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# ENGLISH GRAMMAR NOTES

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# Nouns

## Types:

- **Proper Noun** : Name of specific person, place or thing.
- **Common Noun** : Name of common things like boys, chair, girls etc.
- **Collective Noun**: Collection of some persons or things and represented as a singular noun. Ex: class , army , herd , flight etc.
- **Abstract Noun** :Whom we cannot touch like happiness, sadness etc.
- **Materialistic Noun**: From whom something is comprised of known as materialistic Noun.

Further classifications are:

## Rule No: 1.

### Uncountable Nouns

There are some rules which are uncountable nouns.

- We cannot measure uncountable nouns. like ' Informations' wrong phrase.
- We always use singular verb with uncountable nouns.
- Plural of these words does not exist.

Some examples of uncountable nouns are:

Hair	Scenery	Information	Mischief	Stuff
Advice	Poetry	Evidence	Luggage	Jewellery
Furniture	Bread	Wood	Wages	Money
Machinery	Crockery	Cash	Help	Clothing

## Examples:

- Children are prone to making ~~mischiefs~~ if they have nothing to do.[Correct: mischief]
- I saw beautiful ~~sceneries~~ in painting exhibition.[Correct: scenery]
- I ate three ~~breads~~ today.[Correct: bread or three slices of bread]
- .She gave ~~two jeweleries~~.[Correct: jewellery or a piece of jewellery]

## Rule No: 2

There are some nouns which seem to be plural but are singular.

Mathematics

Statistics

Some Diseases:

Mesals

Mums

Physics

Physics

Shingles

Rickets

Robotics

Civics

Diabetes

Mechanics

Billiards

Gymnastics

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News

Summons\*\*\*

Innings

Series

### Examples:

- News is coming on tv.
- The morale of the army was high the news coming from the front were very encouraging.
- 1st innings is going on.[Correct: Inning]
- A 5 match series is being played between India and Australia in Melbourne.

### Rule No: 3

There are some nouns which to be singular but exists in plural so use plural verb with it.

Children

Infantry

Polity

Police

Gentry

Cattle

Brethren

People

### Examples:

- There ~~was~~ no Gentry in function.[Correct: were]
- Police ~~has~~ been deployed all over the route.[Correct: have]

Gentry : Group of Gentlemen

Infantry(Troop):Collection of soldiers

### Rule No: 4

There are some nouns which exists both in singular and plural form. Nature of verb depends upon sense of sentence and noun.

Words:

- Team

- Committee
- Audience
- Jury
- House

#### Examples:

- Our team is the best team.
- Our team are trying their new dresses today.
- A committee is formed for the welfare of society.
- A committee were appointed for the welfare of society.

#### Rule No: 5

There are some nouns which is to be plural , they also exist in form but cannot be converted into singular form.

Note: Always use singular verb with them untill they specified numeral.

scissors	trousers	jeans	pants,	shorts
spectacles	socks	remains	scales	pliers
binoculars	pincers	pajamas	tights	tweezers
thanks	congratulations	earnings	wages	savings
contents				

#### Examples:

- A pair of spectacles ~~have~~ be bought by me.[Correct: has]
- He read the letter and made aware of its ~~contents~~. [Correct: content]
- All the ~~evidences~~ ~~were~~ against and he was held guilty.[Correct: evidence, was]

#### Numerical Adjective Noun Case

When in a sentence there is a numerical adjective with a noun, we cannot use the plural of that noun if after there is another noun.

#### Examples:

Incorrect : He is a twenty years old boy. [ In this sentence we cannot use 's' with 'year' because after years there is a another noun 'boy' ]

Correct: He is a twenty year old boy.

- The boy is twenty years old.
- Twenty kms ~~are~~ a long distance.[Correct: is]

- He walked twenty kms.
- Twenty ~~kms~~ walk is a long distance.[Correct; km]
- The five members deligation will call on the president.

## Noun - Preposition - Noun Case

Preposition: in, on, at, of, for, after, before, into, with, by, between, among,....etc

**Examples:**

*Town after town has been devastated*  


- ~~Rows~~ upon ~~Rows~~ of pink marbles ~~are~~ to the eyes.[Correct: Row upon Row, is]

## Use of Apostrophe 's' : ('s)

The Ram House of ram = Ram's house

### Rule 1

- 1 Never use apostrophe with non-living like wood, table, chair etc.
2. We can use (" 's ") with nouns which not come in the category of living and non-living.

**Ex:**

- America's Problems
- Nature's law
- A meter's length
- A Kg's sugar

**Examples:**

- Ram and sham's house



- I visited ~~John's~~ and Mary's house twice but found the couple absent.  
[Correct: John and Mary's]
- His wife's secretary's mother has died.

In this sentence the structure of sentence is not correct.

Correct: Mother of his wife's secretary has died.

### Rule:2

Two apostrophe cannot come together in a single sentence.

### Rule: 3

We can use ";" only with the words which are ended with 's'.

Ex: 'Kalidas' work

- He was late and entered the ~~female~~ compartment in hurry. [Correct: Women's or ladies']
- We reached the fare and found that there was no ~~place~~ to stand.[Correct: room]

## Pronoun

He is playing football.  
Pronoun

- Used in place of 'Noun'.

### Pronoun

**Examples** He, she, his ,they ,we , us , me , my , mine , I , you , it , ours , your , your , hers , her , its , their , theirs

### # Types

1. **Nominative** : Used as a subject in the sentence.

**Examples** I , We , You etc.

**2. Objective** : Used as an object in the sentence on which work is going on.

**Examples** me , him , her , it etc.

**3. Possessive** : Pronouns which show possessiveness.

**Difference Between ' my ' & ' mine '**

' my ' is used before the noun.

' mine ' is used after the noun.

This is my friend.  
This is the friend of mine.  
This is my book.  
This Book is mine.

Noun

N

N

N

**Difference Between ' your ' and ' yours '**

' Your ' used before the ' noun '.

' Yours ' used after the ' noun '.

Example -

I saw one of your friends last night.

noun

I saw a friend of yours last night.

noun

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### Table of Pronoun

	Nominative	Objective	Possessive
1st Person	[ I We	me us	my , mine our , ours
2nd Person	[ You	you	your yours
3rd Person	[ He She It They	him her it them	his her , hers its their theirs

### # OBJECTIVE PRONOUN

**Rule 1:** After Preposition we have to use objective pronoun.

**Example :**

He depends on they .

preposition      ↗ them

[ This is nominative pronoun so 'they' is replaced by 'them'.

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**Preposition :** in , form , upon , under  
on , by , into , below  
at , with , between, beneath  
of , after , among , over  
for , before , amongst

**Example :**

He plays with I .

↗ me

**Difference between ' I ' and ' me '**

' I ' is used as a subject , which is do some work.

' me ' is worked as object on which work is going on , so it always used as a object , is a **objective noun** and used after preposition.

**Rule 2: After ' Let '**

Objective pronoun is used after 'Let'

Examples:

1. Let we go there. <sup>us</sup>
2. Let they play cricket. <sub>them</sub>

### # NOMINATIVE PRONOUN

**Rule 3: After 'Than'**

When there is any comparison between two, then nominative pronoun is used.

Examples:

He is better than you.

He is better than me.  
<sup>'you' of nominative case</sup>  
<sub>I</sub>

He runs as fast as them.  
<sub>they</sub>

[ 'fast is a positive degree of adjective proceed and followed by 'as' so this phrase work as comparison so, nominative case applied.



[ both statement are correct with different sense.]



He was more curious than me to see the dancing girl coming towards us.

- His efforts will bring him more success than yours.
- You should be true to your word. or One should be true to his word.
- The dog I have bought looks more ferocious(wild) , than the one you have.
- The hotel of Patna are more luxurious than those of Muzaferpur.
- Yours are the same problems as mine.

## Reflexive Pronoun

### # Transitive verbs :

Verbs which requires object after them, those are known as transitive verb.

### Example:

Children fly kites.

[ here fly acts as transitive verb because children fly doesn't make any sense, So noun is used to complete the sentence Those verbs which always comes along with Pronoun or noun is known as transitive verb ]

Birds fly.

[ Here fly is not a transitive verb ]

### Some verb which act as transitive verbs

- cut
- kill
- introduce
- hurt
- eat
- absent
- hit
- watch
- avail
- cheat
- prostrate
- enjoy

### Example :

He introduced  **himself** to the director.

We use a reflexive pronoun as object or complement when it refers to the same thing as the subject. The pronouns which are used with transitive verb as a object are known as reflexive pronoun.

### Reflexive Pronoun are :

- he      himself
- her     herself
- it      itself
- they    themselves
- I       myself
- you     yourself
- we      ourselves
- one     oneself

### Examples:

He absented \_\_\_\_\_ from the class. **transitive verb**

**V<sub>2</sub>** **adj** **himself**

He remained absent from the class. **In-transitive verb**

[ here , absent is not work as transitive verb , it is used as adjective so reflexive pronoun is not used here]

He prostrated himself before his master , who had come from London after a year.

The officer as well as the assistants absented ~~themselves~~ from the office.[ Correct ; himself ]

[ In the sentence there is ' as well as ' used with which verb is changed to 1st noun or pronoun and here officer , so 'themselves' is changed himself.

### \* Exception

Transitive verb does not use reflexive pronoun.

- keep
- stop
- bathe
- turn
- rest
- qualify
- hide

**Examples:**



You should keep yourself away from the bad boys.

He hid himself behind the curtain.

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### # In-Transitive Verb

Verb which does not require object.

Birds fly.

## Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describes or modify another person or thing in the sentence.

Ram is a good boy.

Adjective

Many students are sitting in the class.

Adjective      Noun

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### Degree of adjective

1. **Positive:** It is used to describe the quality of noun.

He is a good boy.

2. **Comparative Degree :** It is used when there is a comparison between two nouns or pronouns.

He is better than you.

- 3 **Superlative Degree :** When noun is shown as a superior out of a club or group, class etc.

Superlative degree is used. Superlative degree is followed by ' the '.

He is the best student of class.

### # Comparative Degree

Positive Degree

Comaparative Degree

Superlative Degree

good

better

best

intelligent

more intelligent

most intelligent

beautiful

more beautiful

most beautiful

### Rule 1

1. There are some adjective which denotes absolute positions and of which comparative and superlative degrees remains the same.

complete  
perfect  
excellent  
chief  
ulterior

idle  
major  
minor  
superior  
senior

inferior  
interior  
exterior  
posterior  
junior

Happiness is the chiefest <sup>✗ chief</sup> aim of mankind.

I have never seen a more <sup>✗</sup> complete book on GS.

### Rule 2

There are some adjective which uses 'to' rather than 'than' when used to compare.

These adjective has suffix - 'ior'

These adjective are:

senior	exterior	posterior
junior	superior	ulterior
interior	inferior	

Example:

He is more senior than you.

He is very senior to you.  
much

### Rule 3

If two adjective are separated by ' and ' , then they must be in some degree.

[ superlative ]

[ superlative ]

She is the most active and the most energetic lady of our club.

She is both clever and more intelligent than her younger sister.

*Use of ' very , ' more ' , ' much '*

Very : It is used with positive degree of adjective .

More: Used with comparative degree of two.

Much : It is used with comparative degree.

### Example:

1. He is good.
2. He is very good.
3. He is better than you.
4. He is much better than you.
5. He is comparatively ~~smarter~~ than you. [ Correct : Smart ]

## Conversion of Superlative degree to Comparative degree

There are two methods to change superlative degree to comparative degree

### Methods

1. All + Other + Plural Noun
2. Any + Other + Singular Noun

Gold is more precious than any other metal.

### Examples:

1. He is better than all other ~~boy~~ of the class. [Correct : boys ] [ **Method 1** ]
2. He is better than any other boy of the class. [ **Method 2** ]
3. She was curious to know what it was that made him stronger and braver than any other man of his village. [ **Method 2** ]
4. The Ganga is the holiest of all ~~other~~ rivers of India.

[ ' other ' is never used with superlative degree ]

### Synthesis

Synthesis is done between two special type of sentences which have

as + positive degree + as  
or not so } in negative sentence

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— comparative degree  
as + positive degree + as

**Example :** 1st- He is as good as you.

2nd- He is not better than you.  
comparative degree

**Synthesis** He is as good as if not better than you.

conjunction

[ It is done by using conjunction ' If / but ]

**Example :** She is more beautiful but not so altered as her younger sister.

### *Ordering of Adjectives*

Size shape age color nationality noun

**Example** Black American 20 year old Nigro is his best friend.

**Correct** 20 year Black American Negro is his best friend.

### **Examples:**

1. he wanted certain boy to make entry into the principal's chamber.[ Correct : boys ]  
certain a) with ' certain ' noun used in plural form  
b) ' a ' is used with certain

2. These sort of men attain worldly success by hook or by crook. [ Correct : sorts ]

### **Examples:**

' These ' and ' Those '

The noun following ' these ' and ' those ' should be in plural form.

1. There were only two soldiers but each ~~and every~~ soldier was equal to 5 policemen.

[ Correct : soldier , 'and each' never be used ] here each is used as adjective.

2. Inspite of facing ~~much~~ problems he did not dessert the path of honesty. [ Correct : Many ]

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### ' much ' and ' many '

much is used with uncountable nouns. many is used with countable nouns.

1. Can you tell me how many eggs and how much milk he has brought home.
2. whole the chapter of the book is full of printing mistake.

### 'All , Whole & Both '

' All ' and ' both ' are followed by definite article ' the '. ' whole ' is proceeded by the definite article ' the '.

1. Her long black hair adds glamour to her looks. [ size color ( Order of Adjectives ) ]
2. I saw an anxious pale girl . [ emotion color ( Order of Adjective ) ]
3. I saw a pale anxious girl.
4. I t is a fact that mahatma Gandhi was the ~~1st~~ politician of his time. [ Correct : famous ]
5. Delhi is farther from Patna than it is from kolkata.
6. You can trust this agency for the ~~last~~ news of this week. [ Correct : latest ]
7. He doesn't have ~~some~~ money to buy a new car. [ Correct : any ]

### ' Some ' & ' Any '

' any ' is used with negative sentence and question

1. He felt ~~happily~~ to know that, his younger brother had got a prestigious job in the bank.

[ Correct: happy ]

## Prepositions with examples

A preposition is a word which shows the relationship between two objects indicating their position.

**Such as:**



The book is on the table. (On shows the relationship between the book and the table)

We all ready know that for error correction, cloze test etc., prepositions knowledge is very important. Here given tips and tricks to know prepositions use better. Let's have a look please. Some of the important prepositions are listed below

## PREPOSITIONS SHOWING TIME

### 1. At, in

**At** is used with a definite point of time in mind.

I go to my Department **at** 7:30 a.m. everyday.

He will come **at** Holi.

**In** is generally used to denote a specific time, period month, year.

I play chess **in** the evening.

**Exception:** **At** is used with noon.

He comes **at** noon for lunch.

### 2. On, by

**On** is used with days and dates.

He was born **on** the 9<sup>th</sup> of July.

I teach Wordsworth **on** every Monday.

**By** refers to the latest time by which an action will be over.

The meeting will break **by** 4 p.m.

### 3. For, Since

**For** denotes a period of time and is used with the perfect continuous tense.

I have been working in KR Mangalam University **for** the last 10 years.

**Since** shows the point of time. It also indicates continuity.

India has been independent since 1947.

### 4. From

**From** refers to the starting point of an action.

He is joining the new firm from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May.

## PREPOSITIONS SHOWING POSITION

### 1. At, in

**At** refers to an exact point.



He lives **at** Nehru Place.

**In** refers to a big area.

He lives **in** Punjab.

## 2. Between, Among

**Between** is used to distinguish two persons and things.

The property was divided **between** Ram and Shyam.

**Among** is used for more than two persons or things.

The food was distributed **among** the ten boys in the family.

## 3. Amongst

**Amongst** is also used with more than two persons or things but is always used before a vowel.

Divide the oranges **amongst** us.

## 4. Above, under

**Above** is used for higher than.

The aeroplane was flying high in the sky, in fact, **above** the clouds.

**Below** is used for lower than.

His output is **below** ours.

## 5. Under, over

**Under** is used for vertically below.

We sit **under** the tree when we have no class.

**Over** indicates something vertically above.

There is a separate room **over** the garage.

## 6. Beneath

**Beneath** shows a lower position.

The ground was soiled **beneath** her.

## PREPOSITIONS SHOWING DIRECTION

1. **To** is used to indicate movement from one place to another.

The children go **to** the school every morning.

2. **Towards** points out a particular direction.

The lion ran **towards** the hunter.

3. **Into** indicates a movement inside something.

The thief entered **into** the room.

4. **At** indicates aim.

The hunter aimed **at** the bird.

5. **For** denotes direction.

I shall start **for** Patna today.

6. **Off** refers to separation.

He was thrown **off** from the car during the accident.

7. **From** refers to a point of departure.

We feel unhappy when we depart **from** our parents

8. **Against** shows pressure.

I rested my arms **against** the wall.

9. **Along** shows the same line.

I walked **along** the road.

10. **Across** means from one side.

I ran **across** the road

11. **Before** denotes face-to-face.

I was standing **before** my wife.

12. **Behind** means at the back of someone or something.

My daughter stood **behind** me.

13. **Beside** means by the side of.

The security guard sits **beside** the officer.

14. **After** refers to a sequence.

The child came running **after** the mother.

## WORDS TAKING MORE THAN ONE PREPOSITION

A large number of words are always followed by a fixed preposition.

**Example: Insist on; prevent from; fond of.** But certain words take several prepositions according to the changing meanings of the word. Here is a select list of such words.

### 1. **Accompany**

A. *By*(for living being)

The Prime Minister was accompanied **by** the members of his cabinet.

B. *With*(Subtle things)

His lecture was accompanied **with** subtle analysis of concepts.

## 2. **Accountable**

A. *To*(an authority or a person)

All of us are accountable **to** God.

B. *For*(action)

We are accountable to God **for** our deeds and misdeeds.

## 3. **Angry**

A. *At*(a thing). Ram is angry **at** Sham's bad conduct.

B. *With* (a person). Ram is angry **with** Sham.

## 4. **Annoyed**

A. *With*(a person). He is annoyed **with** his younger brother.

B. *At*(something). He is annoyed with his friend **at** his laziness.

## 5. **Answerable**

A. *To*(a person). The servant is answerable **to** the master.

B. *For*(something). We are answerable to our parents **for** our conduct.

## 6. **Appeal**

A. *To*(person). He appealed to the judge for his release from jail.

B. *For* (thing). He appealed for his release from the prison.

## 7. **Arrive**

A. *At*(small place). He arrived **at** the railway colony.

B. *In*(big place). He arrived **in** India.

## 8. **Attend**

A. *To*(duties, lessons, work). I attend **to** my duties sincerely.

B. *On*(service). Children attend **on** parents.

## 9. **Authority**

A. *On*(subject). Mr. Suresh is an authority **on** Modern physics.

B. *Over*(rights). The District Magistrate has authority **over** the Committee.

10. **Blind**

- A. *Of*(Physical). He is blind **of** one eye.  
B. *To*(mental). Many parents are blind **to** the faults of their children.

11. **Communicate**

- A. *With*(to make correspondence). He communicated **with** us on that matter.  
B. *To*(to convey). He communicated his opinion **to** me.

12. **Compare**

- A. *With*(Similar things). Shakespeare is compared **with** Kalidasa.  
B. *To*(dissimilar things). Life is compared **to** a battle.

13. **Compete**

- A. *With*(Person). I cannot compete **with** the young man.  
B. *For*(a thing). They compete **for** a prize.

14. **Complain**

- A. *To*(person). He complained **to** the Magistrate against Sham.  
B. *Against*(a person). He complained to the Magistrate **against** Sham.  
C. *About*(a thing). He complained to the Magistrate against Sham **about** his misconduct.

15. **Confer**

- A. *On*(to give). The president conferred the title of Bharat Ratna **on** him.  
B. *With*(a person). I shall confer **with** him about important topics.

16. **Die**

- A. *Of*(a disease). He died **of** cholera.  
B. *From*(a cause). He died **from** overwork.

17. **Differ**

- A. *With*(person). I differ **with** you.  
B. *From*(things). India differs **from** Japan.

18. **Disqualified**

- A. *From*(action). He was disqualified **from** running the race.  
B. *For*(post or thing). He was disqualified **for** the post of Police Inspector.

19. **Entrust**

- A. *With*(in case of a person). I cannot entrust him **with** my money.  
B. *To*(in case of thing). I cannot entrust my money **to** him.

20. **Familiar**

- A. *With*(person). I am familiar **with** the Chief Minister.  
B. *To*(subject). I am familiar **to** French Language.

21. **Fight**

- A. *With*(person). We fought **with** the English.  
B. *For*(thing). We fought with the English **for** freedom.

22. **Grateful**

- A. *To*(person). I am grateful **to** Ram.  
B. *For*(thing). I am grateful to Ram **for** his help.

23. **Heir**

- A. *Of*(descendant). A son is usually the heir **of** the father.  
B. *For*(thing). He was a heir **for** a big fortune.

24. **Indebted**

- A. *To*(a person). I am indebted **to** my friend.  
B. *For*(thing). I am indebted to my friend **for** his help.

25. **Indignant**

- A. *With*(person). He was indignant **with** his friends.  
B. *At*(thing). The teacher was indignant **at** his carelessness.

26. **Live**

- A. *On*(to exist). A man lives **on** food.  
B. *By*(to depend on, to believe in). A terrorist lives **by** the gun.

27. **Part**

- A. *From*(persons). He parted **from** his friends.  
B. *With*(things). He cannot part **with** his money.

28. **Responsible**

- A. *To*(person). He was responsible **to** the boss.  
B. *For*(thing). We are responsible to God **for** our actions.

29. **Taste**

- A. *Of*(experience). Now you will have a taste **of** New York.  
B. *For*(interest). I have no taste **for** painting.

30. **Tired**

- A. *Of*(mental). I am tired **of** poverty.  
B. *With*(physical). I am tired **with** working for five hours continuously.

## Conjunction Rules

Conjunction is a word or a group of words which connects two or more than two words, phrases, clauses, sentences etc.

### Types of Conjunctions

#### *Coordinating Conjunctions*

A coordinating conjunction joins together clauses of the same parts of the speech i.e. adverb-adverb, noun-noun, adjective-adjective. **E.g.** He came to meet me, **but** I was not at home.

#### *Subordinating Conjunctions*

A Subordinating conjunction joins a clause to another on which it depends for its full meaning. **E.g.** Since I was busy, I could not call you up.

## Conjunction Rules:

### Rule 1

The conjunction **both** is followed by **and**

**E.g.** He is **both** intelligent **and** hard working.

### Rule 2

The conjunction **so....as** / **as....as** is used to make comparison between two persons and things. so as is used in negative sentences.

**E.g.** He is not **so** good **as** you.

But **as....as** is used in both affirmative and negative sentences

**E.g.** He is **as** good **as** you.

He is not **as** good **as** you.

### Rule 3

**Although/ Though** is followed by **yet** or a **comma(,)**

**E.g.** **Though** he worked hard, he failed.

**Although** these books are costly **yet** the students buy them because these are useful.

### Rule 4

Always use the correct pair

No sooner.....than

Hardly.... when or before

Scarcely.... when or before

Barely.... when or before

**E.g.** **No sooner** had he solved the riddle than he was applauded.

**Hardly** had I come out of the room

**before** I saw him dying.

**Scarcely** had he asked the question

**when** Agnes slapped him.

**Barely** had he bought the car **before** it was stolen.

Hardly, scarcely, and barely are negative words. Do not use not, no, never with the clause containing these words. If a sentence starts with a negative word, use inversion form i.e. helping verb before the subject.

### Rule 5

**Lest** is followed by **should** or first form of verb. **Lest** is a negative word. Do not use not, never, no with **lest**.

**E.g.** Walk carefully **lest** he **should** fall.

Walk carefully **lest** he fall.

## Rule 6

**Until** is time oriented and **unless** is action oriented. Until and unless are negative words.

Do not use not, never, no, with the clause containing these words.

**E.g.** Wait here **until** I return.

**Unless** you work hard, you will not pass.

## Rule 7

In affirmative sentences **doubt** and **doubtful** are followed by **if/ whether**. In negative or interrogative sentences **doubt** and **doubtful** are followed by **that**.

**E.g.** I doubt **if** he will come.

I do not doubt **that** he will come.

## Rule 8

Always use the correct pair **not only....but also**.

**E.g.** He cheated **not only** his friends **but also** his parents.

## Rule 9

**Between** is followed by **and** **from** is followed by **to**.

**E.g.** You will have to choose **between** good **and** bad.

She keeps singing **from** morning **to** evening.

## Rule 10

**Neither of** means **none of the two**. when more than two person or things are present **none of** is used.

**Either of** means **one of the two**. when more than two person or things are present **one of** is used.

**E.g.** **None of** his friends helped him.

**One of** the students of your class is responsible for this loss.

## Rule 11

Do not use seldom or ever in place of **seldom or never**.

**E.g.** The national network **seldom or never** telecasts good programmes.

## Rule 12

After **rather /other**, the subordinating conjunction **than** should be used.

**E.g.** He has no **other** object **than** to get a handsome job.

I would **rather** buy a scooter **than** a cycle.

English Grammar Series - Articles



- A, An, The, are called articles.
- Articles are demonstrative adjectives.
- Articles are of two type, definite and indefinite articles.
- “a” and “an” are indefinite articles.
- “The” is definite article.

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### Use of “A”

1. Every singular noun which starts with consonants , starts with “a”

E.g. a cat, a dog, a pen, a house, a college etc.

2. Every singular noun which starts with “E” or “U” starts with “a”.

E.g. a university, a European, a uniform, a utensil

3. Every singular noun which starts with “O” but sounds like “v”

E.g. a one rupee note, a one eyed man, a one way ticket.

### Use of “An”

1. Every singular noun that starts with a vowel and sounds like (a, e, i, o, u)

E.g. an apple, an egg, an eye, an ear, an inkpot, an orange, an elephant, an army, and idiot, an American.

2. That singular noun that starts with a consonant but sounds like “a”, ”o”, ”e”.

E.g. an MP, an MLA, an S.H.O( s sound like a in starting), an M.A , an hour, an honest man, an heir, an hotel ( Because they all sounds like “o” in starting)

Note: only countable singular noun take “a” or “an” with them.

### Uses of “The”

1. With the name of celestial bodies.

E.g. the sun, the moon, the earth, the stars etc.

2. Before the name of the directions if it is preceded by a preposition.

E.g. the sun rises in the east and sets in the west

3. Before the name of ships, trains, seas, oceans, canals, lakes, mountains,

islands, dams, deserts.

E.g. The frontier mail, the Arabian sea, the Indian ocean, the panama canal, the dal lake, the Himalayas, the Andaman, the bhakra dam, the sahara desert.

4. Before the name of some countries and provinces.

E.g. the USA, the Punjab, the Deccan

5. Before the name of religious books, magazines, newspapers

E.g. the Gita, the Indian express, the Hindustan times, the Mahabharata

6. Before the name of communities.

E.g. the English, the French, the Hindus.

7. Before the proper noun which is used as common nouns.

E.g. Kalidas is the Shakespeare of India, Kashmir is the Switzerland of Asia.

8. Before the name of political parties,

E.g. the congress, the Janata dal.

9. Before the name of historic and public places.

E.g. the Taj Mahal, the golden temple, the zoo, the library

10. Before the adjectives which have used as noun.

E.g. the rich, the poor, the brave

11. Before( adjective+ proper noun)

E.g. the little bunny is a shy girl

12. Before the adjectives if it is used before noun.

E.g. Ashoka the great, Akbar the great

13. To make plural of proper nouns.

E.g. the Guptas, the mauryas, the browns

14. Before the big ranks

E.g. the prime minister of India, the president of India, the principle of school

15. Before the historical events.

E.g. the battle of Plassey, the battle of Panipat, the mutiny of 1857

16. Before cardinal number

E.g. the second girl in the third row is my friend.

17. Before superlative degrees.

E.g. the wisest boy, the most intelligent person

18. Before comparative degree

E.g. She is the wiser of two

19. After” all “or “both” , but before” whole” or” same”

E.g. All the boys are making noise, both the girls are pretty, the whole class is absent, their ages are the same.

20. Before the common noun which have been described in the paragraph before.

E.g. There was a fox. The fox was hungry


I know the man who came yesterday

## Participles

### Types

1. Present Participle
2. Past Participle

### # Present Participle


**Present participle**  
 The running boy is my brother.

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- Here running is come alone without any helping verb, so from this we got to know that 'running ' is not a part of tense.
- If we use only ' run ' instead of ' running ' it doesn't make any sense
- So when  $v_1 + ing$  comes alone, without them sentence doesn't make any sense is known as participle.
- If it in the present tense ( is, are is used ) , then the participle is known as Present Participle.
- Here participle is act as an adjective.

### # Past Participle

- Used for all perfect tense forms of a verb and in the passive voice.

**Example:** He hid the money in his recently gotten shirt.

Here gotten is past participle because :

- It acts as adjective because it adds the quality or describes about noun. ( Here noun is shirt )
- No helping verb is used with ' gotten ' so it cannot be a part of tense.
- It is third form of verb.

**Example :** He took the gun. He shot the tiger.

Having taken the gun, he shot the tiger. [ Active Voice ]

Here past participle is used with having

So in the active voice past participle can come as having +  $v_3$

Having been taken the gun, he shot the tiger. [ Passive Voice ]

[ He : Subject of Reference ]

## Idioms and Phrases

### Phrases with Meaning

- 1) **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**- Having something that is certain is much better than taking a risk for more, because chances are you might losing everything.
- 2) **A blessing in disguise**- Something good that isn't recognized by first
- 3) **Bull in china shop**- One who causes damage
- 4) **A chip on your shoulder**- Being upset for something that happened in the past
- 5) **A damp squib**- Complete failure
- 6) **A dime A dozen**- Anything that is common and easy to get
- 7) **A doubting Thomas**- A skeptic who needs physical or personal evidence in order to believe something
- 8) **A drop in the bucket**- A very small part of something big or whole
- 9) **A fool and his money are easily parted**- It's easy for a foolish person to lose his/ her money
- 10) **A gentleman at large**- An unreliable person
- 11) **A green horn**- Inexperienced
- 12) **A house divided against itself cannot stand**- Everyone involved must unify and function together or it will not work out.
- 13) **A leopard can't change his spots**- You cannot change who you are
- 14) **A lost cause**- A hopeless case, a person or situation having no hope of positive change.
- 15) **A man of straw**- A weak person
- 16) **A mare's nest**- A false invention
- 17) **A penny saved is a penny earned**- By not spending money, you are saving money (little by little)
- 18) **A picture paints a thousand words**- A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words
- 19) **A piece of cake**- A task that can be accomplished very easily
- 20) **A slap on the wrist**- A very mild punishment
- 21) **A stalking horse**- Pretence
- 22) **A steal**- Very inexpensive, a bargain
- 23) **A taste of your own medicine**- When you are mistreated the same way you mistreat others
- 24) **A toss-up**- A result hat is still unclear and can go either way
- 25) **A wolf in sheep's clothing**- A dangerous person pretending harmless
- 26) **ABC: Very common knowledge about to**- Ready to, just going to
- 27) **Above all**- Mainly, especially
- 28) **Above board**- Fair and honest

- 29) **According to**- In the order of; on the authority of
- 30) **Actions speak louder than words**- It's better to actually do something than just talk about it
- 31) **Add fuel to the fire**- Whenever something is done to make a bad situation even worse than it is
- 32) **Against the clock**- Rushed and short on time
- 33) **All (day, week, month, year) long**- The entire day, week, month, year
- 34) **All along**- All the time, from the beginning (without change)
- 35) **All and Sundry**- Without making any distinction
- 36) **All bark and no bite**- When someone is threatening and/ or aggressive but not willing to engage in a fight
- 37) **All Greek to me**- Meaningless and incomprehensible like someone who cannot read, speak, or
- 38) **All in all**- Considering everything
- 39) **All in the same boat**- When everyone is facing the same challenges
- 40) **All of a sudden**- Suddenly, without warning (All at once)
- 41) **All right**- Acceptable, fine; yes, okay
- 42) **Alpha and omega**- First and last letter of Greek alphabet, means beginning and end
- 43) **An arm and a leg**- Very expensive, A large amount of money
- 44) **An axe to grind**- To have a dispute with someone
- 45) **An eye wash**- A pretence
- 46) **An iron hand**- By force
- 47) **Apple to my eye**- Someone who is cherished above all others
- 48) **As a matter of fact**- Really, actually (also: as to)
- 49) **As for**- Regarding, concerning (also: as to)
- 50) **As high as a kite**- Anything that is high up in the sky
- 51) **As soon as**- Just after, when
- 52) **As usual**- as is the general case, as is typical
- 53) **At all**- To any degree (also: in the least)
- 54) **At heart**- Basically, fundamentally
- 55) **At last**- Finally, after a long time
- 56) **At least**- A minimum of, no fewer (or less) than
- 57) **At odds**- In dispute
- 58) **At sixes and seven**- Persons who are having different opinions
- 59) **At the drop of a hat**- Willing to do something immediately
- 60) **Back and call**- At the service
- 61) **Back and forth**- In a backward and forward motion

- 62) **Back seat driver**- People who criticize from the sidelines, much like someone giving unwanted advice
- 63) **Back to square one**- Having to start all over again
- 64) **Back to the drawing board**- When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over
- 65) **Bag and baggage**- with all goods
- 66) **Baker's dozen**- Thirteen
- 67) **Bank on**- Depend on, count on
- 68) **Barking up the wrong tree**- A mistake made in something you are trying to achieve
- 69) **Bated breath**- In anxiety, expectancy
- 70) **Beat a dead horse**- To force an issue that has already ended
- 71) **Beating around the bush**- Avoiding the main topic, not speaking directly about the issue
- 72) **Bend over backwards**- Do whatever it takes to help. Willing to do anything
- 73) **Between a Rock and a Hard place**- Stuck between two very bad options
- 74) **Between Scylla and Charybdis**- Choice between two unpleasant alternatives
- 75) **Between the cup and the lips**- On the point of achievement
- 76) **Bite off more than you can chew**- To take on a task that is a way to big
- 77) **Bite your tongue**- To avoid talking
- 78) **Black and white**- In writing
- 79) **Blood is thicker than water**- The family bond is closer than anything else
- 80) **Blow hot and cold**- Having no stand, shows favor at one time and unfavor at another
- 81) **Blue moon**- A rare event or occurrence
- 82) **Body and soul**- Entirely
- 83) **Break a leg**- A superstitious way to say 'Good Luck' without saying 'Good Luck',
- 84) **Buy a lemon**- To purchase a vehicle that constantly gives problems or stops running after you drive it
- 85) **By & by**- Gradually
- 86) **By all means**- Certainly, definitely, naturally (also: of course); using any possible way or method
- 87) **By far**- By a great margin, clearly
- 88) **By fits and starts**- Irregularly
- 89) **By heart**- By memorizing
- 90) **By hook or by crook**- By any means
- 91) **By leaps and bound**- speedily
- 92) **By oneself**- Alone, without assistance
- 93) **By the way**- Incidentally
- 94) **Call a spade a spade**- Straight talks
- 95) **Can't cut the mustard**- Someone who isn't adequate enough to compete or participate

