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## E X A M

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Khong Huy

1/2005

# Chapter 2

## GRE SENTENCE COMPLETION

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

The directions for this section look like this:

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

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

### THE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS

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

#### Every Clue Is Right in Front of You

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

What are the important clues in the following question?

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

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

### Look for What's Directly Implied and Expect Cliches

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Look for "Structural Road Signs"

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

### Straight-Ahead Road Signs

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

### Detour Road Signs

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

## Watch Out for Common Wrong-Answer Types

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

### Half-Right/Half-Wrong

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

### Au Contraire

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

### Clunkers

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

#### **FILL IN THE BLANK**

*When working through a sentence completion question:*

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

### Drill

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

1. The singer's lyrics were quite lovely, but her vocal tone was extremely (harsh, melodious).
2. Fred was so annoyed with his publicist that he repeatedly (praised, lambasted) him in public.
3. Because Mabel had the reputation of being a mediocre cook, most believed her chances of winning the bake-off were (good, slim).
4. Despite the fact that the racehorse's performance in recent competitions had been disappointing, the oddsmakers were predicting a (win, disappointment) at the Derby.
5. Many felt the rules for the scholarship competition had been unfair and, furthermore, the judges were (biased, fair).
6. Although they appear quite cuddly, brown bears actually pose a large (threat, attraction) to tourists.

## THE KAPLAN FOUR-STEP METHOD

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

### ❶ Read the Whole Sentence

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

### ❷ Predict an Answer

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

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

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



**❶ Read Your Selected Answer Choice Back into the Sentence**

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

**Try It Out**

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

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

- ❶ Let's begin by reading the whole sentence strategically. Immediately note the structural clue *as long as*. This phrase will tell us what to expect when we prepare to fill in the blank. The sentence tells us that old age brings poverty, *isolation*, and *illness*. Naturally, therefore, we would face it with something like "fear."
- ❷ Now it's time to predict our answer. As we decided in Step 1, we should look in the answer choices for a word that means *fear*.
- ❸ Here's where we scan the answer choices and look for one that best fits our predicted answer. *Apprehension* means "fear," so choice (2) is our best answer. But let's eliminate some answers that we know are wrong, just to be sure. Choice 1, *regret*, is tempting, but you feel regret for something that has already happened, not for something you will face in the future. *Veneration* and *reverence* both mean "great respect," so we can eliminate choices 4 and 5, too.
- ❹ Now we'll plug our answer into the sentence: *We will face the idea of old age with apprehension as long as we believe that it invariably brings poverty, isolation, and illness.* This sentence certainly makes sense, *so* we have found our winner!

## PRACTICE SET

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

1. Despite much informed \_\_\_\_\_, the relationship between sunspot cycles and the earth's weather remains \_\_\_\_\_
  - argument ... decisive
  - confusion ... tenuous
  - conjecture ... ambiguous
  - evidence ... clear
  - analysis ... systematic
2. As a consequence of the Antarctic's \_\_\_\_\_ climate, the only forms of plant life to be found in the continent's interior are a few \_\_\_\_\_ lichens and mosses that cling to the frozen rocks.
  - frigid ... hardy
  - extreme ... mysterious
  - harsh ... luxuriant
  - freezing ... complex
  - changing ... tiny
3. Conflict between generations may be a problem that has persisted for centuries, but the nature and intensity of the conflict obviously \_\_\_\_\_ in response to changes in social and economic conditions.
  - increases
  - disappears
  - declines
  - varies
  - wanes

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



# Chapter 3

## GRE ANALOGIES

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

The directions for this question type look like this:

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

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

### THE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS

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

### GRE Analogy Questions Consist of Two Words

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

1. LITER : VOLUME ::

- bottle : can
- knob : radio
- scale : height
- gram : weight
- juice : vitamin

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

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

For the analogy above, as strong bridge would be:

A LITER is by definition a measure of VOLUME.

**WHAT'S A STEM PAIR?**

Analogy questions consist of two words —the stem pair—that are separated by a colon. Stem pairs look like this:

PREPARATION : SUCCESS ::

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

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

**WHAT'S A BRIDGE?**

A bridge is a short sentence that connects the two words in the stem pair. You should always build a bridge before you look at the answer choices.

### The Five Classic Bridges

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

4. *Characteristic Actions or Items*5. *Degree* (sometimes to the point of excess)

Each of the five classic bridges are illustrated below.

*The Definition Bridge*

CYGNET : SWAN                      A CYGNET is a young SWAN.

*The Function or Purpose Bridge*

TRUSS : SUPPORT                      A TRUSS is used as a SUPPORT.

*The Lack Bridge*

LOUT : GRACE                      A LOUT lacks GRACE.

*The Characteristic Actions or Items Bridge*

SKUNK : SCENT                      A SKUNK defends itself with its SCENT.

*The Degree Bridge (sometimes to the point of excess)*

INTEREST : ENTHRALL              To INTEREST greatly is to ENTHRALL.

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

**WHAT MAKES A STRONG BRIDGE?**

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

**Watch Out for Common Wrong Answer Types**

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

**Unrelated Words**

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

**Same Subject Trap**

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

## Verbal Practice Tests

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### "Both Are" Bridges

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

### Context Traps

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

### Reverse Analogy

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

### Au Contraire or Opposite Bridge

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

### Irrelevant Bridge

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

## Drill

Identify the Classic Bridges in the following stem pairs.

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

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

1. CHICKEN : POULTRY \_\_\_\_\_
2. FEAR : TERROR \_\_\_\_\_
3. LOOM : WEAVE \_\_\_\_\_
4. RECLUSE : SOLITARY \_\_\_\_\_
5. LANGUID : ENERGY \_\_\_\_\_

## THE KAPLAN FOUR-STEP METHOD

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

### ❶ Find a Strong Bridge between the Stem Words

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

### ❷ Plug the Answer Choices into the Bridge

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

### ❸ Adjust the Bridge, if Necessary

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

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

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

## Try It Out

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

2. HANGAR : AIRCRAFT ::

- orchestra : music
- vault : money
- hand : fingers
- farm : trees
- ecosystem : insect

## Verbal Practice Tests

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- ① Begin by building a bridge: A HANGAR is a place built to keep AIRCRAFT.
- ② Now plug each of our answer choices into our bridge "a BLANK is a place to keep BLANK."
- Is an orchestra a place built to keep *music*? No. Eliminate choice (1).
- Is a vault a place built to keep *money*? Yes, so keep choice (2).
- Is a *hand* a place built to keep a *fingers*? No, so eliminate this choice as well.
- Is a farm a place built to keep a *treas*? Maybe, maybe not. Eliminate choice (4).
- Is an ecosystem a place built to keep insects? No. Eliminate choice (5).
- There is no need to adjust the bridge, since only answer choice (2) worked.
- ④ If we needed to work backwards, we could have eliminated choices (4) and (5), since there is no strong bridge between the words in these pairs.

