their ideas, and a strike has been called.Maitland, Robert

728. sublimate

direct energy or urges into useful activities

They might instead have passionate friendships, or **sublimate** their urges into other pursuits.New York Times (Jun 4, 2010)

729. eugenic

causing improvement in the offspring produced

Eugenics was aimed at creating a better society by filtering out people considered undesirable, ranging from criminals to those imprecisely designated as “feeble-minded.”Washington Post (Aug 1, 2011)

730. firebrand

someone who deliberately foments trouble

But Hassan is not some teenage **firebrand** hurling rocks; he’s a slight, graying scholar committed to peace.New York Times (Jun 9, 2011)

731. fiasco

a complete failure or collapse

The Stuttgart protests became a national **fiasco** in late September, when protesters clashed with police wielding batons and water cannons.Newsweek (Dec 14, 2010)

732. foolhardy

marked by defiant disregard for danger or consequences

Many mistakes—extravagant purchases, **foolhardy** investments—are made in the first months after a windfall.Wall Street Journal (Feb 24, 2012)

733. retrench

tighten one's belt; use resources carefully

But there was only one way open to me at present—and that was to **retrench** my expenses.Caine, Hall, Sir

734. ulterior

lying beyond what is openly revealed or avowed

Shop window displays may help prettify shopping thoroughfares, but any savvy retailer has the **ulterior** motive of self promotion.BBC (Feb 3, 2010)

735. equable

not varying

His must have been that calm, **equable** temperament not easily ruffled, which goes with the self-respecting nature.Hurl, Estelle M. (Estelle May)

736. inured

made tough by habitual exposure

But he had become **inured** to the rush and whirr of missiles, and now paid no heed whatever to them.Mitford, Bertram

737. invidious

containing or implying a slight or showing prejudice

"After an old-fashioned, all-round team performance ... it might seem **invidious** to single out one player," admits the paper before singling out one player.

738. unmitigated

not diminished or moderated in intensity or severity

In order to be well directed, sympathy must consider all men, and not the individual alone; only then is it an **unmitigated** good.Williams, C. M.

739. concomitant

an event or situation that happens at the same time

The conclusion must be drawn that every epidemic of bubonic plague is caused by the **concomitant** rat plague.Scientific American (Jan 21, 2011)

740. cozen

cheat or trick

Dicing-houses, where cheaters meet, and **cozen** young men out of their money.Various

741. dormer

a gabled extension built out from a sloping roof

Other features, such as the front French doors and two roof **dormers** with curved-top windows and operable shutters, give this home a pleasing, well-balanced presence.Southern Living (Apr 14, 2010)

742. pontifical

denoting or governed by or relating to a bishop or bishops

The high priest made no resistance, but went forth in his **pontifical** robes, followed by the people in white garments, to meet the mighty warrior. Lord, John

743. disport

occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion

Straightway the glade in which they sat was filled with knights, ladies, maidens, and esquires, who danced and **disported** themselves right joyously. Spence, Lewis

744. apologist

a person who argues to defend some policy or institution

Tories, and **apologists** for Great Britain, have written much about a justification for this action, but there is no real justification. Barce, Elmore

745. enclave

an enclosed territory that is culturally distinct

And its suburban schools, rather than being exclusive **enclaves**, include children whose parents can't afford a house in the neighborhood. Washington Post (Jan 11, 2011)

746. improvident

not supplying something useful for the future

He was industrious but **improvident**; he made money and he lost it. Hubbard, Elbert

747. disquisition

an elaborate analytical or explanatory essay or discussion

Cumulatively, what emerges from To Kill a Mockingbird is a thoughtful **disquisition** that encompasses – and goes beyond – the question of racial bias at its worst.

748. categorical

not modified or restricted by reservations

"European leaders were united, **categorical** and crystal clear: Gaddafi must go," British Prime Minister David Cameron said.

749. placate

cause to be more favorably inclined

The East India Company was **placated** by the concession of further exemptions in its favour. Smith, A. D.

750. redolent

servicing to bring to mind

Here, however, are congregated a vast number of curious and interesting objects, while the place is **redolent** of vivid historical associations. Ballou, Maturin Murray

751. felicitous

exhibiting an agreeably appropriate manner or style

The first book is the finest, sparkling with **felicitous** expressions and rising frequently to true poetry.Dennis, John

752. gusty

blowing in puffs or short intermittent blasts

Winds could get **gusty**, occasionally blowing at more than 30 miles per hour.