- 96) **Cast iron stomach**- Someone who has no problems, complications or ill effects with eating anything
- 97) **Cats and bull story**- Untrue story
- 98) **Cats and dogs**- Heavy rain
- 99) **Charley horse**- stiffness in the leg/ A leg cramp
- 100) **Chew someone out**- Verbally scold someone
- 101) **Chip on his shoulder**- Angry today about something that occurred in the past
- 102) **Chow down**- To eat
- 103) **Clear- cut**- Clearly stated, definite, apparent
- 104) **Close but no cigar**- To be near and almost accomplish a goal, but fall short
- 105) **Close call**- A situation involving a narrow escape from danger
- 106) **Cock and bull story**- An unbelievable tale, untrue story
- 107) **Come hell or high water**- Any difficult situation or obstacle
- 108) **Crack someone up**- To make someone laugh
- 109) **Cross your fingers**- To hope that something happens the way you want it to
- 110) **Cry wolf**- Intentionally raise a false alarm
- 111) **Cup of joe**- A cup of coffee
- 112) **Curtain lecture**- A reproof by wife to her husband
- 113) **Cut and dried**- Ready made form
- 114) **Cut to the chase**- Leave out all the unnecessary details and just get to the point
- 115) **Dark horse**- One who was previously unknown and is now prominent
- 116) **Day in and day out**- Continuously, constantly
- 117) **Dead Ringer**- 100 % identical, a duplicate
- 118) **Devil's advocate**- Someone who takes a position for the sake of argument without believing in that
- 119) **Dog days of summer**- The hottest day of the summer season
- 120) **Don't count your chickens before they hatch**- Don't rely on it until you sure of it
- 121) **Don't look a gift horse in the month**- When someone gives you a gift, don't be ungrateful
- 122) **Don't pull all your eggs in one basket**- Do not pull all your resources in one possibility
- 123) **Doozy**- Something outstanding
- 124) **Down to the wire**- Something that ends at the last minute or last few seconds
- 125) **Drastic times call for drastic measures**- When you are extremely desperate you need to take extremely desperate actions
- 126) **Drink like a fish**- To drink very heavily, drinking anything
- 127) **Dry run**- Rehearsal
- 128) **Egg on**- To urge somebody



- 129) **Eighty six**- A certain item is no longer available. Or this idiom can also mean, to throw away
- 130) **Elvis has left the building**- The show has come to an end. It's all over
- 131) **Ethnic cleansing**- Killing of a certain ethnic or religious group on a massive scale
- 132) **Ever and anon**- Now and then
- 133) **Every cloud has a silver lining**- Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days
- 134) **Every other (one)**- Every second (one), alternate (ones)
- 135) **Everything but the kitchen sink**- Almost everything and anything has been included
- 136) **Excuse my French**- Please forgive me for cussing
- 137) **Fabian policy**- Policy of delaying decisions
- 138) **Face-to-face**- Direct, personal; directly, personally (written without hyphens)
- 139) **Fair and wide**- Equal opportunity to all
- 140) **Far and wide**- Every where
- 141) **Few and far between**- Not frequent, unusual, rare
- 142) **Field day**- An enjoyable day or circumstance
- 143) **Fifty- fifty**- Divided into two equal parts
- 144) **Finding your feet**- To become more comfortable in whatever you are doing
- 145) **Finger licking good**- To become more comfortable in whatever you are doing
- 146) **Fire and brimstone**- A very tasty food or meal
- 147) **Fire and fury**- Fearful penalties
- 148) **First and foremost**- Extreme enthusiasm
- 149) **Fishy: doubtful**- Highest priority
- 150) **Fixed in your ways**- Not willing or wanting to change from your normal way of doing something
- 151) **Flash in the pan**- Something that shows potential or looks promising in the beginning but fails to deliver
- 152) **Flea market**- A swap meet. A place where people gather to buy and sell inexpensive goods
- 153) **Flesh and blood**- This idiom can mean living material of which people are made of, or it can refer to human nature
- 154) **Flip the bird**- To raise your middle finger at someone
- 155) **Foam at the mouth**- To be enraged and show it
- 156) **Fools' Gold**- Iron pyrites, a worthless rock that resembles real gold
- 157) **Foot the bill**- Bear expenses
- 158) **For good**- Permanently, forever
- 159) **For once**- This one time, for only one time
- 160) **For sure**- Without doubt (also: for certain)
- 161) **For the time being**- Temporarily (also: for now)

- 162) **Free and easy**- Natural and simple
- 163) **French kiss**- An open mouth kiss where tongues touch
- 164) **From now on**- From this time into the future
- 165) **From rags to riches**- To go from very poor to being very wealthy
- 166) **Fuddy- duddy**- An old-fashioned and foolish type of person
- 167) **Full monthly**- This idiom can mean either, "The whole thing" or "Completely nude"
- 168) **Funny farm**- A mental institutional facility
- 169) **Gall and wormwood**- Source of irritation
- 170) **Get down to brass tacks**- To become serious about something
- 171) **Get over it**- To move beyond something that is bothering you
- 172) **Get up on the wrong side of the bed**- Someone who is having a horrible day
- 173) **Get your walking papers**- Get fired from the job
- 174) **Gird up the loin**- To be ready
- 175) **Give and take**- Compromise, cooperation between people
- 176) **Give him the slip**- To get away from, to escape
- 177) **Give in**- Surrender
- 178) **Go down like a lead balloon**- To be received badly by an audience
- 179) **Go for broke**- To gamble everything you have
- 180) **Go out on a limb**- Put yourself in a tough position in order to support someone/ something
- 181) **Go the extra mile**- Going above and beyond whatever is required for the task at hand
- 182) **Good Samaritan**- Someone who helps others when they are in need, with no discussion for
- 183) **Graveyard shift**- Working hours from about 12:00 am to 8.00
- 184) **Great minds think alike**- Intelligent people think like each other
- 185) **Green room**- The waiting room, especially for those who are about to go on a TV or radio show
- 186) **Gut feeling**- A personal intuition you get, especially when feel something may not be right
- 187) **Had better**- Should, ought to, be advisable to
- 188) **Hand a gloves**- Very intimate friends
- 189) **Hard and fast**- Certain
- 190) **Hard of hearing**- Partially deaf, not able to hear well
- 191) **Haste makes waste**- Quickly doing things results in a poor ending
- 192) **Hat Trick**- When one player scores three goals in the same hockey game.
- 193) **Haughty and naughty**- Arrogant and naughty
- 194) **Have an axe to grind**- To have a dispute with someone
- 195) **Have got**- To have, to possess
- 196) **Have got to**- Must (also: have to)

- 197) **He lost his head**- Angry and overcome by emotions
- 198) **Head and shoulder**- Superior
- 199) **Head over heels**- Very excited and/ or joyful, especially when in love
- 200) **Heart and soul**- With full devotion
- 201) **Hell in a hand basket**- Deteriorating and headed for complete disaster
- 202) **Helter Shelter**-Here and there
- 203) **Herculean task**- A tedious job
- 204) **High five**- Slapping palms above each others heads as celebration gesture
- 205) **High on the Hog**- Living in luxury
- 206) **Hit below the belt**- Contrary the principles of fairness
- 207) **Hit the books**- To study, especially for a test or exam
- 208) **Hit the hay**- Go to bed or go to sleep
- 209) **Hit the nail on the head**- Do something exactly right or say something exactly right
- 210) **Hit the sack**- Go to bed or go to sleep
- 211) **Hither and thither**- Here and there
- 212) **Hocus Pocus**- In general, a term used in magic or trickery
- 213) **Hold your horses**- Be patient
- 214) **Hole and corner policy**- A secret policy for an evil purpose
- 215) **Hornet's nest**- Raise controversy
- 216) **Hue and cry**- Great noise
- 217) **Hush money**- A bribe
- 218) **Icing on the cake**- When you already have it good and get something on top of what you already have
- 219) **Idle hands are the devil's tools**- You are more likely to get in trouble if you have nothing to do
- 220) **If it's not one thing, it's another**- When one thing goes wrong, then another, and another...
- 221) **Ill at ease**- Uncomfortable or worried in a situation
- 222) **In a hurry**- Hurried, rushed (also: in a rush)
- 223) **In case**- In order to be prepared if the meaning is in order to be prepared if something happens
- 224) **In hand**- Under firm control, well managed
- 225) **In like Flynn**- To be easily successful, especially when sexual or romantic
- 226) **In no time**- Very quickly, rapidly
- 227) **In the bag**- To have something secured
- 228) **In the buff**- Nude
- 229) **In the heat of the moment**- Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment

- 230) **In the long run**- Eventually, after a long period of time
- 231) **In the worst way**- Very much, greatly
- 232) **In time to**- Before the time necessary to do something
- 233) **In touch**- Having contact
- 234) **In vain**- Useless, without the desired result
- 235) **In your face**- An aggressive and bold confrontation
- 236) **Ins and outs**- Full detail
- 237) **Inside out**- With the inside facing the outside
- 238) **Intents and purposes**- Practically
- 239) **It figures**- It seems likely, reasonable, or typical
- 240) **It takes two to tango**- A two person conflict where both people are at fault
- 241) **It's a small world**- You frequently see the same people in different places
- 242) **It anyone's call**- A competition where the outcome is difficult to judge or predict
- 243) **Ivory tower**- Imaginary world
- 244) **Ivy league**- Since 1954 the Ivy league has been the following universities: Columbia, Brown, Cornell
- 245) **Jaywalk**- Crossing the street (from the middle) without using the crosswalk
- 246) **Joshing me**- Tricking me
- 247) **Keep an eye on him**- You should carefully watch him. Keep an eye on
- 248) **Keep body and soul together**- To earn a sufficient amount of money in order to keep yourself alive
- 249) **Keep your chin up**- To remain joyful in a tough situation
- 250) **Kick the bucket**- Die
- 251) **Kith and kin**- Blood relatives
- 252) **Kitty-corner**- Diagonally across. Sometimes called Catty- Corner as well
- 253) **Knock on Wood**- Knuckle tapping on wood in order to avoid some bad luck
- 254) **Know the ropes**- To understand the details
- 255) **Last but not least**- An introduction phrase to let the audience know that the last person mentioned is also very important
- 256) **Last straw**- The final event in a series of unacceptable actions
- 257) **Latin and Greek**- Unable to understand
- 258) **Leave no stone unturned**- Make all possible efforts
- 259) **Lend me your ear**- To politely ask for someone's full attention
- 260) **Length and breadth**- All over
- 261) **Let along**- and certainly not (also: not to mention, to say nothing of)
- 262) **Let the cat out of the bag**- To share a secret that wasn't suppose to be shared
- 263) **Level playing field**- A fair competition where no side has an advantage

- 264) **Life and soul**- Main support
- 265) **Like a chicken and its head cut off**- To act in a frenzied manner
- 266) **Liquor someone up**- To get someone drunk
- 267) **Little by little**- Gradually, slowly (also: step by step)
- 268) **Live-wire**- Energetic
- 269) **Loaves and fish**- Material interests
- 270) **Lock and key**- In safe place
- 271) **Long in the tooth**- Old people (or horses)
- 272) **Loose cannon**- Someone who is unpredictable and can cause damage if not kept in check
- 273) **Make no bones about**- To state a fact so there are no doubts or objections
- 274) **Method to my madness**- Strange or crazy actions that appear meaningless but in the end are done for a good reason
- 275) **Might and main**- With all enthusiasm
- 276) **Milk and water**- Weak
- 277) **More or less**- Approximately, almost, somewhat, to a certain degree
- 278) **Mumbo Jumbo**- Nonsense or meaningless speech
- 280) **Mum's the word**- To keep quiet, To say nothing
- 280) **Narrow-minded**- Not willing to accept the ideas of others

## Subject Verb Agreement Rules

In any sentence the use of verb according to subject's number and person is called verb agreement.

1. He comes (If Subject 'Singular' then Verb 'Singular')
2. They come (If Subject 'Plural' then Verb 'Plural')

It is important to understand singular and plural for use of right form of verb.

Singular Verb	Plural Verb		Singular Verb	Plural Verb
is	are		was	were
has	have		V <sub>1</sub> + s/es (plays, goes etc.)	V <sub>1</sub> (play, go etc.)

The difference between Verb and noun.

Noun + s/es -> Plural noun ( With s/es noun becomes plural)

Verb + s/es -> Singular Verb ( With s/es verb becomes singular)

### Rule 1

If two **Subjects** use with '**and**' then **Plural Verb** will use.

E.g.

Ram and Sham are coming.

### Rule 2

If two or more than two **Nouns** or adjectives use with and but they use only for one person, then Singular Verb will use.

My friend, philosopher and guide have come. (change 'have' to '**has**')  
Slow and steady win the race. (change 'win' to '**wins**')  
Fish and chips is my favorites dish. (**Correct**)

**Note** - i) If two **uncountable nouns** use with '**and**', and act as **subject** then plural verb will use.

E.g.

Poverty **and** misery **come** together. (**Correct**)

### Rule 3

If two subjects add with "**as well as, with, alongwith, together with, and not, in addition to, but, besides, except, rather than, accompanied by, like, unlike, no less than, nothing but**" then verb will use according to first subject.

E.g.

1. Ram **as well as** his parents **is** coming.

2. The captain **along with** the sailors **was** drowned.

3. My **father unlike** my uncles **is** very strict.

### Rule 4

If use of **Article** only with **1<sup>st</sup> Subject** then it means **only one man or object**. So **Singular Verb** will use. e.g.

1) **A** white and black gown **was** bought by her.

2) Churchill was a great orator and a great politician of his time. (**Incorrect**)

Churchil was a great orator and politician of his time. (**Correct**)

But if use of **Article** with every **Subject** means **different subjects and objects**. So use **Plural Verb**.

E.g.

The director and the producer **have** come. (Correct)

### Rule 5

If two subject add with '**neither....nor, either.....or, not only....but also, nor, or** and **none-but,**' then verb will be according to nearest subject.

E.g.

1. **Neither** Ram **nor** Sham **has** come.
2. **Either** Ram **or** his friends **have** come.
3. **Has** Ram **or** Sham come?

### Rule 6

'**Neither of**' ....means '**no one from two**'.

'**none of**' ....means '**no one from more than two**'.

E.g.

Neither of his four sons looked after him. (**Incorrect**)

None of his four sons looked after him. (**Correct**)

**Either of**.... Means one out of two.

**One of**.... Means one out of more than two.

E.g.

Either of the five members is at fault. (**Incorrect**)

One of the five members is at fault. (**Correct**)

**Note:-** With Both not cannot use because for 'no one from two' neither of will use.

E.g.

Both of them did not take the exam. (**Incorrect**)

Neither of them look the exam. (**Correct**)

### Rule 7

Some noun by form its plural, but by meaning it is singular. With this we use singular verb.

E.g.

- 1) Measles, Mumps, Rickets etc.
- 2) Billiards, Darts, Draughts etc.
- 3) The United States, The West Indies, etc.
- 4) The Arabian Nights, Three Musketeers etc.
- 5) Physics, Economics, Civics, Statistics, Pol. Science etc.

E.g.

1) Mathematics **is** an interesting subject.

2) Politics **is** not my cup of tea.

Note- If **Statistics** use as **data**, **Mathematics** use as **Calculation** and **Politics** use as **Political** views then its use will be plural. e.g.

Statistics **have** revealed multiple scams in the organization of commonwealth games.

### Rule 8

In a sentence a **verb** is according to the **main subject**. We usually place it with according to its nearest subject, but it is wrong.

**E.g.**

1) The quality of apples **is** good.

2) He and not his parents **is** guilty.

3) The appeal of the victims for the transfer of the cases related to riots to some other states **has** been accepted.

### Rule 9

With **Collective noun** always use **Singular Verb**.

**E.g.**

1) The **herd** of cows **is** grazing in the field.

2) The committee **has** unanimously taken **its** decision.

Note:- But if there is some problem in **Collective Noun** or each person is mention then use **plural verb**.

**E.g.**

1) The jury **are** divided in **their** opinion.

2) The audience **have** taken **their** seats.

### Rule 10

With **plural number**, **plural verb** use. e.g.

Hundred boys **are** in my class.

Note:- If after **cardinal adjectives** (**one, two, three, four,... etc.**) **plural noun** use and with **plural noun** shows **certain amount, certain weight, certain period, certain distance, certain height** then singular verb will use.

**E.g.**

1. Hundred rupees **is** in my pocket.



2.Ten miles **is** a long distance to cover on foot.

### Rule 11

If any **Relative Pronoun**(Who, which, that etc.) use to add a **Subject** and a **Verb**, then **Verb** would be according to that **Subject** which is **antecedent to that Relative Pronoun**.  
**E.g.**

- 1) She is one of the noblest **women** that **(R.P.)has** have ever lived on this earth.
- 2) I am not one of **those who (R.P.)** will trust everyone whom **I-meet** they meet.  
Always understand the meaning of the sentence. Second sentence meaning is '**I am not from those people, who believe on that whom they meet.**' So Don't use **I meet**, use **They meet**.

### Rule 12

**Each, Every, Everyone, Someone, Somebody, Nobody, None, One, Any, Many a, More than one** means **singular** from their meaning. With this Singular verb, Singular noun, Singular Adjective & Singular noun use.  
**E.g.**

- 1) **Each** student **has** come.
- 2) **Each** boy and **each** girl **has** come.
- 3) **One** must tolerate **one's** friend as well as **his** one's enemy
- 4) **Many a** student **have** has not done their home work.
- 5) **More than one man**(S.N.) **was**(S.V) present there.

Note:- Watch use of '**many**' in below sentences:-

**E.g.**

- 1) **Many a** man has come.
- 2) **Many** men have come.
- 3) **A great/ A good many** men have come.

### Rule 13

If after **each, every, one** etc., '**of**' is using, so, the **noun or pronoun** which comes after '**of**' will be **plural** but the **verb, adjective, pronoun** after that will be **Singular**.  
**E.g.**

One of **the boys/ them**(Noun/Pronoun (Plural)) has done the his work.

### Rule 14

After **Plural Noun** or **Plural Pronoun** use of 'each', then it will be treated as **Plural** and **Plural Verb** will be use will be used with this.

**E.g.**

We<sub>(P.S.)</sub> each **have**<sub>(P.V.)</sub> a duty towards our nation. (**Correct**)

### Rule 15

Use of **Indefinite Pronoun- 'One'** as the **subject** of **sentence**, then with this **singular verb** will use and for this **Singular Adjective/ Pronouns- one's, one, oneself** will be used, not **he, him, himself** etc.

**E.g.**

One should keep his promise. (**Incorrect**)

One should keep one's promise. (**Correct**)

### Rule 16

Fictional sentences which starts with **if, as if, as though, suppose, I wish, in case or would that**. After this any **number** or **person's** subject will be used, plural verb '**were**' will use, not **was**.

**E.g.**

1) I wish, I were a bird.

2) If he were rich, he would help others.

### Rule 17

In Optative Sentences, with Singular Subject, plural verb will use.

**E.g.**

1) God<sub>(S.S)</sub> save<sub>(P.V)</sub> the king.

2) Long live<sub>(P.V)</sub> the Queen<sub>(S.S)</sub>.

### Rule 18

A number of/A large number of/A great number of use with Plural Countable Noun and with this Plural Verb will use.

**E.g.**

A number of students were present. (Correct)

Note:- But use of 'The number of' for certain number, then after this **Plural Subject** will use and it will use with **Sentence's Subject** with **Singular Verb**.

E.g.

The number of boys<sub>(P.S)</sub> are<sub>(P.V)</sub> fifty. (Incorrect)

The number of boys<sub>(P.S)</sub> is<sub>(S.V)</sub> fifty. (Correct)

## Rule 19

If **Amount of/quantity of** use with **Uncountable noun**, then it will use with **Sentence's subject** and with this **Singular Verb** will use.

E.g.

The amount of money<sub>(U.N)</sub> are<sub>(P.V)</sub> not sufficient. (Incorrect)

The amount of money<sub>(U.N)</sub> is<sub>(S.V)</sub> not sufficient. (Correct)

## Rule 20

If 'All' use as **uncountable**, then it will treat **singular**, and with this **Singular Verb** will use.

E.g.

All is<sub>(S.V)</sub> well that ends<sub>(S.V)</sub> well.

But use of 'All' as **quantity of people or good**, then it will treat **Plural** and with this **Plural Verb** will use.

E.g.

All are<sub>(P.V)</sub> well at home.

## Rule 21

**Furniture, advice, work, evidence, equipment, news, information, luggage, baggage, percentage, poetry, knowledge, dirt, traffic, electricity, music, breakage, stationary, confectionary, pottery, bakery, crockery, behavior** use as **Uncountable Nouns**. So with this **Singular verb** will use.

1) The scenery<sub>(S.S)</sub> of Kashmir has<sub>(S.V)</sub> enchanted us.

2) I passed but the percentage<sub>(S.S)</sub> of marks was<sub>(S.V)</sub> not good.

## Rule 22

Some **Nouns** are always use as **Plural Nouns**. It cannot be make **Singular**, if we cut 's' at the end of it. It also looks like **Plural**, and it also use as **Plural**.

Scissors, tongs, pliers, pincers, bellows, trousers, pants, pajamas, shorts, gallows, fangs, spectacles, goggles, binoculars, sunglasses, Alms, amends, archives, arrears, auspices, congratulations, embers, thanks etc.

E.g.

- 1) Where are my **pants**?
- 2) Where are the **tongs**?
- 3) The **proceeds** were deposited in the bank.

### Rule 23

Some **Nouns** look **Plural**, but use as **Singular**. It always use as **Singular**.

E.g.

**News, Innings, Politics, Summons, Physics, Economics, Ethics, Mathematics, Mumps, Measles, Rickets, Billiards** etc. e.g.

- 1) No **news** is good news.
- 2) **Politics** is a dirty game.

### Rule 24

Some **Nouns** look like **Singular**, but use as **Plural**.

E.g.

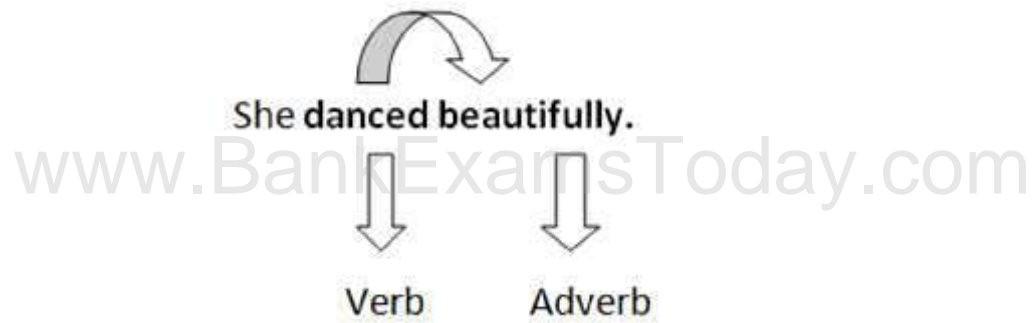
**Cattle, infantry, poultry, peasantry, children, gentry, police, people** etc. With these 's' will never use. Like Cattles, childrens are wrong. e.g.

- 1) **Cattles** are grazing in the field.
- 2) Our **infantry** have marched forward.
- 3) **Police** have arrested the thieves.

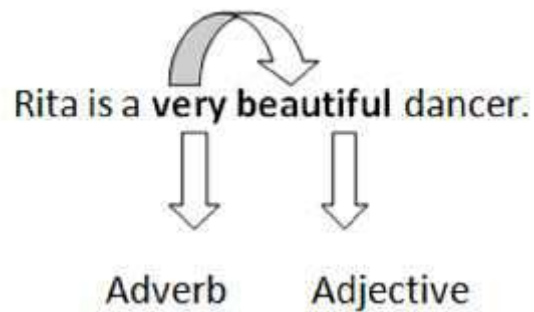
## Rules of Adverbs

An Adverb a word which modifies a verb or an adjectives or another adverb.

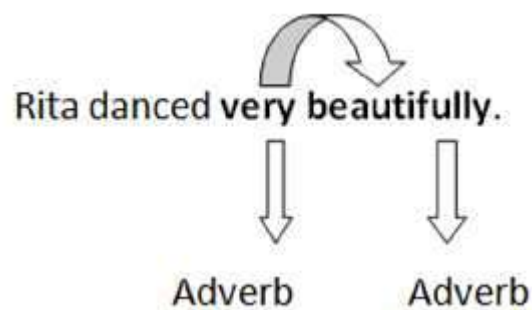
FOR EXAMPLE



In the example above 'danced' is a verb which is being modified by the adverb "beautifully".



In the example above 'beautiful' is an adjective which is being modified by an adverb 'very'.



## KINDS OF ADVERBS

### 1. ADVERBS OF MANNER

Adverbs of Manner tell us the manner or the way in which something happens. They answer the Question 'How?' Adverbs of Manner mainly modify verbs.

- He speaks slowly. (How does he speak?)
- They helped us cheerfully. (How did they help us?)
- James Bond drives his cars fast. (How does James Bond drive his cars?)

## 2. ADVERBS OF PLACE

Adverbs of place tell us the place where something happens. They answer the question 'where?' An adverb of place mainly modifies verbs.

- Please sit here. (Where should I sit?)
- They looked everywhere. (Where did they look?)
- Two cars were parked outside. (Where were two cars parked?)

## 3. ADVERBS OF TIME

Adverbs of time tell us something about the time that something happens. They answer the question 'when?' Adverbs of Time mainly modify verbs.

- He came yesterday. (When did he come?)
- I want it now. (When do I want it? ) or they can answer the question 'how often?'
- They deliver the newspaper daily. (How often do they deliver the newspaper?)
- We sometimes watch a movie. (How often do we watch a movie?)

## 4. ADVERBS OF DEGREE

Adverbs of degree tell us the degree or extent to which something happens. They answer the question 'how much?' or 'to what degree?' Adverbs of degree can modify verbs, Adjectives or other Adverbs.

- She entirely agrees with him. (How much does she agree with him?)
- Mary is very beautiful. (To what degree is Mary beautiful? How beautiful is Mary?)
- He drove quite dangerously. (To what degree did he drive dangerously? How dangerously did he drive?)

## 5. ADVERBS OF FREQUENCY

Adverbs of frequency tell us how many times the action occurs or occurred or will occur.

Examples: Rarely, daily, sometimes, often, seldom, usually, frequently, always, ever, generally, monthly, yearly.

- She never smokes.
- He is always late for class.
- They always come in time.
- Barking dogs seldom bite.
- The employees are paid monthly.
- The employees are paid every month.

## COMPARISON OF ADVERBS

There are three degrees of comparison in adverbs the positive, the comparative, the superlative. The adverbs form their comparatives and superlatives using –er and –est and more and most. Adverbs that end in –ly use the words more and most to form their comparatives and superlatives.

The one-syllable adverbs use –er in the comparative form and –est in the superlative form.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Early	Earlier	Earliest
Fast	Faster	Fastest
Hard	Harder	hardest
High	Higher	Highest
Late	Later	Latest
Hot	Hotter	hottest
Loud	Louder	Loudest
Near	Nearer	Nearest
Soon	Sooner	Soonest

Adverbs which end in –ly or have three or ‘more’ syllables each form the comparative with more and the superlative with ‘most’.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Angrily	More angrily	Most angrily
Brightly	More brightly	Most brightly
Dimly	More dimly	Most dimly
Freely	More freely	Most freely
Gladly	More gladly	Most gladly
Heavily	More heavily	Most heavily
Loudly	More loudly	Most loudly
Quietly	More quietly	Most quietly
Sweetly	More sweetly	Most sweetly
Terribly	More terribly	Most terribly

The comparative form is used to compare two things.

- We must not reach there later than 7 o’clock/
  - You speak more loudly than a loudspeaker.
  - Sirius shines more brightly than all the other stars.
- The superlative form is used to compare three or more things.
- He arrived the earliest, so he had to wait for the others.

- Why do you have to speak the most loudly of all the meetings?

- Of all the girls, your sister sang the most sweetly.

It is not correct to use –er and more together, –est and most together.

- The tree is more taller than the giraffe. (Incorrect)

The tree is taller than the giraffe. (correct)

- This turkey is the most oldest in the farm. (incorrect)

This turkey is the oldest in the farm.(correct)

Some adverbs form the comparative and the superlative irregularly.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Badly	Worse (than)	Worst (the)
Far	Farther	Farthest
Far	Further	Furthest
Little	Less	Least
Much/many	More	Most
Well	Better	Best

### Examples:

- Of the two teddy bears, which do you like **better**?
- This has to be the **farthest** I have ever walked in my life.

## Forms of Adverbs

There are three forms of adverbs: adverbs formed by adding -ly to an adjective, adverbs that share identical words with an adjective, and adverbs not derived from an adjective or any other word.

### 1. Most adverbs are formed by adding -ly to an adjective

- o He had a **sudden** heart attack while jogging. (Adjective)
- o He **suddenly** had a heart attack while jogging. (Adverb)
- o She had a **quick** walk to get there on time. (Adjective)
- o She walked **quickly** to get there on time. (Adverb)

### 2. Adverbs that share identical words with an adjective

- o He found the exam quite **hard**. (Adjective)
- o He failed his exam as he didn't try very **hard**. (Adverb)
- o The two brothers live on **opposite** sides of the city. (Adjective)



- o She has a brother who lives **opposite** to her. (Adverb)

**3. Adverbs such as as, even, how, never, next, now, rather, so, soon, still, then, too, etc. are not derived from an adjective or any other word.**

- He doesn't even know where the Pacific Ocean is.
- He said he had never been to a circus.
- She has got rather a lot of money to spend at this time of the month.
- She has eaten two big pizzas and is still hungry

**4. Converting a number of adjectives to adverbs by adding -ly entails removing a letter as shown in the following:**

- by adding **-ly** or **-ally** to the end of an adjective (quick –quickly, heroic –heroically),
- by adding **-ly** after removing the last **-e** from an adjective (comfortable –comfortably, possible –possibly), or
- by dropping the last y from an adjective and replacing it with **-ily** (easy –easily, happy –happily).

**5. Adverbs are also formed from other parts of speech such as noun (accident) and verb (hurry), and from present participle (frightening).**

- She deleted my file by accident. (Noun)
- She accidentally deleted my file. (Adverb)
- Nick hurried to answer the telephone. (Verb)
- Nick moved hurriedly to answer the telephone. (Adverb)
- He's frightening us with the speed he's driving. (present participle)
- He's driving frighteningly close to the edge of the pavement. (Adverb)

## Positions of Adverbs

Adverbs occupy different positions in a sentence.

**1. At the beginning of a sentence before the subject**

**Sometimes** she gives me a lift to work.

**Fortunately** we got home before it started to rain.

**Suddenly** all the lights went out.

**2. After the auxiliary verb and before the main verb**

The father was **tragically** killed in a road accident.

We do **occasionally** go bird-watching.

The rain has **already** stopped when we arrived.

3. **After the auxiliary verb (be) that is used as the main verb**

She is **always** quick to point out other people's faults.

As usual, they are **very** late.

The boys were incredibly lucky to be alive after what happened.

4. **Before the main verb if there is no auxiliary verb**

Their parents **often** go to the cinema.

She **reluctantly** agreed to his proposals.

Your fat uncle **accidentally** knocked my vase of fresh flowers over.

5. **After the main verb if there is no auxiliary verb**

The sisters dressed **beautifully** for the occasion.

The tourist looked **carefully** at the antique before she bought it.

She spoke **loudly** to the crowd on women's issues.

6. **At the end of a sentence**

He admitted punching and kicking the man **repeatedly**.

Our old neighbor fell and hurt her leg **badly**.

Hey, you have not pronounced my name **correctly**.

## Tenses

In a series of sharing English grammar notes, today I am sharing Tenses.

time →	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
↓ aspect			
SIMPLE	<i>she worked</i>	<i>she works</i>	<i>she will work</i>
CONTINUOUS	<i>she was working</i>	<i>she is working</i>	<i>she will be working</i>
PERFECT	<i>she had worked</i>	<i>she has worked</i>	<i>she will have worked</i>
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	<i>she had been working</i>	<i>she has been working</i>	<i>she will have been working</i>

<b>Present continuous</b>	<b>Present simple</b>
present of be + active participle	base form/s-form
I am reading you/we/they are reading he/she/it is reading	I/you/we/they read he/she/it reads
<b>Negative</b>	
I am not reading you/we/they are not reading he/she/it is not reading	I/you/we they do not read he/she/it does not read
<b>Questions</b>	
am I reading? are you/we/they reading? is he/she it reading?	do I/you/we/they read? does he/she/it read?

<b>Past Continuous</b>	<b>Present Perfect Continuous</b>
Past of be + active participle	Present of have + been + active participle
I/he/she/it was flying you/we/they were flying	I/you/we/they have been waiting he/she/it has been waiting
<b>Negative</b>	
I/he/she/it was not flying you/we/they were not flying	I/you/we/they have not been waiting he/she/it has not been waiting
<b>Questions</b>	
was I/he/she/it flying? were you/we/they flying?	have I/you/we/they been waiting? has he/she/it been waiting?

<b>Present Perfect</b>	<b>Past simple:</b>
present of have + past participle	Past form
I/you/we/they have opened he/she/it has opened	someone opened
<b>Negative</b>	
I/you/we/they have not opened he/she/it has not opened	someone did not open
<b>Questions</b>	
have I/you/we/they opened? has he/she/it opened?	did someone open?

<b>Past Perfect</b>	<b>Past Perfect Continuous</b>
had + past participle	had been + active participle
someone had invited	someone had been going

<b>Negative</b>	
someone had not invited	someone had not been going
<b>Questions</b>	
had someone invited?	had someone been going?

## #Present

### Present Simple

Ram plays cricket.

Sub + V<sub>1</sub> + Object

Note: 's' is used according to subject, always use 's' if subject is singular

### Present Continuous

Ram is playing cricket.

Is / Am / Are + V<sub>1</sub> + ing

Sub + V<sub>1</sub> + ing + Object

### Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Ram has been playing cricket since morning or for two hours.

{ Has + Been + V<sub>1</sub> + ing + time [since or for] }

### Present Perfect Tense

Ram has played cricket.

Has / Have + V<sub>3</sub> + Object

## #Past Tense

### Past Indefinite

Ram played cricket. [ Sub + V<sub>2</sub> ]

### **Past Continuous**

Ram was playing cricket. [ Sub + Was / Were + V<sub>1</sub> + ing ]

### **Past Perfect Continuous Tense**

Ram had been playing cricket since morning or for two hours.