## PRACTICE SET

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

- LUCID : OBSCURITY ::
  - ambiguous : doubt
  - provident : planning
  - furtive : legality
  - economical : extravagance
  - secure : violence
- ATTENTIVE : RAPT ::
  - loyal : unscrupulous
  - critical : derisive
  - inventive : innovative
  - jealous : envious
  - kind : considerate
- CLEAVER : BUTCHER ::
  - palette : artist
  - stage : dancer
  - dictionary : poet
  - lock : burglar
  - chisel : sculptor

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

**The answers to this section appear on the next page.**

## **Answer Key**

### **Testlike Questions**

1. (4)

2. (2)

### **Drill**

1. Definition

2. Lack

3. Function

4. Degree

5. Characteristic Items/Actions

1. A CHICKEN is by definition a type of POULTRY.

2. To experience extreme FEAR is by definition to experience TERROR.

3. The purpose of a LOOM is by definition to WEAVE.

4. A RECLUSE is by definition SOLITARY.

5. Someone who's LANGUID is by definition lacking in EXERGY.

### **Practice Set**

1. (4)

2. (2)

3. (5)



# Chapter 4

## GRE ANTONYMS

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

The directions for these questions look like this:

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

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

### THE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS

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

## Use Kaplan's Strategies for Decoding Difficult Vocabulary Words.

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

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

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

### Look at Word Roots, Stems, and Suffixes

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

### Use Your Knowledge of a Romance Language

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

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

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

1. SCABROUS:

- thorny
- unblemished
- perplexing
- blank
- examined

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

**BE STRATEGIC**

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

## Watch Out for Common Wrong-Answer Types.

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

### Words That Have No Clear Opposites

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

### Any Answer Choices That Have the Same Opposites as Each Other

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

### Au Contraire, or Opposite, Answers

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

## Drill

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

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

CACOPHONOUS \_\_\_\_\_

DISCORDANT \_\_\_\_\_

DULCET \_\_\_\_\_

FRACAS \_\_\_\_\_

RAUCOUS \_\_\_\_\_

## Verbal Practice Tests

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SONOROUS \_\_\_\_\_

STRIDENT \_\_\_\_\_

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

APATHETIC \_\_\_\_\_

CONCERN \_\_\_\_\_

DESULTORY \_\_\_\_\_

DISINTEREST \_\_\_\_\_

REGARD \_\_\_\_\_

IMPASSIVITY \_\_\_\_\_

INQUISITIVE \_\_\_\_\_

INTRIGUE \_\_\_\_\_

LASSITUDE \_\_\_\_\_

## THE KAPLAN FOUR-STEP METHOD

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

### ❶ Define the Stem Word

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

### ❷ Define Its Opposite and Prephrase an Answer

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

### ❸ Find the Answer Choice That Best Matches Your Prephrase

- Sometimes one or more answer choices will be close to your prephrase. Check **all** the answer choices for the best fit.  
Consider alternate definitions for the stem words. Perhaps you're using the wrong definition of a word.

### ❹ Use Guessing Strategies, If Necessary

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

## Try It Out

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

2. TRAIL:

- age
- depress
- rule
- wander
- precede

## Verbal Practice Tests

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- ❶ Begin by defining our stem word, TRAIL. What does TRAIL mean? You will notice in this context that trail is a verb. It has to be, because choices (2), (3) and (4) can only be verbs, and the answer choices and the stem word must be the same part of speech. **As** a verb TRAIL means "to follow".
- ❷ Since TRAIL means "to follow": we need a word that means "to lead" or "come before."
- ❸ Choice (5), precede, means "to come before" so it is the best answer.
- ❹ If you had to guess, you could have eliminated age and rule, since they have no clear opposite.

## PRACTICE SET

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

1. AMIABLE:
  - faithful
  - insulted
  - distasteful
  - indecent
  - unfriendly
2. ACUTE:
  - conspicuous
  - relevant
  - aloof
  - dull
  - distant
3. RECANT:
  - affirm
  - rectify
  - offend
  - ignore
  - withdraw

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

## Answer Key

### Testlike Questions

1. (2)
2. (5)

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Drill       |                      |
| CACOPHONOUS | _____ harsh _____    |
| DISCORDANT  | _____ harsh _____    |
| DULCET      | _____ pleasant _____ |
| FRACAS      | _____ harsh _____    |
| RAUCOUS     | _____ harsh _____    |
| SONOROUS    | _____ pleasant _____ |
| STRIDENT    | _____ harsh _____    |

## Verbal Practice Tests

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|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| APATHETIC   | <u>indifferent</u> |
| CONCERN     | <u>caring</u>      |
| DESULTORY   | <u>indifferent</u> |
| DISINTEREST | <u>indifferent</u> |
| REGARD      | <u>caring</u>      |
| IMPASSIVITY | <u>indifferent</u> |
| INQUISITIVE | <u>caring</u>      |
| INTRIGUE    | <u>caring</u>      |
| LASSITUDE   | <u>indifferent</u> |

### Practice Set

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



# Chapter 5

## GRE READING COMPREHENSION

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

The directions for this question type look like this:

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

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

### THE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS

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

**ZOOM IN!**

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

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

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

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

### **DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME!**

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

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

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

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

**ATTACK THE PASSAGE!**

You can be an active reader by:

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

## Recognize the Most Common Question Types

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Watch Out for Wrong Answer Types

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **WHERE DO THE PASSAGES COME FROM?**

Topics for Reading Comp passages come from:

- The social sciences
- The natural sciences
- The humanities

### **Drill**

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

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

Now, read the following GRE-like sentence:

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

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

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

## THE KAPLAN FOUR-STEP METHOD

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

### ❶ Read the First Third

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

Topic: The broad concept or idea addressed in the passage

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

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

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

### ❷ Read the Remaining Two Thirds

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

### ❸ Review Your "Road Map"

Confirm topic, scope and purpose.

### ❹ Attack the Questions

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

## PRACTICE SET

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

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

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

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

1. The author is primarily concerned with
  - establishing that tsunamis are formed by submarine tectonic activity.
  - explaining why tsunamis can appear so suddenly and with so little warning.
  - arguing that a tsunami's energy flux results in its great height and destructive capacity.
  - demonstrating that devastating tsunamis must be formed by earthquakes close to shore.
  - challenging long held beliefs about the formation of deep ocean waves.
2. It may be inferred from the passage that a tsunami that entered deeper water would experience an increase in
  - destructive power.
  - speed.
  - energy flux.
  - visibility.
  - height

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

## **Answer Key**

### **Drill**

1. Moderate
2. Extreme
3. Moderate
4. Moderate
5. Moderate

### **Distortion Exercise**

1. Distortion
2. Inference
3. Distortion

### **Practice Set**

1. (2)
2. (2)



# Chapter 7

## INCREASING YOUR GRE VOCABULARY

### BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BASICS OF VOCABULARY BUILDING

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

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

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

## PARTS OF SPEECH

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

### Nouns

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

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

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

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| -ACY  | -HOOD | -OGY  |
| -AGE  | -ICE  | -OR   |
| -ANCE | -ICS  | -RY   |
| -ANCY | -ISM  | -SHIP |
| -DOM  | -IST  | -SION |
| -ENCE | -ITY  | -TION |
| -ENCY | -MENT | -TUDE |
| -ERY  | -NESS | -URE  |