753. natty

marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners

He wore a checked suit, very **natty**, and was more than usually tall and fine-looking.Green, Anna Katharine

754. pacifist

opposed to war

He was, furthermore, a real **pacifist**, believing that war is debasing morally and disastrous economically.Seymour, Charles

755. buxom

healthily plump and vigorous

Mrs. Connelly—a round, rosy, **buxom** Irishwoman, with a mellow voice, laughing eye, and artist-red hair—was very much taken with their plan.Douglas, Amanda Minnie

756. heyday

the period of greatest prosperity or productivity

Playboy's most popular years are well behind it - the magazine enjoyed its **heyday** in the 1970s.Washington Post (Jan 10, 2011)

757. herculean

displaying superhuman strength or power

He made **herculean** efforts to get on terms with his examination subjects, and worked harder than he had ever done in his life before.Marshall, Archibald

758. burgeon

grow and flourish

Brooklyn's **burgeoning** dining scene has even developed a following among Manhattan food lovers.

759. crone

an ugly, evil-looking old woman

The aged **crone** wrinkled her forehead and lifted her grizzled eyebrows, still without looking at him.Myrick, Frank

760. prognosticate

make a prediction about; tell in advance

How strange it is that our dreams often **prognosticate** coming events!Huth, Alexander

761. lout

an awkward, foolish person

But this question was beyond the poor **lout's** intelligence; he could only blubber and fend off possible chastisement.Williams, J. Scott (John Scott)

762. simper

smile in an insincere, unnatural, or coy way

Mrs. Barnett's mouth **simpered** at the implied flattery; but her eyes, always looking calculatingly for substantial results, were studying Reedy Jenkins.Hamby, William H. (William Henry)

763. iniquitous

characterized by injustice or wickedness

This was some piece of wickedness concocted by the venomous brain of the **iniquitous** Vicar, more abominable than all his other wickednesses.Trollope, Anthony

764. rile

disturb, especially by minor irritations

The prospect of seeing Ms. Palin tour Alaska's wild habitats may **rile** some people who oppose her opinions about climate change.New York Times (Mar 25, 2010)

765. sentient

endowed with feeling and unstructured consciousness

The money fluttered from his hand to the floor, where it lay like a **sentient** thing, staring back as if mocking him.Hitchcock, Lucius W.

766. garish

tastelessly showy

With its opulently **garish** sets and knee-jerk realism, the production dwarfed the cast, no matter what stars were singing.New York Times (Jan 2, 2011)

767. erstwhile

belonging to some prior time

Sony, whose **erstwhile** dominance in consumer electronics has been eroded by the likes of Samsung, could beat rivals to a potentially new generation of devices.

768. aquiline

curved down like an eagle's beak

The nose slightly **aquiline**, curving at the nostril; while luxuriant hair, in broad plaits, fell far below her waist. Various

769. bilious

irritable as if suffering from indigestion

But his sleep had not refreshed him; he waked up **bilious**, irritable, ill-tempered, and looked with hatred at his room. Garnett, Constance

770. vilify

spread negative information about

The trial was televised and the victim's identity became known, resulting in her being **vilified** by almost the entire town.

771. nuance

a subtle difference in meaning or opinion or attitude

By working so hard to simplify things, we lose any **nuance** or ability to deal with folks' individual circumstances. Washington Post (Oct 3, 2011)

772. refectory

a communal dining-hall, usually in a monastery

Meanwhile, the soup was getting cold in the **refectory**, so that the assembled brotherhood at last fell to, without waiting any longer for the Abbot. Scheffel, Joseph Victor von

773. palatial

suitable for or like a large and stately residence

The house was very large; its rooms almost **palatial** in size, had been finished in richly carved hardwood panels and wainscoting, mostly polished mahogany. Hitchcock, Frederick L. (Frederick Lyman)

774. mincing

affectedly dainty or refined

She went, carrying her little head very high indeed, and taking dainty, **mincing** steps. Banks, Nancy Huston

775. trenchant

having keenness and forcefulness and penetration in thought

They are written in a serio-comic tone, and for sparkling wit, **trenchant** sarcasm, and dramatic dialectics surpass anything ever penned by Lessing. Lessing, Gotthold Ephraim

776. emboss

raise in a relief

Requests may also be made of the stationer to use an **embossed** plate so that the letters stand out in relief.Eichler, Lillian

777. proletarian

a member of the working class

As yet, the true **proletarian** wage-earner, uprooted from his native village and broken away from the organization of Indian society, is but insignificant.Stoddard, Lothrop

778. careen

pitching dangerously to one side

I turned the steering wheel all the way to one side, and found myself **careening** backward in a violent arc.Vogel, Nancy

779. debacle

a sound defeat

The Broncos are coming off their worst season in franchise history, a 4-12 **debacle** that included issues on and off the field.Newsweek (Jan 9, 2011)

780. sycophant

a person who tries to please someone to gain an advantage

The people around the king are **sycophants** who are looking after their own personal advantage.Coffin, Charles Carleton

781. crabbed

annoyed and irritable

He grew **crabbed** and soured, his temper flashing out on small provocation.Weyman, Stanley J.

782. archetype

something that serves as a model

Newport, R.I., looks like a perfect **archetype** of a small, seaside New England town.