{ Had + Been + V<sub>1</sub> + ing + time [since or for] }

### **Past Perfect Tense**

Ram had played cricket. [ Sub + Had + V<sub>3</sub> ]

### **#Future Tense**

#### **Future Indefinite**

Modals ( will/shall) always use with 1st form of verb.

Ram will play cricket.

#### **Future Continuous**

Ram will be playing cricket.

Sub + will/shall+be+ V<sub>1</sub> + ing+ Object

#### **Future Perfect**

Ram will have played cricket.

(always use 'have' with 'will')

#### **Future Perfect Continuous**

Ram will have been playing cricket since morning.

**Example :** I \_\_\_\_ (return) my book in the library yesterday.

**The case of after and before**

- The passenger \_\_\_\_ reached the station before the train \_\_\_\_\_(arrive).[had,reached (V2) ]
- The doctor came after the patient died(V3).

### Conditional Statements

If + Present Indefinite + Future Indefinite + Obj

If + Past + Indefinite + would + V<sub>1</sub> + Obj

If + Past Perfect + would + Have + V<sub>3</sub> + Obj

### Examples:

1. If I will go to Delhi, I will Meet her. [Correct:If I go to Delhi]
2. She will come to meet me as soon as I will reached Delhi. [Correct: I reach Delhi]

### Conditional Words

- As soon as
  - If
  - As If
  - If wish
  - Unless
  - Until
  - When
  - When ever
3. Unless you ~~will not~~ take care of yours. you will not recover.
  4. Until the train will not gets the signal. It will not arrive.  
[ always use 's' or 'es' with verb according to the subject]
  5. Ram had a car. [ had = main verb (past indefinite)]
  6. Ram had had a car. [past perfect] [ has had had ; be was been]
  7. Sub + Main Verb +  
V<sub>3</sub> +Obj
  8. She was a good girl. [past Indefinite]
  9. She had been a good girl.[past perfect]

10. If I ~~was~~ a bird, I would fly in the sky. [ Correct :were]
11. Present wish = Past indefinite
12. [ never depends on subject]
13. If we had \_\_\_\_ mohan in our team we would have won the match. [ Correct : had ]
14. Past wish = Past Perfect
15. If I had seen you, I would \_\_\_\_ stop my car. [ Correct: Have]
- 16.
17. He scolded me as if he ~~was~~ my boss. [ Correct: Were]
18. [ Never use 'was' in conditional statement after if or as ]

## Conditional Sentences

*In conditional sentences below words will definitely come.*

1. **If.....,**
2. **Provided**
3. **As soon as..... no sooner..... than**
4. **When.....**
5. **Unless....., Until.....,**

There are two parts of Conditional sentences

1. If Clause
2. Main clause

Mainly There are three types of conditional sentences

- A. If clause in present tense
- B. If clause in past tense
- C. If clause in past tense
- D. Other types of conditional sentences

### *A. IF CLAUSE IN PRESENT TENSE*

General formula-

If + Simple present, simple future

- In this type of sentences 'If Clause' is in **Simple Present** and 'Main clause' is in **Simple Future**.

If I will come to Delhi, I will meet you. (**Incorrect**)

If I come to Delhi, I will meet you. (**Correct**)

If two work is in **future** back to back, and second work is depend on first work, then first work is in **Simple Present Tense** and second work is in **Simple Future Tense**.

**Some examples:-**

1. She will come to meet you as soon as you will reach Delhi. (**Incorrect**)  
She will come to meet you **as soon as** you reach Delhi. (**Correct**)
2. If the government will be become strict, corruption will surely finish. (**Incorrect**)  
**If** the government becomes strict, corruption will surely finish. (**Correct**)
3. I will help him provided he will mend his ways. (**Incorrect**)  
I will help him **provided** he mends his ways. (**Correct**)
4. Unless he will not take care of his health, he will not recover. (**Incorrect**)  
**Unless** he takes care of his health, he will not recover. (**Correct**)
5. There will be rush at the platform when the train will arrive. (**Incorrect**)  
There will be rush at the platform **when** the train arrives. (**Correct**)

In above sentences of **If** don't use **will/shall/would**

**Note:-** In below sentences ,After sub+ will/shall don't use

*If, as soon as, provided, before, after, until, unless, in case, when, lest.*

1. With '**Unless or until**' don't use '**not**'.(See sentence 4)
2. In Conditional Sentences after when don't use will/ shall.(See sentence 5)

*If the sentence is in completely present form then it can be in 'Main clause' simple present. e.g.*

1. If it rains, the schools remain closed.

*If there is possibility in sentence then in place of will, 'may/might' will be use.*

1. If it rains, the students **may** not come for class.
2. If the fog doesn't clear, the plane **may** get late.

*If the sentence shows order then in place of 'will', 'May' will use. e.g.*

1. If you finish your work, you **may** go home.



*If any sentence shows Advise/ suggestion then in place of will, should/must be use. e.g.*

1. If you want to remain healthy, you **should** exercise daily.
2. If you do not know him, you **must** not open the door.

*If any sentence shows etiquette/manner then could, may will definitely be use. e.g.*

1. If you meet him, **could** you tell him to call me up?
2. If you come to Delhi, **would** you come to meet me?

*In 'If clause' In place of simple present tense, present continuous tense can also be use. e.g.*

1. If you are waiting for the bus, you **should** better take a taxi.
2. If you are not reading the newspaper, you **should** let others read it.

*In 'If clause' present perfect tense can also be use.*

1. If you have finished the work, you **may** leave.
2. If they have bought tickets, they **will** surely go to see the movie.

## B. IF CLAUSE IN PAST TENSE

General formula-

**If + Simple Past, Subject + would + V<sub>1</sub>**

e.g. If I had money, I would lend it to you.

- This type of sentence shows 'improbability'.

In above sentence '**If I had money**' clearly shows that '**there is no money**'.

## C. 'IF' CLAUSE IN PAST PERFECT TENSE

General formula-

**If + Past Perfect, Sub + would + have + V<sub>3</sub>**

Example:-

If I had seen you, I would have stopped my car.

- In this type of sentence. The work has shown in '**If clause**' sentence, that work has shown not done.

Means '**If I had seen you**' shows that '**I had not seen you**'.

- In this type of sentence '**If**' can be replace by '**had**'.

Then the formula

**Had + Subject + V<sub>3</sub> + obj, subject + would + have + V<sub>3</sub>**

Example:-

Had I seen you, I would have stopped my car.

### THREE IMPORTANT FORMULAE

**If + Present Indefinite, Simple Future**

**If + S + had + V<sub>3</sub>, S + would + have + V<sub>3</sub>**

**If + S + V<sub>2</sub>, S + would + V<sub>1</sub>**

## D. OTHER TYPES OF CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

### i) Imaginative sentences

General Formula-

**If + subject + were, subject + would + V<sub>1</sub>**

e.g. If I were a bird, I would fly in the sky.

- For imaginative sentences with all subjects '**were**' will be use.

For below sentences **was** will not use.

**If, as though, in case, as if, would that and I wish.**

e.g. He scolded me as if he was my father. (**Incorrect**)

He scolded me as if he were my father. (**Correct**)

- ii) In '**If clause**' sentences '**Unless**' **so long, as soon as, when, provided, suppose, in case, but, for** can also be use.

e.g. (1) **Unless** you work hard, you will not pass.

Note:- with **Unless**, '**not**' will not use. **Unless you work hard** we mean '**If you do not work hard.**'

Means **Unless + affirmative = If + negative.**

1. I shall support him **so long as** I am alive.
2. **As soon as** the train comes, there will be rush for seats.
3. **When** he comes to Delhi, I will go to meet him.

## Confusions

*Certain verbs do not have ING form. It means that these verbs will not be used in either continuous tense or Perfect continuous tenses:*

**Verbs of perception** :- see, taste, smell prefer, hear, please, notice recognize

**Verbs of Thinking process** :- Think, know, mean, mind, remember, suppose

**Verbs of showing possession** :- Own, have, belong, comprise, possess, contain, consist

**Verbs expressing feeling or state of mind :-** Believe, like, dislike, love, adore, want, wish, desire, hate, agree, trust, imagine

**Verbs in general :-** Look, seem, appear, resemble, cost, require, become, hope, refuse

*Some nouns look plural and they are always used as plurals :*

Scissors, tongue, pliers, pincers, bellows, trousers, pants, pajamas, shorts, gallows, fangs, spectacles, goggles, binoculars, eyeglasses, Alms, amends, archives, arrears, auspices, congratulations, embers, fireworks, lodgings, outskirts, particulars, proceeds, regards, riches, remains, savings, shambles, surroundings, tidings, troops, tactics, thanks, valuables, wages, belongings, braces etc.

**Some nouns look plural but in meaning they are singulars therefore they are always used as singular verbs :-**

News, innings, politics, Summons, Physics, Economics, Ethics, Mathematics, Mumps, Measles, Rickets, Shingles, Billiards, Draughts, Athletics etc.

**Some nouns look singular but always used as plural :-**

Cattle, cavalry, infantry, poultry, peasantry, children, gentry, police, people

*Some nouns are used always as singular form. These are uncountable nouns and therefore we don't use article a/an before them.*

Scenery, poetry, Furniture, Advice, information, hair, business, mischief, bread, stationary, crockery, luggage, baggage, postage, knowledge, wastage, money, Jewellery, breakage, equipment, work, evidence, word(when it means discussion, message or conversation), paper etc.

**Some nouns are same in both singular and plural forms :-**

Deer, sheep, series, species, fish, crew, team, jury, aircraft, counsel etc.

*With two subjects, we use verb according to first subject :-*

First subject	With	Second subject	Verb (According to the subject)
	Along with		
	Together with		
	As well as		
	And not		
	Like/ unlike		
	Besides		
	Rather than		
	But except		
	In addition to		

**For example :-**

1. All but ~~he~~ him ~~has~~ have followed.

2. The captain along with all the sailors has ~~have sunk~~ drowned.
3. My father unlike my uncles is very strict.
4. I and not my friends am ~~are~~ to be blamed.

*With two subjects, we use verbs according to the nearest subject :*

Neither	First subject	nor	Second subject	Verb (according to nearest subject)
either		or		
		nor		
		or		
Not only		but also		

#### For example

1. Neither they nor I am guilty of the act.
2. Aren't they or I guilty of the fact?
3. Either Rohit or his Parents have taken a wrong decision.
4. Has Rohit or his parents taken a wrong decision?

Not only.....	but also
Neither.....	nor
Either.....	or
Hardly.....	when
Scarcely.....	when
No sooner.....	than
Lest.....	should
Superior.....	to
Inferior.....	to
Senior.....	to
Junior.....	to
Prefer.....	to
Admittance to; uses between and among; discussed <del>about</del> ; invention/discovery; each other/one another; eminent/imminent; wear/put on; put up/ put out/ put off;	

1. It's time (high time) I ~~should complain~~ complained against him. (with "high time" always use Verb 2nd form)
2. It's time to have fun.
3. By the time I reach the station, the train will have left. (Present indefinite & Future perfect)
4. By the time I reached the station, the train had left. (Past indefinite & Past perfect)

5. We have reached the moon.
6. We reached the moon on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1984.
7. The judge tested the accused to see if he ~~would~~ could read English.
8. Some of the people were standing on the street ~~watch~~ watching cricket match, while others were sitting.
9. Martin Luther King was one of the leaders who ~~has~~ have followed Mahatma Gandhi.
10. My sister asked me ~~that~~ how long I would stay there.
11. The cruel lady made her step daughter ~~to~~ do all the household chores.
12. You can eat as much as you can at the newly ~~lunch~~ launched bar.
13. Sam ~~is working~~ has been working in a bank in Chennai for the past five years.
14. People living in low-lying areas find it difficult to cope ~~up~~ with the floods.
15. The manager told the boys that one ought to work hard to earn ~~his~~ one's living.
16. Kalidas is a the Shakespeare of India.
17. The more you think of it, the worse it becomes.
18. My elder brother asked me what ~~was~~ I was doing.
19. We shall go out if it does not ~~rains~~ rain.
20. While he was working at the construction site, the block of wood suddenly hit his right shoulder.
21. The weather in the region has been pleasant recently.

## One word substitution

1. Able to use the left hand and right hand equally well - **Ambidextrous**
2. A man who hates marriage - **Misogamist**
3. A person who enters without any invitation - **Intruder**
4. The words with opposite meanings used together - **Oxymoron**
5. A person leaving his native country to settle in another - **Emigrant**
6. One who compiles a dictionary - **Lexicographer**
7. Too much official formality - **Red tapism**
8. One who devotes his life to the welfare and the interests of other people - **Altruist**
9. A person who opposes another - **Antagonist**
10. A person who does not want to see the realities of life and tries to escape - **Escapist**
11. A game in which in which no one wins - **Drawn**
12. What cannot be heard - **Inaudible**
13. One who knows many languages - **Polyglot or multilingual**
14. A place where everything is perfect - **Utopia**
15. A sweet music - **Melody**
16. A person who is pure and clean - **Immaculate**

17. To send back a person to one's country - **Repatriate**
18. One who tends to take a hopeful view of life - **Optimist**
19. To be known for bad acts - **Notorious**
20. Instruments to measure atmospheric pressure - **Barometer**
21. One who pretends to be what he is not - **Hypocrite**
22. An official call to appear in a court of law - **Summon**
23. Murder of a brother - **Fratricide**
24. A list of items to be transacted at a meeting - **Agenda**
25. A continuous process of change is known as - **Metamorphosis**
26. Circular building or hall with a dome - **Rotunda**
27. An order requiring a person to attend a court - **Subpoena**
28. An extreme fear of being in a small confined place - **Claustrophobia**
29. Allowance due to a wife from her husband on separation - **Alimony**
30. Belonging to all parts of the world - **Universal**
31. Words of similar meaning - **Synonyms**
32. A speech delivered without previous preparation - **Extempore**
33. Study of heavenly bodies - **Astronomy**
34. To cut apart a person's body - **Mutilate**
35. One who is filled with excessive and mistaken enthusiasm about his religion - **Fanatic**
36. An involuntary action under a stimulus is described as a - **Reflex**
37. The use of many words where only a few are necessary - **Circumlocution**
38. One who is a citizen not of a country but of the world - **Cosmopolitan**
39. An imaginary name assumed by an author for disguise - **Pseudonym**
40. A person who has no money to pay off his debts - **Insolvent**
41. A number of ships - **Fleet**
42. A test in which cells from diseased organs are removed and tested - **Biopsy**
43. A foreigner who settles in a country - **Immigrant**
44. Place that provides refuge - **Asylum**
45. Art of writing for newspapers and magazines - **Journalism**
46. Parts of a country behind the coast of a river bank - **Hinterland**
47. One who does not make mistakes - **Infallible**
48. A professional rider in horse races - **Jockey**
49. Words uttered impiously about God - **Blasphemy**
50. A person who is bad in spelling - **Cacographist**
51. A small room in a big house, hotel, ship etc. where glasses, dishes, spoons, food etc. are kept - **Pantry**
52. Doing something according to one's own free will - **Voluntarily**
53. A person who gambles or bets - **Punter**
54. An abandoned child of unknown parents who is found by somebody - **Foundling**
55. A written statement about someone's character, usually provided by an employer - **Testimonial**
56. One who hates women - **Misogynist**
57. A raised passageway in a building - **Walkway**
58. One who cannot speak - **Dumb**
59. To look at someone in an angry or threatening way - **Glower**
60. Something that causes death - **Fatal**

61. A person who loves mankind - **Philanthropist**
62. One who has narrow and prejudiced religious views - **Bigot**
63. To confirm with the help of evidence - **Corroborate**
64. The time between midnight and noon- Ante - **meridiem**
65. Fear of height - **Acrophobia**
66. Feeling inside you which tells you what is right and what is wrong - Conscience
67. Loss of memory - **Amnesia**
68. A system of naming things - **Nomenclature**
69. A cure for all diseases - **Panacea**
70. A post with little work but high salary - **Sinecure**
71. A person who writes decoratively - **Calligrapher**
72. A woman with dark brown hair - **Brunette**
73. The action of looking within or into one's own mind - **Introspection**
74. One who is a dabbler in Arts, Science or Literature - **Dilettante**
75. Still existing and known - **Extant**
76. The highest point - **Zenith**
77. Release of a prisoner from jail on certain terms and condition - **Parole**
78. To struggle helplessly - **Flounder**
79. A person who is talkative - **Garrulous**
80. One who cuts precious stones - **Lapidist**
81. Specialist of Kidney - **Nephrologist**
82. Thick skinned animal - **Pachyderm**
83. A person who is always dissatisfied - **Malcontent**
84. A funeral bell - **Knell**
85. Capable of being interpreted in two ways - **Ambiguous**

## Antonyms : 200 Words

1. Inevitable- Avoidable
2. Exceptional- Common
3. Permanent- Temporary
4. Dim- Luminous
5. Reckless- Careful
6. Explicit- Ambiguous
7. Incredible- Believable
8. Repel- Attract
9. Rapidly- Slowly
10. Meticulous- Careless
11. Barbarous- Civilized
12. Successor- Predecessor
13. Urban- Rural
14. Conclusive- Indecisive

15. Terminate-Begin
16. Niggardly- Lavishly
17. Advanced- Receded
18. Enlightened- Ignorant
19. Moderate- Extreme
20. Superficial- Thorough
21. Scorn- Admiration
22. Trivial- Serious
23. Loquacious- Reserved
24. Confiscate- Release
25. Often- Rarely
26. Eminent- Notorious
27. Embark upon- Conclude
28. Diffidence- Boldness
29. Paucity- Plenty
30. Triggered- Choked
31. Fastidious- Adjustable
32. Grandiose- Simple
33. Bleak- Bright
34. Insolent- Humble
35. Lurid- Mild
36. Unscrupulous- Conscientious
37. Melodious- Tuneless
38. Contaminate- Purify
39. Frugal- Extravagant
40. Falling off- Improvement
41. Genial- Unkind
42. Shallow- Deep
43. Immune- Vulnerable
44. Veneration- Disrespect
45. Yield to- Resist
46. Concur- Disagree
47. Vague- Precise
48. Humility- Pride
49. Extol- Censure
50. Takes off- Lands
51. Demolish- Build
52. Prevent- Induce
53. Frailty- Strength
54. Collapse- Rise
55. Anxious- Carefree
56. Thrifty- Wasteful
57. Innovate- Copy
58. Enduring- Fleeting
59. Progressive- Retrogressive
60. Purposely- Unintentionally



61. Brave- Timid
62. Opaque- Transparent
63. Hinder- Encourage
64. Zeal- Apathy
65. Shimmering-Gloomy
66. Plausible- Implausible/ Unbelievable
67. Flair- Inability
68. Dormant- Active
69. Hazy- Clear
70. Fantastic- Ordinary
71. Asceticism- Luxury
72. Dissolution- Establishment
73. Unnerved- Confident
74. Harmony- Disagreement
75. Guilty- Innocent
76. Duplicity- Honesty
77. Jocular- Morose
78. Uncompromising- Flexible
79. Desecration- Consecration
80. Far-fetched- Realistic
81. Parallel- Crooked
82. Blocked- Facilitated
83. Turn coat- Loyal
84. Embellish- Spoil
85. Intentional- Accidental
86. Expand- Contract
87. Stimulate- Discourage
88. Perilous- Safe
89. Audacious- Timid
90. Quiet- Pandemonium
91. Genuine- Fictitious
92. Implicit- Explicit
93. Repulsive- Attractive
94. Escalate- Decrease
95. Commotion- Tranquility
96. Manifested- Concealed
97. Vindictive- Forgiving
98. Inaugurate- Terminate
99. Detest- Like
100. Commence- Conclude
101. Prosperity- Adversity
102. Deliberate- Unintentional
103. Disputable- Indisputable
104. Make- Break
105. Depressed- Elated
106. Ham-fisted- Adroit

107. Capture- Liberate
108. Misery- Joy
109. Anarchy- Order
110. Monotony- Variety
111. Latter- Former
112. Diligent- Lazy
113. Philistine- Cultured
114. Ingest- Disgorge
115. Laceration- Healing
116. Disorderly- Organized
117. Glossy- Dull
118. Accomplish- Fail
119. Orderly- Chaotic
120. Strife- Peace
121. Antique- Recent
122. Rapid- Slow
123. Initiated- Concluded
124. Fatigued- Rigid
125. Dynamic- Static
126. Hereditary- Acquired
127. Heretical- Orthodox
128. Implicate- Exonerate
129. Liberty- Slavery
130. Elevation- Reduction
131. Boon- Bane
132. Famous- Obscure
133. Gloomy- Radiant
134. Isolation- Association
135. Contented- Dissatisfied
136. Severe- Mild
137. Fatigued- Energized
138. Flexible- Rigid
139. Delete- Include
140. Evanescent- Eternal
141. Virtue- Vice
142. Confident- Diffident
143. Adamant- Yielding
144. Callous- Sensitive
145. Procrastinate- Expedite
146. Probity- Dishonesty
147. Sporadic- Continual
148. Apposite- Inappropriate
149. Chivalry- Cowardice
150. Sanguine temper- Despairing nature
151. Imperil- Safeguard
152. Consolidated- Disjoined

153. Vituperative- Laudatory
154. Benefactor- Enemy
155. Barren- Fertile
156. Nervous- Composed
157. Evident- Hidden
158. Professional- Amateur
159. Cessation- Commencement
160. Potent- Weak
161. Gregarious- Unsociable
162. Implication- Exoneration
163. Dismal- Bright
164. Meagre- Surplus
165. Flamboyant- Not showy
166. Chronic- Temporary
167. Awkward- Graceful
168. Despair- Hope
169. Validate- Disprove
170. Smug- Dissatisfied
171. Vicious- Virtuous
172. Obscure- Clear
173. Enervate- Strengthen
174. Autonomous- Dependent
175. Exonerate- Convict
176. Controversial- Indisputable
177. Accord- Disagreement
178. Feasible- Impractical
179. Acquit- Condemn
180. Affluence- Poverty
181. Harmonious- Discordant
182. Factual- Unrealistic
183. Assent- Disagreement
184. Discreet- Careless in behavior
185. Unjust- Fair-minded
186. Oppressive- Gentle
187. Clinch- Lose
188. To put up with- To dislike
189. Deceitful- Honest
190. Exaggerate- Understate
191. Synthetic- Natural
192. Infirmary- Strength
193. Deny- Accept
194. Benediction- Curse
195. Forbid- Permit
196. Inconspicuous- Prominent
197. Abandon- Retain
198. Fickle- Constant

199. Articulate- Unable to express oneself.

200. Humble- Powerful

## Synonyms : 200 Words

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1. Impeccable - Faultless
2. Adverse - Negative
3. Friendly - Amiable
4. Imitate - Copy
5. Dessert - Sweet-dish
6. Fortitude - Courage
7. Trauma - Emotional shock
8. Adversary - Opponent
9. Erudite - Scholarly
10. Takes after - Resembles
11. Cajole - Persuade
12. Amazement - Surprise
13. Electrifying - Exciting
14. Merited - Deserved
15. Zealous - Ardent
16. Deny - Refuse
17. Hostile - Antagonistic
18. Veil - Conceal
19. Peculiar - Strange
20. Eminent - Illustrious
21. Defer - Postpone
22. Novice - Beginner
23. Salient - Most important
24. Idea - Notion
25. Ill-favoured - Unlucky
26. Clue - Hint
27. Consistency - Uniformity
28. Refrain - Desist
29. Candid - Frank
30. Industrious - Hard-working
31. Authentic - Genuine
32. Miraculous - Amazing
33. Knave - Scoundrel
34. Impost - Tax
35. Forego - Renounce
36. Frontier - Boundary
37. Irreproachable - Faultless
38. Judicious - Sensible

39. Obstinate - Unyielding  
40. Menial - Lowly  
41. Emulate - Follow  
42. Mass murder - Genocide  
43. Maiden Speech - First Speech  
44. Tedious - Dull  
45. Spirited - Enthusiastic  
46. Gloomy - Morose  
47. Warranty - Guarantee  
48. Prodigal - Wasteful  
49. Coarse - Rough  
50. Recipients - Receivers  
51. Rout - Defeat  
52. Felicity - Bliss  
53. Transpired - Happened  
54. Sundry - Various  
55. Impetus - Accelerated growth  
56. Boast - Brag  
57. Executioner - One who inflict capital punishment  
58. Interfere - Meddle  
59. Magnificent - Splendid  
60. Feasible - Practical  
61. Fortify - Strengthen  
62. Barren - Unproductive  
63. Intrepid - Fearless  
64. Sufficient - Enough  
65. Ancestors - Forefathers  
66. Meek - Submissive  
67. Fragrance - Aroma  
68. Crude - Unrefined  
69. Enigmatic - Puzzling  
70. Aversion - Dislike  
71. Jubilant - Ecstatic  
72. Blister - Wound  
73. Fabulous - Marvellous  
74. Surpass - Outdo  
75. Atrocity - Violence  
76. Pacify - Calm down  
77. Infamy - Notoriety  
78. Perspicuous - Clear  
79. Benevolent - Kind  
80. Embrace - Accept  
81. Homage - Tribute  
82. Fictitious - False  
83. Recurrent - Happening repeatedly  
84. Despondent - Dejected

85. Desperation - Hopelessness
86. Liberty - Freedom
87. Favourite - Preferred
88. Laudable - Praiseworthy
89. Sanitise - Disinfect
90. Surreptitiously - Secretly
91. Genuine - Real
92. Elastic - Flexible
93. Rectify - Correct
94. Advance - Progress
95. Poach - Hunt
96. Exhort - Urge
97. Familiar - Well-known
98. Affiliate - Associate
99. Diligent - Industrious
100. Prospective - Possible
101. Accentuated - Accent
102. Paucity - Shortfall
103. Pensive - Thoughtful
104. Provisional - Temporary
105. Forebode - Foretell
106. Obscene - Indecent
107. Vacillate - Waver
108. Impediment - Obstruction
109. Prognosis - Forecast
110. Repartee - Quick witty reply
111. Lurid - Shocking
112. Prosper - Thrive
113. Explicit - Clear
114. Infuriate - Enrage
115. Lousy - Awful
116. Predominantly - Mostly
117. Avert - Avoid
118. Cordial - Friendly
119. Horrendous - Greatly unpleasant
120. Irrevocable - Unalterable
121. Repose - Rest
122. Nurture - To grow
123. Abuse - Scorn
124. Considerate - Thoughtful
125. Frugal - Miserly
126. Pity - Mercy
127. Restrict - Prohibit
128. Tremendous - Excessive
129. Abundant - Plentiful
130. Change - Alter

131. Adorn - Beatify  
132. Commotion - Disturbance  
133. Grumble - To complain  
134. Docile - Submissive  
135. Irresolute - Undecided  
136. Motive - Intention  
137. Quash - Reject  
138. Anticipate - Expect  
139. Meticulous - Painstaking  
140. Acquaint - Introduce  
141. Fruitless - Useless  
142. Cease - Stop  
143. Abandon - Forsake  
144. Regard- Respect  
145. Prudent - Wise  
146. Culmination- Climax  
147. Crass - Unrefined  
148. Cursory - Quick  
149. Clandestine - Secret  
150. Obdurate - Adamant  
151. Reluctant - Unwilling  
152. Ostracise - Banish  
153. Imbecility - Stupidity  
154. Hesitant - Undecided  
155. Palpable - Obvious  
156. Sauntering - Strolling  
157. Pious - Religious  
158. Intimidate - Frighten  
159. Swap - Exchange  
160. Genius - An intellect  
161. Sporadic - Irregular  
162. Accomplish - Achieve  
163. Envisaged - Imagined  
164. Resentment - Annoyance  
165. Obscure - Unknown  
166. Revelation - Disclosure  
167. Appalled - Shocked  
168. Collusion - Secret agreement  
169. Deceptive - Misleading  
170. Laid-back - Easy-going  
171. Pompous - Grandiose  
172. Poignant - Sad  
173. Audacious - Bold  
174. Reverie - Day- dream  
175. Accrue - Accumulate  
176. Vindictive - Spiteful

177. Hostility - Enmity
178. Condemn - Censure
179. Jealous - Envious
180. Plausible - Seemingly true
181. Dishonour - Infamy
182. Reticent - Not saying much
183. Apprise - Inform
184. Unceremonious - Impolite
185. Ravaged - Destroyed
186. Querulous - Quarrelsome
187. Perilous - Hazardous
188. Genial - Unselfish
189. Loquacious - Talkative
190. Inclement - Unfavorable
191. Indifferent - Unconcerned
192. Weary - Troubled
193. Creditable - Bringing praise
194. Fragile - Easily broken
195. Reciprocal - Mutual
196. Consensus - General agreement
197. Treason - Disloyalty
198. Lucid - Clear
199. Perplexed - Puzzled
200. Transparent - Clear

## Vocabulary List

1. Agnostic(n)- A person who is not sure whether or not God exist.
2. Alacrity(n)- Enthusiasm
3. Allay(V)- Calm, pacify
4. Alleviate(V)- Mitigate, to make less
5. Allude(V)- Refer in indirect way
6. Altruism(n)- Work for others
7. Ambidextrous(adj.)- Able to use both hands with equal ease
8. Ambivalence(n)- Uncertainty
9. Ameliorate(v)- To improve
10. Amenable(adj.)- Easy to control
11. Amiable(adj.)- Friendly in disposition (outlook)
12. Amicable(adj.)- Friendly in feeling
13. Amnesty(n)- Pardon (to excuse)
14. Amorous(adj.)- Showing sexual desire and love
15. Anomalous(adj.)- Abnormal



16. Apathy(n)- Lack of interest
17. Aplomb(n)- Assurance
18. Apocalyptic(adj.)- Prophecy
19. Apocryphal(adj.)- Of questionable authorship or authenticity
20. Apostate(n)- A person who abandons political or religious beliefs
21. Archetype(n)- Archetype (original)
22. Aduous (adj.)-Stupid
23. Arraign(v)- Charge in court(indict)
24. Asinine(adj.)- Stupid
25. Askance(adj.)- Suspicion
26. Bludgeon (n)- Staff (Lathi), a short club with a heavy loaded end
27. Bohemian (n)- A person with artistic or literary interests who disregards conventional standards of behaviour
28. Bonhomie (n)- Amiability, Friendly
29. Bowdlerize (v)- To remove passages considered offensive
30. Brackish (adj.)- Salty
31. Braggadocio (n)- Boast, Bragging
32. Cadence (n)- The rise and fall of voice in speaking
33. Callow (adj.)- Young and inexperienced , immature
34. Calumny (n)- False accusation
35. Conard (n)- Deliberately misleading story
36. Candour (n)- Frank and honest speaking. The quality of being frank and honest in his behaviour
37. Canker (n)- A disease causing sore patches
38. Cantankerous (adj.)- Bad tempered
39. Capacious (adj.)- Spacious
40. Capricious (adj.)- Fickle
41. Captious (adj.)- Fault finding
42. Carapace (n)- Hard outer shell
43. Carousal (n)- A noisy drinking party
44. Cartel (n)- A group of companies in the same business area that form an association
45. Castigate (v)- To criticize or punish somebody severely
46. Casuistry (n)- Use of clever argument to deceive people
47. Catechism (n)- Book for religious instruction
48. Canterize (v)- To burn with a hot substance
49. Cardinal (adj.)- Very important
50. Consternation (adj.)- A feeling of great surprise, shock & anxiety
51. Construe (v)- To interpret
52. Contiguous(adj.)- Adjoining, adjacent
53. Continence (n)- Continence, self-restraint
54. Contretemps (n)- Squabble
55. Contrite (adj.)- Discord, disagreement
56. Contrived (adj.)- Showing effect of planning or manipulation
57. Contusion (n)- Injury in which the skin is not broken
58. Codicil (n)- Addition to will (Vasiyat) by a person

59. Cogent (adj.)- Convincing
60. Cogitate (v)- To think seriously
61. Cognitive (adj.)- The process of learning
62. Cohorts(n)- A band of soldiers, Group of people
63. Colloquial (adj.)- Used in conversation but not formally
64. Collusion (n)- A secret agreement for fraudulent means of purpose, conspiracy
65. Collosus (n)- Extremely large sized
66. Comestible (n)- Eatable, edible
67. Comelypance (n)- A punishment for something bad that on has done
68. Commensurate (adj.)- Proportional
69. Commiserate (adj.)- To symphatise with
70. Complacent (adj.)- Too satisfied with one self
71. Comport (v)- To behave in a particular way
72. Compunction (n)- A feeling of guilt about doing something
73. Concatenate (v)- To link together
74. Comcomitant (n)- An accompany condition
75. Complaisant (adj.)- Willing to please
76. Concord (v)-Harmony
77. Condescend (v)- Lower oneself
78. Condone (v)- To forgive
79. Conflagration (n)- A general burning
80. Embroi (v)- To involve in quarrel
81. Emetic (n)- An agent that causes vomiting
82. Emissary (n)- Agent
83. Emollient (n)- Softening or soothing agent
84. Empathize(v)- To relate to another after being through the same experience yourself
85. Empyrean (n)- The highest heaven
86. Enamoured (adj.)- In love, captivate
87. Encomium (n)- High praise
88. Endemic (adj.)- Prevalent in or restricted to a particular locality
89. Enervate (v)- To deprive of strength, force, vigour etc.
90. Enigma (n)- A riddle, a puzzle
91. Entreat (v)- Plead, Beseech
92. Enunciate (v)- Speak distinctly, articulate
93. Ephemera (adj.)- Temporary, short lived
94. Epicure (n)- One who enjoys and has a discriminating taste for find food & drink
95. Epistemology (n)- Study the nature of knowledge
96. Epitaph (n)- Inscription in the memory of the dead person
97. Epithet (n)- Descriptive word or a phrase
98. Epitome (n)- Icon, paragon, embodiment
99. Equanimity (n)- Calm and balanced
100. Equivocal (adj.)- Uncertain, doubtful
101. Equivocate (adj.)- To use evasive language (doubtful not clear- evasive)
102. Erudite (adj.)- Scholar minded profound knowledge
103. Ennvi- Bored