### Adjectives

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

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

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

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| -ABLE | -OUS  | -ISH  |
| -AL   | -FUL  | -IVE  |
| -ANE  | -IBLE | -LESS |
| -ANT  | -IC   | -OSE  |
| -AR   | -ILE  |       |
| -ENT  | -INE  |       |

## Vocabulary Builder

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### Verbs

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

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

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

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| -EN   | -IFY |
| -ESCE | -IZE |

### Split-Personality Words

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

As the test tube rested overnight, some precipitate formed. (noun)

It would be better to proceed with caution than to take precipitate action. (adjective)

Passage of the resolution could well precipitate rebellion. (verb)

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

# Chapter 8

## TOP GRE WORDS

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

The top 12 words on the GRE are:

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

The next 20 most popular words are:

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

The next 20 most popular words after these are:

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

## 200 TOP GRE WORDS IN CONTEXT

**ABATE:** to reduce in amount, degree, or severity

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

Words with similar meanings:

|          |        |         |
|----------|--------|---------|
| EBB      | LAPSE  | LET UP  |
| MODERATE | RELENT | SLACKEN |
| SUBSIDE  | WANE   |         |

**ABSCOND:** to leave secretly

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

Words with similar meanings:

|      |        |        |
|------|--------|--------|
| FLEE | DECAMP | ESCAPE |
|------|--------|--------|

**ABSTAIN:** to choose not to do something:

During Lent, practicing Catholics **ABSTAIN** from eating meat.

Words with similar meanings:

|         |         |          |
|---------|---------|----------|
| FORBEAR | REFRAIN | WITHHOLD |
|---------|---------|----------|

**ABYSS:** an extremely deep hole

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

Related words:

**ABYSSAL:** pertaining to great depth

**ABYSMAL:** extremely bad

Words with similar meanings:

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| CHASM | VOID |
|-------|------|

**ADULTERATE:** to make impure

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

Related words:

**UNADULTERATED:** pure

**ADULTERY** an illicit relationship; an affair

Words with similar meanings:

DOCTOR

**ADVOCATE:** to speak in favor of

The vegetarian **ADVOCATED** a diet containing no meat.

Related words:

**ADVOCACY:** active support for

Words with similar meanings:

BACK                      CHAMPION                      SUPPORT

**AESTHETIC:** concerning the appreciation of beauty

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

Related words:

**AESTHETE:** someone unusually sensitive to beauty

**AESTHETICISM:** concern with beauty

Words with similar meanings:

ARTISTIC                      TASTEFUL

**AGGRANDIZE:** to increase in power, influence, and reputation

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

Words with similar meanings:

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

**ALLEVIATE:** to make more bearable:

Taking aspirin helps to **ALLEVIATE** a headache.

Words with similar meanings:

ALLAY                      ASSUAGE                      COMFORT  
EASE                      LESSEN                      LIGHTEN  
MITIGATE                      PALLIATE                      RELIEVE

**AMALGAMATE:** to combine; to mix together

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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Related Words:

AMALGAM: a mixture, especially of two metals

Words with similar meanings:

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

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

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

Related Words:

AMBIGUITY: the quality of being ambiguous

Words with similar meanings:

|           |          |               |
|-----------|----------|---------------|
| CLOUDY    | DOUBTFUL | DUBIOUS       |
| EQUIVOCAL | NEBULOUS | INDETERMINATE |
| OBSCURE   | UNCLEAR  | VAGUE         |

AMELIORATE: to make better; to improve

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

Words with similar meanings:

|        |         |         |
|--------|---------|---------|
| AMEND  | BETTER  | IMPROVE |
| PACIFY | UPGRADE |         |

ANACHRONISM: something out of place in time

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

Words with similar meanings:

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| ARCHAISM | INCONGRUITY |
|----------|-------------|

ANALOGOUS: similar or alike in some way; equivalent to

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

Related word..

ANALOGY: a similarity between things that are otherwise dissimilar

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

Words with similar meanings:



|            |             |               |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| ALIKE      | COMPARABLE  | CORRESPONDING |
| EQUIVALENT | HOMOGENEOUS | PARALLEL      |
| SIMILAR    |             |               |

**ANOMALY:** deviation from what is normal

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

Related words:

ANOMALOUS: deviating from what is normal

Words with similar meanings:

|                   |            |              |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| ABERRANCE         | ABERRATION | ABNORMALITY  |
| DEVIANCE          | DEVIATION  | IRREGULARITY |
| PRETERNATURALNESS |            |              |

**ANTAGONIZE:** to annoy or provoke to anger

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

Related Words:

ANTAGONISTIC: tending to provoke conflict

ANTAGONIST: someone who fights another

Words with similar meanings

|          |          |        |
|----------|----------|--------|
| CLASH    | CONFLICT | INCITE |
| IRRITATE | OPPOSE   | PESTER |
| PROVOKE  | VEX      |        |

**ANTIPATHY:** extreme dislike

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

Words with similar meanings:

|            |        |            |
|------------|--------|------------|
| ANIMOSITY  | ANIMUS | ANTAGONISM |
| AVERSION   | ENMITY | HOSTILITY  |
| REPELLENCE |        |            |

**APATHY:** lack of interest or emotion

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

Words with similar meanings:

|          |             |           |
|----------|-------------|-----------|
| COOLNESS | DISINTEREST | DISREGARD |
|----------|-------------|-----------|

## Vocabulary Builder

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|                  |              |               |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| IMPASSIVITY      | INDIFFERENCE | INSENSIBILITY |
| LASSITUDE        | LETHARGY     | LISTLESSNESS  |
| PHLEGM           | STOLIDITY    | UNCONCERN     |
| UNRESPONSIVENESS |              |               |

**ARBITRATE:** to judge a dispute between two opposing parties

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

Related words:

**ARBITRATION:** a process by which a conflict is resolved

**ARBITRATOR:** a judge

Words with similar meanings:

|           |            |          |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| ADJUDGE   | ADJUDICATE | DECIDE   |
| DETERMINE | JUDGE      | MODERATE |
| REFEREE   | RULE       |          |

**ARCHAIC:** ancient, old-fashioned

Her **ARCHAIC** Commodore computer could not run the latest **software**.