783. cryptic

of an obscure nature

The authorities, beyond some **cryptic** language about the death being sudden but not suspicious, have released no details.New York Times (Aug 24, 2011)

784. penchant

a strong liking or preference

But sometimes, old Wall Street habits — including a **penchant** for expensive luxuries — are hard to break.New York Times (Mar 31, 2012)

785. bauble

cheap showy jewelry or ornament

But men were buying Valentine's **baubles** for their honeys long before the first Zales ever opened its doors in a suburban shopping mall. Slate (Feb 14, 2012)

786. mountebank

a flamboyant deceiver

They are singularly clever, these Indian **mountebanks**, especially in sleight of hand tricks. Ballou, Maturin Murray

787. fawning

attempting to win favor by flattery

"As any cult leader, he was extremely good at milking the rich, at flattering and **fawning**," Ms. Gordon said. New York Times (Apr 16, 2010)

788. hummock

a small natural mound

Captain Bill leaned back on a **hummock** of earth, his arms folded behind his head. Grayson, J. J.

789. apotheosis

model of excellence or perfection of a kind

Contrary to popular belief, however, she said Ms. Deen's fat-laden cooking does not in fact represent the **apotheosis** of Southern cuisine. New York Times (Jan 17, 2012)

790. discretionary

not earmarked; available for use as needed

Steeper prices for basic necessities have forced many to cut back on more **discretionary** purchases. Washington Post (Oct 19, 2011)

791. pithy

concise and full of meaning

As Moore isolated finer points of the passing game, Keller in neat penmanship jotted down **pithy** phrases and punchy quotes, basic ideas and specific concepts. New York Times (Dec 10, 2011)

792. comport

behave in a certain manner

Ironically, the one man on stage who did **comport** himself with dignity, John Huntsman, is now being dismissed as having not made an impact.

793. checkered

marked by changeable fortune

Both restaurants have **checkered** histories with the health department; they were temporarily shut down for sanitary violations that included evidence of rodents.New York Times (Aug 22, 2010)

794. ambrosia

the food and drink of the gods

"Frieda represents the lovely goddess, Hebe, who served nectar and **ambrosia** to the high gods on Mount Olympus," she explained.Vandercook, Margaret

795. factious

dissenting with the majority opinion

Will it be answered that we are **factious**, discontented spirits, striving to disturb the public order, and tear up the old fastnesses of society?Stanton, Elizabeth Cady

796. disgorge

cause or allow to flow or run out or over

There are telephone poles and cinder blocks and living room chairs and large trash bins, overturned and **disgorging** their soggy contents.New York Times (Oct 28, 2011)

797. filch

make off with belongings of others

Then, in place of the real site, it displays a fake site created to **filch** account numbers, login names and passwords.New York Times (Jul 13, 2010)

798. wraith

a ghostly figure, especially one seen shortly before death

Whichever way he turns there loom past **wraiths**, restless as ghosts of unburied Grecian slain.Lee, Carson Jay

799. emend

make corrections to

The following were identified as spelling or typographic errors and have been **emended** as noted.Hopper, James

800. laggard

someone who takes more time than necessary

Corporate data centers are the slowpoke **laggards** of information technology.New York Times (Apr 10, 2012)

801. waffle

pause or hold back in uncertainty or unwillingness

A few days of **waffling** back and forth and I ended up going out to a mediocre bistro with my parents.Scientific American (Feb 8, 2011)

802. loquacious

full of trivial conversation

Pan soon found it needful to make conversation, in order to keep the **loquacious** old stage driver from talking too much. Grey, Zane

803. venial

easily excused or forgiven

The confidence of ignorance, however **venial** in youth, is not altogether so excusable, in full grown men. School, A Sexton of the Old

804. peon

a laborer who is obliged to do menial work

For the most part, the men were wiry **peons**, some toiling half naked, but there were a number who looked like prosperous citizens. Bindloss, Harold

805. lode

a deposit of valuable ore

Such local perturbations are regularly used in Sweden for tracing out the position of underground **lodes** of iron ore. Gilbert, William

806. fanfare

a gaudy outward display

It opened a month ago to considerable **fanfare**, with television cameras trailing government officials meandering proudly around the bright new stores filled with imported goods. New York Times (Aug 22, 2010)

807. dilettante

showing frivolous or superficial interest; amateurish

They dabbled in politics and art in the same **dilettante** fashion. Cannan, Gilbert

808. pusillanimous

lacking in courage, strength, and resolution

He was described by his friends as **pusillanimous** to an incredible extent, timid from excess of riches, afraid of his own shadow. Motley, John Lothrop

809. ingrained

deeply rooted; firmly fixed or held

The narrow prejudices of his country were **ingrained** too deeply in his character to be disturbed by any change of surroundings. Fuller, Robert H.