104. Fawning (adj.)- Courting, favour by flatter  
105. Fecund (adj.)- Productive  
106. Felony (n)- A major crime  
107. Feral (adj.)- Wild and undomesticated  
108. Fervid (adj.)- Impassioned  
109. Fetid (adj.)- Wound  
110. Fetish (n)- An object with magical powers  
111. Fiat (n)- A command  
112. Fiduciary (adj.)- Related to a son or daughter  
113. Flagellate (v)- To whik  
114. Flippland (n)- To take a serious situation lightly or casually  
115. Flummox (v)- To confuse  
116. Fortuitous (adj.)- Happening by chance  
117. Fractious (adj.)- Stubborn  
118. Fulminate (v)- To criticize very angrily  
119. Furbish (v)- To renovate  
120. Furtive (adj.)- Secretive  
121. Gargantuan (adj.)- Of tremendous size or volume, memock  
122. Gauche (adj.) Lacking social experience  
123. Gavel (n)- Hammer light tude  
124. Generic (adj.)- Not having a brand name  
125. Genuflect (adj.)- To be obedient or respectful  
126. Germane (adj.)- Being relevant and appropriate  
127. Gingerly (adj.)- Very cautious and carefree  
128. Glitch (n)- A minor malfunction or error that causes temporary setback  
129. Gluttonous (adj.)- Voracious  
130. Gossamer (adj.) Delicate  
131. Gourmet (n)- Food lover  
132. Gratis (adj. or adv.)- Free of charge  
133. Gratuitous (adj.)- Spontaneous  
134. Gravid (adj.)- anticipating  
135. Grove (v)- To lower oneself to please another  
136. Habiliment (adj.)- Press or attire  
137. Halcyon (adj.)- Peaceful  
138. Hallowed (adj.)- Blessed  
139. Harangue (n/v)- A long, angry or forceful speech  
140. Harbinger (adj.)- A forerunner  
141. Harlequin (adj.)- Vaned in colour  
142. Hedonism (n)- The doctrin that please is highest good endorgence sensual pleasure  
143. Hegamony (n)- Bullying over someone  
144. Hermetical (adj.)- Seated or fusion  
145. Haitus (n)- A gap or break  
146. Hubris (n)- Arrogance  
147. Iconoclastic (adj.)- Attacking, cherist traditions  
148. Idiosyncratic (adj.)- An unusual traides in a person

149. Incantation (n)- Singing or chanting of magical space  
150. Incarcerate (v)- To imprison  
151. Inchoate (adj.)- Not fully developed yet  
152. Incipient (adj.)- Not fully developed yet  
153. Incriminate (v)- To accuse  
154. Indelible (adj.)- Impossible to remove  
155. Indict (v)- To charge  
156. Indigent (adj.)- Poor, destitute  
157. Indubitably (adj.)- Beyond a doubt  
158. Inebriated (adj.)- A person who has drunk too much alcohol  
159. Ineluctable (adj.)- Inevitable that cannot be Stopped  
160. Infraction (n)- Violation of law  
161. Inimitable (adj.)- Matchless  
162. Iniquitous (adj.)- Wrong, wicked  
163. Innuendo (n)- Insinuation, suggestion  
164. Insidious (adj.)- Cunning  
165. Insouciant (adj.)- To take a serious issue in a light manner  
166. Levity (n)- Lightness  
167. Libertine (n)- Without moral restrained philanderor, playboy  
168. Lithe (adj.)- Graceful  
169. Loquacious (adj.)- To be sad  
170. Lugubrious (adj.) To be sad  
171. Macabre (adj.)- Horrible  
172. Malestrom (n)- A situation full of strong emotions or confusing events  
173. Malapropism (n)- Ludicrous, Misuse of words  
174. Malediction (n)- Curse  
175. Martinet (n)- Very strict disciplinarian  
176. Masochist (n)- Person who enjoys his own pains  
177. Masticate (v)- To chew  
178. Maudlin (adj.)- Tearfully sentimental  
179. Maunder (v)- Wander  
180. Mausoleum (n)- Tomb  
181. Maverick (n)- Rebellious  
182. Mayhem (n)- Inflict injury  
183. Melange (n)- Mixture  
184. Mendacious (adj.)- Not truthful, lying  
185. Mendicant (n)- Beggar  
186. Meretricious (adj.)- Attractive  
187. Misanthrope (n)- A person who hates people  
188. Modicum (n)- Small amount  
189. Mordant (adj.)- Sarcastic  
190. Moribund (adj.)- Coming to an end  
191. Mortify (v)- Humiliation

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## 1. **consider**

---

deem to be

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **minute** stain on the document was not visible to the naked eye.*



## 3. **accord**

---

concurrence of opinion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The committee worked in **accord** on the bill, and it eventually passed.*

---



---

#### 4. **evident**

---

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That confidence was certainly **evident** in the way Smith handled the winning play with 14 seconds left on the clock.*

—[Reuters \(Jan 15, 2012\)](#)



---

#### 5. **practice**

---

a customary way of operation or behavior

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He directed and acted in plays every season and became known for exploring Elizabethan theatre **practices**.*

—[BBC \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



---

#### 6. **intend**

---

have in mind as a purpose

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Lipstick, as a product **intended** for topical use with limited absorption, is ingested only in very small quantities," the agency said on its website.*

—[\*BusinessWeek \(Feb 15, 2012\)\*](#)



---

7. **concern**

---

something that interests you because it is important or affects you

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*

—[\*BBC \(Feb 15, 2012\)\*](#)



---

8. **commit**

---

perform an act, usually with a negative connotation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As a result, the privacy **issues** surrounding mobile computing are becoming ever-more complex.*

—[\*Time \(Feb 16, 2012\)\*](#)



10. **approach**

---

move towards

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*A small French colony, Port Louis, was **established** on East Falkland in 1764 and handed to the Spanish three years later.*

—[BBC \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



---

12. **utter**

---

without qualification; used informally as (often pejorative) intensifiers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Scientists have been **conducting** studies of individual genes for years.*

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)



---

14. **engage**

---

consume all of one's attention or time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Inflation has lagged behind the central bank's 2 percent target, giving **policy** makers extra scope to cut rates.*

—[\*BusinessWeek \(Feb 15, 2012\)\*](#)



---

18. **straight**

---

successive (without a break)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After three **straight** losing seasons, Hoosiers fans were just hoping for a winning record.*

—[\*Seattle Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)\*](#)



---

19. **stock**

---

the capital raised by a corporation through the issue of shares entitling holders to an ownership interest (equity)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the elderly creak is beginning to become **apparent** in McCartney's voice.*  
—[Time \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



21. **property**

a basic or essential attribute shared by all members of a class

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For a time, indeed, he had **fancied** that things were changed.*  
—[Weyman, Stanley J.](#)



23. **concept**

---

an abstract or general idea inferred or derived from specific instances

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As a psychologist, I have always found the **concept** of speed dating fascinating.*  
—[Scientific American \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)



24. **court**

---

an assembly (including one or more judges) to conduct judicial business

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*When Brown pleaded not guilty to assaulting Rihanna, their violent past came out in **court**.*  
—[Slate \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

---



---

25. **appoint**

---

assign a duty, responsibility or obligation to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In 1863 he was **appointed** by the general assembly professor of oriental languages at New College.*

—[Various](#)



---

26. **passage**

---

a section of text; particularly a section of medium length

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

27. **vain**

---

unproductive of success

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An attempt was made to ignore this brilliant and irregular book, but in **vain**; it was read all over Europe.*

—[Various](#)



---

28. **instance**

---

an occurrence of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In many **instances** large districts or towns would have fewer representatives than smaller ones, or perhaps none at all.*

—[Clarke, Helen Archibald](#)



---

29. **coast**

---

the shore of a sea or ocean

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Martello towers must be built within short distances all round the **coast**.*

—[Wingfield, Lewis](#)





30. **project**

---

a planned undertaking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The funds are aimed at helping build public **projects** including mass transit, electricity networks, water utility and ports, it said.*

—[\*BusinessWeek \(Feb 17, 2012\)\*](#)



31. **commission**

---

a special group delegated to consider some matter

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The developers are now seeking approval from the landmarks **commission**.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)\*](#)



32. **constant**

---

a quantity that does not vary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*In 1929, Hubble independently put forward and confirmed the same idea, and the parameter later became known as the Hubble **constant**.*

—[Nature \(Nov 15, 2011\)](#)



---

33. **circumstances**

---

**your overall circumstances or condition in life (including everything that happens to you)**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **circumstances** leading up to the shootings was not immediately available.*

—[Chicago Tribune \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)



---

34. **constitute**

---

**to compose or represent: "This wall forms the background of the stage setting"**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Oil and natural gas **constituted** almost 50 percent of Russian government revenue last year.*

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)



35. **level**

---

a relative position or degree of value in a graded group

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Only last month did the men's and women's unemployment rates reach the same **level**.*  
—[New York Times \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)



36. **affect**

---

have an effect upon

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The central bank will start distributing low-interest loans in early March to individuals and small- and medium-sized companies **affected** by the flooding.*  
—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)



37. **institute**

---

set up or lay the groundwork for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Corporations have to be more and more focused on **instituting** higher labor standards.*  
—[Washington Post \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)

---



---

38. **render**

---

give an interpretation or rendition of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But authorities had **rendered** the weapon and the explosive device inoperable, officials said.*

—[\*Chicago Tribune \(Feb 17, 2012\)\*](#)



---

39. **appeal**

---

be attractive to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*To get traditional women's accessories to **appeal** to men, some designers are giving them manly names and styles.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 19, 2012\)\*](#)



---

40. **generate**

---

bring into existence

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Qualities such as these are not **generated** under bad working practices of any sort.  
—[Hungerford, Edward](#)



---

41. **theory**

---

a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world; an organized system of accepted knowledge that applies in a variety of circumstances to explain a specific set of phenomena

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Testing that **theory** begins Saturday night, as the Capitals take on Tampa Bay in another important contest.  
—[Washington Post \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)



---

42. **range**

---

a variety of different things or activities

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Like American community colleges, admission at an open university is not competitive, but the schools offer a **range** of programs, including doctoral degrees.  
—[Time \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)



43. **campaign**

---

a race between candidates for elective office

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*At the same point in 2004 — as an incumbent facing re-election — Mr. Bush had taken in about \$145.6 million for his **campaign**.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 18, 2012\)\*](#)



44. **league**

---

an association of sports teams that organizes matches for its members

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"When I broke into the big **leagues** until a month ago, Gary kept in touch," Mets third baseman David Wright said.*

—[\*Seattle Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)\*](#)



45. **labor**

---

any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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.](#)



---

46. **confer**

---

have a conference in order to talk something over

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Ms. Stewart said Mrs. Bachmann **conferred** with her family and a few aides after her disappointing showing on Tuesday evening.

—[New York Times \(Jan 4, 2012\)](#)



---

47. **grant**

---

allow to have

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He had been **granted** entry into the White House only for the daily briefing, later that afternoon.

—[New York Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)



48. **dwell**

---

think moodily or anxiously about something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But it is hardly necessary to **dwell** on so normal an event.*  
—[Vinogradoff, Paul](#)



49. **entertain**

---

provide entertainment for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The first Super Bowl in 1967 featured college marching bands **entertaining** the crowds at halftime.*  
—[Reuters \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)



50. **contract**

---

a binding agreement between two or more persons that is enforceable by law

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



**Contracts** with utilities will be signed starting next month, he said.  
—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



---

51. **earnest**

---

characterized by a firm and humorless belief in the validity of your opinions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Too much praise cannot be given to the **earnest** and efficient missionaries who founded and have maintained this mission.*  
—[Miller, George A.](#)



---

52. **yield**

---

give or supply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It is a very important honey plant, as it **yields** an exceptionally pure nectar and remains in bloom a long time.*  
—[Parsons, Mary Elizabeth](#)



53. **wander**

---

to move or cause to move in a sinuous, spiral, or circular course

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While each animal **wandered** through the maze, its brain was working furiously.*  
—[New York Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



54. **insist**

---

be emphatic or resolute and refuse to budge

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Interior Department officials **insisted** that they had conducted an extensive scientific inquiry before moving ahead with the spill response plan.*  
—[New York Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)



55. **knight**

---

originally a person of noble birth trained to arms and chivalry; today in Great Britain a person honored by the sovereign for personal merit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

The **knight** was gallant not only in war, but in love also.  
—[Crothers, Samuel McChord](#)



---

56. **convince**

---

make (someone) agree, understand, or realize the truth or validity of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But though he listened he was not **convinced**.*  
—[Reade, Charles](#)



---

57. **inspire**

---

serve as the inciting cause of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His surprising performance **inspired** an outpouring of fan adoration that has been dubbed "Linsanity."*  
—[Chicago Tribune \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)



58. **convention**

---

a large formal assembly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)



59. **skill**

---

an ability that has been acquired by training

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He says many new drivers are terrified of motorway driving because they do not have the **skills** or confidence needed.*  
—[BBC \(Feb 20, 2012\)](#)



60. **harry**

---

annoy continually or chronically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*There's something uplifting about hearing a string instrument when I'm feeling ragged or **harried**.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 9, 2012\)\*](#)



---

61. **financial**

---

involving financial matters

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Meanwhile, universities have raised tuition every year, putting many students in a **financial** bind.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 20, 2012\)\*](#)



---

62. **reflect**

---

show an image of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Teens ranting over chores and whatnot can often **reflect** deeper feelings of alienation or perceived uncaring on the part of parents.*

—[\*Time \(Feb 17, 2012\)\*](#)



63. **novel**

---

an extended fictional work in prose; usually in the form of a story

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Before Robert Barr publishes a **novel** he spends years in thinking the thing out.*  
—[Anonymous](#)



64. **furnish**

---

provide or equip with furniture

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)



65. **compel**

---

force somebody to do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the flames grew too large, **compelling** firefighters to call off the rescue.*  
—[New York Times \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)

---



---

66. **venture**

---

proceed somewhere despite the risk of possible dangers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Clearly he would not **venture** to descend while his enemy moved.*  
—[Strang, Herbert](#)



---

67. **territory**

---

the geographical area under the jurisdiction of a sovereign state

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On Friday, West Africa regional group Ecowas condemned the rebels, urging them to end hostilities and surrender all occupied **territory**.*  
—[BBC \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)



---

68. **temper**

---

a characteristic (habitual or relatively temporary) state of feeling

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Oscar Wilde, to do him justice, bore this sort of rebuff with astonishing good **temper** and sweetness.

—[Anonymous](#)



---

69. **bent**

fixed in your purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The business-oriented constituency of the Republican Party, Jacobs said, has been weakened by a faction **bent** on lowering taxes and cutting spending.

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)



---

70. **intimate**

marked by close acquaintance, association, or familiarity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The female spider can choose when to cut off **intimate** relations by eating her partner, or kicking him out.

—[Scientific American \(Jan 31, 2012\)](#)





71. **undertake**

---

enter upon an activity or enterprise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An autopsy has reportedly been **undertaken** but the results are not expected for several weeks.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Feb 13, 2012\)\*](#)



---

72. **majority**

---

(elections) more than half of the votes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Republicans need just four seats in the Senate to take control as the **majority** party.*

—[\*Reuters \(Feb 7, 2012\)\*](#)



---

73. **assert**

---

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

In your talk you **asserted** the pill's risks of blood clotting, lung artery blockage, heart attack and stroke are minimal.

—[Science Magazine \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)



---

74. **crew**

---

the men and women who man a vehicle (ship, aircraft, etc.)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)



---

75. **chamber**

---

a natural or artificial enclosed space

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Today," said the old man, "you must push through with me into my most solitary **chamber**, that we may not be disturbed."*

—[Carlyle, Thomas](#)



76. **humble**

---

marked by meekness or modesty; not arrogant or prideful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Challenging yourself, playing up against stronger, tougher, and overall better competition will keep you **humble**."*

—[\*Washington Post\* \(Jan 17, 2012\)](#)



77. **scheme**

---

an elaborate and systematic plan of action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.\*](#)



78. **keen**

---

having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Not one of his movements escaped her **keen** observation; she drank in every shiver.*  
—[Wingfield, Lewis](#)



---

79. **liberal**

---

having political or social views favoring reform and progress

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Romney's actually done well in open primaries where fiscally conservative yet socially **liberal** independents have backed him over his opponents.*  
—[Time \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)



---

80. **despair**

---

a state in which all hope is lost or absent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There were wounded love, and wounded pride, and **despair**, and coming madness, all in that piteous cry.*  
—[Reade, Charles](#)



81. **tide**

---

the periodic rise and fall of the sea level under the gravitational pull of the moon

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the case of mobile connectivity, a rising **tide** does not lift all boats.*  
—[Slate \(Feb 9, 2012\)](#)



82. **attitude**

---

a complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings and values and dispositions to act in certain ways

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Behaviours have changed and **attitudes** have changed," Mr Taylor said.*  
—[BBC \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



83. **justify**

---

show to be reasonable or provide adequate ground for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

He felt sure that if the circumstances **justified** it, the necessary proceedings could be taken.”

—[Anonymous](#)



---

84. **flag**

---

emblem usually consisting of a rectangular piece of cloth of distinctive design

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared three days of mourning and ordered **flags** flown at half staff.*

—[New York Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



---

85. **merit**

---

any admirable quality or attribute

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thus far in our inquiry extraordinary **merits** have been offset by extraordinary defects.*

—[Ayres, Harry Morgan](#)



86. **manifest**

---

reveal its presence or make an appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



87. **notion**

---

a general inclusive concept

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Does that old **notion** that defense wins championships still hold up these days?*

—[Seattle Times \(Jan 13, 2012\)](#)



88. **scale**

---

relative magnitude

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*And there might not be much money, so fashion shows are done on a much smaller **scale**.*

—[\*Seattle Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)\*](#)



---

89. **formal**

---

characteristic of or befitting a person in authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A **formal** decision to call off the search is likely on Wednesday, rescue officials said.*

—[\*New York Times \(Jan 31, 2012\)\*](#)



---

90. **resource**

---

available source of wealth; a new or reserve supply that can be drawn upon when needed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“Economists assume that, under normal conditions, markets will allocate **resources** efficiently,” he added.*

—[\*BusinessWeek \(Feb 17, 2012\)\*](#)





91. **persist**

---

continue to exist

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Old ideas, long after the conditions under which they were produced have passed away, often **persist** in surviving.*

—[Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)



92. **contempt**

---

lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And with his backhanded **contempt** for all things ordinary, Blake is making some of the catchiest, most difficult music in recent memory.*

—[Time \(Dec 20, 2011\)](#)



93. **tour**

---

a journey or route all the way around a particular place or area

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

He typed in “South Park” and took senior executives on a **tour** of Web sites offering pirated episodes.

—[New York Times \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)



94.

## plead

enter a plea, as in courts of law

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Aria **pleaded** not guilty, but he acknowledged that he had violated some laws.

—[New York Times \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)



95.

## weigh

to be oppressive or burdensome

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

So far, the political turmoil has not appeared to have discouraged visitors, but prolonged strife could **weigh** on tourism.

—[New York Times \(Feb 11, 2012\)](#)



96. **mode**

---

how something is done or how it happens

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(William Henry Davenport\)](#)



97. **distinction**

---

a discrimination between things as different and distinct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But such a **distinction** is quite external; at heart the men may be very much alike.*

—[Anonymous](#)



98. **inclined**

---

at an angle to the horizontal or vertical position

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Such an **inclined** passage following a seam of coal is known as a slope.*

—[Hoskin, Arthur J.](#)

---



---

99. **attribute**

---

an abstraction belonging to or characteristic of an entity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 13, 2012\)\*](#)



---

100. **exert**

---

make a great effort at a mental or physical task

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*School boards may come to **exert** even greater influence over what students read.*

—[\*Forbes \(Jan 23, 2012\)\*](#)



---

101. **oppress**

---

come down on or keep down by unjust use of one's authority

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Those who managed to survive were later **oppressed** by Poland's post-war communist authorities.*

—[Reuters \(Jan 18, 2012\)](#)



---

102. **contend**

---

compete for something; engage in a contest; measure oneself against others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But eight men, however bold and stout-hearted, could not long **contend** with an enemy at least four times their number.*

—[Strang, Herbert](#)



---

103. **stake**

---

a strong wooden or metal post with a point at one end so it can be driven into the ground

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His remains were buried in Cannon Street, and a **stake** was driven through the body.*

—[Andrews, William](#)



104. **toil**

---

work hard

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He **toiled** in the sweat of his brow, tilling the stubborn ground, taking out stones, building fences.*

—[Adler, Felix](#)



105. **perish**

---

pass from physical life and lose all bodily attributes and functions necessary to sustain life

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Simon Wiesenthal's parents are long since deceased, with his father dying in World War I and his mother **perishing** in the Holocaust.*

—[BBC \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)



106. **disposition**

---

your usual mood

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Melancholia — the state of mind — can hide behind seemingly sunny **dispositions**.*  
—[Seattle Times \(Dec 28, 2011\)](#)



---

107. **rail**

---

**complain bitterly**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*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 \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)



---

108. **cardinal**

---

**(Roman Catholic Church) one of a group of more than 100 prominent bishops in the Sacred College who advise the Pope and elect new Popes**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*Each time he names **cardinals** he puts his stamp on Roman Catholicism's future by choosing men who share his views.*  
—[Chicago Tribune \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)



109. **boast**

---

show off

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Estes was also well connected politically, **boasting** that the president of the United States took his calls.*

—[\*New York Times \(Dec 10, 2011\)\*](#)



110. **advocate**

---

a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 19, 2012\)\*](#)



111. **bestow**

---

present

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



He **bestowed** public buildings and river improvements in return for votes.  
—[Gilbert, Clinton W. \(Clinton Wallace\)](#)



---

112. **allege**

---

report or maintain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It is being fired into enclosed areas and homes, the human rights group **alleges**.*  
—[BBC \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)



---

113. **notwithstanding**

---

despite anything to the contrary (usually following a concession)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He seems to have taken things easily enough, **notwithstanding** the sorrow and suffering that surrounded him on every side.*  
—[Adams, W. H. Davenport \(William Henry Davenport\)](#)



---

114. **lofty**

---

of imposing height; especially standing out above others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He found himself in an enormous hall with a **lofty** ceiling.*

—[Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente](#)



---

115. **multitude**

---

a large indefinite number

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Department store chains in general have been strained in recent years as a "**multitude**" of alternatives has emerged, all competing for customers.*

—[Chicago Tribune \(Dec 28, 2011\)](#)



---

116. **steep**

---

having a sharp inclination

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



117. **heed**

---

pay close attention to; give heed to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But Cain was already too far gone to **heed** the warning voice.*

—[Adler, Felix](#)



118. **modest**

---

not large but sufficient in size or amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A healthy person living in an unfashionable city with no student loans to pay off can get by on a fairly **modest** income.*

—[Slate \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)



119. **partial**

---

being or affecting only a part; not total

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Generalizations of this sweeping order are apt to contain only **partial** truth.*

—[Clarke, Helen Archibald](#)

---



120. **apt**

(usually followed by `to') naturally disposed toward

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Another reason to display beds at an electronics show: consumers are **apt** to use high-tech devices while tucked in.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Jan 9, 2012\)](#)



121. **esteem**

the condition of being honored (esteemed or respected or well regarded)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Despite being held in the highest **esteem** by his fellow poets, Redgrove never quite achieved the critical reception or readership he deserved.*

—[\*The Guardian\* \(Feb 10, 2012\)](#)



122. **credible**

appearing to merit belief or acceptance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mike Mullen, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has acknowledged receiving the memo but said he ignored it as not **credible**.*

—[\*New York Times \(Dec 19, 2011\)\*](#)



---

123. **provoke**

---

provide the needed stimulus for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It **provoked** a bigger reaction than we could ever have anticipated.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Feb 10, 2012\)\*](#)



---

124. **tread**

---

a step in walking or running

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The farmer went down, his clumsy boots making no sound on the uncarpeted stairway, so careful was his **tread**.*

—[\*Woolson, Constance Fenimore\*](#)



125. **ascertain**

---

learn or discover with certainty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Health care providers and manufacturers can **ascertain** alternative treatment more effectively by tackling predicted drug shortage incidences early in the process.*

—[\*Forbes \(Feb 13, 2012\)\*](#)



126. **fare**

---

proceed or get along

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A recent study breaks down how graduates with various college degrees are **faring** in today's difficult job market.*

—[\*Washington Post \(Feb 17, 2012\)\*](#)



127. **cede**

---

relinquish possession or control over

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Some militia chiefs say they will only **cede** command of their fighters once an organized military and security apparatus is in place.

—[Reuters \(Jan 3, 2012\)](#)



---

128. **perpetual**

---

continuing forever or indefinitely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The river is a **perpetual** enjoyment, always something going on.*

—[Waddington, Mary King](#)



---

129. **decree**

---

a legally binding command or decision entered on the court record (as if issued by a court or judge)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While the **decree** takes effect immediately, it requires Parliament's approval within 60 days to remain in force.*

—[BusinessWeek \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)



130. **contrive**

---

make or work out a plan for; devise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The wily Roc, never taken much by surprise, **contrived** to escape, but old Tributor and his men were all captured.*

—[Thornbury, Walter](#)



---

131. **derived**

---

formed or developed from something else; not original

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Modern kale, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and kohlrabi are all members of the same species, **derived** from a single prehistoric plant variety.*

—[Slate \(Feb 21, 2012\)](#)



---

132. **elaborate**

---

marked by complexity and richness of detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



*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 \(Feb 22, 2012\)\*](#)



---

133. **substantial**

---

having substance or capable of being treated as fact; not imaginary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*

—[\*BBC \(Feb 23, 2012\)\*](#)



---

134. **frontier**

---

a wilderness at the edge of a settled area of a country

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Adding to the precarious security situation, tribesmen kidnapped 18 Egyptian border guards along the **frontier** with Israel in Sinai Peninsula.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 9, 2012\)\*](#)



135. **facile**

---

arrived at without due care or effort; lacking depth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As one teacher remarks about a troubled student, "There is no **facile** solution."*  
—[\*New York Times\* \(Oct 11, 2011\)](#)



136. **cite**

---

make reference to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Federal Reserve has pledged low interest rates until late 2014, **citing** in part the weakness of the job market.*  
—[\*BusinessWeek\* \(Feb 21, 2012\)](#)



137. **warrant**

---

show to be reasonable or provide adequate ground for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*In the United Kingdom and Europe the devices are not used unless the need is **warranted** by the patient's medical condition.*

—[\*US News \(Jan 17, 2012\)\*](#)



---

138. **sob**

---

weep convulsively

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He cried and trembled, **sobbing**, while they spoke, like the child he was.*

—[\*Weyman, Stanley J.\*](#)



---

139. **rider**

---

a traveler who actively rides an animal (as a horse or camel)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In horseback riding, a **rider** will give commands by squeezing or lengthening the reins and altering the position of his legs.*

—[\*Time \(Jan 5, 2012\)\*](#)



140. **dense**

---

permitting little if any light to pass through because of denseness of matter

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

**Dense** black smoke rose in the distance as demonstrators burned tires in Shiite villages.

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)



141. **afflict**

---

cause physical pain or suffering in

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Melanoma globally **afflicts** nearly 160,000 new people each year.

—[Reuters \(Dec 16, 2011\)](#)



142. **flourish**

---

grow vigorously

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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](#)



---

143. **ordain**

---

invest with ministerial or priestly authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(Isabella Lucy\)](#)



---

144. **pious**

---

having or showing or expressing reverence for a deity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



145. **vex**

---

cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There are **vexing** problems slowing the growth and the practical implementation of big data technologies.*

—[\*Forbes\* \(Oct 21, 2011\)](#)



---

146. **gravity**

---

(physics) the force of attraction between all masses in the universe; especially the attraction of the earth's mass for bodies near its surface

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Once captured, the combined object will have a new center of **gravity** and may be spinning in an uncontrolled way.*

—[\*Science Magazine\* \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)



---

147. **suspended**

---

(of undissolved particles in a fluid) supported or kept from sinking or falling by buoyancy and without apparent attachment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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 \(Feb 21, 2012\)\*](#)



---

148. **conspicuous**

---

obvious to the eye or mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Its bright scarlet fruits are **conspicuous** in late autumn.*

—[\*Anonymous\*](#)



---

149. **retort**

---

a quick reply to a question or remark (especially a witty or critical one)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Having put him in ill humour with this **retort**, she fled away rejoicing.*

—[\*Coster, Charles Th?odore Henri de\*](#)



---

150. **jet**

an airplane powered by one or more jet engines

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Typhoon fighter **jets**, helicopters, two warships and bomb disposal experts will also be on duty to guard against security threats.*

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 20, 2012\)](#)



151. **bolt**

run away; usually includes taking something or somebody along

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



152. **assent**

to agree or express agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His two companions readily **assented**, and the promise was mutually given and received.*

—[Keightley, Thomas](#)





---

153. **purse**

---

a sum of money spoken of as the contents of a money purse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She watched over her husband, kept his accounts, held the family **purse**, managed all his affairs.*

—[\*Shorter, Clement K.\*](#)



---

154. **plus**

---

the arithmetic operation of summing; calculating the sum of two or more numbers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The survey's margin of error was **plus** or minus four percentage points.*

—[\*BusinessWeek \(Dec 29, 2011\)\*](#)



---

155. **sanction**

---

give authority or permission to

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Securities and Exchange Commission said last year it had **sanctioned** 39 senior officers for conduct related to the housing market meltdown.*

—[\*BusinessWeek \(Feb 19, 2012\)\*](#)



---

156. **proceeding**

---

(law) the institution of a sequence of steps by which legal judgments are invoked

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Chu attended the special court-martial **proceeding** on Monday in Hawaii, Hill said.*

—[\*Reuters \(Jan 30, 2012\)\*](#)



---

157. **exalt**

---

praise, glorify, or honor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some **exalt** themselves by anonymously posting their own laudatory reviews.*

—[\*New York Times \(Jan 26, 2012\)\*](#)



158. **siege**

---

the action of an armed force that surrounds a fortified place and isolates it while continuing to attack

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Rebellion broke out, and finally the aged Caliph, after enduring a **siege** of several weeks, was murdered in his own house.*

—[\*Nicholson, Reynold\*](#)



159. **malice**

---

feeling a need to see others suffer

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He viewed the moths with **malice**, their fluttering wings fanning his resentment.*

—[\*Lyman, Olin L.\*](#)



160. **extravagant**

---

recklessly wasteful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Advisers say new millionaires are prone to mistakes, like making **extravagant** purchases or risky deals with friends.  
—[Reuters \(Feb 2, 2012\)](#)



---

161. **wax**

---

increase in phase

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Carols had existed for centuries, though their popularity **waxed** and waned as different governments and religious movements periodically declared them sinful.*  
—[Time \(Dec 12, 2011\)](#)



---

162. **throng**

---

press tightly together or cram

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Deafening cheers rent the air as he landed; hundreds **thronged** around him to clasp his hand.*  
—[Strang, Herbert](#)



163. **venerate**

---

regard with feelings of respect and reverence; consider hallowed or exalted or be in awe of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He **venerated** me like a being descended from an upper world.*  
—[Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente](#)



164. **assail**

---

attack someone physically or emotionally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



165. **sublime**

---

of high moral or intellectual value; elevated in nature or style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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](#)



---

166. **exploit**

---

draw from; make good use of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As humans increasingly **exploit** the deep seas for fish, oil and mining, understanding how species are dispersed is crucial, Copley said.*

—[Scientific American \(Jan 3, 2012\)](#)



---

167. **exertion**

---

use of physical or mental energy; hard work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*One day overcome by **exertion**, she fainted in the street.*

—[Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)



168. **kindle**

---

catch fire

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Then a match was **kindled** and fire applied.*

—[Warner, Susan](#)



169. **endow**

---

furnish with an endowment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The grammar school here, founded in 1533, is liberally **endowed**, with scholarships and exhibitions.*

—[Various](#)



170. **imposed**

---

set forth authoritatively as obligatory

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Arab League has already suspended Syria and **imposed** economic sanctions.*

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)

---



---

171. **humiliate**

---

cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The letter claims pensioners are too often patronised, **humiliated**, denied privacy or even medical treatment.*

—[\*BBC \(Feb 22, 2012\)\*](#)



---

172. **suffrage**

---

a legal right guaranteed by the 15th amendment to the US Constitution; guaranteed to women by the 19th amendment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



---

173. **ensue**

---



issue or terminate (in a specified way, state, etc.); end

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An uproar **ensued** months after the approval, when opponents realized the online gambling measure had been slipped in.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)\*](#)



174. **brook**

a natural stream of water smaller than a river (and often a tributary of a river)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He walked across the little bridge over the **brook** and at once his mood changed.*

—[\*Mason, A. E. W. \(Alfred Edward Woodley\)\*](#)



175. **gale**

a strong wind moving 45-90 knots; force 7 to 10 on Beaufort scale

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **gale** was accompanied, as usual, by incessant rain and thick weather, and a heavy confused sea kept our decks always flooded.*

—[\*Fitzroy, Robert\*](#)



---

176. **muse**

---

reflect deeply on a subject

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

**Musing** about the Big Picture may be a lot more gratifying than focusing on the details of the specific policies that aren't working.

—[Time \(Jan 24, 2012\)](#)



---

177. **satire**

---

witty language used to convey insults or scorn

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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 \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)



---

178. **intrigue**

---

cause to be interested or curious

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Designing and building models that **intrigue** and educate without overwhelming has been challenging.*

—[\*Science Magazine \(Nov 24, 2011\)\*](#)



---

179. **indication**

---

something that serves to indicate or suggest

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Authorities said an autopsy found no **indications** of foul play or obvious signs of trauma on Houston.*

—[\*Seattle Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)\*](#)



---

180. **dispatch**

---

send away towards a designated goal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*More than one assassin was **dispatched** by the Turkish authorities to murder Napoleon.*

—[\*Various\*](#)



181. **cower**

---

**crouch or curl up**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*The knaves lowered their weapons and shrank back **cowering** before him.*  
—[Weyman, Stanley J.](#)



182. **wont**

---

**an established custom**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*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 \(Feb 20, 2012\)](#)



183. **tract**

---

**a system of body parts that together serve some particular purpose**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

---

*When probiotics flourish in the digestive **tract**, nutrients are better absorbed and bad bugs are held at bay, research suggests.*

—[\*Seattle Times \(Jan 10, 2012\)\*](#)



---

184. **canon**

---

a collection of books accepted as holy scripture especially the books of the Bible recognized by any Christian church as genuine and inspired

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For me, all novels of any consequence are literary, and they take their place, high and low, in the **canon** of English literature.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Jan 10, 2011\)\*](#)



---

185. **impel**

---

cause to move forward with force

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some power beyond his comprehension was **impelling** him toward the neighboring city.*

—[\*Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente\*](#)



186. **latitude**

---

freedom from normal restraints in conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Great employees often get more **latitude** to bring up controversial subjects in a group setting because their performance allows greater freedom.*

—[\*Inc \(Feb 21, 2012\)\*](#)



187. **vacate**

---

leave behind empty; move out of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Nov 30, 2011\)\*](#)



188. **undertaking**

---

any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*"Let my epitaph be, Here lies Joseph, who was unsuccessful in all his **undertakings**."*  
—[Marvin, Frederic Rowland](#)



189. **slay**

kill intentionally and with premeditation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"It were shame," said Lancelot, "for an armed to **slay** an unarmed man."*  
—[Unknown](#)



190. **predecessor**

one who precedes you in time (as in holding a position or office)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Heller fills in the blanks about Taft, overshadowed by colorful **predecessor** Teddy Roosevelt.*  
—[Seattle Times \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)



191. **delicacy**

the quality of being beautiful and delicate in appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This refinement appears in his works, which are full of artistic grace and dainty **delicacy**.*

—[Drake, Samuel Adams](#)



192. **forsake**

leave someone who needs or counts on you; leave in the lurch

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"I'm surprised," said Philip, cautiously opening fire, "that you were ever allowed to **forsake** your native land."*

—[Hay, Ian](#)



193. **beseech**

ask for or request earnestly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Utterly distraught, he ran up and down the bank, hunting for his clothes, calling, crying out, imploring, **beseeking** help from somewhere.*

—[Frank, Ulrich](#)





---

194. **philosophical**

---

of or relating to philosophy or philosophers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His arguments, like Einstein's, were qualitative, verging on highly **philosophical**.*  
—[Scientific American \(Jan 30, 2012\)](#)



---

195. **grove**

---

a small growth of trees without underbrush

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Soon after we came to Pasadena, father bought an orange **grove** of twenty-five acres.*  
—[Chamberlain, James Franklin](#)



---

196. **frustrate**

---

hinder or prevent (the efforts, plans, or desires) of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

**Frustrated** after two years of missed budget targets, finance chiefs demanded Greek officials put their verbal commitments into law.