Related words:

**ARCHAISM:** an outdated word or phrase

Words with similar meanings:

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

**ARDOR:** intense and passionate feeling

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

Related words:

**ARDENT:** expressing ardor; passionate

Words with similar meanings:

|             |            |          |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| DEVOTION    | ENTHUSIASM | FERVENCY |
| FERVIDITY   | FERVIDNESS | FERVOR   |
| FIRE        | PASSION    | ZEAL     |
| ZEALOUSNESS |            |          |

**ARTICULATE:** able to speak clearly and expressively

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

Words with similar meanings

|          |                |               |
|----------|----------------|---------------|
| ELOQUENT | EXPRESSIVE     | FLUENT        |
| LUCID    | SILVER-TONGUED | SMOOTH-SPOKEN |

**ASSUAGE:** to make something unpleasant less severe

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

Words with similar meanings:

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

**ATTENUATE:** to reduce in force or degree; to weaken

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

Words with similar meanings:

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

**AUDACIOUS:** fearless and daring

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

Related words:

**AUDACITY:** the quality of being audacious

Words with similar meanings:

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

## Vocabulary Builder

---

UNAFRAID  
VALOROUS

UNDAUNTED  
VENTURESOME

VALIANT  
VENTUROUS

**AUSTERE:** severe or stern in appearance; undecorated

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

Related words:

AUSTERITY: severity, especially poverty

Words with similar meanings:

BLEAK  
HARD

DOUR  
HARSH

GRIM  
SEVERE

**BANAL:** predictable, clichéd, boring

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

Related words:

BANALITY: the quality of being banal

Words with similar meanings:

BLAND  
COMMONPLACE  
INNOCUOUS  
MUSTY  
QUOTIDIAN  
STEREOTYPIC  
TIRED  
WORN-OUT

BROMIDIC  
FATUOUS  
INSIPID  
PLATITUDINOUS  
SHOPWORN  
THREADBARE  
TRITE

CLICHÉD  
HACKNEYED  
JEJUNE  
PROSAIC  
STALE  
TIMEWORN  
VAPID

**BOLSTER:** to support; to prop up

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

Words with similar meanings:

BRACE  
SUPPORT  
UPHOLD

BUTTRESS  
SUSTAIN

PROP  
UNDERPIN

**BOMBASTIC:** pompous in speech and manner

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

Related words:

BOMBAST: pompous speech or writing

Words with similar meanings:

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

**CACOPHONY:** harsh, *chaos, gong, who die, lain my de mark* jarring noise

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

Words with similar meanings:

|         |        |            |
|---------|--------|------------|
| DISCORD | CHAOS  | DISHARMONY |
| NOISE   | CLAMOR | DIN        |

**CANDID:** impartial and honest in speech

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

Words with similar meanings:

|          |                 |             |
|----------|-----------------|-------------|
| DIRECT   | FORTHRIGHT      | FRANK       |
| HONEST   | OPEN            | SINCERE     |
| STRAIGHT | STRAIGHTFORWARD | UNDISGUISED |

**CAPRICIOUS:** changing one's mind quickly and often

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

Related words:

CAPRICE: whim, sudden fancy

Words with similar meanings:

|           |        |            |
|-----------|--------|------------|
| ARBITRARY | CHANCE | CHANGEABLE |
| ERRATIC   | FICKLE | INCONSTANT |
| MERCURIAL | RANDOM | WHIMSICAL  |
| WILLFUL   |        |            |

**CASTIGATE:** to punish or criticize harshly

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

Words with similar meanings:

|          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| ADMONISH | CHASTISE  | CHIDE    |
| REBUKE   | REPRIMAND | REPROACH |

## Vocabulary Builder

---

REPROVE  
UPBRAID

SCOLD

TAX

**CATALYST:** something that brings about a change in something else

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

Related Words:

CATALYZE: to bring about a change in something else

**CAUSTIC:** biting in wit

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

Words with similar meanings:

ACERBIC  
TRENCHANT

BITING

MORDANT

**CHAOS:** great disorder or confusion

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

Related Words:

CHAOTIC: jumbled, confused

Words with similar meanings:

CLUTTER  
DISARRAY  
DISORGANIZATION  
MUDDLE  
TOPSY-TURVINESS

CONFUSION  
DISORDER  
JUMBLE  
SCRAMBLE  
TURMOIL

DISARRANGEMENT  
DISORDERLINESS  
MESS  
SNARL

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

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

Words with similar meanings:

PARTISAN

**CHICANERY:** deception by means of craft or guile

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

Words with similar meanings:

ARTIFICE

CONNMNG

CRAFTINESS

|              |              |                   |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| DECEPTION    | DEVIIOUSNESS | MISREPRESENTATION |
| PETTIFOGGERY | SHADINESS    | SNEAKINESS        |
| SOPHISTRY    | SUBTERFUGE   | UNDERHANDEDNESS   |

**COGENT:** convincing and well reasoned

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

Related words:

COGITATE: to think deeply

Words with similar meanings:

|            |            |       |
|------------|------------|-------|
| CONVINCING | PERSUASIVE | SOLID |
| SOUND      | TELLING    | VALID |

**CONDONE:** to overlook, pardon, or disregard

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

Words with similar meanings:

|           |        |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| EXCULPATE | EXCUSE | PARDON |
| REMIT     |        |        |

**CONVOLUTED:** intricate and complicated

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

Words with similar meanings:

|            |         |              |
|------------|---------|--------------|
| BYZANTINE  | COMPLEX | ELABORATE    |
| INTRICATE  | KNOTTY  | LABYRINTHINE |
| PERPLEXING | TANGLED |              |

**CORROBORATE:** to provide supporting evidence

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

Words with similar meanings:

|              |         |              |
|--------------|---------|--------------|
| AUTHENTICATE | BACK    | BEAR OUT     |
| BUTTRESS     | CONFIRM | SUBSTANTIATE |
| VALIDATE     | VERIFY  |              |

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**CREDULOUS:** too trusting; gullible

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

Related words:

CREDULITY the quality of being credulous

Words with similar meanings:

NAIVE                      SUSCEPTIBLE                      TRUSTING

**CRESCENDO:** steadily increasing volume or force

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

**DECORUM:** appropriateness of behavior or conduct; propriety

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

Related words:

DECOROUS: conforming to acceptable standards

Words with similar meanings:

CORRECTNESS                      DECENCY                      ETIQUETTE  
MANNERS                      MORES                      PROPRIETY  
SEMLINESS

**DEFERENCE:** respect, courtesy

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

Related words:

DEFER: to delay; to show someone deference

DEFERENT: courteous and respectful

Words with similar meanings:

COURTESY                      HONOR                      HOMAGE  
OBEISANCE                      RESPECT                      REVERENCE  
VENERATION

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

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

Related words:

DERISION: mockery and **taunts**



**DERISIVE:** in a **mocking** manner

Words with similar meanings:

|          |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------|
| GIBE     | JEER  | MOCK  |
| RIDICULE | SCOFF | SNEER |
| TAUNT    |       |       |

**DESICCATE:** to dry out thoroughly

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

Related words:

**DESICCANT:** something that removes water from another substance

Words with similar meanings:

|     |       |           |
|-----|-------|-----------|
| DRY | PARCH | DEHYDRATE |
|-----|-------|-----------|

**DESULTORY:** jumping from one thing to another; disconnected

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

Words with similar meanings:

|              |                |            |
|--------------|----------------|------------|
| AIMLESS      | DISCONNECTED   | ERRATIC    |
| HAPHAZARD    | INDISCRIMINATE | OBJECTLESS |
| PURPOSELESS  | RANDOM         | STRAY      |
| UNCONSIDERED | UNPLANNED      |            |