810. quagmire

a soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot

The heavy rain had reduced this low-lying ground to a veritable **quagmire**, making progress very difficult even for one as unburdened as he was. Putnam Weale, B. L. (Bertram Lenox)

811. reprobation

severe disapproval

Mr. Conway denounced this scheme as "utterly and flagrantly unconstitutional, as radically revolutionary in character and deserving the **reprobation** of every loyal citizen."Blaine, James Gillespie

812. mannered

having unnatural behavioral attributes

Nothing was **mannered** or pretentious; the texts came through with utter naturalness.New York Times (May 29, 2011)

813. squeamish

easily disturbed or disgusted by unpleasant things

But please note that this gunfire-fueled film is for mature audiences; given its content, young and/or **squeamish** viewers should avoid this one.Washington Post (Aug 6, 2010)

814. proclivity

a natural inclination

She received, under her father's supervision, a very careful education, and developed her **proclivities** for literary composition at an early age.Adams, W. H. Davenport

815. miserly

characterized by or indicative of lack of generosity

Now, my uncle seemed so **miserly** that I was struck dumb by this sudden generosity, and could find no words in which to thank him.Stevenson, Robert Louis

816. vapid

lacking significance or liveliness or spirit or zest

How **vapid** was the talk of my remaining fellow-passengers; how slow of understanding, and how preoccupied with petty things they seemed!Dawson, A. J. (Alec John)

817. mercurial

liable to sudden unpredictable change

Wind energy is notoriously **mercurial**, with patterns shifting drastically over the course of years, days, even minutes.Scientific American (Jan 4, 2012)

818. perspicuous

transparently clear; easily understandable

The statements are plain and simple, a perfect model of **perspicuous** narrative.Smith, Uriah

819. nonplus

be a mystery or bewildering to

I shook my head and rushed from his presence, completely **nonplussed**, bewildered, frantic. Cole, E. W. (Edward William).

820. enamor

attract

Young Indian audiences are so **enamored** with reality television that they will not watch the soap operas and dramas that their parents or grandparents watch. New York Times (Jan 9, 2011).

821. hackneyed

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

Many speakers become so addicted to certain **hackneyed** phrases that those used to hearing them speak can see them coming sentences away. Lewis, Arthur M. (Arthur Morrow).

822. spate

a large number or amount or extent

French authorities are already reporting a rising **spate** of calls to emergency services by homeowners whose once-frozen water mains have now burst.

823. pedagogue

someone who educates young people

His old **pedagogue**, Mr. Brownell, had been unable to teach him mathematics. Pierce, H. Winthrop

824. acme

the highest level or degree attainable

Scientifically speaking, it is the **acme** of absurdity to talk of a man defying the law of gravitation when he lifts his arm. Huxley, Thomas H.

825. masticate

bite and grind with the teeth

Food should be **masticated** quietly, and with the lips closed. Cooke, Maud C.

826. sinecure

a job that involves minimal duties

He would have repudiated the notion that he was looking for a **sinecure**, but no doubt considered that the duties would be easy and light. Trollope, Anthony.

827. indite

produce a literary work

She **indited** religious poems which were the admiration of the age. Brittain, Alfred

828. emetic

a medicine that induces nausea and vomiting

The juice of this herb, taken in ale, is esteemed a gentle and very good **emetic**, bringing on vomiting without any great irritation or pain.Smith, John Thomas

829. temporize

draw out a discussion or process in order to gain time

So he **temporized** and beat about the bush, and did not touch first on that which was nearest his heart.Erskine, Payne

830. genesis

a coming into being

He found himself speculating on the **genesis** of the moral sense, how it developed in difficulties rather than in ease.Miller, Alice Duer

831. mordant

harshly ironic or sinister

Even Morgan himself, intrepid as he was, shrank from the awful menace of the **mordant** words.Crawford, Will

832. smattering

a small number or amount

Only a **smattering** of fans remained for all four ghastly quarters.Washington Post (Sep 24, 2011)

833. suavity

the quality of being charming and gracious in manner

His combativeness was harnessed to his **suavity**, and he could be forcible and at the same time persuasive.Windsor, William

834. stentorian

very loud or booming

If a hundred voices shouted in opposition, his **stentorian** tones still made themselves heard above the uproar.J?kai, M?r

835. junket

a trip taken by an official at public expense

Mr. Abramoff arranged for **junkets**, including foreign golfing destinations, for the members of Congress he was trying to influence.New York Times (Feb 26, 2010)

836. appurtenance

a supplementary component that improves capability

In the center of this space stood a large frame building whose courtyard, stables, and other **appurtenances** proclaimed it an inn.Madison, Lucy Foster

837. nostrum

patent medicine whose efficacy is questionable

Just here a native "medicine man" dispenses **nostrums** of doubtful efficacy, and in front a quantity of red Moorish pottery is exposed for sale.Meakin, Budgett

838. immure

lock up or confine, in or as in a jail

Political prisoners, numbering as many as three or four hundred at a time, have been **immured** within its massive walls.Boyd, Mary Stuart