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)



---

197. **illustrious**

---

widely known and esteemed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She will be joining an **illustrious** list of recipients that include Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II and Princess Diana.*

—[BBC \(Feb 24, 2012\)](#)



---

198. **device**

---

an instrumentality invented for a particular purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*You've probably also noticed that the telephone and computer are no longer the only **devices** on your employees' desks.*

—[Forbes \(Feb 26, 2012\)](#)



199. **pomp**

---

cheap or pretentious or vain display

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Throughout U.S. history, Americans have been fascinated by royal **pomp** -- even on a movie screen.*

—[Reuters \(Feb 21, 2011\)](#)



200. **entreat**

---

ask for or request earnestly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Let me go now, please," she **entreated**, her eyes unable to meet his any longer.*

—[Hope, Anthony](#)



201. **impart**

---

transmit (knowledge or skills)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Long before writing and books were in common use, proverbs were the principal means of **imparting** instruction.

—[Preston, Thomas](#)



---

202. **propriety**

---

correct or appropriate behavior

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I felt a trifle doubtful about the **propriety** of taking a short cut across private grounds, and said as much.*

—[Sutphen, Van Tassel](#)



---

203. **consecrate**

---

render holy by means of religious rites

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The building was **consecrated** as a Protestant Episcopal church in May, 1814.*

—[Faris, John T. \(John Thomson\)](#)



204. **proceeds**

---

the income or profit arising from such transactions as the sale of land or other property

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His own share in the **proceeds** was about a hundred thousand dollars.*  
—[Stark, James H.](#)



205. **fathom**

---

come to understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But after flying for so many years, the idea of hanging up his sparkling wings is hard for him to **fathom**.*  
—[New York Times \(Mar 17, 2012\)](#)



206. **objective**

---

the goal intended to be attained (and which is believed to be attainable)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

The **objective** was to mobilize students from 18 high schools across the city to provide community services and inspire others.

—[New York Times \(Feb 5, 2012\)](#)



---

207. **clad**

---

wearing or provided with clothing; sometimes used in combination

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A few of the villagers came behind, **clad** in mourning robes, and bearing lighted tapers.*

—[Various](#)



---

208. **partisan**

---

devoted to a cause or party

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But given the bitter **partisan** divide in an election year, Democrats said they would never be able to get such legislation passed.*

—[Chicago Tribune \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)



209. **faction**

---

a dissenting clique

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*One **faction** declared it would begin an armed struggle against the government of the United States.*

—[\*Slate \(Feb 29, 2012\)\*](#)



---

210. **contrived**

---

artificially formal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In lesser hands the story about a young man who discovers life among the dead could be impossibly cute and **contrived**.*

—[\*New York Times \(Mar 25, 2012\)\*](#)



---

211. **venerable**

---

impressive by reason of age

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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. \(John Thomson\)](#)



---

212. **restrained**

---

not showy or obtrusive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Oct 6, 2011\)](#)



---

213. **besiege**

---

harass, as with questions or requests

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He can't trot down the street without being **besieged** by paparazzi.*

—[New York Times \(Mar 18, 2012\)](#)





214. **manifestation**

---

a clear appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Singing and dancing are **manifestations** of what many Syrians describe as a much broader cultural flowering.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Dec 19, 2011\)](#)



215. **rebuke**

---

an act or expression of criticism and censure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\* \(Mar 14, 2012\)](#)



216. **insurgent**

---

in opposition to a civil authority or government

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

The Free Syrian Army, an **insurgent** group made of defecting soldiers and based in southern Turkey, claimed responsibility for both attacks.

—[New York Times \(Nov 20, 2011\)](#)



---

217. **rhetoric**

---

using language effectively to please or persuade

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His fiery **rhetoric** in support of limiting cuts to projected defense spending has surprised and impressed some of Obama's toughest Republican critics.*

—[Reuters \(Jan 5, 2012\)](#)



---

218. **scrupulous**

---

having scruples; arising from a sense of right and wrong; principled

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The reason is that the vast majority of businesses are **scrupulous** and treat their employees well.*

—[The Guardian \(Jun 4, 2010\)](#)



219. **ratify**

---

approve and express assent, responsibility, or obligation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Company officials at Safeway said those replacement workers will remain on standby until the agreement is **ratified** by union members.*

—[\*Washington Post \(Mar 29, 2012\)\*](#)



220. **stump**

---

cause to be perplexed or confounded

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Though family members long suspected Evans, a local handyman who frequently hired local youths, the case **stumped** investigators for years.*

—[\*Washington Post \(Aug 30, 2011\)\*](#)



221. **discreet**

---

marked by prudence or modesty and wise self-restraint

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Sarkozy has attempted to tone down his image, becoming more **discreet** about his private life.

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)



---

222. **imposing**

---

impressive in appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*These buildings were grand and stylized with intricate details and a bit of an **imposing** presence.*

—[Scientific American \(Mar 5, 2012\)](#)



---

223. **wistful**

---

showing pensive sadness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She turned toward him, her face troubled, her eyes most **wistful**.*

—[Mason, A. E. W. \(Alfred Edward Woodley\)](#)



224. **mortify**

---

cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Intensely **mortified** at this humiliation, the king fell sick, and henceforth his health failed rapidly.*

—[\*Various\*](#)



---

225. **ripple**

---

stir up (water) so as to form ripples

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That could precipitate higher interest rates that would **ripple** across the economy.*

—[\*Washington Post \(Jul 27, 2011\)\*](#)



---

226. **premise**

---

a statement that is assumed to be true and from which a conclusion can be drawn

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Success, real success, comes to the jack of all trades, a major **premise** handed down from pioneer days.

—[Gilbert, Clinton W. \(Clinton Wallace\)](#)



---

227. **subside**

---

wear off or die down

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Affliction is allayed, grief **subsides**, sorrow is soothed, distress is mitigated.*

—[Webster, Noah](#)



---

228. **adverse**

---

contrary to your interests or welfare

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*High doses can have **adverse** effects and even cause death.*

—[Seattle Times \(Mar 26, 2012\)](#)



---

229. **caprice**

---

a sudden desire

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nobody is really in charge, and decisions are made on whim and **caprice**.*

—[New York Times \(Apr 10, 2011\)](#)



230.

**muster**

gather or bring together

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Yet Fox needed all the strength that he could **muster**.*

—[Rosebery, Archibald Phillip Primrose](#)



231.

**comprehensive**

broad in scope

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)



232. **accede**

---

yield to another's wish or opinion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Therefore he made up his mind to **accede** to his uncle's desire.*  
—[Streckfuss, Adolph](#)



233. **fervent**

---

characterized by intense emotion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Sep 26, 2010\)](#)



234. **cohere**

---

cause to form a united, orderly, and aesthetically consistent whole

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Two antagonistic values may **cohere** in the same object.*  
—[Anderson, Benjamin M. \(Benjamin McAlester\)](#)

---





---

235. **tribunal**

---

an assembly (including one or more judges) to conduct judicial business

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The military has historically been protected from civilian courts, with any crimes committed by soldiers being decided in closed military **tribunals**.*

—[\*Wall Street Journal \(Feb 15, 2012\)\*](#)



---

236. **austere**

---

severely simple

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A certain **austere** simplicity was noticeable all over Longfellow's house.*

—[\*Anonymous\*](#)



---

237. **recovering**

---

returning to health after illness or debility

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"The **recovering** economy is bringing more people back into the market.  
—[Washington Post \(Mar 22, 2012\)](#)*



---

238. **stratum**

---

people having the same social, economic, or educational status

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She belonged to the upper **stratum** of the profession, and, knowing it, could not sink.  
—[George, Walter Lionel](#)*



---

239. **conscientious**

---

characterized by extreme care and great effort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A **conscientious** hostess would be very much mortified if she served chicken out of its proper course.  
—[Reed, Myrtle](#)*



240. **arbitrary**

---

based on or subject to individual discretion or preference or sometimes impulse or caprice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Sandra Nurse, a member of Occupy's direct action working group, said police treated demonstrators roughly and made **arbitrary** arrests.*  
—[Time \(Mar 18, 2012\)](#)



241. **exasperate**

---

exasperate or irritate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shopkeepers, **exasperated** at the impact of higher taxes and reduced consumer spending, are planning to close down for the day.*  
—[New York Times \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)



242. **conjure**

---

summon into action or bring into existence, often as if by magic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Vacation homes typically **conjure** up dreams of blue skies, pristine sand and crystalline waters.

—[Wall Street Journal \(Feb 28, 2012\)](#)



---

243. **ominous**

---

threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

244. **edifice**

---

a structure that has a roof and walls and stands more or less permanently in one place

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are here erecting a fine stone **edifice** for an Episcopal Church.*

—[Clark, John A.](#)



245. **elude**

---

escape, either physically or mentally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But despite racking up world titles, Olympic gold was **eluding** him.*  
—[The Guardian \(Feb 10, 2012\)](#)



246. **pervade**

---

spread or diffuse through

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An air of intense anticipation **pervaded** the General's dining room.*  
—[Burnett, Carolyn Judson](#)



247. **foster**

---

promote the growth of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Horne accused the district's Mexican-American studies program of using an antiwhite curriculum to **foster** social activism.*  
—[New York Times \(Mar 19, 2012\)](#)

---



---

248. **admonish**

---

take to task

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Children, children, stop quarrelling, right here in public!" **admonished** Mrs. Dering, in a low, shocked tone.*

—[Perry, Nora](#)



---

249. **repeal**

---

cancel officially

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If Republicans **repeal** the law, Ms. Schakowsky said, they would be "taking away benefits that seniors are already getting."*

—[New York Times \(Mar 19, 2012\)](#)



---

250. **retiring**

---

not arrogant or presuming

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Foster was an extremely modest, unworldly, **retiring** gentleman.*  
—[Rosenbach, A. S. W.](#)



---

251. **incidental**

---

not of prime or central importance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The models themselves are **incidental** on “Scouted,” merely empty planets around which revolve some fascinating characters and plenty more dull ones.*  
—[New York Times \(Nov 27, 2011\)](#)



---

252. **acquiesce**

---

to agree or express agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*American officials initially tried to resist President Karzai’s moves but eventually **acquiesced**.*  
—[New York Times \(Mar 9, 2012\)](#)



253. **slew**

---

(often followed by `of') a large number or amount or extent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\* \(Mar 3, 2012\)](#)



254. **usurp**

---

seize and take control without authority and possibly with force; take as one's right or possession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*More than anything, though, officials expressed concern about reigniting longstanding Mexican concerns about the United States' **usurping** Mexico's authority.*  
—[\*New York Times\* \(Mar 15, 2011\)](#)



255. **sentinel**

---

a person employed to keep watch for some anticipated event

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



*The prisoners undressed themselves as usual, and went to bed, observed by the **sentinel**.*

—[\*Drake, Samuel Adams\*](#)



---

256. **precision**

---

the quality of being reproducible in amount or performance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.\*](#)



---

257. **depose**

---

force to leave (an office)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Late Wednesday, Mr. Touré, the **deposed** president, spoke out from hiding for the first time.*

—[\*New York Times \(Mar 30, 2012\)\*](#)



258. **wanton**

---

occurring without motivation or provocation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I am not a sentimentalist by any means, yet I abominate **wanton** cruelty.*  
—[Stables, Gordon](#)



259. **odium**

---

state of disgrace resulting from detestable behavior

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This was one of the men who bring **odium** on the whole class of prisoners, and prejudice society against them.*  
—[Henderson, Frank](#)



260. **precept**

---

rule of personal conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The law of nature has but one **precept**, "Be strong."*  
—[Williams, C. M.](#)

---



---

261. **deference**

---

a courteous expression (by word or deed) of esteem or regard

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Other rules, as indicated in Mr. Collins' book, concerned deportment, and demanded constant***deference** *to superiors.*

—[\*Faris, John T. \(John Thomson\)\*](#)



---

262. **fray**

---

a noisy fight

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Armed rebels have joined the* **fray** *in recent months.*

—[\*Reuters \(Jan 27, 2012\)\*](#)



---

263. **candid**

---

openly straightforward and direct without reserve or secretiveness

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The actor was **candid** about his own difficult childhood growing up with alcoholic parents.*

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)



---

264. **enduring**

unceasing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*What makes the galumphing hubby such an **enduring** stock character?*

—[Slate \(Mar 26, 2012\)](#)



---

265. **impertinent**

improperly forward or bold

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Imagine calling a famous writer by his first name—it seemed **impertinent**, to say the least.*

—[Watkins, Shirley](#)



266. **bland**

---

lacking stimulating characteristics; uninteresting

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Oct 9, 2011\)](#)



267. **insinuate**

---

give to understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Good heavens, do you mean to **insinuate** that I did anything crooked?" said Bojo loudly, yet at the bottom ill at ease.*  
—[Johnson, Owen](#)



268. **nominal**

---

insignificantly small; a matter of form only ('tokenish' is informal)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

He sought **nominal** damages of one dollar from each defendant.  
—[Reuters \(Jan 23, 2012\)](#)



---

269. **suppliant**

---

humbly entreating

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The colonists asked for nothing but what was clearly right and asked in the most respectful and even **suppliant** manner.*  
—[Judson, L. Carroll](#)



---

270. **languid**

---

lacking spirit or liveliness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many viewers, bored by the **languid** pace of the show, tuned out early.*  
—[New York Times \(Dec 30, 2011\)](#)



---

271. **rave**

---

praise enthusiastically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I have heard lots of women simply **rave** about him.*

—[Kauffman, Reginald Wright](#)



---

272. **monetary**

relating to or involving money

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Mar 29, 2012\)](#)



---

273. **headlong**

in a hasty and foolhardy manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“They may not be wishing to rush **headlong** back into the same sort of risks just yet.”*

—[BusinessWeek \(Dec 24, 2010\)](#)



274. **infallible**

---

incapable of failure or error

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

275. **coax**

---

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He used his most enticing manner and did his best to **coax** the little animal out again.*

—[Kay, Ross](#)



---

276. **explicate**

---

elaborate, as of theories and hypotheses

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



He urged judges to resist the rigid guidelines and to write opinions **explicating** their reasons for doing so.

—[New York Times \(Jan 22, 2010\)](#)



---

277. **gaunt**

---

very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

**Gaunt**, starved, and ragged, the men marched northwards, leaving the Touat country upon their left hand.

—[Mason, A. E. W. \(Alfred Edward Woodley\)](#)



---

278. **morbid**

---

suggesting the horror of death and decay

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Earlier in the day, however, his demise was watched by spectators with a **morbid** fascination.

—[New York Times \(Aug 16, 2010\)](#)



279. **ranging**

---

wandering freely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His detective work is fascinating and wide ranging.*  
—[Seattle Times \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)



280. **pacify**

---

cause to be more favorably inclined; gain the good will of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.](#)



281. **pastoral**

---

(used with regard to idealized country life) idyllically rustic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*He made a considerable reputation as an accomplished painter of quiet **pastoral** subjects and carefully elaborated landscapes with cattle.*  
—[Various](#)



---

282. **dogged**

---

stubbornly unyielding

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some analysts expect Mr. Falcone, who is known for his **dogged** determination, to just continue to limp along while slashing costs.*  
—[New York Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)



---

283. **ebb**

---

fall away or decline

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Although Gardner's competitive appetite **ebbed** after 2004, other cravings did not.*  
—[New York Times \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)



284. **aide**

---

someone who acts as assistant

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She later found work as a teacher's **aide** in a Head Start program in Harlem.*  
—[New York Times \(Jan 12, 2012\)](#)



285. **appease**

---

cause to be more favorably inclined; gain the good will of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The king also has tried to **appease** public anger over corruption.*  
—[New York Times \(Feb 9, 2012\)](#)



286. **stipulate**

---

specify as a condition or requirement in a contract or agreement; make an express demand or provision in an agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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 \(Sep 22, 2011\)](#)



---

287. **recourse**

---

something or someone turned to for assistance or security

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bargain hunters and holiday shoppers are bad guys' favorite targets and have little or no **recourse** when shoddy or fake merchandise arrives.*

—[Forbes \(Nov 22, 2011\)](#)



---

288. **constrained**

---

lacking spontaneity; not natural

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All his goodness, however, will be of a forced, **constrained**, artificial, and at bottom unreal character.*

—[Hyde, William De Witt](#)



289. **bate**

---

moderate or restrain; lessen the force of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"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.](#)



290. **aversion**

---

a feeling of intense dislike

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Already my passive dislike had grown into an active **aversion**.*  
—[Oppenheim, E. Phillips \(Edward Phillips\)](#)



291. **conceit**

---

an artistic device or effect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

An urban panorama is viewed from a high vantage point, a **conceit** used in topographic art to render vast perspectives.

—[New York Times \(Sep 30, 2011\)](#)



---

292. **loath**

---

(usually followed by `to') strongly opposed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Friends and political allies are **loath** to talk about her, knowing the family's intense obsession with privacy.*

—[New York Times \(Aug 14, 2011\)](#)



---

293. **rampart**

---

an embankment built around a space for defensive purposes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The night was gloomy, dark, and wet; the soldiers, wearied with watching at the **ramparts**, dozed, leaning on their weapons.*

—[Sienkiewicz, Henryk](#)



294. **extort**

---

obtain by coercion or intimidation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The owners, in turn, have called the lawyers shakedown artists bent on ruining their good reputations to **extort** money.*

—[\*New York Times \(Jan 27, 2012\)\*](#)



295. **tarry**

---

leave slowly and hesitantly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For two days I **tarried** in Paris, settling my little property.*

—[\*Ford, Paul Leicester\*](#)



296. **perpetrate**

---

perform an act, usually with a negative connotation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Come on it's just a cruel joke **perpetrated** by the airline industry."*

—[\*Forbes \(Dec 11, 2011\)\*](#)

---





---

297. **decorum**

---

propriety in manners and conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

298. **luxuriant**

---

produced or growing in extreme abundance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(AKA E. Werner\)](#)



---

299. **cant**

---

insincere talk about religion or morals

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was the familiar **cant** of the man rich enough to affect disdain for money, and Wade was not impressed.*

—[Day, Holman](#)



---

300. **enjoin**

---

give instructions to or direct somebody to do something with authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He turned to beckon the others forward with one hand, while laying the other over his mouth in a gesture **enjoining** silence.*

—[Breckenridge, Gerald](#)



---

301. **avarice**

---

extreme greed for material wealth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(John Stevens Cabot\)](#)



302. **edict**

---

a formal or authoritative proclamation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An **edict** was issued by him forbidding any Christian to give instruction in Greek literature under any circumstances.*

—[Lightfoot, J. B.](#)



303. **disconcert**

---

cause to lose one's composure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Perplexed and **disconcerted**, I found no words to answer such an amazing sally.*

—[Chambers, Robert W. \(Robert William\)](#)



304. **symmetry**

---

balance among the parts of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Even the staging displays **symmetry**, with actors lined up on either side in formal precision.

—[New York Times \(Jan 24, 2011\)](#)



---

305. **capitulate**

---

surrender under agreed conditions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Alas, no," said Bergfeld, mournfully, "the day after the battle our brave soldiers were surrounded by overwhelming forces and obliged to **capitulate**."

—[Meding, Johann Ferdinand Martin Oskar](#)



---

306. **arbitrate**

---

act between parties with a view to reconciling differences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The Scottish throne was now disputed by many claimants, and the Scots asked Edward to **arbitrate** between them.

—[Various](#)



307. **cleave**

---

separate or cut with a tool, such as a sharp instrument

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Instead someone shouts "Go" and he is bearing down on me and almost **cleaves** my shield in two with his first blow.*

—[BBC \(Aug 7, 2011\)](#)



308. **append**

---

add to the very end

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some specimens will appear in the papers **appended** to this report.*

—[Various](#)



309. **visage**

---

the human face ('kisser' and 'smiler' and 'mug' are informal terms for 'face' and 'phiz' is British)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*An honest, quiet laugh often mantled his pale earnest visage.*  
—[Turnbull, Robert](#)



---

310. **horde**

---

a moving crowd

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

**Hordes** of puzzled tourists, many with rolling suitcases attached, poured down the staircases.  
—[New York Times \(Jan 1, 2012\)](#)



---

311. **parable**

---

a short moral story (often with animal characters)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In most instances, I have closed my visits by reading some interesting story or **parable**.*  
—[Frothingham, Octavius Brooks](#)



---

312. **chastise**

---

censure severely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She remembers an upsetting incident when a headmistress **chastised** her for working too much.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Jan 14, 2011\)\*](#)



313. **foil**

hinder or prevent (the efforts, plans, or desires) of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On March 1st, a Turkish newspaper reported that the country's intelligence service had **foiled** an attempt by Syrian agents to kidnap the colonel.*

—[\*Time \(Mar 8, 2012\)\*](#)



314. **veritable**

often used as intensifiers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(Bertram Lenox\)\*](#)



---

315. **grapple**

---

come to terms with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But, he said, all coastal communities will have to **grapple** with rising seas.*  
—[New York Times \(Mar 24, 2012\)](#)



---

316. **gentry**

---

the most powerful members of a society

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The mode of travel of the **gentry** was riding horses, but most people traveled by walking.*  
—[Reilly, S. A.](#)



---

317. **pall**

---

a sudden numbing dread

---



EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Mar 7, 2012\)\*](#)



---

318. **maxim**

---

a saying that is widely accepted on its own merits

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **maxim** "All is fair in love and war" was applied literally.*

—[\*Thomson, Basil\*](#)



---

319. **projection**

---

a prediction made by extrapolating from past observations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Volume is down 25 percent from five years ago, and **projections** show even further declines, said Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe.*

—[\*New York Times \(Mar 22, 2012\)\*](#)



320. **prowess**

---

a superior skill that you can learn by study and practice and observation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While our engineering **prowess** has advanced a great deal over the past sixty years, the principles of innovation largely have not.*

—[\*Time \(Mar 21, 2012\)\*](#)



321. **dingy**

---

thickly covered with ingrained dirt or soot

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Though composed amid the unromantic surroundings of a **dingy**, dusty, and neglected back room, the speech has become a memorable document.*

—[\*Herndon, William H.\*](#)



322. **semblance**

---

an outward or token appearance or form that is deliberately misleading

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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\*](#)



---

323. **tout**

---

advertize in strongly positive terms

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Testing is being **touted** as the means of making the U.S. education system competitive, even world-class.*

—[\*Washington Post \(Mar 23, 2012\)\*](#)



---

324. **fortitude**

---

strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity with courage

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Leigh Hunt bore himself in his captivity with cheerful **fortitude**, suffering severely in health but flagging little in spirits or industry.*

—[\*Colvin, Sidney\*](#)



325. **asunder**

---

into parts or pieces

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In 1854, as I have already remarked, Nicaragua was split **asunder** by civil war.*  
—[Powell, E. Alexander \(Edward Alexander\)](#)



326. **rout**

---

an overwhelming defeat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Dec 19, 2011\)](#)



327. **staid**

---

characterized by dignity and propriety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was prim and **staid** and liked to do things in an orderly fashion.*  
—[Doyle, A. Conan](#)

---



---

328. **beguile**

---

influence by slyness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I can no longer remain silent in the presence of the schemers who seek to **beguile** you.*  
—[Bolanden, Conrad von](#)



---

329. **purport**

---

have the often specious appearance of being, intending, or claiming

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Of course, none of these **purported** medical benefits have any grounding in science.*  
—[Scientific American \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)



---

330. **deprave**

---

corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*The people who make up this typical Gorky offering are drunkards, thieves, **depraved** creatures of every kind.*

—[Kilmer, Joyce](#)



---

331. **bequeath**

---

leave or give by will after one's death

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*No matter how often she changed her will, she told me, that diamond pin was always **bequeathed** to me.*

—[Wells, Carolyn](#)



---

332. **enigma**

---

something that baffles understanding and cannot be explained

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tails are often an **enigma**; many creatures have them, but scientists know little about their function, particularly for extinct species.*

—[Science Magazine \(Jan 4, 2012\)](#)



333. **assiduous**

---

marked by care and persistent effort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He's an **assiduous** diary-keeper and regularly rereads ancient entries to check up on himself.*

—[\*The Guardian\* \(Jul 17, 2010\)](#)



334. **vassal**

---

a person holding a fief; a person who owes allegiance and service to a feudal lord

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



335. **quail**

---

draw back, as with fear or pain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

He **quailed** before me, and forgetting his new part in old habits, muttered an apology.  
—[Weyman, Stanley John](#)



---

336. **outskirts**

---

outlying areas (as of a city or town)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Nov 14, 2011\)](#)



---

337. **bulwark**

---

a protective structure of stone or concrete; extends from shore into the water to prevent a beach from washing away

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The cliffs are of imposing height, nearly three hundred feet: a formidable **bulwark**.*  
—[White, Walter](#)





338. **swerve**

---

an erratic deflection from an intended course

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*However, I was not going to **swerve** from my word.*  
—[Johnstone, James Johnstone, chevalier de](#)



339. **gird**

---

prepare oneself for a military confrontation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Protesters are **girding** for another police raid as several City Council members have called on protesters to leave.*  
—[Washington Post \(Nov 11, 2011\)](#)



340. **betrothed**

---

pledged to be married

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

We are not **betrothed**—her eyes filled with tears,—'he can never marry me; and he and my father have quarrelled.

—[Fleming, George](#)



---

341. **prospective**

---

of or concerned with or related to the future

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Most **prospective** homesteaders make the same mistake I did in buying horses, unless they are experienced.

—[Micheaux, Oscar](#)



---

342. **advert**

---

make reference to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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. \(Edward Theodore Chalmers\)](#)



343. **peremptory**

---

not allowing contradiction or refusal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This time it was not a request but a **peremptory** order to go at once to Cuba and undertake the work.*

—[Johnson, Willis Fletcher](#)



---

344. **rudiment**

---

the elementary stages of any subject (usually plural)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He retraced his steps, and came to Cape Girardeau, in Missouri, where he remained some time, acquiring the **rudiments** of the English language.*

—[Anonymous](#)



---

345. **deduce**

---

reason by deduction; establish by deduction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

They then used models of global wind circulation to **deduce** which dust sources have become stronger and which weaker.

—[Economist \(Jan 6, 2011\)](#)



---

346. **halting**

---

fragmentary or halting from emotional strain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"I so much love cricket," he said, shyly, in **halting** English.*

—[New York Times \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)



---

347. **ignominy**

---

a state of dishonor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After all, we love nothing better than seeing the powerful and formerly smug dragged across the front pages in **ignominy**.*

—[Time \(Jun 7, 2011\)](#)



348. **ideology**

---

an orientation that characterizes the thinking of a group or nation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bill O'Reilly and others picked up on the theme, summing up left-wing **ideology** as "San Francisco values."*

—[Slate \(Jan 19, 2012\)](#)



349. **pallid**

---

lacking in vitality or interest or effectiveness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But too often the music sounded thin and **pallid**.*

—[New York Times \(Apr 25, 2010\)](#)



350. **chagrin**

---

strong feelings of embarrassment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But he was feeling deeply **chagrined** and mortified over his last escapade.*

—[White, Fred M. \(Fred Merrick\)](#)

---



---

351. **obtrude**

---

thrust oneself in as if by force

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She had no right to **obtrude** herself into his life and to disturb it.*  
—[Packard, Frank L. \(Frank Lucius\)](#)



---

352. **audacious**

---

disposed to venture or take risks

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Sep 4, 2011\)](#)



---

353. **construe**

---

make sense of; assign a meaning to

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But nothing that was said Tuesday can be **construed** as good news.*  
—[Washington Post \(Sep 14, 2011\)](#)



---

354. **ford**

---

cross a river where it's shallow

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Sometimes they drive their teams through unsettled country, without roads, swimming and **fording** streams, clearing away obstructions, and camping where night overtakes them.*  
—[Folsom, William Henry Carman](#)



---

355. **repast**

---

the food served and eaten at one time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Fragrant coffee, light rolls, fresh butter, ham and eggs, fried crocuses and soft crabs, formed the **repast**.*  
—[Reid, Mayne](#)



356. **stint**

---

an unbroken period of time during which you do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He found his unionized warehouse job after a **stint** working for his father, an accountant.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Mar 21, 2012\)](#)



357. **fresco**

---

a mural done with watercolors on wet plaster

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The little church has an ancient **fresco** of St. Christopher, placed, as usual, opposite the entrance.*

—[\*Conybeare, Edward\*](#)



358. **dutiful**

---

willingly obedient out of a sense of duty and respect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



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](#)



---

359. **hew**

---

make or shape as with an axe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They bought a log chain, and lumber for a door; the window frames were **hewed** from logs.*

—[Daughters of the American Revolution. Nebraska](#)



---

360. **parity**

---

functional equality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Dec 15, 2011\)](#)



361. **affable**

---

diffusing warmth and friendliness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was well liked and respected in these islands, for his **affable** manners had obtained for him much popularity.*

—[Various](#)



---

362. **interminable**

---

tiresomely long; seemingly without end

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All was going well, but slowly, the time taken for the last few feet seeming to be **interminable**.*

—[Cumberland, Barlow](#)



---

363. **pillage**

---

steal goods; take as spoils

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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.](#)



---

364. **foreboding**

---

a feeling of evil to come

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Harding had strong **forebodings** that the trouble, so far from being ended, was only just beginning.*

—[Marsh, Richard](#)



---

365. **rend**

---

tear or be torn violently

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the distance heavy artillery was growling, and high explosive shells were bursting with a violence that seemed to **rend** the sky.*

—[Tracy, Louis](#)



366. **livelihood**

---

the financial means whereby one lives

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With businesses shut, fields untended and fishing abandoned many have lost their **livelihoods** as well as their homes, our correspondent says.*  
—[BBC \(Apr 15, 2011\)](#)



367. **deign**

---

do something that one considers to be below one's dignity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*To Mr. Gompers' courteous letter Czar Gary did not **deign** to reply.*  
—[Foster, William Z.](#)



368. **capricious**

---

determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Her admirers were **capricious**, returning to her at times, and then holding aloof again; and as for suitors, they entirely disappeared.

—[Schubin, Ossip](#)



---

369. **stupendous**

---

so great in size or force or extent as to elicit awe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The fact was so **stupendous** that Terry felt almost frightened over the great good fortune.*

—[Sabin, Edwin L. \(Edwin Legrand\)](#)



---

370. **chaff**

---

material consisting of seed coverings and small pieces of stem or leaves that have been separated from the seeds

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The wheat, being heavy, falls, while the **chaff** is blown away.*

—[Starr, Frederick](#)



371. **innate**

---

not established by conditioning or learning

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words, one of our most essential abilities as humans--reading--is the product of a combination of **innate** and learned traits.*

—[\*Time \(Dec 9, 2011\)\*](#)



372. **reverie**

---

an abstracted state of absorption

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He stood still, seemingly lost in **reverie**, and quite oblivious to the group about him.*

—[\*Frey, Hildegard G. \(Hildegard Gertrude\)\*](#)



373. **wrangle**

---

to quarrel noisily, angrily or disruptively

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Here were many fierce and bitter **wrangles** over vexed questions, turbulent scenes, displays of sectional feelings.*

—[Raymond, Evelyn](#)



---

374. **crevice**

---

a long narrow opening

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The disruptive power of tree roots, growing in the **crevices** of rocks, is well known.*

—[Various](#)



---

375. **ostensible**

---

appearing as such but not necessarily so

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jun 6, 2010\)](#)



376. **craven**

---

lacking even the rudiments of courage; abjectly fearful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Was it for them to follow the **craven** footsteps of a cowardly generation?*

—[Robinson, Victor](#)



377. **vestige**

---

an indication that something has been present

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Now, there was no **vestige** of vegetation; no living thing.*

—[Hopkins, William John](#)



378. **plumb**

---

examine thoroughly and in great depth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tellingly, Ms. Liao said she had great difficulty finding three actors willing to **plumb** their own personalities.*

—[New York Times \(Jun 1, 2011\)](#)

---





---

379. **reticent**

---

temperamentally disinclined to talk

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*No questions were asked, and few indeed were the words spoken, his **reticent** manner preventing any undue familiarity.*

—[Maclean, John](#)



---

380. **propensity**

---

an inclination to do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)



---

381. **chide**

---

censure severely or angrily

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He **chided** reporters as having “stalked” family members, demanding that his relatives be left alone.

—[New York Times \(Nov 8, 2011\)](#)



---

382. **espouse**

choose and follow; as of theories, ideas, policies, strategies or plans

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He said Islam should not be equated with terrorism or the kind of violence **espoused** by Bin Laden.

—[Reuters \(May 2, 2011\)](#)



---

383. **raiment**

especially fine or decorative clothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Clothed in fine **raiment** and faring sumptuously every day, he soon developed into a handsome lad.

—[Oxley, J. Macdonald \(James Macdonald\)](#)



384. **intrepid**

---

invulnerable to fear or intimidation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There are some very courageous and **intrepid** reporters in Afghanistan, including some who work for American media outlets.*

—[Salon \(Apr 5, 2010\)](#)



385. **seemly**

---

according with custom or propriety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



386. **allay**

---

lessen the intensity of or calm

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Our boy was scared and confused; we tried to **allay** his fears.*  
—[New York Times \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)



387. **fitful**

occurring in spells and often abruptly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



388. **erode**

become ground down or deteriorate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Another report today showed home prices fell more than forecast in November, **eroding** the wealth of families as they seek to rebuild savings.*  
—[BusinessWeek \(Jan 31, 2012\)](#)



389. **unaffected**

---

free of artificiality; sincere and genuine

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His conversation was **unaffectedly** simple and frank; his language natural; always abounding in curious anecdotes.*

—[Conway, Moncure Daniel](#)



---

390. **canto**

---

a major division of a long poem

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Folengo's next production was the Orlandino, an Italian poem of eight **cantos**, written in rhymed octaves.*

—[Various](#)



---

391. **docile**

---

easily handled or managed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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 \(Jan 25, 2012\)](#)



---

392. **patronize**

---

treat condescendingly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Ms. Paul herself noted that “glib talk about appreciating dyslexia as a ‘gift’ is unhelpful at best and **patronizing** at worst.”