**DIATRIBE:** an abusive, condemnatory speech

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

Words with similar meanings:

|             |             |           |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| FULMINATION | HARANGUE    | INVECTIVE |
| JEREMIAD    | MALEDICTION | OBLOQUY   |
| TIRADE      |             |           |

**DIFFIDENT:** **lacking** self-confidence

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

Words with similar meanings:

|               |         |          |
|---------------|---------|----------|
| BACKWARD      | BASHFUL | COY      |
| DEMURE        | MODEST  | RETIRING |
| SELF-EFFACING | SHY     | TIMID    |

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**DILATE:** to make larger; to expand

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

Words with similar meanings:

|         |         |           |
|---------|---------|-----------|
| AMPLIFY | DEVELOP | ELABORATE |
| ENLARGE | EXPAND  | EXPATiate |

**DILATORY:** intended to delay

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

Words with similar meanings:

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

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

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

Words with similar meanings:

|         |         |             |
|---------|---------|-------------|
| AMATEUR | DABBLER | SUPERFICIAL |
| TYRO    |         |             |

**DIRGE:** a funeral hymn or mournful speech

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

Words with similar meanings:

|       |        |
|-------|--------|
| ELEGY | LAMENT |
|-------|--------|

**DISABUSE:** to set right; to free from error

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

Words with similar meanings:

|         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| CORRECT | UNDECEIVE |
|---------|-----------|

**DISCERN:** to perceive; to recognize

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

Related words:

DISCERNMENT: taste and cultivation

Words with similar meanings:

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

**DISPARATE:** fundamentally different; entirely unlike

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

Words with similar meanings:

|           |            |           |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| DIFFERENT | DISSIMILAR | DIVERGENT |
| DIVERSE   | VARIANT    | VARIOUS   |

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

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

Words with similar meanings:

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

**DISSONANCE:** a harsh and disagreeable combination, often of sounds

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

Words with similar meanings:

|            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| CLASH      | CONTENTION | DISCORD    |
| DISSENSION | DISSENT    | DISSIDENCE |
| FRICTION   | STRIFE     | VARIANCE   |

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**DOGMA:** a firmly held opinion, often a religious belief

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

Words with similar meanings:

CREED  
TENET

DOCTRINE

TEACHING

**DOGMATIC:** dictatorial in one's opinions

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

Words with similar meanings:

AUTHORITARIAN  
DOCTRINAIRE  
MAGISTERIAL  
PEREMPTORY

BOSSY  
DOMINEERING  
MASTERFUL

DICTATORIAL  
IMPERIOUS  
OVERBEARING

**DUPE:** to deceive; a person who is easily deceived

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

Words with similar meanings:

BEGUILE  
COZEN  
FOOL  
MISLEAD

BETRAY  
DECEIVE  
HOODWINK  
TAKE IN

BLUFF  
DELUDE  
HUMBUG  
TRICK

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

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

Words with similar meanings:

SELECTIVE

CATHOLIC

BROAD

**EFFICACY:** effectiveness

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

Related Words:

**EFFICACIOUS:** effective; productive

Words with similar meanings:

DYNAMISM  
FORCE  
PROFICIENCY

EFFECTIVENESS  
POWER  
STRENGTH

EFFICIENCY  
PRODUCTIVENESS  
VIGOR

**ELEGY:** a sorrowful poem or speech

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

Related Words:

ELEGIAC: like an elegy; mournful

Words with similar meanings:

DIRGE                      LAMENT

**ELOQUENT:** persuasive and moving, especially in speech

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

Words with similar meanings:

ARTICULATE              EXPRESSIVE              FLUENT  
MEANINGFUL              SIGNIFICANT              SMOOTH-SPOKEN

**EMULATE:** to copy; to try to equal or excel

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

Words with similar meanings:

APE                              IMITATE                      SIMULATE

**ENERVATE:** to reduce in strength

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

Related Words:

UNNERVE: to deprive of strength or courage

Words with similar meanings:

DEBILITATE              ENFEEBLE              SAP  
WEAKEN

**ENGENDER:** to produce, cause, or bring about

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

Words with similar meanings:

BEGET                      GENERATE              PROCREATE  
PROLIFERATE              REPRODUCE              SPAWN

## Vocabulary Builder

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**ENIGMA:** a puzzle; a mystery

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

Words with similar meanings:

CONUNDRUM      PERPLEXITY

**ENUMERATE:** to count, list, or itemize

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

Words with similar meanings:

CATALOG      INDEX      TABULATE

**EPHEMERAL:** lasting a short time

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

Words with similar meanings:

EVANESCENT      FLEETING      MOMENTARY  
TRANSIENT

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

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

Related Words:

EQUIVOCAL: undecided; trying to deceive

EQUIVOCATION: the act or state of equivocating

Words with similar meanings:

AMBIGUOUS      EVASIVE      WAFFLING

**ERRATIC:** wandering and unpredictable

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

Related Words:

ERRANT: straying, mistaken, roving

Words with similar meanings:

CAPRICIOUS      INCONSTANT      IRRESOLUTE  
WHIMSICAL

**ERUDITE:** learned, scholarly, bookish

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

Related Words:

ERUDITION: extensive knowledge or learning

Words with similar meanings:

SCHOLASTIC                  LEARNED                  WISE

**ESOTERIC:** known or understood by only a few

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

Words with similar meanings:

ABSTRUSE                  ARCANE                  OBSCURE

**ESTIMABLE:** admirable

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

Related Words:

ESTEEM: high regard

Words with similar meanings:

ADMIRABLE                  COMMENDABLE                  CREDITABLE  
HONORABLE                  LAUDABLE                  MERITORIOUS  
PRAISEWORTHY                  RESPECTABLE                  VENERABLE  
WORTHY

**EULOGY:** speech in praise of someone

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

Words with similar meanings:

COMMEND                  EXTOL                  LAUD

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

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

Words with similar meanings:

CIRCUMLOCUTION          WHITEWASH

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**EXACERBATE:** to make worse

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

Words with similar meanings:

|          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| ANNOY    | AGGRAVATE | INTENSIFY |
| IRRITATE | PROVOKE   |           |

**EXCULPATE:** to clear from blame; prove innocent

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

Words with similar meanings:

|           |           |       |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| ABSOLVE   | ACQUIT    | CLEAR |
| EXONERATE | VINDICATE |       |

**EXIGENT:** urgent; requiring immediate action

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

Words with similar meanings:

|          |            |        |
|----------|------------|--------|
| CRITICAL | IMPERATIVE | NEEDED |
| URGENT   |            |        |

**EXONERATE:** to clear of blame

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

Words with similar meanings:

|           |           |       |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| ABSOLVE   | ACQUIT    | CLEAR |
| EXCULPATE | VINDICATE |       |

**EXPLICIT:** clearly stated or shown; forthright in expression

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

Related Words:

**EXPLICABLE:** capable of being explained

**EXPLICATE:** to give a detailed explanation

Words with similar meanings:

|             |       |                 |
|-------------|-------|-----------------|
| CANDID      | FRANK | STRAIGHTFORWARD |
| UNEQUIVOCAL |       |                 |





## Vocabulary Builder

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**FRUGALITY:** a tendency to be thrifty or cheap

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

Words with similar meanings:

ECONOMICAL      PARSIMONY      PRUDENCE  
SPARING

**GARRULOUS:** tending to talk a lot

The GARRULOUS parakeet distracted its owner with its continuous talking.