839. astrigent

acidic or bitter in taste or smell

There was something sharply **astrigent** about her then, like biting inadvertently into a green banana.McFee, William

840. unfaltering

marked by firm determination or resolution; not shakable

Still **unfaltering**, the procession commenced to trudge back, the littlest boy and girl bearing themselves bravely, with lips tight pressed.Sabin, Edwin L. (Edwin Legrand)

841. tutelage

attention and management implying responsibility for safety

It will do so under German leadership that grows less hesitant with each crisis, and without the American **tutelage** it enjoyed for so many decades.Newsweek (Jan 23, 2011)

842. testator

a person who makes a will

This will was drawn up by me some years since at the request of the **testator**, who was in good health, mentally and bodily.Henty, G. A. (George Alfred)

843. elysian

of such excellence as to suggest inspiration by the gods

Life seemed an **elysian** dream, from which care and sorrow must be for ever banished.Hentz, Caroline Lee

844. fulminate

criticize severely

But with people looking for almost any excuse to **fulminate** against airlines these days, there's a certain risk of embellishment.

845. fractious

easily irritated or annoyed

He was a **fractious** invalid, and spared his wife neither time nor trouble in attending to his wants.Brazil, Angela

846. pummel

strike, usually with the fist

Another, with rubber bands wrapped tightly around his face, is **pummelled** by a plastic boxing kangaroo.

847. manumit

free from slavery or servitude

Moreover, **manumitted** slaves enjoyed the same rights, privileges and immunities that were enjoyed by those born free. Various

848. triumvirate

a group of three people responsible for civil authority

This **triumvirate** approach has real benefits in terms of shared wisdom, and we will continue to discuss the big decisions among the three of us.

849. sybarite

a person addicted to luxury and pleasures of the senses

He was not used to travelling on omnibuses, being something of a **sybarite** who spared nothing to ensure his own comfort. Wallace, Edgar

850. jibe

be compatible, similar, or consistent

Contemporary art has never quite **jibed** with mainstream media.

851. magisterial

offensively self-assured or exercising unwarranted power

“Now look here,” he said, making believe to take down my words and shaking his pencil at me in a **magisterial** way. Fenn, George Manville

852. roseate

of something having a dusty purplish pink color

Behind the trees rough, lichened rock and stony slopes ran up to a bare ridge, silhouetted against the **roseate** glow of the morning sky. Bindloss, Harold

853. obloquy

abusive, malicious, and condemnatory language

This is the real history of a transaction which, by frequent misrepresentation, has brought undeserved **obloquy** upon a generous man. Purchas, H. T. (Henry Thomas)

854. hoodwink

influence by slyness

The stories of the saints he regarded as preposterous fables invented to **hoodwink** a gullible and illiterate populace.

855. striate

mark with stripes of contrasting color

The body is **striated** with clearly defined, often depressed lines, which run longitudinally and sometimes spirally. Calkins, Gary N. (Gary Nathan)

856. arrogate

seize and take control without authority

Japanese manufacturers were accused of **arrogating** American technologies to churn out low-cost electronics. New York Times (May 25, 2010)

857. rarefied

of high moral or intellectual value

The debate over climate science has involved very complex physical models and **rarefied** areas of scientific knowledge. New York Times (Apr 9, 2011)

858. chary

characterized by great caution

There was no independent verification of the figure; the authorities have been **chary** of releasing death tolls for fear of inflaming further violence. New York Times (Apr 24, 2011)

859. credo

any system of principles or beliefs

She preferred to hang out with everyone but was best friends with no one, holding to the **credo**: "You should be nice to people." New York Times (Jan 21, 2011)

860. superannuated

too old to be useful

Civil servants are **superannuated** at fifty-five years of age and are sent home on a pension, seldom enjoying life longer than two years afterward. Hunt, Eleonora

861. impolitic

lacking tact, shrewdness, or prudence

Bill Maher has always been a vocal critic of Islam, even at times making **impolitic** statements about the religion.

862. aspersion

a disparaging remark

Lord Sanquhar then proceeded to deny the **aspersion** that he was an ill-natured fellow, ever revengeful, and delighting in blood. Thornbury, Walter

863. abysmal

exceptionally bad or displeasing

After all, many Americans regard this Congress as dysfunctional, with **abysmal** approval ratings. New York Times (Dec 28, 2011)

864. poignancy

a quality that arouses emotions, especially pity or sorrow

They were curious about the “near loss” experience—specifically the feelings of **poignancy** that occur when what we cherish disappears. Scientific American (Jan 17, 2011)

865. stilted

artificially formal or stiff

But thanks to the **stilted** writing and stiff acting, the characters still feel very much like one-dimensional figures from a dutiful fable. New York Times (Jul 12, 2011)

866. effete

excessively self-indulgent, affected, or decadent

John Bull was an **effete** old plutocrat whose sons and daughters were given up to sport and amusement. Moffett, Cleveland