—[New York Times \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)



---

393. **teem**

---

be teeming, be abuzz

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The coast, once **teeming** with traffic, is now lonely and deserted.

—[Mahaffy, J. P.](#)



394. **estrangle**

---

arouse hostility or indifference in where there had formerly been love, affection, or friendliness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An atmosphere of distrust, suspicion and fear can cause workers to feel **estranged** from one another, Dr. Wright has written.*  
—[New York Times \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)



395. **spat**

---

a quarrel about petty points

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Public **spats** are rare in the asset-management industry, where companies typically resolve disputes behind closed doors.*  
—[BusinessWeek \(Sep 16, 2011\)](#)



396. **warble**

---

sing or play with trills, alternating with the half note above or below

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Meadow larks, as you have undoubtedly noticed, **warble** many different songs.  
—[Barrett, R. E.](#)



397. **mien**

dignified manner or conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Nevertheless, before going to meet Samuel, she assumed a calm and dignified **mien**.  
—[Kraszewski, Jo?zef Ignacy](#)



398. **sate**

fill to satisfaction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His appetite was not **sated** by any means, but he knew the danger of overloading his stomach, so he stopped.  
—[Dewey, Edward Hooker](#)



399. **constituency**



the body of voters who elect a representative for their area

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Each posited that the blue-collar Democratic **constituency** rooted in the New Deal had grown increasingly conservative, alienated from “big government.”*  
—[New York Times \(Jan 14, 2012\)](#)



400. **patrician**

belonging to or characteristic of the nobility or aristocracy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Respectable ladies, long resident, wearing black poke bonnets and camel's-hair shawls, lifted their **patrician** eyebrows with disapproval.*  
—[Brooks, Charles Stephen](#)



401. **parry**

avoid or try to avoid fulfilling, answering, or performing (duties, questions, or issues)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The boys asked a few guarded questions, but gained no information whatever, their questions being **parried** in every instance.*  
—[Mears, James R.](#)



---

402. **practitioner**

---

someone who practices a learned profession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In particular, modern medical **practitioners** are coming around to the idea that certain illnesses cannot be reduced to one isolatable, treatable cause.*

—[Nature \(Dec 21, 2011\)](#)



---

403. **ravel**

---

disentangle

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

404. **infest**

---

occupy in large numbers or live on a host

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many lived in dilapidated apartments with leaky pipes, broken windows, rooms full of mold, and walls **infested** with cockroaches and rats.*

—[\*New York Times \(Jul 28, 2011\)\*](#)



---

405. **actuate**

---

give an incentive for action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He knew that men were **actuated** by other motives, good and bad, than self-interest.*

—[\*Bleaze, Walter Lyon\*](#)



---

406. **surly**

---

inclined to anger or bad feelings with overtones of menace

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But Blake, being **surly** and quarrelsome even when sober, gave the lapel a savage jerk, and reached out with his other hand.*

—[\*Chisholm, A. M. \(Arthur Murray\)\*](#)



407. **convalesce**

---

get over an illness or shock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Patients **convalescing** from pneumonia were evacuated to England or given Base Duty.*

—[Jahns, Lewis E.](#)



---

408. **demoralize**

---

lower someone's spirits; make downhearted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Nov 1, 2011\)](#)



---

409. **devolve**

---

grow worse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

As the rhetoric heated up inside, the violence outside **devolved** into chaos.  
—[Time \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)



---

410. **alacrity**

---

**liveliness and eagerness**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*Every one exerted himself not only without murmuring and discontent, but even with an **alacrity** which almost approached to cheerfulness.*  
—[Kippis, Andrew](#)



---

411. **waive**

---

**do without or cease to hold or adhere to**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*Low rates have also led retail brokerages to **waive** fees on money market funds to avoid negative returns for their clients.*  
—[Reuters \(Jan 13, 2012\)](#)



412. **unwonted**

---

out of the ordinary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He must rush off to see his people, who no doubt were quite confounded by his **unwonted** energy.*

—[\*Speed, Nell\*](#)



413. **seethe**

---

be in an agitated emotional state

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Outwardly quite calm and matter-of-fact, his mind was in a **seething** turmoil.*

—[\*Douglas, Hudson\*](#)



414. **scrutinize**

---

to look at critically or searchingly, or in minute detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Fans and commentators are **scrutinizing** every blemish: his turnovers, his weak left hand, his jump shot.

—[New York Times \(Mar 5, 2012\)](#)



---

415. **diffident**

---

lacking self-confidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shyly **diffident** in the presence of strangers, her head was lowered.*

—[Packard, Frank L. \(Frank Lucius\)](#)



---

416. **execrate**

---

curse or declare to be evil or anathema or threaten with divine punishment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



417. **implacable**

---

incapable of being placated

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This man was a savage in his **implacable** desire for revenge.*  
—[Kelly, Florence Finch](#)



418. **pique**

---

a sudden outburst of anger

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A talented youngster who smashes his guitar in a fit of **pique** finds it magically reassembled just in time for a crucial concert.*  
—[The Guardian \(May 31, 2010\)](#)



419. **mite**

---

a slight but appreciable amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I never saw anybody so pleased with monkeys as she is, and not one **mite** afraid.*  
—[Raymond, Evelyn](#)





---

420. **encumber**

---

hold back

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Two others were making slower progress for the reason that each was **encumbered** by supporting a disabled man.*

—[Westerman, Percy F. \(Percy Francis\)](#)



---

421. **uncouth**

---

lacking refinement or cultivation or taste

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He had not stopped to consider her rough speech and **uncouth** manners.*

—[Johnston, Annie F. \(Annie Fellows\)](#)



---

422. **petulant**

---

easily irritated or annoyed

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The black eyes emitted an angry flash, the voice that answered was sharp and **petulant**.*

—[\*Fleming, May Agnes\*](#)



---

423. **expiate**

make amends for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Wulphere was absolved on condition that he should **expiate** his crime by founding churches and monasteries all over his kingdom.*

—[\*Clifton, A. B.\*](#)



---

424. **cavalier**

given to haughty disregard of others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some would have given Nicklaus a **cavalier** response: polite nod while thinking, "Yeah, whatever."*

—[\*New York Times \(Jun 18, 2011\)\*](#)



425. **banter**

---

light teasing repartee

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Our easy **banter** had suddenly been replaced by strained and awkward interaction.*  
—[Slate \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)



426. **bluster**

---

act in an arrogant, overly self-assured, or conceited manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Slade, despite his swaggers and **blustering**, was at heart a coward.*  
—[Landon, Herman](#)



427. **debase**

---

corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Long oppression had not, on the whole, either blunted their intellects or **debased** their morals.*  
—[Adler, Felix](#)

---



---

428. **retainer**

---

a person working in the service of another (especially in the household)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This faithful and trusted **retainer** is greatly valued by his employers.*  
—[Black, Helen C.](#)



---

429. **subjugate**

---

make subservient; force to submit or subdue

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Confederacy was led by thoroughgoing racists who wanted to keep blacks **subjugated** for all time because of the color of their skin.*  
—[Slate \(Apr 7, 2010\)](#)



---

430. **extol**

---

praise, glorify, or honor

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How I praised the duck at that first dinner, and **extolled** Madame's skill in cookery!*  
—[Warren, Arthur](#)



---

431. **fraught**

---

filled with or attended with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the ocean remains an unpredictable place, **fraught** with hazards.*  
—[Scientific American \(Apr 5, 2012\)](#)



---

432. **august**

---

profoundly honored

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



433. **fissure**

---

a long narrow depression in a surface

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The brown bark is not very rough, though its numerous **fissures** and cracks give it a rugged appearance.*

—[Step, Edward](#)



---

434. **knoll**

---

a small natural hill

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(May 7, 2010\)](#)



---

435. **callous**

---

emotionally hardened

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Outwardly merry and good-humoured, he was by nature coldly fierce, calculating, **callous**.*

—[Wingfield, Lewis](#)



---

436. **inculcate**

---

teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

437. **nettle**

---

cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Lincoln began these remarks by good-humored but **nettling** chaffing of his opponent.*

—[Various](#)



438. **blanch**

---

turn pale, as if in fear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



439. **inscrutable**

---

of an obscure nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The fashion industry is notoriously opaque and often **inscrutable** for outsiders, even ones as well connected as him.*

—[Seattle Times \(Oct 1, 2011\)](#)



440. **tenacious**

---

stubbornly unyielding

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



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](#)



---

441. **thrall**

---

the state of being under the control of another person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Then Kiss commenced in earnest, and quickly held his audience in **thrall**.*

—[Farjeon, Benjamin Leopold](#)



---

442. **exigency**

---

a pressing or urgent situation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **exigency** of the situation roused Mr. Popkiss' sluggish faculties into prompt action.*

—[Magnay, William](#)



---

443. **disconsolate**

---

sad beyond comforting; incapable of being consoled

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Was there a bereaved mother or **disconsolate** sister weeping over their dead?*  
—[Steward, T. G. \(Theophilus Gould\)](#)



---

444. **impetus**

---

a force that moves something along

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*  
—[Reuters \(Jan 10, 2012\)](#)



---

445. **imposition**

---

an uncalled-for burden

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On that far-away day he had considered the little, lost girl a nuisance and an **imposition**.*  
—[Chisholm, A. M. \(Arthur Murray\)](#)



446. **auspices**

---

kindly endorsement and guidance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In March 2009, negotiations between Israel and Hamas were held in Cairo, under the **auspices** of the Egyptian intelligence agency.*

—[\*New York Times \(Nov 9, 2011\)\*](#)



447. **sonorous**

---

full and loud and deep

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His voice rang out firmly now, a deep and **sonorous** bass.*

—[\*Bedford-Jones, H.\*](#)



448. **exploitation**

---

an act that exploits or victimizes someone (treats them unfairly)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*In a scathing report released last year, Amnesty International found there was widespread **exploitation** of migrants in Malaysia.*

—[BBC \(Apr 4, 2011\)](#)



449. **bane**

something causing misery or death

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Knee pain is the **bane** of many runners, sometimes causing them to give up altogether.*

—[Seattle Times \(Jun 7, 2010\)](#)



450. **dint**

interchangeable with 'means' in the expression 'by means of'

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If only certain puzzles could be solved by **dint** of sheer hard thinking!*

—[Marsh, Richard](#)

451. **ignominious**

(used of conduct or character) deserving or bringing disgrace or shame

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The great Ottawa chief saw his partially accomplished scheme withering into **ignominious** failure.*

—[Rudd, John](#)



---

452. **amicable**

---

characterized by friendship and good will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After a short colloquy the two men evidently came to an **amicable** understanding, for they shook hands.*

—[Kraszewski, Józef Ignacy](#)



---

453. **onset**

---

the beginning or early stages

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thousands of families are living in makeshift camps as temperatures fall to freezing with the **onset** of winter.*

—[New York Times \(Nov 10, 2011\)](#)



454. **conservatory**

---

a schoolhouse with special facilities for fine arts

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*  
—[Chicago Tribune \(Jun 1, 2011\)](#)



455. **zenith**

---

the point above the observer that is directly opposite the nadir on the imaginary sphere against which celestial bodies appear to be projected

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words it never reaches the **zenith**, a point directly overhead.*  
—[George H. Lowery.](#)



456. **voluble**

---

marked by a ready flow of speech

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*I find him charming: shy – yet easy to talk to – **voluble** and funny once he gets going.*  
—[The Guardian \(Aug 21, 2010\)](#)



---

457. **yeoman**

---

in former times was free and cultivated his own land

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On one extreme was the well-to-do **yeoman** farmer farming his own land.*  
—[Reilly, S. A.](#)



---

458. **levity**

---

a manner lacking seriousness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The same balance of seriousness and **levity** runs through her plays, which put an absurdist spin on everyday problems.*  
—[New York Times \(May 7, 2010\)](#)



---

459. **rapt**

feeling great rapture or delight

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She was watching the development of the investigation with **rapt**, eager attention.*

—[Mitford, Bertram](#)



460. **sultry**

characterized by oppressive heat and humidity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*New guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics arrive just as school sports ramp up **insultry** August temperatures.*

—[Washington Post \(Aug 9, 2011\)](#)



461. **pinion**

bind the arms of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The prisoners having dismounted, were placed in a line on the ground facing the guillotine, their arms **pinioned**.*

—[Various](#)





462. **axiom**

---

(logic) a proposition that is not susceptible of proof or disproof; its truth is assumed to be self-evident

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.](#)



463. **descry**

---

catch sight of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Looking off seaward, I could **descry** no sails.*  
—[Drake, Samuel Adams](#)



464. **retinue**

---

the group following and attending to some important person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Despite his **retinue** of security personnel, Atambaev had been poisoned during his short tenure as prime minister.

—[Salon \(Apr 9, 2010\)](#)



---

465. **functionary**

---

a worker who holds or is invested with an office

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was the **functionary** of the assize court, impaneling its juries, bringing accused men before it, and carrying out its penalties.*

—[Reilly, S. A.](#)



---

466. **imbibe**

---

take in liquids

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"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](#)



467. **diversified**

---

having variety of character or form or components; or having increased variety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Funds in both categories tend to be highly **diversified**, typically with 100 or more stocks across at least 10 industries.*

—[\*Wall Street Journal \(Feb 24, 2012\)\*](#)



468. **maraud**

---

raid and rove in search of booty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Its reporter says armed gangs and looters are **marauding** the streets.*

—[\*BBC \(Apr 8, 2011\)\*](#)



469. **grudging**

---

petty or reluctant in giving or spending

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Expect delays, scattered outages and surly, **grudging** customer service in the interim.*  
—[Time \(Aug 30, 2011\)](#)



---

470. **partiality**

---

a predisposition to like something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She still showed a **partiality** for bright colors, by her gown of deep crimson.*  
—[Sage, William](#)



---

471. **philology**

---

the humanistic study of language and literature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Friedrich Max\)](#)



---

472. **wry**

humorously sarcastic or mocking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She also has a very understated but very **wry** sense of humour; watch out for it.*  
—[The Guardian \(Oct 13, 2010\)](#)



473. **caucus**

meet to select a candidate or promote a policy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Representative Ron Paul of Texas isn't campaigning in Florida, instead focusing on Maine, which will **caucus** in late February.*  
—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)



474. **permeate**

spread or diffuse through

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Florida's summertime heat **permeates** almost every scene, becoming something like a character.*  
—[New York Times \(Mar 13, 2012\)](#)



475. **propitious**

---

presenting favorable circumstances; likely to result in or show signs of success

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With the Athens stock market down nearly 30 percent so far this year, it would not seem **apropitious** time for initial public offerings.*  
—[New York Times \(Jun 2, 2010\)](#)



---

476. **salient**

---

having a quality that thrusts itself into attention

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bullying has become an increasingly **salient** problem for school-age children, and in rare cases has ended tragically with victims committing suicide.*  
—[Reuters \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)



---

477. **propitiate**

---

make peace with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

King Edward, having subdued the Welsh, “endeavoured to **propitiate** his newly acquired subjects by becoming a resident in the conquered country.

—[Frith, William Powell](#)



---

478. **excise**

---

remove by cutting

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Wielding a razor, Jefferson **excised** all passages containing supernaturalistic elements from the gospels, extracting what he took to be Jesus’s pure ethical teachings.

—[The Guardian \(Apr 8, 2011\)](#)



---

479. **betoken**

---

be a signal for or a symptom of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The haggard face and sombre eyes **betokened** considerable mental anguish.

—[Young, F.E. Mills](#)



480. **palatable**

---

acceptable to the taste or mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If nicely cooked in this way, cabbage is as **palatable** and as digestible as cauliflower.*  
—[Ronald, Mary](#)



481. **upbraid**

---

express criticism towards

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*When Kahn warned of a serious economic "depression", he was **upbraided** by the White House for using such language.*  
—[The Guardian \(Jan 12, 2011\)](#)



482. **renegade**

---

someone who rebels and becomes an outlaw

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



*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](#)



---

483. **hoary**

---

ancient

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Mar 8, 2012\)](#)



---

484. **pedantic**

---

marked by a narrow focus on or display of learning especially its trivial aspects

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The reader is treated to **pedantic** little footnotes, and given a good deal of information which is either gratuitous or uninteresting.*

—[Hay, Ian](#)



485. **coy**

---

showing marked and often playful or irritating evasiveness or reluctance to make a definite or committing statement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jul 11, 2010\)](#)



486. **troth**

---

a solemn pledge of fidelity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



487. **encroachment**

---

entry to another's property without right or permission

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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 \(Jan 8, 2010\)](#)



---

488. **belie**

---

be in contradiction with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"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](#)



---

489. **armada**

---

a large fleet

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



490. **succor**

---

assistance in time of difficulty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(May 5, 2010\)\*](#)



491. **imperturbable**

---

not easily perturbed or excited or upset; marked by extreme calm and composure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ordinarily **imperturbable**, even in the face of unexpected situations, he was now visibly agitated.*

—[\*Griggs, Sutton E. \(Sutton Elbert\)\*](#)



492. **irresolute**

---

uncertain how to act or proceed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*I stood for a moment before I entered on my arduous undertaking, **irresolute** and hesitating, swayed by two conflicting impulses.*

—[Waugh, Joseph Laing](#)



---

493. **knack**

---

a special way of doing something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

494. **unseemly**

---

not in keeping with accepted standards of what is right or proper in polite society

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The square mile's upbeat mood may strike some as **unseemly** at a time of national gloom.*

—[The Guardian \(Jan 1, 2011\)](#)



495. **accentuate**

---

to stress, single out as important

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This sparkling marvel lies modestly nestled among the law courts, whose plainer modern buildings serve but to **accentuate** its wonderful beauty.*

—[Sherrill, Charles Hitchcock](#)



---

496. **divulge**

---

make known to the public information that was previously known only to a few people or that was meant to be kept a secret

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She hectors her children not to **divulge** personal information like phone numbers online.*

—[Seattle Times \(Nov 15, 2011\)](#)



---

497. **brawn**

---

possessing muscular strength

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*He believes Hollywood has often have had an over-reliance on physical **brawn** as the deciding factor for portraying a strong man.*

—[Reuters \(Jul 9, 2010\)](#)



---

498. **burnish**

---

polish and make shiny

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Great cleanliness is enforced in all that belongs to a lighthouse, the reflectors and lenses being constantly **burnished**, polished, and cleansed.*

—[Whymper, Frederick](#)



---

499. **palpitate**

---

beat rapidly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After supper my heart started racing, **palpitating** like a tick.*

—[Isaacson, Lauren Ann](#)



500. **promiscuous**

---

not selective of a single class or person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

A **promiscuous** assembly had gathered there—men of all creeds and opinions—and an "open-air" meeting was in progress.

—[Whitney, Orson F.](#)



501. **dissemble**

---

make believe with the intent to deceive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Pictures have always **dissembled** — there are millions of snaps of miserable families grinning bravely — but now they directly lie.

—[The Guardian \(Dec 4, 2010\)](#)



502. **flotilla**

---

a fleet of small craft

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



She was guarded by a **flotilla** of boats equipped with satellites, Global Positioning System devices, advanced navigation systems and shark shields.

—[New York Times \(Aug 11, 2011\)](#)



---

503. **invective**

---

abusive or venomous language used to express blame or censure or bitter deep-seated ill will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jan 15, 2011\)](#)



---

504. **hermitage**

---

the abode of a hermit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All the rest of their time is passed in solitude in their **hermitages**, which are built quite separate from one another.*

—[Various](#)



505. **despoil**

---

destroy and strip of its possession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Wherever his lordship's army went, plantations were **despoiled**, and private houses plundered.*

—[Campbell, Charles](#)



---

506. **sully**

---

make dirty or spotty, as by exposure to air; also used metaphorically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Why **sully** the reputation of an otherwise fascinating online community with really deeply questionable, troubling content?*

—[Forbes \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)



---

507. **malevolent**

---

having or exerting a malignant influence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

So you don't believe in evil, as an actual **malevolent** force?  
—[New York Times \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)



---

508. **irksome**

---

so lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was pretty **irksome** passing the time in his enforced prison, and finally Andy went to sleep.*  
—[Webster, Frank V.](#)



---

509. **prattle**

---

speak (about unimportant matters) rapidly and incessantly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She **prattled** on about the gossip of the town until Penny and her father were thoroughly bored.*  
—[Clark, Joan](#)



510. **subaltern**

---

inferior in rank or status

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The careful commanding officer of a regiment discourages his young **subalterns** from taking leave to Hill Stations.*

—[Cassirly, Gordon](#)



511. **welt**

---

a raised mark on the skin (as produced by the blow of a whip); characteristic of many allergic reactions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But red, itchy **welts** typically appear within 24 to 48 hours of being bitten.*

—[US News \(Nov 23, 2010\)](#)



512. **wreak**

---

cause to happen or to occur as a consequence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

The burden of paying for college is **wreaking** havoc on the finances of an unexpected demographic: senior citizens.

—[Washington Post \(Apr 1, 2012\)](#)



---

513. **tenable**

---

based on sound reasoning or evidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*First, it is no longer really **tenable** – and in fact a bit disrespectful – to call a country like China an emerging economy.*

—[The Guardian \(Feb 18, 2011\)](#)



---

514. **inimitable**

---

defying imitation; matchless

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Leave aside Spain, where Barcelona breeds its own, **inimitable** style, and the answer might be that we are rushing toward uniformity.*

—[New York Times \(Sep 26, 2010\)](#)



515. **depredation**

---

(usually plural) a destructive action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Wild elephants abound and commit many **depredations**, entering villages in large herds, and consuming everything suitable to their tastes.*

—[\*Various\*](#)



---

516. **amalgamate**

---

to bring or combine together or with something else

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



---

517. **immutable**

---

not subject or susceptible to change or variation in form or quality or nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

We are mistaken to imagine a work of literature is or should be **immutable**, sculpted in marble and similarly impervious to change.

—[The Guardian \(May 27, 2010\)](#)



---

518. **proxy**

---

a person authorized to act for another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jan 17, 2011\)](#)



---

519. **dote**

---

shower with love; show excessive affection for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He **doted** on him, just dearly loved him, and thought he could do no wrong,” Kredell said.*

—[Washington Post \(Oct 17, 2011\)](#)



520. **reactionary**

---

extremely conservative

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Old people are often accused of being too conservative, and even **reactionary**.*  
—[Chinard, Gilbert](#)



521. **rationalism**

---

the doctrine that reason is the right basis for regulating conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Offering a religious rationale for policy goals threatens what for many has become the cherished principle of secular **rationalism** in public life.*  
—[Salon \(Apr 24, 2011\)](#)



522. **endue**

---

give qualities or abilities to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



To say the least of it, he was **endued** with sufficient intelligence to acquire an ordinary knowledge of such matters.

—[Various](#)



---

523. **discriminating**

---

showing or indicating careful judgment and discernment especially in matters of taste

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jobs' Apple specializes in delighting the most **discriminating**, hard-to-please customers.*

—[Forbes \(Oct 12, 2011\)](#)



---

524. **brooch**

---

a decorative pin worn by women

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Upon her breast she wore a **brooch** of gold set with many precious stones.*

—[Butler, Pierce](#)



525. **pert**

---

characterized by a lightly pert and exuberant quality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Her **pert**, lively manner said she hadn't taken any wooden nickels lately.*  
—[Schoenherr, John](#)



526. **disembark**

---

go ashore

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The immigrants **disembarked** from their ships tired and underfed—generally in poor health.*  
—[Hughes, Thomas Proctor](#)



527. **aria**

---

an elaborate song for solo voice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Ms. Netrebko sang an elegantly sad **aria** with lustrous warmth, aching vulnerability and floating high notes.

—[New York Times \(Sep 27, 2011\)](#)



---

528. **trappings**

---

(usually plural) accessory wearing apparel

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were caparisoned in Indian fashion with gay colors and fancy **trappings**.*

—[Roy, Lillian Elizabeth](#)



---

529. **abet**

---

assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"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.*

—[Reuters \(Mar 9, 2011\)](#)



530. **clandestine**

---

conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For Jordan, this is a **clandestine** relationship it would much prefer to have kept secret.*  
—[BBC \(Jan 5, 2010\)](#)



531. **distend**

---

swell from or as if from internal pressure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some kids said LaNiyah's **distended** abdomen looked like she was carrying a baby.*  
—[Seattle Times \(Apr 7, 2011\)](#)



532. **glib**

---

having only superficial plausibility

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The other sort of engineer understands that **glib** comparisons between computers and humans don't do justice to the complexities of either.*  
—[Forbes \(Jul 22, 2010\)](#)

---



---

533. **pucker**

---

to gather something into small wrinkles or folds

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Godmother, ' she went on, **puckering** her forehead again in perplexity, 'it almost feels like feathers.*

—[\*Molesworth, Mrs. \(Mary Louisa\)\*](#)



---

534. **rejoinder**

---

a quick reply to a question or remark (especially a witty or critical one)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Not at all!" was Aunt Susannah's brisk **rejoinder**.*

—[\*Various\*](#)



---

535. **spangle**

---

adornment consisting of a small piece of shiny material used to decorate clothing

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

536. **blighted**

---

affected by blight; anything that mars or prevents growth or prosperity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Hudec, whose career has been **blighted** by knee injuries and operations, won for the first time in more than four years.*

—[New York Times \(Feb 4, 2012\)](#)



---

537. **nicety**

---

conformity with some esthetic standard of correctness or propriety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They accepted the invitation; but Mrs. Rowlandson did not appreciate the **niceties** of Indian etiquette.*

—[Abbott, John S. C. \(John Stevens Cabot\)](#)



538. **aggrieve**

---

infringe on the rights of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some fallout appears evident in donations from Wall Street executives, who feel particularly **aggrieved** by Mr. Obama's criticisms and policies.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 20, 2012\)\*](#)



539. **vestment**

---

gown (especially ceremonial garments) worn by the clergy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.\*](#)



540. **urbane**

---

showing a high degree of refinement and the assurance that comes from wide social experience

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Polished, **urbane** and gentlemanly—his manners were calculated to refine all around him.

—[Judson, L. Carroll](#)



---

541. **defray**

---

bear the expenses of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The legislation also calls for \$1.6 billion in spending cuts to help **defray** the disaster costs.*

—[Washington Post \(Sep 26, 2011\)](#)



---

542. **spectral**

---

resembling or characteristic of a phantom

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Hawthorne's figures are somewhat **spectral**; they lack flesh and blood.*

—[Merwin, Henry Childs](#)





543. **munificent**

---

very generous

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They have shown themselves very loving and generous lately, in making a quite **munificent** provision for his traveling.*

—[Carlyle, Thomas](#)



---

544. **dictum**

---

an authoritative declaration

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words, they seemed fully subscribed to Andy Warhol's **dictum** that business art is the best art.*

—[New York Times \(Dec 10, 2011\)](#)



---

545. **fad**

---

an interest followed with exaggerated zeal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

According to Chinese media, the hottest new **fad** in China involves selling small live-animal key chains.

—[Time \(Apr 5, 2011\)](#)



---

546. **scabbard**

---

a sheath for a sword or dagger or bayonet

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

547. **adulterate**

---

corrupt, debase, or make impure by adding a foreign or inferior substance; often by replacing valuable ingredients with inferior ones

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shady dealers along the supply chain frequently **adulterate** olive oil with low-grade vegetable oils and add artificial coloring.*

—[New York Times \(Dec 7, 2011\)](#)



548. **beleaguer**

---

annoy persistently

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Rock concert ticket sales dropped sharply last year, sounding another sour note for the **beleaguered** music industry.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Dec 30, 2010\)\*](#)



---

549. **gripe**

---

complain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If America is going to **gripe** about the yuan's rate, then China will complain about the dollar's role.*

—[\*Economist \(Jan 20, 2011\)\*](#)



---

550. **remission**

---

an abatement in intensity or degree (as in the manifestations of a disease)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

After a few hours there is a **remission** of the pain, slight perspiration takes place, and the patient may fall asleep.

—[Various](#)



---

551. **exorbitant**

---

greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Soon, stories began trickling across the Atlantic of crazed fans paying **exorbitant** sums to get into London gigs.

—[Slate \(Oct 10, 2011\)](#)



---

552. **invocation**

---

the act of appealing for help

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

These dances are prayers or **invocations** for rain, the crowning blessing in this dry land.

—[Roosevelt, Theodore](#)



553. **cajole**

---

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Hamilton, however, was not to be **cajoled** into friendliness by superficial compliment.*  
—[Fisher, Harrison](#)



554. **inclusive**

---

including much or everything; and especially including stated limits

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We are going to adhere to our basic programing strategy of nonpartisan information **inclusive** of all different points of view.*  
—[Reuters \(Sep 27, 2010\)](#)



555. **interdict**

---

command against

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Failing to satisfy his examiners, he was **interdicted** from practice, but ignored the prohibition, and suffered more than one imprisonment in consequence.*

—[Worley, George](#)



---

556. **abase**

---

cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ashamed, **abased**, degraded in his own eyes, he turned away his head.*

—[Caine, Hall, Sir](#)



---

557. **obviate**

---

do away with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



558. **hurtle**

---

move with or as if with a rushing sound

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The hurricane was expected to hit Washington in the early hours of Sunday before **hurtling** toward New York City.*

—[\*Reuters \(Aug 27, 2011\)\*](#)

✓

---

559. **unanimity**

---

everyone being of one mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)

✓

---

560. **mettle**

---

the courage to carry on

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*The deployment will also test the emotional **mettle** of soldiers and their families.*  
—[New York Times \(Jun 26, 2010\)](#)



---

561. **interpolate**

---

insert words into texts, often falsifying it thereby

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Most scholars agree that these lines are **interpolated**, since they do not fit in with the rest of the poem.*  
—[Various](#)

---

562. **surreptitious**

---

marked by quiet and caution and secrecy; taking pains to avoid being observed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He noticed that the peddler was eying the bag Scotty had picked up, and was trying to be **surreptitious** about it.*  
—[Goodwin, Harold L. \(Harold Leland\)](#)



---

563. **dissimulate**

---



hide (feelings) from other people

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



564. **ruse**

a deceptive maneuver (especially to avoid capture)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Overseas criminals use elaborate **ruses**, including phony websites, to trick job-seekers into helping transfer stolen funds.*

—[BusinessWeek \(Aug 4, 2011\)](#)



565. **specious**

plausible but false

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*You might be tempted to think of the biggest airline as the one with the most aircraft, but capacity differences make this reasoning **specious**.*

—[Salon \(May 6, 2010\)](#)



---

566. **revulsion**

---

intense aversion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After a first instinctive cry of horrified **revulsion**, the men reached down under water with their hands and drew out—a corpse.*

—[Livingston, Arthur](#)



---

567. **hale**

---

exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From a hearty, **hale**, corn-fed boy, he has become pale, lean, and wan.*

—[Adams, Abigail](#)



---

568. **palliate**

---

lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or extent of

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Divisions and inequalities persist, but government can **palliate** their effects with hard cash.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Aug 14, 2010\)\*](#)



---

569.

**obtuse**

---

lacking in insight or discernment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



---

570.

**querulous**

---

habitually complaining

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was, at times, as **querulous** as a complaining old man.*

—[\*Williams, Ben Ames\*](#)



571. **vagary**

---

an unexpected and inexplicable change in something (in a situation or a person's behavior, etc.)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Today such acquisitions are more likely to stay put, destined to survive both market fluctuations and the **vagaries** of style.*  
—[New York Times \(Sep 29, 2010\)](#)



572. **incipient**

---

only partly in existence; imperfectly formed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Above all, medical teams will need to establish quick surveillance to identify health needs and pinpoint **incipient** outbreaks before they explode.*  
—[Time \(Jan 13, 2010\)](#)



573. **obdurate**

---

stubbornly persistent in wrongdoing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Several appeared deeply affected, with tears of repentance standing in their eyes, others sullen and **obdurate**.

—[Huth, Alexander](#)



---

574. **grovel**

---

show submission or fear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The two young men who drove them had fallen flat and were **grovelling** and wailing for mercy.*

—[Mitford, Bertram](#)



---

575. **refractory**

---

stubbornly resistant to authority or control

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Beyond them the gardener struggled with a **refractory** horse that refused to draw his load of brush and dead leaves.*

—[Bacon, Josephine Dodge Daskam](#)



576. **dregs**

---

sediment that has settled at the bottom of a liquid

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Right got to go," Ali says, draining the **dregs** of his beer.*  
—[BBC \(Feb 25, 2012\)](#)



---

577. **ascendancy**

---

the state that exists when one person or group has power over another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But in a few days he had secured an almost incredible **ascendancy** over the sullen, starved, half-clothed army.*  
—[Various](#)



---

578. **supercilious**

---

having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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](#)



---

579. **pundit**

---

someone who has been admitted to membership in a scholarly field

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

**Pundits** of agricultural science explore the sheds, I believe, the barns, stables, machine-rooms, and so forth, before inspecting the crops.

—[Boyle, Frederick](#)



---

580. **commiserate**

---

to feel or express sympathy or compassion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

We had spent countless hours together drinking wine and **commiserating** about child-rearing, long Wisconsin winters and interrupted sleep.

—[New York Times \(Mar 24, 2011\)](#)



581. **alcove**

---

a small recess opening off a larger room

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

582. **assay**

---

make an effort or attempt

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He decided to **assay** one last project before giving up.*

—[New York Times \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)



---

583. **parochial**

---

narrowly restricted in outlook or scope

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



*But Republicans in Pennsylvania also have narrower and more **parochial** things to worry about.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Sep 17, 2011\)](#)



---

584. **conjugal**

---

of or relating to marriage or to the relationship between a wife and husband

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They even had **conjugal** visits for prisoners — five hours in a private room every three months with your wife.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Nov 23, 2010\)](#)



---

585. **abjure**

---

formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief, usually under pressure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The caste abstain from liquor, and some of them have **abjured** all flesh food while others partake of it.*

—[\*Russell, R. V. \(Robert Vane\)\*](#)



586. **frieze**

---

an architectural ornament consisting of a horizontal sculptured band between the architrave and the cornice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All the doorways mentioned above have cornices, and in those at Palmyra and Baalbec richly carved **friezes** with side corbels.*

—[\*Various\*](#)



587. **ornate**

---

marked by complexity and richness of detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Unlike his literary icon, Herman Melville, he doesn't adorn his writing with **ornate** flourishes or complicated scaffolding.*

—[\*Scientific American \(Dec 20, 2011\)\*](#)



588. **inflammatory**

---

arousing to action or rebellion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

We don't know whether **inflammatory** language or images can incite the mentally ill to commit acts of violence.