Words with similar meanings:

EFFUSIVE      LOQUACIOUS

**GREGARIOUS:** outgoing, sociable

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

Words with similar meanings:

AFFABLE      CONGENIAL      COMMUNICATIVE  
SOCIABLE

**GUILE:** deceit or trickery

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

Related Words:

GUILELESS: innocent, without trickery

Words with similar meanings:

ARTIFICE      CHICANERY      CONNIVERY  
DUPLICITY

**GULLIBLE:** easily deceived

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

Related Words:

GULL: a person who is easily tricked

Words with similar meanings:

CREDULOUS      EXPLOITABLE      NAIVE

**HOMOGENOUS:** of a **similar** kind

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

Related Words:

HOMOGENIZED: thoroughly **mixed** together

Words with similar meanings:

CONSISTENT                      STANDARDIZED                      UNIFORM  
UNVARYING

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

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

Words with similar meanings:

MAVERICK                      NONCONFORMIST                      REBEL  
REVOLUTIONARY

**IMPERTURBABLE:** not capable of being disturbed

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

Related Words:

PERTURB: to disturb greatly

Words with similar meanings:

COMPOSED                      DISPASSIONATE                      IMPASSIVE  
SERENE                      STOICAL

**IMPERVIOUS:** impossible to penetrate; incapable of being affected

A good raincoat will be IMPERVIOUS to moisture.

Words with similar meanings:

RESISTANT                      IMPREGNABLE

**IMPETUOUS:** quick to **act** without thinking

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

Related Words:

IMPETUS: impulse

## Vocabulary Builder

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Words with similar meanings:

|           |             |      |
|-----------|-------------|------|
| IMPULSIVE | PRECIPITATE | RASH |
| RECKLESS  | SPONTANEOUS |      |

**IMPLACABLE:** unable to be calmed down or made peaceful

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

Related Words:

PLACATE: to make peaceful

Words with similar meanings:

|             |              |                |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| INEXORABLE  | INTRANSIGENT | IRRECONCILABLE |
| RELENTLESS  | REMORSELESS  | UNFORGIVING    |
| UNRELENTING |              |                |

**INCHOATE:** not fully formed; disorganized

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

Words with similar meanings:

|             |            |            |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| AMORPHOUS   | INCOHERENT | INCOMPLETE |
| UNORGANIZED |            |            |

**INGENUOUS:** showing innocence or childlike simplicity

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

Related Words:

INGENUË: a naive girl or young woman

DISINGENUOUS: giving a false impression of innocence

Words with similar meanings:

|         |           |            |
|---------|-----------|------------|
| ARTLESS | GUILELESS | INNOCENT   |
| NAIVE   | SIMPLE    | UNAFFECTED |

**INIMICAL:** hostile, unfriendly

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

Words with similar meanings:

|              |              |           |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| ADVERSE      | ANTAGONISTIC | DISSIDENT |
| RECALCITRANT |              |           |

**INNOCUOUS:** harmless

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

Words with similar meanings:

BENIGN                      HARMLESS                      INOFFENSIVE

**INSIPID:** lacking interest or flavor

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

Words with similar meanings:

BANAL                      BLAND                      DULL  
STALE                      VAPID

**INTRANSIGENT:** uncompromising; refusing to be reconciled

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

Words with similar meanings:

IMPLACABLE                      INEXORABLE                      IRRECONCILABLE  
OBDURATE                      OBSTINATE                      REMORSELESS  
RIGID                      UNBENDING                      UNRELENTING  
UNYIELDING

**INUNDATE:** to overwhelm; to cover with water

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

Words with similar meanings:

DELUGE                      DROWN                      ENGULF  
FLOOD                      SUBMERGE

**IRASCIBLE:** easily made angry

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

Related Words:

IRATE: angry

Words with similar meanings:

CANTANKEROUS                      IRRITABLE                      ORNERY  
TESTY

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**LACONIC:** using few words

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

Words with similar meanings:

|         |          |       |
|---------|----------|-------|
| CONCISE | CURT     | PITHY |
| TERSE   | TACITURN |       |

**LAMENT:** to express sorrow; to grieve

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

Words with similar meanings:

|        |         |        |
|--------|---------|--------|
| BEWAIL | DEPLORE | GRIEVE |
| MOURN  |         |        |

**LAUD:** to give praise; to glorify

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

Related Words:

LAUDABLE: worth of praise

LAUDATORY: expressing praise

Words with similar meanings:

|            |         |         |
|------------|---------|---------|
| ACCLAIM    | APPLAUD | COMMEND |
| COMPLIMENT | EXALT   | EXTOL   |
| HAIL       | PRAISE  |         |

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

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

Words with similar meanings:

|             |           |               |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| BESTOW      | CONFER    | EXUBERANT     |
| EXTRAVAGANT | OPULENT   | PROFUSE       |
| PRODIGAL,   | LUXURIANT | SUPERABUNDANT |

**LETHARGIC:** acting in an indifferent or slow, sluggish manner

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

Words **with** similar meanings:

|           |         |               |
|-----------|---------|---------------|
| APATHETIC | LANGUID | LACKADAISICAL |
| LISTLESS  | TORPID  |               |

**LOQUACIOUS:** talkative

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

Related Words:

ELOQUENCE: powerful, convincing speaking

LOQUACITY: the quality of being loquacious

Words with similar meanings:

EFFUSIVE

GARRULOUS

VERBOSE

**LUCID:** clear and easily understood

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

Related Words:

LUCIDITY: clarity

LUCENT: glowing with light

Words with similar meanings:

CLEAR

COHERENT

EXPLICIT

INTELLIGIBLE

LIMPID

**LUMINOUS:** bright, brilliant, glowing

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

Related Words:

ILLUMINATE: to shine light on

LUMINARY: an inspiring person

Words with similar meanings:

INCANDESCENT

LUCENT

LUSTROUS

RADIANT

RESPLENDENT

**MALINGER:** to evade responsibility by pretending to be ill

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

Related Words:

LINGER: to be slow in leaving

Words with similar meanings:

SHIRK

SLACK

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**MALLEABLE:** capable of being shaped

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

Words with similar meanings:

ADAPTABLE

DUCTILE

PLASTIC

PLIABLE

PLIANT

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

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

Related Words:

METAPHORICAL: standing as a symbol for something else

Words with similar meanings:

ANALOGY

COMPARISON

**METICULOUS:** extremely careful about details

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

Words with similar meanings:

CONSCIENTIOUS

PRECISE

SCRUPULOUS

**MISANTHROPE:** a person who dislikes others

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

**MITIGATE:** to soften; to lessen

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

Words with similar meanings:

ALLAY

ALLEVIATE

ASSUAGE

EASE

LIGHTEN

MODERATE

MOLLIFY

PALLIATE

TEMPER

**MOLLIFY:** to calm or make less severe

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



Words with similar meanings:

APPEASE                      ASSUAGE                      CONCILIATE  
PACIFY

**MONOTONY:** lack of variation

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

Related Words:

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

Words with similar meanings:

DRONE                      TEDIUM

**NAIVE:** lacking sophistication or experience

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

Related Words:

NAIVETÉ: the state of being naive

Words with similar meanings:

ARTLESS                      CREDULOUS                      GUILELESS  
INGENUOUS                      SIMPLE                      UNAFFECTED

**OBDURATE:** hardened in feeling; resistant to persuasion

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

Words with similar meanings:

INFLEXIBLE                      INTRANSIGENT                      RECALCITRANT  
TENACIOUS                      UNYIELDING

**OBSEQUIOUS:** overly submissive and eager to please

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

Related Words:

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

Words with similar meanings:

COMPLIANT                      DEFERENTIAL                      SERVILE  
SUBSERVIENT

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**OBSTINATE:** stubborn, unyielding

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

Words with similar meanings:

|              |          |            |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| INTRANSIGENT | MULISH   | PERSISTENT |
| PERTINACIOUS | STUBBORN | TENACIOUS  |

**OBVIATE:** to prevent; to make unnecessary

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

Words with similar meanings:

|           |          |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| FORESTALL | PRECLUDE | PROHIBIT |
|-----------|----------|----------|

**OCCLUDE:** to stop up; to prevent the passage of

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

Words with similar meanings:

|           |       |       |
|-----------|-------|-------|
| BARRICADE | BLOCK | CLOSE |
| OBSTRUCT  |       |       |

**ONEROUS:** troublesome and oppressive; burdensome

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

Words with similar meanings:

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

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

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

Related Words:

OPACITY the quality of being obscure and indecipherable

Words with similar meanings:

OBSCURE

**OPPROBRIUM:** public disgrace

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

Words with similar meanings:

|           |          |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| DISCREDIT | DISGRACE | DISHONOR |
| DISREPUTE | IGNOMINY | INFAMY   |
| OBLOQUY   | SHAME    |          |

**OSTENTATION:** excessive showiness

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

Related Words:

**OSTENSIBLE:** apparent

Words with similar meanings:

|                 |            |                 |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| CONSPICUOUSNESS | FLASHINESS | PRETENTIOUSNESS |
| SHOWINESS       |            |                 |

**PARADOX:** a contradiction or dilemma

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

Words with similar meanings:

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| INCONGRUITY | AMBIGUITY |
|-------------|-----------|

**PARAGON:** model of excellence or perfection

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

Words with similar meanings:

|            |       |              |
|------------|-------|--------------|
| APOTHEOSIS | IDEAL | QUINTESSENCE |
| STANDARD   |       |              |

**PEDANT:** someone who shows off learning

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

Related Words:

**PEDANTIC:** making an excessive display of learning

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**PERFIDIOUS:** willing to betray one's trust

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

Related Words:

**PERFIDY:** deceit, treachery

Words with similar meanings:

DISLOYAL

FAITHLESS

TREACHEROUS

TRAITOROUS

**PERFUNCTORY:** done in a routine way; indifferent

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

Words with similar meanings:

APATHETIC

AUTOMATIC

MECHANICAL

**PERMEATE:** to penetrate

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

Related Words:

**IMPERMEABLE:** unable to be permeated

Words with similar meanings:

IMBUE

INFUSE

SUFFUSE

**PHILANTHROPY:** charity; a desire or effort to promote goodness

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

Related Words:

**PHILANTHROPIST:** someone who is generous and desires to promote goodness

Words with similar meanings:

HUMANITARIANISM

ALTRUISM

**PLACATE:** to soothe or pacify

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

Related Words:

**PLACID:** tolerant; calm

**IMPLACABLE:** unable to be made peaceful

Words with similar meanings:

APPEASE                      CONCILIATE                      MOLLIFY

**PLASTIC:** able to be molded, altered, or bent

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

Words with similar meanings:

ADAPTABLE                      DUCTILE                      MALLEABLE  
PLIANT

**PLETHORA.** excess

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

Words with similar meanings:

GLUT                      OVERABUNDANCE                      SUPERFLUITY  
SURFEIT

**PRAGMATIC:** practical as opposed to idealistic

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

Related Words:

PRAGMATISM: a practical approach to problem solving

Words with similar meanings:

REALISTIC                      RATIONAL

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

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

Related Words:

PRECIPITOUS: very steep

PRECIPICE: a steep cliff

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

Words with similar meanings:

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

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**PREVARICATE:** to lie or deviate from the truth

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

Words with similar meanings:

EQUIVOCATE                  LIE                          PERJURE

**PRISTINE:** fresh and clean; uncorrupted

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

Words with similar meanings:

INNOCENT                      UNDAMAGED

**PRODIGAL:** lavish, wasteful

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

Related Words:

PRODIGALITY: excessive or reckless spending

Words with similar meanings:

EXTRAVAGANT                  LAVISH                      PROFLIGATE  
SPENDTHRIFT                  WASTEFUL

**PROLIFERATE:** to increase in number quickly

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

Related Words:

PROLIFIC: very productive or highly able to reproduce rapidly

Words with similar meanings:

BREED                                  MULTIPLY                      PROCREATE  
PROPAGATE                          REPRODUCE                      SPAWN

**PROPITIATE:** to conciliate; to appease

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

Related Words:

PROPITIOUS: advantageous, favorable

Words with similar meanings:

APPEASE                      CONCILIATE                      MOLLIFY  
PACIFY                        PLACATE

**PROPRIETY:** correct behavior; obedience to rules and customs

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

Related Words:

**APPROPRIATE:** suitable for a particular occasion or place

Words with similar meanings:

DECENCY                      DECORUM                      MODESTY  
SEMLINESS

**PRUDENCE:** wisdom, caution, or restraint

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

Related Words:

**PRUDE:** someone who is excessively concerned with propriety

**PRUDISH:** prissy and puritanical

Words with similar meanings:

ASTUTENESS                      CIRCUMSPECTION                      DISCRETION  
FRUGALITY                        JUDICIOUSNESS                      PROVIDENCE  
THRIFT

**PUNGENT:** sharp and irritating to the senses

The smoke from the burning tires was extremely **PUNGENT**.