867. endemic

of a disease constantly present in a particular locality

Mean-spirited chants and songs are also **endemic** in British soccer. New York Times (Jan 27, 2012)

868. jocund

full of or showing high-spirited merriment

Her **jocund** laugh and merry voice, indeed, first attracted my attention. Lever, Charles James

869. procedural

of or relating to processes

In other words, the rejection was a bureaucratic/ **procedural** decision. Scientific American (Feb 1, 2012)

870. rakish

marked by a carefree unconventionality or disreputableness

She wore her red cap in a **rakish** manner on the side of her head, its tassel falling down over her forehead between her eyes. Sage, William

871. skittish

unpredictably excitable, especially of horses

That combined with his calm and reassuring tone made me think of an animal trainer trying to woo **skittish** wild animals.

872. peroration

a flowery and highly rhetorical address

He had little hope that Gallagher, once embarked on a **peroration**, would stop until he had used up all the words at his command. Birmingham, George A.

873. nonentity

a person of no influence

Was he such a **nonentity** in every way that she could remain unconcerned as to any fear of danger from him?Woolson, Constance Fenimore

874. abstemious

marked by temperance in indulgence

Raw, boozy, untethered performances are heralded as real; the **abstemious** professional is yawning off the stage.

875. viscid

having the sticky properties of an adhesive

Roads were quagmires where travellers slipped and laboured through **viscid** mud and over icy fords.Buck, Charles Neville

876. doggerel

a comic verse of irregular measure

He sang, with accompanying action, some dozen verses of **doggerel**, remarkable for obscenity and imbecility. Ritchie, J. Ewing (James Ewing)

877. sleight

adroitness in using the hands

The trick was performed Tuesday by Russell Fitzgerald, an amateur magician known to open meetings with a little **sleight** of hand.Washington Post (Sep 29, 2011)

878. rubric

category name

Ms. Moss took issue, not surprisingly, with the notion that grouping the performances under the **rubric** of spirituality was a marketing ploy.New York Times (Nov 22, 2010)

879. plenitude

a full supply

Of course at that season, amid the **plenitude** of seeds, nuts, and berries, they were as plump as partridges.Reid, Mayne

880. rebus

a puzzle consisting of pictures representing words

They wrote at times with pictures standing for sounds, as we now write in **rebus** puzzles.Park, Robert Ezra

881. wizened

lean and wrinkled by shrinkage as from age or illness

Kim Jong Il may be increasingly **wizened** and frail, with fingernails white from kidney disease, but his propaganda apparatus is as vigorous as ever.Wall Street Journal (Mar 26, 2010).

882. iconoclast

someone who attacks cherished ideas or institutions

Jobs is a classic **iconoclast**, one who aggressively seeks out, attacks, and overthrows conventional ideas.BusinessWeek (Oct 12, 2010).

883. madrigal

an unaccompanied partsong for several voices

Nevertheless we learn from Malvezzi's publication that the pieces were all written in the **madrigal** style, frequently in numerous voice parts.Henderson, W. J. (William James)

884. discursive

tending to cover a wide range of subjects

"Tabloid," like his previous films, consists largely of long, **discursive** conversations — in effect monologues directed at an unseen, mostly unheard interlocutor.New York Times (Jul 22, 2011).

885. zealot

a fervent and even militant proponent of something

"The public is going to just think of us as these **zealots** who want to ban smoking everywhere," he said.Seattle Times (Feb 20, 2011).

886. modicum

a small or moderate or token amount

He volunteered a **modicum** of advice, limited in quantity, but valuable.Bolderwood, Rolf

887. connotation

an idea that is implied or suggested

In Arabic, the word "bayt" translates literally as house, but its **connotations** resonate beyond rooms and walls, summoning longings gathered about family and home.New York Times (Feb 18, 2012).

888. recondite

difficult to understand

The mystery of verse is like other abstruse and **recondite** mysteries—it strikes the ordinary fleshly man as absurd.Gosse, Edmund

889. zephyr
a slight wind

The dwellings and public buildings throughout Cuba are planned to give free passage to every **zephyr** that wafts relief from the oppressive heat. Various

890. countermand
cancel officially

In the midst of executing this order, he got another order **countermanding** it, and proceeding directly from his direct superior. Belloc, Hilaire

891. captious
tending to find and call attention to faults

Miss Burton had been very irritable and **captious** in class, more so even than usual, and most of her anger was vented upon Gerry. Chaundler, Christine

892. cognate
having the same ancestral language

The synonyms are also given in the **cognate** dialects of Welsh, Armoric, Irish, Gaelic, and Manx, showing at one view the connection between them. Jenner, Henry

893. forebear
a person from whom you are descended

His **forebears** were Greek immigrants who opened a small sandwich shop in Brooklyn, then moved, one after another, to Providence, to sell distinct, delectable wieners. New York Times (Sep 24, 2010)

894. cadaverous
very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

He looked gaunt and **cadaverous**, and much of his old reckless joyousness had left him, though he brightened up wonderfully on seeing an old friend. Doyle, A. Conan

895. foist
force onto another

Mr. Knoll added that the 3-D “Star Wars” movies are not “going to be **foisted** on anybody against their will.” New York Times (Sep 29, 2010)

896. nexus
a connected series or group

Numerous innovators are also worrying away at this **nexus** of problems.