—[Time \(Jan 13, 2011\)](#)



---

589. **machination**

---

a crafty and involved plot to achieve your (usually sinister) ends

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was continued a member of Congress until 1777 when his enemies succeeded in their long nursed **machinations** against him.*

—[Judson, L. Carroll](#)



---

590. **mendicant**

---

a pauper who lives by begging

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In others are the broken-down **mendicants** who live on soup-kitchens and begging.*

—[Ritchie, J. Ewing \(James Ewing\)](#)



591. **meander**

---

to move or cause to move in a sinuous, spiral, or circular course

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



592. **bullion**

---

gold or silver in bars or ingots

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In times of economic turmoil, more people tend to invest in **bullion** gold.*

—[Washington Post \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)



593. **diffidence**

---

lack of self-confidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

His grave **diffidence** and continued hesitation in offering an opinion confirmed me in my own.

—[Froude, James Anthony](#)



---

594. **makeshift**

---

done or made using whatever is available

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Apr 12, 2012\)](#)



---

595. **husbandry**

---

the practice of cultivating the land or raising stock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Mar 22, 2011\)](#)



596. **podium**

---

a platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Oct 22, 2011\)](#)



597. **dearth**

---

an insufficient quantity or number

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A continuing **dearth** of snow in many U.S. spots usually buried by this time of year has turned life upside down.*  
—[Washington Post \(Jan 5, 2012\)](#)



598. **granary**

---

a storehouse for threshed grain or animal feed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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](#)



---

599. **whet**

---

make keen or more acute

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Aug 17, 2011\)](#)



---

600. **imposture**

---

pretending to be another person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He got somebody to prosecute him for false pretences and **imposture**, on the ground that Madame was a man.*

—[Leland, Charles Godfrey](#)



601. **diadem**

---

an ornamental jeweled headdress signifying sovereignty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I dethrone monarchs and the people rejoicing crown me instead, showering **diadems** upon my head.*

—[Tilney, Frederick Colin](#)



602. **fallow**

---

undeveloped but potentially useful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Nov 3, 2011\)](#)



603. **hubbub**

---

loud confused noise from many sources

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



*There was some good-humoured pushing and thrusting, the drum beating and the church bells jangling bravely above the hubbub.*

—[Weyman, Stanley J.](#)



---

604. **dispassionate**

---

unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The commission sitting by, judicial, **dispassionate**, presided with cold dignity over the sacrifice, and pronounced it good.*

—[Candee, Helen Churchill Hungerford, Mrs.](#)



---

605. **harrowing**

---

extremely painful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Belgium found itself in turmoil as hundreds of people came forward to offer **harrowing** accounts of abuse over several decades.*

—[New York Times \(Jan 16, 2012\)](#)



606. **askance**

---

with suspicion or disapproval

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A secret marriage in these days would be looked upon **askance** by most people.*  
—[Wood, Mrs. Henry](#)



---

607. **lancet**

---

a surgical knife with a pointed double-edged blade; used for punctures and small incisions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His left arm was held by the second physician, while the chief surgeon bent over it, **lancet** in hand.*  
—[Hay, Marie, Hon. \(Agnes Blanche Marie\)](#)



---

608. **rankle**

---

gnaw into; make resentful or angry

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*He was feeling more like himself now, though the memory of the bully's sneering words **rankled**.*

—[Chadwick, Lester](#)



609.

## ramify

have or develop complicating consequences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Cometary science has **ramified** in unexpected ways during the last hundred years.*

—[Various](#)



610.

## gainsay

take exception to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That Whitman entertained a genuine affection for men and women is, of course, too obvious to be **gainsaid**.*

—[Rickett, Arthur](#)



611. **polity**

---

a politically organized unit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Mar 21, 2012\)\*](#)



612. **credence**

---

the mental attitude that something is believable and should be accepted as true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Well-known brand names that promote new products receive more **credence** than newcomers that people don't know about."*

—[\*US News \(Oct 6, 2010\)\*](#)



613. **indemnify**

---

make amends for; pay compensation for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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](#)



---

614. **ingratiate**

---

gain favor with somebody by deliberate efforts

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He became kindly and coaxing, leaning across the table with an **ingratiating** smile.*

—[King, Basil](#)



---

615. **declivity**

---

a downward slope or bend

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(Samuel Griswold\)](#)



616. **importunate**

---

expressing earnest entreaty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The young man was then passionately **importunate** in the protestations of his love.*  
—[Barr, Amelia Edith Huddleston](#)



617. **passe**

---

out of fashion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*My friend is very keen on the new crowd; everything else he declares is "**passe**."*  
—[Holliday, Robert Cortes](#)



618. **whittle**

---

cut small bits or pare shavings from

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tad followed, **whittling** on a stick with his knife and kicking at the shavings as they fell.*  
—[Kjelgaard, James Arthur](#)

---



---

619. **repine**

---

express discontent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Those poor fellows above, accustomed to the wild freshness and freedom of the sea, how they must mourn and **repine**!*

—[O'Shea, John Augustus](#)



---

620. **flay**

---

strip the skin off

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Once at the moose and hastily **flaying** the hide from the steaming meat my attention became centered on the task.*

—[Sinclair, Bertrand W.](#)



---

621. **larder**

---

a small storeroom for storing foods or wines

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Goncalves's **larder** holds staples like beefsteak, salt cod, sardines, olives, artichokes, hot and sweet peppers and plenty of garlic.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 18, 2011\)\*](#)



---

622. **threadbare**

---

having the nap worn away so that the threads show through

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were all poor folk, wrapped in **threadbare** cloaks or tattered leather.*

—[\*Brackett, Leigh Douglass\*](#)



---

623. **grisly**

---

shockingly repellent; inspiring horror

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Aug 19, 2011\)\*](#)





624. **untoward**

---

not in keeping with accepted standards of what is right or proper in polite society

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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)



625. **idiosyncrasy**

---

a behavioral attribute that is distinctive and peculiar to an individual

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*One of his well-known **idiosyncrasies** was that he would never allow himself to be photographed.*

—[\*Le Queux, William\*](#)



626. **quip**

---

make jokes or quips

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

"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**.

—[Reuters \(Oct 13, 2010\)](#)



---

627. **blatant**

---

without any attempt at concealment; completely obvious

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There was no **blatant** display of wealth, and every article of furniture bore signs of long though careful use.*

—[Bull, Charles Livingston](#)



---

628. **stanch**

---

stop the flow of a liquid

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



629. **incongruity**

---

the quality of disagreeing; being unsuitable and inappropriate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Hanging out wet clothes and an American flag at the North Pole seemed an amusing **incongruity**.*

—[Cook, Frederick A.](#)



---

630. **perfidious**

---

tending to betray; especially having a treacherous character as attributed to the Carthaginians by the Romans

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **perfidious** Italian at length confessed that it was his intention to murder his master, and then rob the house.*

—[Billinghurst, Percy J.](#)



---

631. **platitude**

---

a trite or obvious remark

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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 \(Jun 20, 2011\)\*](#)



---

632. **revelry**

---

unrestrained merrymaking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But all this **revelry** — dancing, drinks, exuberant youth — can be hard to manage.*

—[\*New York Times \(Jun 3, 2010\)\*](#)



---

633. **delve**

---

turn up, loosen, or remove earth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*So she did what any reporter would do: she **delved** into the scientific literature and talked to investigators.*

—[\*New York Times \(Dec 27, 2010\)\*](#)



634. **extenuate**

---

lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or extent of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Prosecutors often spend time weighing mitigating and **extenuating** circumstances before deciding to seek the death penalty.*

—[\*Washington Post\* \(Oct 15, 2011\)](#)



---

635. **polemic**

---

a controversy (especially over a belief or dogma)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Would it be a **polemic** that denounced Western imperialism for using cinema to undermine emerging nations like Kazakhstan?*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Oct 4, 2010\)](#)



---

636. **enrapture**

---

hold spellbound

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*I was delighted, **enraptured**, beside myself--the world had disappeared in an instant.*  
—[Spielhagen, Friedrich](#)



---

637. **virtuoso**

---

someone who is dazzlingly skilled in any field

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(May 3, 2010\)](#)



---

638. **glower**

---

look angry or sullen, wrinkle one's forehead, as if to signal disapproval

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A moment later he would collapse, sit **glowering** in his chair, looking angrily at the carpet.*  
—[Hecht, Ben](#)



639. **mundane**

---

found in the ordinary course of events

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Mar 20, 2012\)\*](#)



---

640. **fatuous**

---

devoid of intelligence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They're too stupid, for one thing; they go on burning houses and breaking windows in their old **fatuous** way.*

—[\*McKenna, Stephen\*](#)



---

641. **incurable**

---

impervious to correction by punishment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*She scolded and lectured her sister in vain; Cynthia was **incorrigible**.*  
—[Various](#)



---

642. **postulate**

---

maintain or assert

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In fact, when Einstein formulated his cosmological vision, based on his theory of gravitation, he **postulated** that the universe was finite.*  
—[Scientific American \(Jul 26, 2011\)](#)



---

643. **gist**

---

the central meaning or theme of a speech or literary work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The syntax was a little off, even comical at times, but I got the **gist** of what was going on.*  
—[Time \(May 6, 2010\)](#)





644. **vociferous**

---

conspicuously and offensively loud; given to vehement outcry

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The complaints grew so loud and **vociferous** that even President Obama was forced to address the backlash from Lisbon on Saturday.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Nov 23, 2010\)](#)



645. **purvey**

---

supply with provisions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And we will agree also to **purvey** food for these horses and people during nine months.*

—[\*Villehardouin, Geoffroi de\*](#)



646. **baleful**

---

deadly or sinister

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*"But he is dead," put in Fanning, wondering at the **baleful** expression of hatred that had come into the man's face.*

—[\*Burnham, Margaret\*](#)



---

647. **gibe**

---

laugh at with contempt and derision

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*So much did their taunts prey upon him that he ran away from school to escape their **gibes**.*

—[\*Hubbard, Elbert\*](#)



---

648. **dyspeptic**

---

irritable as if suffering from indigestion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(Herbert George\)\*](#)



649. **prude**

---

a person excessively concerned about propriety and decorum

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Criticising high-profile programmes about teenage sex education often means risking being written off as a **prude**.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Feb 11, 2011\)\*](#)



---

650. **luminary**

---

a celebrity who is an inspiration to others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Founded in 1947, the group's members have included such **luminaries** as Walt Disney, Spencer Tracy and another American president, Ronald Reagan.*

—[\*Seattle Times \(Apr 11, 2011\)\*](#)



---

651. **amenable**

---

disposed or willing to comply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

He, Jean Boulot, being so **amenable** to sensible argument, would at once fall in with his views.

—[Wingfield, Lewis](#)



---

652. **willful**

---

habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I crossed my arms like a **willful** child.*

—[New York Times \(Aug 18, 2011\)](#)



---

653. **overbearing**

---

having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"True; but——" "Just so," interrupted Mr. Fauntleroy, in his decisive and rather **overbearing** manner.*

—[Wood, Mrs. Henry](#)



654. **dais**

---

a platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The throne was elevated on a **dais** of silver steps.*  
—[Tracy, Louis](#)



---

655. **automate**

---

make automatic or control or operate automatically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And because leap seconds are needed irregularly their insertion cannot be **automated**, which means that fallible humans must insert them by hand.*  
—[Economist \(Jan 12, 2012\)](#)



---

656. **enervate**

---

weaken mentally or morally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

The reviewers have **enervated** men's minds, and made them indolent; few think for themselves.

—[Rossetti, William Michael](#)



---

657. **wheedle**

---

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On one level, I expected incessant flattery in attempts to **wheedle** equipment or even money from American forces.*

—[New York Times \(Aug 16, 2010\)](#)



---

658. **gusto**

---

vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The audience, surprisingly large given the inclement weather, responded with **gusto**, applauding each song, including those within the Shostakovich cycle.*

—[New York Times \(Mar 2, 2010\)](#)



659. **bouillon**

---

a clear seasoned broth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The meat soups are called broths, **bouillon**, or consommé, according to their richness.*  
—[Ronald, Mary](#)



660. **omniscient**

---

infinitely wise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Robbe-Grillet responds that his work is in fact far less objective than the godlike, **omniscient** narrator who presides over so many traditional novels.*  
—[The Guardian \(May 13, 2010\)](#)



661. **apostate**

---

not faithful to religion or party or cause

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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 \(Feb 18, 2011\)](#)



---

662. **carrion**

---

the dead and rotting body of an animal; unfit for human food

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Habitually his diet is not carnivorous, but he will eat at times either **carrion** or living flesh.*

—[Reid, Mayne](#)



---

663. **emolument**

---

compensation received by virtue of holding an office or having employment (usually in the form of wages or fees)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*

—[The Guardian \(Jan 8, 2011\)](#)





664. **ungainly**

---

lacking grace in movement or posture

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thomas looked up furtively and saw that an **ungainly** human figure with crooked legs was being led into the church.*

—[Gogol, Nikolai Vasilievich](#)



665. **impiety**

---

unrighteousness by virtue of lacking respect for a god

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That, however, is unbelief, extreme **impiety**, and a denial of the most high God.*

—[Bente, F. \(Friedrich\)](#)



666. **decadence**

---

the state of being degenerate in mental or moral qualities

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*But there are people who really do not want to import what they regard as Western **decadence**, especially public drunkenness.*

—[BBC \(Jun 11, 2011\)](#)



---

667. **homily**

---

a sermon on a moral or religious topic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In his New Year's **homily**, the pope said "words were not enough" to bring about peace, particularly in the Middle East.*

—[Reuters \(Jan 2, 2011\)](#)



---

668. **avocation**

---

an auxiliary activity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Unlike many retired doctors, whom he says often have no life outside their profession, he always knew sailing would become his **avocation**.*

—[Newsweek \(Nov 17, 2010\)](#)



669. **circumvent**

---

avoid or try to avoid fulfilling, answering, or performing (duties, questions, or issues)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Bloomberg said he would take several steps to **circumvent** obstacles to his proposals posed by city labor unions.*  
—[New York Times \(Jan 12, 2012\)](#)



---

670. **syllogism**

---

deductive reasoning in which a conclusion is derived from two premises

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The conclusions arrived at by means of **syllogisms** are irresistible, provided the form be correct and the premises be true.*  
—[Webster, W. F. \(William Franklin\)](#)



---

671. **collation**

---

assembling in proper numerical or logical sequence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*In the case of early printed books or manuscripts, which are often not paged, special knowledge is needed for their **collation**.*

—[Rooke, Noel](#)



---

672. **haggle**

---

wrangle (over a price, terms of an agreement, etc.)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Obama said while officials can **haggle** over the makeup of spending cuts, the policy issues have no place in the measure.*

—[BusinessWeek \(Apr 6, 2011\)](#)



---

673. **waylay**

---

wait in hiding to attack

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.](#)



674. **savant**

---

someone who has been admitted to membership in a scholarly field

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Frank had studied something of almost everything and imagined himself a **savant**.*  
—[Roussel, John](#)



---

675. **cohort**

---

a group of people having approximately the same age

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The current **cohort** of college students is, as many have pointed out, the first truly digital generation.*  
—[Washington Post \(Dec 1, 2011\)](#)



---

676. **unction**

---

excessive but superficial compliments given with affected charm

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

"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. \(George Washington\)](#)



---

677. **adjure**

---

command solemnly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"I **adjure** thee," she said, "swear to me that you will never go near those Christians again or read their books."

—[Pennell, T. L. \(Theodore Leighton\)](#)



---

678. **acrimony**

---

a rough and bitter manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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.

—[BBC \(Feb 10, 2011\)](#)



679. **clarion**

---

loud and clear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"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 \(Jun 27, 2011\)\*](#)



680. **turbid**

---

(of liquids) clouded as with sediment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The thick **turbid** sea rolled in, casting up mire and dirt from its depths.*

—[\*Reynolds, Mrs. Baillie\*](#)



681. **cupidity**

---

extreme greed for material wealth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Well educated, but very corrupt at heart, he found in his insatiable **cupidity** many ways of gaining money.

—[Kraszewski, Jozef Ignacy](#)



---

682.     **disaffected**

---

discontented as toward authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The financial crisis, largely caused by banker incompetence, has created legions of **disaffected** customers.*

—[Forbes \(Sep 15, 2011\)](#)



---

683.     **preternatural**

---

surpassing the ordinary or normal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In fact, they regarded the Spaniards as superior beings endowed with **preternatural** gifts.*

—[Gilson, Jewett Castello](#)





684. **eschew**

---

avoid and stay away from deliberately; stay clear of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Morrissey is among those seniors who are **eschewing** nursing homes in favor of independent living.*

—[\*Washington Post\* \(Mar 23, 2012\)](#)



---

685. **expatiate**

---

add details, as to an account or idea; clarify the meaning of and discourse in a learned way, usually in writing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He then **expatiated** on his own miseries, which he detailed at full length.*

—[\*Manzoni, Alessandro\*](#)



---

686. **didactic**

---

instructive (especially excessively)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Let us have a book so full of good illustrations that **didactic** instruction shall not be needed.

—[Various](#)



---

687. **sinuous**

---

curved or curving in and out

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In origami parlance, Mr. Joisel was a wet-folder, dampening his paper so that he could coax it into **sinuous** curves.*

—[New York Times \(Oct 20, 2010\)](#)



---

688. **rancor**

---

a feeling of deep and bitter anger and ill-will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Aug 14, 2011\)](#)



689. **puissant**

---

powerful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The ship was not fighting now, but yielding—a complacent leviathan held captive by a most **puissant** and ruthless enemy.*

—[\*Tracy, Louis\*](#)



---

690. **homespun**

---

characteristic of country life

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His rural, **homespun** demeanor ordinarily might elicit snickers from India's urban elite.*

—[\*New York Times \(Aug 18, 2011\)\*](#)



---

691. **embroil**

---

force into some kind of situation, condition, or course of action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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 \(Apr 1, 2012\)](#)



---

692. **pathological**

---

caused by or evidencing a mentally disturbed condition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Fixated individuals" — mentally ill people with a **pathological** focus on someone, often a stranger — make up the first group.*

—[Time \(Apr 26, 2011\)](#)



---

693. **resonant**

---

characterized by resonance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His eyes were piercing but sad, his voice grand and **resonant**, suiting well the wrathful, impassioned Calvinism of his sermons.*

—[Barr, Amelia Edith Huddleston](#)



694. **libretto**

---

the words of an opera or musical play

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In many great operas, composers have had to whittle down an epic literary work into a suitable **libretto**.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Mar 6, 2010\)](#)



---

695. **flail**

---

move like a flail; thresh about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Exercise is prescribed, but when she joins an aqua aerobics class, she **flails** embarrassingly.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Apr 12, 2012\)](#)



---

696. **bandy**

---

discuss lightly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Hillary Clinton's name has been **banded** about, but she's made it clear she's not interested.

—[Time \(Mar 20, 2012\)](#)



---

697. **gratis**

---

costing nothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"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](#)



---

698. **upshot**

---

a phenomenon that follows and is caused by some previous phenomenon

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The inevitable **upshot** of their growing social power was that brands wanted an expanded visual presence.

—[The Guardian \(Jul 27, 2010\)](#)



699. **aphorism**

---

a short pithy instructive saying

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*General Sherman's famous **aphorism** that "War is Hell," has become classic.*  
—[Fletcher, Samuel H.](#)



700. **redoubtable**

---

worthy of respect or honor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Captain Miles Standish was a **redoubtable** soldier, small in person, but of great activity and courage.*  
—[Mann, Henry](#)



701. **corpulent**

---

excessively fat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Obesity is very common, but chiefly among the women, who while still quite young often become enormously **corpulent**.*

—[D'Anvers, N.](#)



---

702. **benighted**

---

lacking enlightenment or knowledge or culture

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I alone was magnificently and absurdly aware—everyone else was **benightedly** out of it.*

—[James, Henry](#)



---

703. **sententious**

---

abounding in or given to pompous or aphoristic moralizing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He is the village wise man; very **sententious**; and full of profound remarks on shallow subjects.*

—[Irving, Washington](#)





704. **cabal**

---

a clique (often secret) that seeks power usually through intrigue

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Supposedly, see, there's this global **cabal** of scientists conspiring to bring about socialist one-world government.*

—[Salon \(Jul 7, 2010\)](#)



705. **paraphernalia**

---

equipment consisting of miscellaneous articles needed for a particular operation or sport etc.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It's outfitted with cricket bats and other antique sports **paraphernalia**.*

—[Seattle Times \(Sep 27, 2011\)](#)



706. **vitiate**

---

make imperfect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*His talent in writing is **vitiating** by his affectation and other faults.*  
—[Blair, Emma Helen](#)



---

707. **adulation**

---

servile flattery; exaggerated and hypocritical praise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And celebrities get all this **adulation** for something that is not about character, it's about talent.*  
—[Salon \(Jan 10, 2011\)](#)



---

708. **quaff**

---

to swallow hurriedly or greedily or in one draught

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Meanwhile the officers under the tree had got served, and, cups in hand, were **quaffing** joyously.*  
—[Reid, Mayne](#)



709. **unassuming**

---

not arrogant or presuming

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Parr's conduct after his most heroic actions was thoroughly modest and **unassuming**.*  
—[Greely, Adolphus W.](#)



---

710. **libertine**

---

a dissolute person; usually a man who is morally unrestrained

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(May 8, 2010\)](#)



---

711. **maul**

---

injure badly by beating

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Hundreds of concert goers were **mauled** as they left by what The New York Times called “bands of roving youths.”

—[New York Times \(Aug 17, 2011\)](#)



---

712. **adage**

---

a condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

So he focuses on the fans and embraces the **adage**, “Living well is the best revenge.”

—[New York Times \(Mar 25, 2011\)](#)



---

713. **expostulation**

---

the act of expressing earnest opposition or protest

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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. \(Ernst Theodor Amadeus\)](#)



714. **tawdry**

---

tastelessly showy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was a **tawdry** affair, all Cupids and cornucopias, like a third-rate wedding cake.*  
—[Wilde, Oscar](#)



---

715. **trite**

---

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The subject—a deathbed scene—might seem at first sight to be a **trite** and common one.*  
—[Lancey, Magdalene de](#)



---

716. **hireling**

---

a person who works only for money

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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.](#)



---

717.     **ensconce**

---

fix firmly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Oct 30, 2011\)](#)



---

718.     **egregious**

---

conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“These offenses are very serious, even **egregious**,” the judge said.*

—[Washington Post \(Sep 12, 2011\)](#)



719. **cogent**

---

powerfully persuasive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(John Lyle\)](#)

✓

---

720. **incisive**

---

having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A half-hour of informed and **incisive** questioning by Mr. Russert would have demolished Mr. Trump.*

—[New York Times \(May 1, 2011\)](#)

✓

---

721. **errant**

---

straying from the right course or from accepted standards

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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 \(Feb 28, 2012\)](#)



---

722. **sedulous**

---

marked by care and persistent effort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

**Sedulous** attention and painstaking industry always mark the true worker.

—[Calhoun, Major A.R.](#)



---

723. **incandescent**

---

characterized by ardent emotion or intensity or brilliance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Kirkwood's anger cooled apace; at worst it had been a flare of passion—**incandescent**.*

—[Vance, Louis Joseph](#)



---

724. **derelict**

---



in deplorable condition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Others are clustered under a tin awning by a **derelict** railway station or in similarly run-down school buildings.*  
—[Time \(Jan 5, 2011\)](#)



725. **entomology**

the branch of zoology that studies insects

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From the department of **entomology** you expect to learn something about the troublesome insects, which are so universal an annoyance.*  
—[Latham, A. W.](#)



726. **execrable**

unequivocally detestable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

727. **sluice**

---

**pour as if from a sluice**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*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\* \(Aug 31, 2011\)](#)



---

728. **moot**

---

**of no legal significance (as having been previously decided)**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*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\* \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)



---

729. **evanescent**

---

**tending to vanish like vapor**

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Time seems stopped but it is moving on, and every glimmer of light is **evanescent**, flitting.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Apr 15, 2010\)\*](#)



---

730. **vat**

---

a large open vessel for holding or storing liquids

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The cream remains in the large **vat** about twenty-four hours before it is churned.*

—[\*Chamberlain, James Franklin\*](#)



---

731. **dapper**

---

marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jan 22, 2011\)\*](#)



732. **asperity**

---

harshness of manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



733. **flair**

---

a natural talent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In fact, while Lamarr qualified as an inventive genius for her artistic **flair**, she fell somewhat short on her scientific acumen.*

—[Slate \(Nov 28, 2011\)](#)



734. **mote**

---

(nontechnical usage) a tiny piece of anything

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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](#)



---

735. **circumspect**

---

heedful of potential consequences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Obama administration officials argue that new regulations are forcing insurers to be more **circumspect** about raising rates.*

—[New York Times \(Sep 27, 2011\)](#)



---

736. **inimical**

---

not friendly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



737. **apropos**

---

of an appropriate or pertinent nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I found myself thinking vaguely about things that were not at all **apropos** to the situation.*

—[Stockley, Cynthia](#)



738. **gruel**

---

a thin porridge (usually oatmeal or cornmeal)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(William Andrus\)](#)



739. **gentility**

---

elegance by virtue of fineness of manner and expression

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*This was no rough bully of the seas; Carew's bearing and dandified apparel bespoke **gentility**.*

—[Springer, Norman](#)



---

740. **disapprobation**

---

an expression of strong disapproval; pronouncing as wrong or morally culpable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr Ruthven shook his head and declared that he regarded the conduct of her persecutors with grave moral **disapprobation**.*

—[Wheeler, E.J.](#)



---

741. **cameo**

---

engraving or carving in low relief on a stone (as in a brooch or ring)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



742. **gouge**

---

obtain by coercion or intimidation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jan 20, 2012\)](#)



---

743. **oratorio**

---

a musical composition for voices and orchestra based on a religious text

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

744. **inclement**

---

(of weather or climate) severe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



Be prepared for **inclement** weather and possible ice and snow on park roads.  
—[Seattle Times \(Oct 16, 2011\)](#)



---

745. **scintilla**

---

a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Gardner "never expressed one **scintilla** of remorse for his attack upon the victim" despite overwhelming evidence, prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memo.  
—[Salon \(Mar 3, 2010\)](#)



---

746. **confluence**

---

a flowing together

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And indeed, before the 13th century, there was an extraordinary **confluence** of genius and innovation, particularly around Baghdad.  
—[New York Times \(Dec 28, 2010\)](#)



747. **squalor**

---

**sordid dirtiness**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(Henry Martyn\)](#)



---

748. **stricture**

---

**severe criticism**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While gratefully accepting the generous praises of our friends, we must briefly reply to some **strictures** by our critics.*

—[Stanton, Elizabeth Cady](#)



---

749. **emblazon**

---

**decorate with heraldic arms**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

His coat of arms was **emblazoned** on the cover.

—[Mason, A. E. W. \(Alfred Edward Woodley\)](#)



---

750. **augury**

---

an event that is experienced as indicating important things to come

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This is always an encouraging sign, and an **augury** of success.*

—[Alger, Horatio](#)



---

751. **abut**

---

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It depicts a mountain landscape near Kingston, a historic town **abutting** the Hudson River.*

—[New York Times \(Jan 8, 2010\)](#)



---

752. **banal**

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Highly dramatic incidents are juxtaposed with comparatively **banal** ones; particular attention is given to tales of doomed love affairs.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Dec 4, 2011\)](#)



---

753. **congeal**

become gelatinous

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



---

754. **pilfer**

make off with belongings of others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many young people scavenge for reusable garbage, living on proceeds from **pilfered** construction material and other recyclables.*

—[\*Seattle Times\* \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)



---

755. **malcontent**

---

a person who is discontented or disgusted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Now, unfortunately, some **malcontents** among the hands here have spread their ideas, and a strike has been called.*

—[Maitland, Robert](#)



---

756. **sublimate**

---

direct energy or urges into useful activities

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They might instead have passionate friendships, or **sublimate** their urges into other pursuits.*

—[New York Times \(Jun 4, 2010\)](#)



---

757. **eugenic**

---

pertaining to or causing improvement in the offspring produced

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

**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 \(Aug 1, 2011\)](#)



---

758. **lineament**

---

the characteristic parts of a person's face: eyes and nose and mouth and chin

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The tears stood in Muriel's eyes, and her face was very pale, but serenity marked every **lineament**.*  
—[Davidson, John](#)



---

759. **firebrand**

---

someone who deliberately foments trouble

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But Hassan is not some teenage **firebrand** hurling rocks; he's a slight, graying scholar committed to peace.*  
—[New York Times \(Jun 9, 2011\)](#)



760. **fiasco**

---

a sudden and violent collapse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Stuttgart protests became a national **fiasco** in late September, when protesters clashed with police wielding batons and water cannons.*  
—[Newsweek \(Dec 14, 2010\)](#)



761. **foolhardy**

---

marked by defiant disregard for danger or consequences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many mistakes—extravagant purchases, **foolhardy** investments—are made in the first months after a windfall.*  
—[Wall Street Journal \(Feb 24, 2012\)](#)



762. **retrench**

---

tighten one's belt; use resources carefully

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*But there was only one way open to me at present—and that was to **retrench** my expenses.*

—[Caine, Hall, Sir](#)



---

763. **ulterior**

---

lying beyond what is openly revealed or avowed (especially being kept in the background or deliberately concealed)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shop window displays may help prettify shopping thoroughfares, but any savvy retailer has the **ulterior** motive of self promotion.*

—[BBC \(Feb 3, 2010\)](#)



---

764. **equable**

---

not varying

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His must have been that calm, **equable** temperament not easily ruffled, which goes with the self-respecting nature.*

—[Hurll, Estelle M. \(Estelle May\)](#)





765. **inured**

---

made tough by habitual exposure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But he had become **inured** to the rush and whirr of missiles, and now paid no heed whatever to them.*

—[\*Mitford, Bertram\*](#)



---

766. **invidious**

---

containing or implying a slight or showing prejudice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"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.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Jun 24, 2010\)\*](#)



---

767. **unmitigated**

---

not diminished or moderated in intensity or severity; sometimes used as an intensifier

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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.](#)



---

768. **concomitant**

---

an event or situation that happens at the same time as or in connection with another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The conclusion must be drawn that every epidemic of bubonic plague is caused by the **concomitant** rat plague.*

—[Scientific American \(Jan 21, 2011\)](#)



---

769. **cozen**

---

cheat or trick

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Dicing-houses, where cheaters meet, and **cozen** young men out of their money.*

—[Various](#)



770. **phlegmatic**

---

showing little emotion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Humanity, when surfeited with emotion, becomes calm, almost **phlegmatic**.*

—[Tracy, Louis](#)



771. **dormer**

---

a gabled extension built out from a sloping roof to accommodate a vertical window

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Apr 14, 2010\)](#)



772. **pontifical**

---

denoting or governed by or relating to a bishop or bishops

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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](#)



---

773. **disport**

---

occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Straightway the glade in which they sat was filled with knights, ladies, maidens, and esquires, who danced and **disported** themselves right joyously.*

—[Spence, Lewis](#)



---

774. **apologist**

---

a person who argues to defend or justify some policy or institution

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tories, and **apologists** for Great Britain, have written much about a justification for this action, but there is no real justification.*

—[Barce, Elmore](#)



775. **abeyance**

---

temporary cessation or suspension

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*My feelings of home-sickness had returned with redoubled strength after being long in **abeyance**.*

—[Boldrewood, Rolf](#)



---

776. **enclave**

---

an enclosed territory that is culturally distinct from the foreign territory that surrounds it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And its suburban schools, rather than being exclusive **enclaves**, include children whose parents can't afford a house in the neighborhood.*

—[Washington Post \(Jan 11, 2011\)](#)



---

777. **improvident**

---

not provident; not providing for the future

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*He was industrious but **improvident**; he made money and he lost it.*  
—[Hubbard, Elbert](#)



---

778. **disquisition**

---

an elaborate analytical or explanatory essay or discussion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*  
—[The Guardian \(Jul 9, 2010\)](#)



---

779. **categorical**

---

not modified or restricted by reservations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"European leaders were united, **categorical** and crystal clear: Gaddafi must go," British Prime Minister David Cameron said.*  
—[Time \(Mar 12, 2011\)](#)



780. **placate**

---

cause to be more favorably inclined; gain the good will of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The East India Company was **placated** by the concession of further exemptions in its favour.*

—[\*Smith, A. D.\*](#)



---

781. **redolent**

---

serving to bring to mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Here, however, are congregated a vast number of curious and interesting objects, while the place is **redolent** of vivid historical associations.*

—[\*Ballou, Maturin Murray\*](#)



---

782. **felicitous**

---

exhibiting an agreeably appropriate manner or style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*The first book is the finest, sparkling with **felicitous** expressions and rising frequently to true poetry.*

—[Dennis, John](#)



---

783. **gusty**

---

blowing in puffs or short intermittent blasts

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Winds could get **gusty**, occasionally blowing at more than 30 miles per hour.*

—[Reuters \(Mar 29, 2011\)](#)



---

784. **natty**

---

marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He wore a checked suit, very **natty**, and was more than usually tall and fine-looking.*

—[Green, Anna Katharine](#)



---

785. **pacifist**

---



opposed to war

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was, furthermore, a real **pacifist**, believing that war is debasing morally and disastrous economically.*

—[Seymour, Charles](#)



786. **buxom**

(of a female body) healthily plump and vigorous

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



787. **heyday**

the period of greatest prosperity or productivity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Playboy's most popular years are well behind it - the magazine enjoyed its **heyday** in the 1970s.*

—[Washington Post \(Jan 10, 2011\)](#)



---

788. **herculean**

---

displaying superhuman strength or power

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



---

789. **burgeon**

---

grow and flourish

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Brooklyn's **burgeoning** dining scene has even developed a following among Manhattan food lovers.*

—[\*Reuters \(Oct 4, 2011\)\*](#)



---

790. **crone**

---

an ugly evil-looking old woman

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The aged **crone** wrinkled her forehead and lifted her grizzled eyebrows, still without looking at him.*

—[Myrick, Frank](#)



---

791. **prognosticate**

---

make a prediction about; tell in advance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How strange it is that our dreams often **prognosticate** coming events!*

—[Huth, Alexander](#)



---

792. **lout**

---

an awkward stupid person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But this question was beyond the poor **lout**'s intelligence; he could only blubber and fend off possible chastisement.*

—[Williams, J. Scott \(John Scott\)](#)



793. **simper**

---

smile affectedly or derisively

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(William Henry\)\*](#)



794. **iniquitous**

---

characterized by iniquity; wicked because it is believed to be a sin

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This was some piece of wickedness concocted by the venomous brain of the **iniquitous** Vicar, more abominable than all his other wickednesses.*

—[\*Trollope, Anthony\*](#)



795. **rile**

---

cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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 \(Mar 25, 2010\)](#)



---

796. **sentient**

---

endowed with feeling and unstructured consciousness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.](#)



---

797. **garish**

---

tastelessly showy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With its opulently **garish** sets and knee-jerk realism, the production dwarfed the cast, no matter what stars were singing.*

—[New York Times \(Jan 2, 2011\)](#)



798. **readjustment**

---

the act of adjusting again (to changed circumstances)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While earpieces are not uncomfortable, they do sometimes come loose, requiring **readjustment**.*

—[Slate \(Apr 17, 2012\)](#)



799. **erstwhile**

---

belonging to some prior time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*

—[Reuters \(May 20, 2010\)](#)



800. **aquiline**

---

curved down like an eagle's beak

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

The nose slightly **aquiline**, curving at the nostril; while luxuriant hair, in broad plaits, fell far below her waist.