897. choleric
characterized by anger

Jonathan, **choleric** with indignation, stood by his desk, clenching his hands. Mills, Weymer Jay

898. garble
distort or make false by mutilation or addition

But the fact remains that the contradictory and inconsistent things said do reach the public, and usually in **garbled** and distorted form.Unknown

899. bucolic
idyllically rustic

Forty-four years ago, Bill Sievers moved into his neo-Colonial house in Douglaston, Queens, on **bucolic** Poplar Street, lined with stately trees and equally stately homes.New York Times (Mar 26, 2012)

900. denouement
the outcome of a complex sequence of events

Suppose the truly apocalyptic **denouement** happens -- no deal is reached, and taxes rise for everyone.

901. animus
a feeling of ill will arousing active hostility

The youthful savages had each an armful of snowballs, and they were pelting the child with more **animus** than seemed befitting.Murray, David Christie

902. overweening
unrestrained, especially with regard to feelings

He had **overweening** ambitions even then, along with a highly developed sense of his own importance.New York Times (Apr 19, 2010)

903. tyro
someone new to a field or activity

As yet he was merely a **tyro**, gaining practical experience under a veteran Zeppelin commander.Westerman, Percy F. (Percy Francis)

904. preen
dress or groom with elaborate care

He **preened** on fight nights in a tuxedo, a bow tie and no shirt, and he favored showy rings and bracelets.New York Times (Jul 24, 2011)

905. largesse
liberality in bestowing gifts

After being saved by government **largesse**, they say, big banks then moved to thwart reforms aimed at preventing future meltdowns caused by excessive risk-taking.New York Times (Jul 14, 2011)

906. unconscionable

greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

For generations in the New York City public schools, this has become the norm with devastating consequences rooted in **unconscionable** levels of student failure. New York Times (Nov 4, 2011)

907. badinage

frivolous banter

It was preposterous to talk to her of serious things, and nothing but an airy **badinage** seemed possible in her company. Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset)

908. insensate

devoid of feeling and consciousness and animation

Men also are those brutal soldiers, alike stupidly ready, at the word of command, to drive the nail through quivering flesh or **insensate** wood. Stowe, Harriet Beecher

909. sherbet

a frozen dessert made primarily of fruit juice and sugar

"One person said it looks like a big lime **sherbet** ice cream cone!" Southern Living (Apr 28, 2010)

910. bemuse

cause to be confused emotionally

They were marching in the middle of the street, chanting and singing and disrupting traffic while countless New Yorkers looked on, some **bemused**, others applauding.

911. microcosm

a miniature model of something

The building, he said, is "a **microcosm** of what Shanghai was all about." Wall Street Journal (Apr 30, 2010)

912. factitious

not produced by natural forces; artificial or fake

Indeed, the Chinese make a **factitious** cheese out of peas, which it is difficult to discriminate from the article of animal origin. Cameron, Charles Alexander, Sir

913. gestate

develop in the mind; have the idea for

Mr. Lucas's most recent project, still **gestating**, is a collaboration with Cuban musicians. New York Times (May 9, 2011)

914. traduce

speak unfavorably about

For Grover Cleveland there were no longer enemies to **traduce** and vilify. Straus, Oscar S.

915. sextant

an instrument for measuring angular distance

For example, a **sextant** could be used to sight the sun at high noon in order to determine one's latitude. Scientific American (Mar 8, 2012).

916. coiffure

the arrangement of the hair

They sat down, and Saint-Clair noticed his friend's **coiffure**; a single rose was in her hair. M?rim?e, Prosper

917. malleable

easily influenced

"The Americans are seen as naïve **malleable** tools in the hands of the Brits." New York Times (Nov 30, 2011).

918. rococo

having excessive asymmetrical ornamentation

The upper part of the case is decorated with elaborately carved and gilt **rococo** motifs. Bedini, Silvio A.

919. fructify

become productive or fruitful

Thence they grow, expand, **fructify**, and the result is Progress. Stanton, Elizabeth Cady.

920. nihilist

someone who rejects all theories of morality

"He's a loner **nihilist** who believes in nothing," Mr. Lu said. New York Times (Nov 6, 2011).

921. ellipsis

a mark indicating that words have been omitted

He speaks in **ellipses**, often leaving sentences hanging, and fiddles apologetically with his BlackBerry.

922. accolade

a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction

The Nobel Prize, considered one of the highest **accolades** in literature, is given only to living writers. Seattle Times (Oct 6, 2011).

923. codicil

a supplement to a will

The **codicil** to her will, which she had spoken of with so much composure, left three hundred pounds to Stella and me. Fothergill, Jessie

924. roil

be agitated

Like thousands of fellow students, he was **roiled** with emotions, struggling to come to grips with an inescapable reality. New York Times (Nov 26, 2011)

925. grandiloquent

lofty in style

A large part of his duties will be to strut about on the stage, and mouth more or less unintelligible sentences in a **grandiloquent** tone. Smith, Arthur H.

926. inconsequential

lacking worth or importance

But as the months went by, Mr. Kimura had an unexpected epiphany: His business, which he thought was **inconsequential**, mattered to a lot of people.

927. effervescence

the property of giving off bubbles

Both were in the very sparkle and **effervescence** of that fanciful glee which bubbles up from the golden, untried fountains of early childhood. Stowe, Harriet Beecher

928. stultify

deprive of strength or efficiency; make useless or worthless

Far from being engines of economic growth, Egypt's leading cities are **stultified**.

929. tureen

large deep serving dish with a cover

Soups are presented in big **tureens** and can be quite good. New York Times (Apr 13, 2012)

930. pellucid

transparently clear; easily understandable

Caribou Island is a scant 300 pages, and written in prose as **pellucid** as the rivers he used to fish as a boy.

931. euphony

any pleasing and harmonious sounds

It depends somewhat on usage and on **euphony** or agreeableness of sound. Hamilton, Frederick W. (Frederick William)

932. apocryphal

being of questionable authenticity

We're reminded of the story, possibly **apocryphal**, that they used to play the Beach Boys' Smile in psychiatric wards to calm patients.

933. veracious

precisely accurate

For proof, we cite the following **veracious** narrative, which bears within it every internal mark of truth, and matter for grave and serious reflection. Roby, John

934. pendulous

hanging loosely or bending downward

And all around, far out of reach, the trees of the forest were swaying restlessly, their long, **pendulous** branches, like tentacles, lashing out hungrily. Bates, Harry

935. exegesis

an explanation or critical interpretation

Its musical significance has been presented with illuminating **exegesis** by more than one commentator. Forkel, Johann Nikolaus

936. effluvium

a foul-smelling outflow or vapor

However, acting on my best judgment, I struck a downward course, and then suddenly a horrible **effluvium** was wafted to my nostrils. Mitford, Bertram

937. apposite

being of striking appropriateness and pertinence

He was quite capable of meaningful, **apposite** phrases about the game, even though distant sports editors did not encourage them enough.

938. viscous

having the sticky properties of an adhesive

Sluggish, blind crawling things like three-foot slugs flowed across their path and among the tree trunks, leaving **viscous** trails of slime behind them. Various

939. misanthrope

someone who dislikes people in general

And shaking his head like a **misanthrope**, disgusted, if not with life, at least with men, Patout led the horse to the stable. Dumas père, Alexandre

940. vintner

someone who makes wine

The question remains, he said, whether established **vintners** will change their winemaking practices or "continue to sell their schlock." New York Times (Oct 27, 2010)

941. halcyon

idyllically calm and peaceful; suggesting happy tranquility

He now seemed to have entered on a **halcyon** period of life—congenial society, romantic and interesting surroundings. Kennard, Nina H.

942. anthropomorphic

suggesting human features for animals or inanimate things

The same **anthropomorphic** fallacy that accords human attributes to giant corporations like BP distorts clear thinking about how to limit their political influence.

943. turgid

ostentatiously lofty in style

His waspish wit can make him entertaining company at a party, but there is little evidence of that in his largely **turgid** prose.

944. malaise

a feeling of mild sickness or depression

Initially, many doctors discounted sufferers' feelings of generalized **malaise** as nothing more than stress or normal fatigue.

945. polemical

of or involving dispute or controversy

His works include several dogmatic and **polemical** treatises, but the most important are the historical. Various

946. atavism

a reappearance of an earlier characteristic

Criminal **atavism** might be defined as the sporadic reversion to savagery in certain individuals. Symonds, John Addington

947. parsimonious

excessively unwilling to spend

Pill-splitting is catching on among **parsimonious** prescription-takers who want to lower costs.

948. dulcet

pleasing to the ear

Ever and anon the **dulcet** murmur of gurgling streams broke gently on the ear. Madison, Lucy Foster

949. reprise

a repetition of a short musical passage

The live set **reprises** material from this remarkable group's earlier Aurora CD.

950. anodyne

capable of relieving pain

But philosophy failed, as it will probably fail till some far-off age, to find an **anodyne** for the spiritual distresses of the mass of men. Dill, Samuel

951. bemused

perplexed by many conflicting situations or statements

They were marching in the middle of the street, chanting and singing and disrupting traffic while countless New Yorkers looked on, some **bemused**, others applauding.

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