—[Various](#)



---

801. **bilious**

---

irritable as if suffering from indigestion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But his sleep had not refreshed him; he waked up **bilious**, irritable, ill-tempered, and looked with hatred at his room.*

—[Garnett, Constance](#)



---

802. **vilify**

---

spread negative information about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The trial was televised and the victim's identity became known, resulting in her being **vilified** by almost the entire town.*

—[The Guardian \(Jan 19, 2011\)](#)



803. **nuance**

---

a subtle difference in meaning or opinion or attitude

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*By working so hard to simplify things, we lose any **nuance** or ability to deal with folks' individual circumstances.*

—[\*Washington Post\* \(Oct 3, 2011\)](#)



---

804. **gawk**

---

look with amazement; look stupidly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He speaks mainly of his humiliation at lying on the sidewalk as hipsters **gawked**.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Apr 9, 2012\)](#)



---

805. **refectory**

---

a communal dining-hall (usually in a monastery)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



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](#)



---

806. **palatial**

---

suitable for or like a palace

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(Frederick Lyman\)](#)



---

807. **mincing**

---

affectedly dainty or refined

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She went, carrying her little head very high indeed, and taking dainty, **mincing** steps.*

—[Banks, Nancy Huston](#)



808. **trenchant**

---

having keenness and forcefulness and penetration in thought, expression, or intellect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



809. **emboss**

---

raise in a relief

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Requests may also be made of the stationer to use an **embossed** plate so that the letters stand out in relief.*  
—[Eichler, Lillian](#)



810. **proletarian**

---

a member of the working class (not necessarily employed)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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](#)



---

811. **careen**

---

pitching dangerously to one side

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I turned the steering wheel all the way to one side, and found myself **careening** backward in a violent arc.*

—[Vogel, Nancy](#)



---

812. **debacle**

---

a sound defeat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Broncos are coming off their worst season in franchise history, a 4-12 **debacle** that included issues on and off the field.*

—[Newsweek \(Jan 9, 2011\)](#)



813. **sycophant**

---

a person who tries to please someone in order to gain a personal advantage

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The people around the king are **sycophants** who are looking after their own personal advantage.*

—[Coffin, Charles Carleton](#)



814. **crabbed**

---

annoyed and irritable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He grew **crabbed** and soured, his temper flashing out on small provocation.*

—[Weyman, Stanley J.](#)



815. **archetype**

---

something that serves as a model or a basis for making copies

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Newport, R.I., looks like a perfect **archetype** of a small, seaside New England town.  
—[Forbes \(Nov 3, 2010\)](#)



---

816. **cryptic**

---

of an obscure nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The authorities, beyond some **cryptic** language about the death being sudden but not suspicious, have released no details.*  
—[New York Times \(Aug 24, 2011\)](#)



---

817. **penchant**

---

a strong liking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But sometimes, old Wall Street habits — including a **penchant** for expensive luxuries — are hard to break.*  
—[New York Times \(Mar 31, 2012\)](#)



818. **bauble**

---

cheap showy jewelry or ornament on clothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)



819. **mountebank**

---

a flamboyant deceiver; one who attracts customers with tricks or jokes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are singularly clever, these Indian **mountebanks**, especially in sleight of hand tricks.*

—[Ballou, Maturin Murray](#)



820. **fawning**

---

attempting to win favor by flattery

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*“As any cult leader, he was extremely good at milking the rich, at flattering and **fawning**,” Ms. Gordon said.*

*—[New York Times \(Apr 16, 2010\)](#)*



---

821. **hummock**

---

a small natural hill

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Captain Bill leaned back on a **hummock** of earth, his arms folded behind his head.*

*—[Grayson, J. J.](#)*



---

822. **apotheosis**

---

model of excellence or perfection of a kind; one having no equal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jan 17, 2012\)](#)*



823. **discretionary**

---

(especially of funds) not earmarked; available for use as needed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Steeper prices for basic necessities have forced many to cut back on more **discretionary** purchases.*

—[\*Washington Post\* \(Oct 19, 2011\)](#)



824. **pithy**

---

concise and full of meaning

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\* \(Dec 10, 2011\)](#)



825. **comport**

---

behave in a certain manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



*Ironically, the one man on stage who did **comport** himself with dignity, John Huntsman, is now being dismissed as having not made an impact.*  
—[Time \(Sep 8, 2011\)](#)



---

826. **checked**

---

marked by changeable fortune

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Both restaurants have **checked** histories with the health department; they were temporarily shut down for sanitary violations that included evidence of rodents.*  
—[New York Times \(Aug 22, 2010\)](#)



---

827. **ambrosia**

---

(classical mythology) the food and drink of the gods; mortals who ate it became immortal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Frieda represents the lovely goddess, Hebe, who served nectar and **ambrosia** to the high gods on Mount Olympus," she explained.*  
—[Vandercook, Margaret](#)



828. **factious**

---

dissenting (especially dissenting with the majority opinion)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



---

829. **disgorge**

---

cause or allow (a solid substance) to flow or run out or over

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There are telephone poles and cinder blocks and living room chairs and large trash bins, overturned and **disgorging** their soggy contents.*

—[\*New York Times \(Oct 28, 2011\)\*](#)



---

830. **filch**

---

make off with belongings of others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Then, in place of the real site, it displays a fake site created to **filch** account numbers, login names and passwords.*

—[\*New York Times \(Jul 13, 2010\)\*](#)



---

831. **wraith**

---

a mental representation of some haunting experience

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Whichever way he turns there loom past **wraiths**, restless as ghosts of unburied Grecian slain.*

—[\*Lee, Carson Jay\*](#)



---

832. **demonstrable**

---

capable of being demonstrated or proved

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The linkage between deposits and trade is definite, causal, positive, statistically **demonstrable**.*

—[\*Anderson, Benjamin M.\*](#)



833. **pertinacious**

---

stubbornly unyielding

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His temper, though yielding and easy in appearance, was in reality most obstinate and **pertinacious**.*

—[Kavanagh, Julia](#)



---

834. **emend**

---

make improvements or corrections to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The following were identified as spelling or typographic errors and have been **emended** as noted.*

—[Hopper, James](#)



---

835. **laggard**

---

someone who takes more time than necessary; someone who lags behind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Corporate data centers are the slowpoke **laggards** of information technology.  
—[New York Times \(Apr 10, 2012\)](#)



---

836. **waffle**

---

pause or hold back in uncertainty or unwillingness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A few days of **waffling** back and forth and I ended up going out to a mediocre bistro with my parents.*  
—[Scientific American \(Feb 8, 2011\)](#)



---

837. **loquacious**

---

full of trivial conversation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Pan soon found it needful to make conversation, in order to keep the **loquacious** old stage driver from talking too much.*  
—[Grey, Zane](#)



838. **venial**

---

easily excused or forgiven

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The confidence of ignorance, however **venial** in youth, is not altogether so excusable, in full grown men.*

—[\*School, A Sexton of the Old\*](#)



---

839. **peon**

---

a laborer who is obliged to do menial work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



---

840. **effulgence**

---

the quality of being bright and sending out rays of light

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Then, all at once, in a way that seemed to frighten her, the sunshine had burst the clouds, and dazzled her with its **effulgence**.*

—[Fenn, George Manville](#)



---

841. **lode**

---

**a deposit of valuable ore occurring within definite boundaries separating it from surrounding rocks**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Such local perturbations are regularly used in Sweden for tracing out the position of underground **lodes** of iron ore.*

—[Gilbert, William](#)

---

842. **fanfare**

---

**a gaudy outward display**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Aug 22, 2010\)](#)



843. **dilettante**

---

showing frivolous or superficial interest; amateurish

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They dabbled in politics and art in the same **dilettante** fashion.*  
—[Cannan, Gilbert](#)



844. **pusillanimous**

---

lacking in courage and manly strength and resolution; contemptibly fearful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



845. **ingrained**

---

(used especially of ideas or principles) deeply rooted; firmly fixed or held

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



*The narrow prejudices of his country were **ingrained** too deeply in his character to be disturbed by any change of surroundings.*

—[Fuller, Robert H.](#)



---

846. **quagmire**

---

a soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(Bertram Lenox\)](#)



---

847. **reprobation**

---

severe disapproval

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



848. **mannered**

---

having unnatural mannerisms

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nothing was **mannered** or pretentious; the texts came through with utter naturalness.*  
—[New York Times \(May 29, 2011\)](#)



849. **squeamish**

---

excessively fastidious and easily disgusted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Aug 6, 2010\)](#)



850. **proclivity**

---

a natural inclination

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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](#)



---

851. **miserly**

---

(used of persons or behavior) characterized by or indicative of lack of generosity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

852. **vapid**

---

lacking significance or liveliness or spirit or zest

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(Alec John\)](#)



853. **mercurial**

---

liable to sudden unpredictable change

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Wind energy is notoriously **mercurial**, with patterns shifting drastically over the course of years, days, even minutes.*

—[\*Scientific American \(Jan 4, 2012\)\*](#)



---

854. **perspicuous**

---

(of language) transparently clear; easily understandable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The statements are plain and simple, a perfect model of **perspicuous** narrative.*

—[\*Smith, Uriah\*](#)



---

855. **nonplus**

---

be a mystery or bewildering to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*I shook my head and rushed from his presence, completely **nonplussed**, bewildered, frantic.*

—[Cole, E. W. \(Edward William\)](#)



---

856. **enamor**

---

attract; cause to be enamored

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jan 9, 2011\)](#)



---

857. **hackneyed**

---

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(Arthur Morrow\)](#)



858. **spate**

---

(often followed by `of') a large number or amount or extent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*French authorities are already reporting a rising **spate** of calls to emergency services by homeowners whose once-frozen water mains have now burst.*

—[\*Time \(Feb 13, 2012\)\*](#)



859. **pedagogue**

---

someone who educates young people

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His old **pedagogue**, Mr. Brownell, had been unable to teach him mathematics.*

—[\*Pierce, H. Winthrop\*](#)



860. **acme**

---

the highest level or degree attainable; the highest stage of development

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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.](#)



---

861. **masticate**

---

chew (food); to bite and grind with the teeth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Food should be **masticated** quietly, and with the lips closed.*

—[Cooke, Maud C.](#)



---

862. **sinecure**

---

an office that involves minimal duties

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



863. **indite**

---

produce a literary work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She **indited** religious poems which were the admiration of the age.*  
—[Brittain, Alfred](#)



864. **emetic**

---

a medicine that induces nausea and vomiting

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



865. **temporize**

---

draw out a discussion or process in order to gain time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



So he **temporized** and beat about the bush, and did not touch first on that which was nearest his heart.

—[Erskine, Payne](#)



---

866. **unimpeachable**

beyond doubt or reproach

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Whether we agree with the conclusions of these writers or not, the method of critical investigation which they adopt is **unimpeachable**.*

—[Huxley, Thomas H.](#)



---

867. **genesis**

a coming into being

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He found himself speculating on the **genesis** of the moral sense, how it developed in difficulties rather than in ease.*

—[Miller, Alice Duer](#)



868. **mordant**

---

harshly ironic or sinister

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Even Morgan himself, intrepid as he was, shrank from the awful menace of the **mordant** words.*

—[Crawford, Will](#)



---

869. **smattering**

---

a small number or amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Only a **smattering** of fans remained for all four ghastly quarters.*

—[Washington Post \(Sep 24, 2011\)](#)



---

870. **suavity**

---

the quality of being bland and gracious or ingratiating in manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*His combativeness was harnessed to his **suavity**, and he could be forcible and at the same time persuasive.*

—[\*Windsor, William\*](#)



---

871. **stentorian**

---

used of the voice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If a hundred voices shouted in opposition, his **stentorian** tones still made themselves heard above the uproar.*

—[\*J?kai, M?r\*](#)



---

872. **junket**

---

a trip taken by an official at public expense

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Abramoff arranged for **junkets**, including foreign golfing destinations, for the members of Congress he was trying to influence.*

—[\*New York Times \(Feb 26, 2010\)\*](#)



873. **appurtenance**

---

a supplementary component that improves capability

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the center of this space stood a large frame building whose courtyard, stables, and other **appurtenances** proclaimed it an inn.*

—[\*Madison, Lucy Foster\*](#)



---

874. **nostrum**

---

patent medicine whose efficacy is questionable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



---

875. **immure**

---

lock up or confine, in or as in a jail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*Political prisoners, numbering as many as three or four hundred at a time, have been **immured** within its massive walls.*

—[Boyd, Mary Stuart](#)



---

876. **astringent**

---

sour or bitter in taste

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There was something sharply **astringent** about her then, like biting inadvertently into a green banana.*

—[McFee, William](#)



---

877. **unfaltering**

---

marked by firm determination or resolution; not shakable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Still **unfaltering**, the procession commenced to trudge back, the littlest boy and girl bearing themselves bravely, with lips tight pressed.*

—[Sabin, Edwin L. \(Edwin Legrand\)](#)



878. **tutelage**

---

attention and management implying responsibility for safety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jan 23, 2011\)\*](#)



---

879. **testator**

---

a person who makes a will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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. \(George Alfred\)\*](#)



---

880. **elysian**

---

being of such surpassing excellence as to suggest inspiration by the gods

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Life seemed an **elysian** dream, from which care and sorrow must be for ever banished.  
—[Hentz, Caroline Lee](#)



---

881. **fulminate**

---

criticize severely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But with people looking for almost any excuse to **fulminate** against airlines these days, there's a certain risk of embellishment.*  
—[Salon \(Jun 25, 2010\)](#)



---

882. **fractious**

---

easily irritated or annoyed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was a **fractious** invalid, and spared his wife neither time nor trouble in attending to his wants.*  
—[Brazil, Angela](#)



883. **pummel**

---

strike, usually with the fist

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Another, with rubber bands wrapped tightly around his face, is **pummelled** by a plastic boxing kangaroo.*

—[\*The Guardian\* \(Jan 22, 2011\)](#)



884. **manumit**

---

free from slavery or servitude

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Moreover, **manumitted** slaves enjoyed the same rights, privileges and immunities that were enjoyed by those born free.*

—[\*Various\*](#)



885. **unexceptionable**

---

completely acceptable; not open to exception or reproach

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



*All cowboys are from necessity good cooks, and the fluffy, golden brown biscuits and fragrant coffee of Red's making were **unexceptionable**.*

—[Mayer, Frank](#)



---

886. **triumvirate**

---

a group of three men responsible for public administration or civil authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*

—[Salon \(Jan 20, 2011\)](#)



---

887. **sybarite**

---

a person addicted to luxury and pleasures of the senses

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was not used to travelling on omnibuses, being something of a **sybarite** who spared nothing to ensure his own comfort.*

—[Wallace, Edgar](#)



888. **jibe**

---

**be compatible, similar or consistent; coincide in their characteristics**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*Contemporary art has never quite **jibed** with mainstream media.*  
—[Salon \(Jul 6, 2010\)](#)



---

889. **magisterial**

---

**offensively self-assured or given to exercising usually unwarranted power**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*"Now look here," he said, making believe to take down my words and shaking his pencil at me in **amagisterial** way.*  
—[Fenn, George Manville](#)



---

890. **roseate**

---

**of something having a dusty purplish pink color**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

---

*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](#)



---

891. **obloquy**

---

a false accusation of an offense or a malicious misrepresentation of someone's words or actions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This is the real history of a transaction which, by frequent misrepresentation, has brought undeserved **obloquy** upon a generous man.*

—[Purchas, H. T. \(Henry Thomas\)](#)



---

892. **hoodwink**

---

influence by slyness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The stories of the saints he regarded as preposterous fables invented to **hoodwink** a gullible and illiterate populace.*

—[The Guardian \(Sep 19, 2010\)](#)



893. **striate**

---

mark with striae or striations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The body is **striated** with clearly defined, often depressed lines, which run longitudinally and sometimes spirally.*

—[Calkins, Gary N. \(Gary Nathan\)](#)



---

894. **arrogate**

---

seize and take control without authority and possibly with force; take as one's right or possession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Japanese manufacturers were accused of **arrogating** American technologies to churn out low-cost electronics.*

—[New York Times \(May 25, 2010\)](#)



---

895. **rarefied**

---

of high moral or intellectual value; elevated in nature or style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*The debate over climate science has involved very complex physical models and **rarefied** areas of scientific knowledge.*

—[\*New York Times \(Apr 9, 2011\)\*](#)



---

896. **chary**

---

characterized by great caution and wariness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Apr 24, 2011\)\*](#)



---

897. **credo**

---

any system of principles or beliefs

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Jan 21, 2011\)\*](#)



898. **superannuated**

---

too old to be useful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

899. **impolitic**

---

not politic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bill Maher has always been a vocal critic of Islam, even at times making **impolitic** statements about the religion.*

—[Salon \(Mar 16, 2011\)](#)



---

900. **aspersion**

---

a disparaging remark

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

Lord Sanquhar then proceeded to deny the **aspersion** that he was an ill-natured fellow, ever revengeful, and delighting in blood.

—[Thornbury, Walter](#)



---

901. **abysmal**

---

resembling an abyss in depth; so deep as to be unmeasurable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After all, many Americans regard this Congress as dysfunctional, with **abysmal** approval ratings.*

—[New York Times \(Dec 28, 2011\)](#)



---

902. **poignancy**

---

a quality that arouses emotions (especially pity or sorrow)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were curious about the “near loss” experience—specifically the feelings of **poignancy** that occur when what we cherish disappears.*

—[Scientific American \(Jan 17, 2011\)](#)



903. **stilted**

---

artificially formal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\* \(Jul 12, 2011\)](#)



---

904. **effete**

---

marked by excessive self-indulgence and moral decay

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*John Bull was an **effete** old plutocrat whose sons and daughters were given up to sport and amusement.*

—[\*Moffett, Cleveland\*](#)



---

905. **provender**

---

food for domestic livestock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



"Fools!" she cried, looking in her magic crystal, "he was in the big sycamore under which you stopped to give your horses **provender**!"

—[Housman, Laurence](#)



---

906. **endemic**

---

of or relating to a disease (or anything resembling a disease) constantly present to greater or lesser extent in a particular locality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mean-spirited chants and songs are also **endemic** in British soccer.*

—[New York Times \(Jan 27, 2012\)](#)



---

907. **jocund**

---

full of or showing high-spirited merriment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Her **jocund** laugh and merry voice, indeed, first attracted my attention.*

—[Lever, Charles James](#)



908. **procedural**

---

of or relating to procedure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words, the rejection was a bureaucratic/**procedural** decision.*

—[\*Scientific American \(Feb 1, 2012\)\*](#)



909. **rakish**

---

marked by a carefree unconventionality or disreputableness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



910. **skittish**

---

unpredictably excitable (especially of horses)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*That combined with his calm and reassuring tone made me think of an animal trainer trying to wooskittish wild animals.*

—[Time \(May 20, 2011\)](#)



---

911. **peroration**

---

**a flowery and highly rhetorical oration**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*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.](#)



---

912. **nonentity**

---

**a person of no influence**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*Was he such a **nonentity** in every way that she could remain unconcerned as to any fear of danger from him?*

—[Woolson, Constance Fenimore](#)



913. **abstemious**

---

marked by temperance in indulgence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Raw, boozy, untethered performances are heralded as real; the **abstemious** professional is yawned off the stage.*

—[\*Salon \(Jul 25, 2011\)\*](#)



914. **viscid**

---

having the sticky properties of an adhesive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Roads were quagmires where travellers slipped and laboured through **viscid** mud and over icy fords.*

—[\*Buck, Charles Neville\*](#)



915. **doggerel**

---

a comic verse of irregular measure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

He sang, with accompanying action, some dozen verses of **doggerel**, remarkable for obscenity and imbecility.

—[Ritchie, J. Ewing \(James Ewing\)](#)



---

916. **sleight**

---

adroitness in using the hands

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The trick was performed Tuesday by Russell Fitzgerald, an amateur magician known to open meetings with a little **sleight** of hand.*

—[Washington Post \(Sep 29, 2011\)](#)



---

917. **rubric**

---

category name

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Nov 22, 2010\)](#)



918. **plenitude**

---

a full supply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Of course at that season, amid the **plenitude** of seeds, nuts, and berries, they were as plump as partridges.*

—[Reid, Mayne](#)



---

919. **rebus**

---

a puzzle where you decode a message consisting of pictures representing syllables and words

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They wrote at times with pictures standing for sounds, as we now write in **rebus** puzzles.*

—[Park, Robert Ezra](#)



---

920. **wizened**

---

lean and wrinkled by shrinkage as from age or illness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

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 \(Mar 26, 2010\)](#)



---

921. **whorl**

---

a round shape formed by a series of concentric circles (as formed by leaves or flower petals)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The flowers are waxy, tubular, fragrant, turning their yellow petals backward in a **whorl**.*  
—[Rogers, Julia Ellen](#)



---

922. **fracas**

---

noisy quarrel

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Other cops were battling each other, going after the kids and clutching empty air, cursing and screaming unheard orders in the **fracas**.*  
—[Freas, Kelly](#)



923. **iconoclast**

---

someone who attacks cherished ideas or traditional institutions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jobs is a classic **iconoclast**, one who aggressively seeks out, attacks, and overthrows conventional ideas.*

—[\*BusinessWeek\* \(Oct 12, 2010\)](#)



924. **saturnine**

---

bitter or scornful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Only when Bill Lightfoot spoke did he look up, and then with a set sneer, growing daily more **saturnine**.*

—[\*Dixon, Maynard\*](#)



925. **madrigal**

---

an unaccompanied partsong for 2 or 3 voices; follows a strict poetic form

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---



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. \(William James\)](#)



---

926. **discursive**

---

(of e.g. speech and writing) tending to depart from the main point or cover a wide range of subjects

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Tabloid," like his previous films, consists largely of long, **discursive** conversations — in effect monologues directed at an unseen, mostly unheard interlocutor.*

—[New York Times \(Jul 22, 2011\)](#)



---

927. **zealot**

---

a fervent and even militant proponent of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"The public is going to just think of us as these **zealots** who want to ban smoking everywhere," he said.*

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 20, 2011\)](#)



928. **moribund**

---

not growing or changing; without force or vitality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The entertainment sector there is booming, while Pakistan's is **moribund**.*  
—[Seattle Times \(Dec 3, 2011\)](#)



929. **modicum**

---

a small or moderate or token amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He volunteered a **modicum** of advice, limited in quantity, but valuable.*  
—[Bolderwood, Rolf](#)



930. **connotation**

---

an idea that is implied or suggested

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)

---



---

931. **adventitious**

---

associated by chance and not an integral part

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The derivation of the word thus appears to be merely accidental and **adventitious**.*  
—[Stace, W. T. \(Walter Terence\)](#)



---

932. **recondite**

---

difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The mystery of verse is like other abstruse and **recondite** mysteries—it strikes the ordinary fleshly man as absurd.*  
—[Gosse, Edmund](#)



---

933. **zephyr**

---

a slight wind (usually refreshing)

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The dwellings and public buildings throughout Cuba are planned to give free passage to every **zephyr** that wafts relief from the oppressive heat.*

—[\*Various\*](#)



---

934. **countermand**

cancel officially

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the midst of executing this order, he got another order **countermanding** it, and proceeding directly from his direct superior.*

—[\*Belloc, Hilaire\*](#)



---

935. **captious**

tending to find and call attention to faults

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\*](#)



936. **cognate**

---

having the same ancestral language

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

937. **forebear**

---

a person from whom you are descended

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Sep 24, 2010\)](#)



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938. **cadaverous**

---

very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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](#)



---

939. **foist**

---

to force onto another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Knoll added that the 3-D “Star Wars” movies are not “going to be **foisted** on anybody against their will.”*

—[New York Times \(Sep 29, 2010\)](#)



---

940. **dotage**

---

mental infirmity as a consequence of old age; sometimes shown by foolish infatuations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He is, as you say, a senile old man in his **dotage**.*

—[Wilcox, Ella Wheeler](#)



941. **nexus**

---

a connected series or group

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Numerous innovators are also worrying away at this **nexus** of problems.*  
—[Economist \(Apr 28, 2011\)](#)



942. **choleric**

---

characterized by anger

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jonathan, **choleric** with indignation, stood by his desk, clenching his hands.*  
—[Mills, Weymer Jay](#)



943. **garble**

---

make false by mutilation or addition; as of a message or story

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the fact remains that the contradictory and inconsistent things said do reach the public, and usually in **garbled** and distorted form.*  
—[Unknown](#)

---



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944. **bucolic**

---

(used with regard to idealized country life) idyllically rustic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Mar 26, 2012\)](#)



---

945. **denouement**

---

the outcome of a complex sequence of events

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Suppose the truly apocalyptic **denouement** happens -- no deal is reached, and taxes rise for everyone.*  
—[Salon \(Nov 30, 2010\)](#)



---

946. **animus**

---

a feeling of ill will arousing active hostility

---



EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The youthful savages had each an armful of snowballs, and they were pelting the child with more **animus** than seemed befitting.*

—[Murray, David Christie](#)



---

947. **overweening**

---

unrestrained, especially with regard to feelings

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He had **overweening** ambitions even then, along with a highly developed sense of his own importance.*

—[New York Times \(Apr 19, 2010\)](#)



---

948. **tyro**

---

someone new to a field or activity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As yet he was merely a **tyro**, gaining practical experience under a veteran Zeppelin commander.*

—[Westerman, Percy F. \(Percy Francis\)](#)



949. **preen**

---

dress or groom with elaborate care

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He **preened** on fight nights in a tuxedo, a bow tie and no shirt, and he favored showy rings and bracelets.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Jul 24, 2011\)](#)

✓

---

950. **largesse**

---

liberality in bestowing gifts; extremely liberal and generous of spirit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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\* \(Jul 14, 2011\)](#)

✓

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951. **retentive**

---

good at remembering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*The child was very sharp, and her memory was extremely **retentive**.*  
—[Rowlands, Effie Adelaide](#)



---

952.     **unconscionable**

---

greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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 \(Nov 4, 2011\)](#)



---

953.     **badinage**

---

frivolous banter

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was preposterous to talk to her of serious things, and nothing but an airy **badinage** seemed possible in her company.*  
—[Maugham, W. Somerset \(William Somerset\)](#)



954. **insensate**

---

devoid of feeling and consciousness and animation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

955. **sherbet**

---

a frozen dessert made primarily of fruit juice and sugar, but also containing milk or egg-white or gelatin

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"One person said it looks like a big lime **sherbet** ice cream cone!"*

—[Southern Living \(Apr 28, 2010\)](#)



---

956. **beatific**

---

marked by utter benignity; resembling or befitting an angel or saint

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

She dozed at last, her face serene and **beatific**.

—[Beach, Rex Ellingwood](#)



---

957. **bemuse**

---

cause to be confused emotionally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*

—[Time \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)



---

958. **microcosm**

---

a miniature model of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The building, he said, is "a **microcosm** of what Shanghai was all about."*

—[Wall Street Journal \(Apr 30, 2010\)](#)



---

959. **factitious**

not produced by natural forces

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



960. **gestate**

have the idea for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Lucas's most recent project, still **gestating**, is a collaboration with Cuban musicians.*

—[New York Times \(May 9, 2011\)](#)



961. **traduce**

speak unfavorably about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For Grover Cleveland there were no longer enemies to **traduce** and vilify.*

—[Straus, Oscar S.](#)



962. **sextant**

---

a measuring instrument for measuring the angular distance between celestial objects; resembles an octant

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For example, a **sextant** could be used to sight the sun at high noon in order to determine one's latitude.*

—[\*Scientific American\* \(Mar 8, 2012\)](#)



963. **coiffure**

---

the arrangement of the hair (especially a woman's hair)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They sat down, and Saint-Clair noticed his friend's **coiffure**; a single rose was in her hair.*

—[\*M?rim?e, Prosper\*](#)



964. **malleable**

---

easily influenced

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*"The Americans are seen as naïve **malleable** tools in the hands of the Brits."*  
—[New York Times \(Nov 30, 2011\)](#)



965. **rococo**

having excessive asymmetrical ornamentation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The upper part of the case is decorated with elaborately carved and gilt **rococo** motifs.*  
—[Bedini, Silvio A.](#)



966. **fructify**

become productive or fruitful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thence they grow, expand, **fructify**, and the result is Progress.*  
—[Stanton, Elizabeth Cady](#)



967. **nihilist**



someone who rejects all theories of morality or religious belief

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"He's a loner **nihilist** who believes in nothing," Mr. Lu said.*

—[\*New York Times\* \(Nov 6, 2011\)](#)



---

968. **ellipsis**

---

omission or suppression of parts of words or sentences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He speaks in **ellipses**, often leaving sentences hanging, and fiddles apologetically with his BlackBerry.*

—[\*The Guardian\* \(Jun 28, 2010\)](#)



---

969. **accolade**

---

a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Nobel Prize, considered one of the highest **accolades** in literature, is given only to living writers.*

—[\*Seattle Times\* \(Oct 6, 2011\)](#)



970. **codicil**

---

a supplement to a will; a testamentary instrument intended to alter an already executed will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **codicil** to her will, which she had spoken of with so much composure, left three hundred pounds to Stella and me.*

—[\*Fothergill, Jessie\*](#)



---

971. **roil**

---

be agitated

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Like thousands of fellow students, he was **roiled** with emotions, struggling to come to grips with an inescapable reality.*

—[\*New York Times \(Nov 26, 2011\)\*](#)



---

972. **grandiloquent**

---

lofty in style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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.](#)



---

973. **inconsequential**

---

lacking worth or importance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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.*

—[Wall Street Journal \(Nov 11, 2011\)](#)



---

974. **effervescence**

---

the property of giving off bubbles

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



975. **stultify**

---

deprive of strength or efficiency; make useless or worthless

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Far from being engines of economic growth, Egypt's leading cities are **stultified**.*  
—[Inc \(Feb 12, 2011\)](#)



976. **tureen**

---

large deep serving dish with a cover; for serving soups and stews

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Soups are presented in big **tureens** and can be quite good.*  
—[New York Times \(Apr 13, 2012\)](#)



977. **pellucid**

---

(of language) transparently clear; easily understandable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Caribou Island is a scant 300 pages, and written in prose as **pellucid** as the rivers he used to fish as a boy.*  
—[The Guardian \(Jan 1, 2011\)](#)

---



---

978. **euphony**

---

any agreeable (pleasing and harmonious) sounds

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It depends somewhat on usage and on **euphony** or agreeableness of sound.*  
—[Hamilton, Frederick W. \(Frederick William\)](#)



---

979. **apocryphal**

---

being of questionable authenticity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We're reminded of the story, possibly **apocryphal**, that they used to play the Beach Boys' Smiley Smile in psychiatric wards to calm patients.*  
—[The Guardian \(Jan 20, 2011\)](#)



---

980. **veracious**

---

precisely accurate

---

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

981. **pendulous**

---

having branches or flower heads that bend downward

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

982. **exegesis**

---

an explanation or critical interpretation (especially of the Bible)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Its musical significance has been presented with illuminating **exegesis** by more than one commentator.*

—[Forkel, Johann Nikolaus](#)



983. **effluvium**

---

a foul-smelling outflow or vapor (especially a gaseous waste)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*However, acting on my best judgment, I struck a downward course, and then suddenly a horrible **effluvium** was wafted to my nostrils.*

—[Mitford, Bertram](#)



984. **apposite**

---

being of striking appropriateness and pertinence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was quite capable of meaningful, **apposite** phrases about the game, even though distant sports editors did not encourage them enough.*

—[The Guardian \(Aug 18, 2010\)](#)



985. **viscous**

---

having the sticky properties of an adhesive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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](#)



---

986. **misanthrope**

---

someone who dislikes people in general

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



---

987. **vintner**

---

someone who makes wine

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The question remains, he said, whether established **vintners** will change their winemaking practices or “continue to sell their schlock.”*

—[New York Times \(Oct 27, 2010\)](#)





988. **halcyon**

---

idyllically calm and peaceful; suggesting happy tranquillity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He now seemed to have entered on a **halcyon** period of life—congenial society, romantic and interesting surroundings.*

—[\*Kennard, Nina H.\*](#)



---

989. **anthropomorphic**

---

suggesting human characteristics for animals or inanimate things

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The same **anthropomorphic** fallacy that accords human attributes to giant corporations like BP distorts clear thinking about how to limit their political influence.*

—[\*Salon \(Jul 28, 2010\)\*](#)



---

990. **turgid**

---

ostentatiously lofty in style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*His waspish wit can make him entertaining company at a party, but there is little evidence of that in his largely **turgid** prose.*

—[\*The Guardian \(Jul 17, 2010\)\*](#)



---

991.     **malaise**

---

physical discomfort (as mild sickness or depression)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Initially, many doctors discounted sufferers' feelings of generalized **malaise** as nothing more than stress or normal fatigue.*

—[\*Time \(Dec 22, 2011\)\*](#)



---

992.     **polemical**

---

of or involving dispute or controversy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His works include several dogmatic and **polemical** treatises, but the most important are the historical.*

—[\*Various\*](#)



993. **gadfly**

---

a persistently annoying person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Phelps is regarded here as the ultimate example of an irritating local **gadfly**.*  
—[New York Times \(Oct 9, 2010\)](#)



994. **atavism**

---

a reappearance of an earlier characteristic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Criminal **atavism** might be defined as the sporadic reversion to savagery in certain individuals.*  
—[Symonds, John Addington](#)



995. **contusion**

---

an injury that doesn't break the skin but results in some discoloration

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*My falling companion, being a much stouter man than myself did not fare so well, as his right shoulder received a severe **contusion**.*

—[Bevan, A. Beckford](#)



---

996. **parsimonious**

---

**excessively unwilling to spend**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*Pill-splitting is catching on among **parsimonious** prescription-takers who want to lower costs.*

—[Forbes \(Mar 4, 2010\)](#)



---

997. **dulcet**

---

**pleasing to the ear**

**EXAMPLE SENTENCE:**

*Ever and anon the **dulcet** murmur of gurgling streams broke gently on the ear.*

—[Madison, Lucy Foster](#)



998. **reprise**

---

repeat an earlier theme of a composition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The live set **reprises** material from this remarkable group's earlier Aurora CD.*  
—[The Guardian \(Jan 6, 2011\)](#)



999. **anodyne**

---

capable of relieving pain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*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](#)



1000. **bemused**

---

perplexed by many conflicting situations or statements; filled with bewilderment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

---

*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.*  
—[Time \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)

---