Words with similar meanings:

ACRID                        CAUSTIC                        PIQUANT  
POIGNANT                      STINGING

**QUIESCENT:** motionless

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

Related Words:

**QUIESCENCE:** state of rest or inactivity

Words with similar meanings:

LATENT                        DORMANT

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**RAREFY:** to make thinner or sparser

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

Related Words:

RAREFACTION: the process of making something less dense

Words with similar meanings:

ATTENUATE            THIN

**REPUDIATE:** to reject the validity of

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

Words with similar meanings:

DENY                    DISAVOW                DISCLAIM  
DISOWN                RENOUNCE

**RETICENT:** silent, reserved

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

Words with similar meanings:

COOL                    INTROVERTED            LACONIC  
STANDOFFISH           TACITURN                UNDEMONSTRATIVE

**RHETORIC:** effective writing or speaking

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

Words with similar meanings:

ELOQUENCE            ORATORY

**SATIATE:** to satisfy fully or overindulge

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

Related Words:

SATE: to fully satisfy or overindulge

INSATIABLE:

incapable of being satisfied



Words with similar meanings:

CLOY                      GLUT                      GORGE  
SURFEIT

**SOPORIFIC:** causing sleep or lethargy

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

Related Words:

SOPOR: deep sleep

Words with similar meanings:

HYPNOTIC                      NARCOTIC                      SLUMBEROUS  
SOMNOLENT

**SPECIOUS:** deceptively attractive; seemingly plausible but fallacious

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

Words with similar meanings:

ILLUSORY                      OSTENSIBLE                      PLAUSIBLE  
SPURIOUS                      SOPHISTICAL

**STIGMA:** a mark of shame or discredit

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

Related Words:

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

Words with similar meanings:

BLEMISH                      BLOT                      OPPROBRIUM  
STAIN                      TAINT

**STOLID:** unemotional; lacking sensitivity

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

Words with similar meanings:

APATHETIC                      IMPASSIVE                      INDIFFERENT  
PHLEGMATIC                      STOICAL                      UNCONCERNED

## Vocabulary Builder

---

**SUBLIME:** lofty or grand

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

Related Words:

**SUBLIMATE:** to elevate or convert into something of higher worth

**SUBLIMINAL:** existing outside conscious awareness

Words with similar meanings:

|        |             |             |
|--------|-------------|-------------|
| AUGUST | EXALTED     | GLORIOUS    |
| GRAND  | MAGNIFICENT | MAJESTIC    |
| NOBLE  | REGAL       | RESPLENDENT |
| SUPERB |             |             |

**TACIT:** done without using words

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

Related Words:

**TACITURN:** silent, not talkative

Words with similar meanings:

|          |           |            |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| IMPLICIT | IMPLIED   | UNDECLARED |
| UNSAID   | UNUTTERED |            |

**TACITURN:** silent, not talkative

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

Related Words:

**TACIT:** done without using words

Words with similar meanings:

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| LACONIC | RETICENT |
|---------|----------|

**TIRADE:** long, harsh speech or verbal attack

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

Words with similar meanings:

|          |             |              |
|----------|-------------|--------------|
| DIATRIBE | FULMINATION | HARANGUE     |
| OBLOQUY  | REVILEMENT  | VILIFICATION |

**TORPOR:** extreme mental and **physical** sluggishness

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

Related Words:

TORPID: sluggish, lacking movement

Words with similar meanings:

APATHY

LANGUOR

**TRANSITORY:** temporary, lasting a brief time

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

Related Words:

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

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

Words with similar meanings:

EPHEMERAL

EVANESCENT

FLEETING

IMPERMANENT

MOMENTARY

**VACILLATE:** to sway physically; to be indecisive

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

Words with similar meanings:

DITHER

FALTER

FLUCTUATE

OSCILLATE

WAVER

**VENERATE:** to respect deeply

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

Related Words:

VENERABLE: old, worthy of respect

Words with similar meanings:

ADORE

HONOR

IDOLIZE

REVERE

**VERACITY:** filled with truth and accuracy

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

Related Words:

VERITY: truth

VERACIOUS: truthful, accurate

## Vocabulary Builder

---

Words with similar meanings:

CANDOR                      EXACTITUDE                      FIDELITY  
PROBITY

**VERBOSE:** wordy

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

Related Words:

**VERBALIZE:** to put into words

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

**VERBIAGE:** lots of words that are **usually** superfluous

Words with similar meanings:

LONG-WINDED                      LOQUACIOUS                      PROLIX  
SUPERFLUOUS

**VEX:** to annoy

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

Related Words:

**VEXATION:** a feeling of irritation

Words with similar meanings:

ANNOY                      BOTHER                      CHAFE  
EXASPERATE                      IRK                      NETTLE  
PEEVE                      PROVOKE

**VOLATILE:** easily aroused or changeable; lively or explosive

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

Words with similar meanings:

CAPRICIOUS                      ERRATIC                      FICKLE  
INCONSISTENT                      INCONSTANT                      MERCURIAL  
TEMPERAMENTAL

**WAVER:** to fluctuate between choices

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

Words with similar meanings:

DITHER                      FALTER                      FLUCTUATE  
OSCILLATE                      VACILLATE

**WHIMSICAL:** acting in a fanciful or capricious manner; unpredictable

The ballet ~~was~~ **WHIMSICAL**, delighting the children with its imaginative characters and unpredictable **sets**.

Related Words:

**WHIM:** a fancy or sudden notion

Words with similar meanings:

CAPRICIOUS  
FLIPPANT

ERRATIC

FRIVOLOUS

**ZEAL:** passion, excitement

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

Related Words:

**ZEALOT:** a fanatic

Words with similar meanings:

ARDENCY  
PASSION

FERVOR

FIRE

# Chapter 9

## GRE WORD GROUPS

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

DENOUNCE:

- blaspheme
- acclaim
- permit
- gather
- assist

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

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

1. To declare (a **person**, an idea, behavior, a philosophy) to be censurable or evil; stigmatize or accuse, especially publicly and indignantly; inveigh against openly
2. *archaic* to announce in a public, formal and solemn manner: to declare or publish something disastrous
3. to inform against: declare or expose a lawbreaker to the authorities
- 4a. *obsolete* to indicate or portend
- 4b. *archaic* to announce in a warning or threatening manner
5. to proclaim formally and publicly the ending of a treaty or pact
6. *Mexican Law* to offer for record legal notice of a claim for a mining concession on land held by the government

*Synonym* see CRITICIZE

## Vocabulary Builder

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

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

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

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

### **BOLD**

|           |            |           |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| audacious | courageous | dauntless |
|-----------|------------|-----------|

### **CHANGING QUICKLY**

|            |           |          |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| capricious | mercurial | volatile |
|------------|-----------|----------|

### **HESITATE**

|           |           |        |
|-----------|-----------|--------|
| dither    | oscillate | teeter |
| vacillate | waver     |        |

### **ACT QUICKLY**

|           |             |                 |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| apace     | abrupt      | <b>headlong</b> |
| impetuous | precipitate |                 |

### **INNOCENT/INEXPERIENCED**

|           |                 |             |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| credulous | <b>gullible</b> | naive       |
| ingenuous | novitiate       | <b>tyro</b> |

## DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

|                 |             |            |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>abstruse</b> | ambiguous   | arcane     |
| bemusing        | cryptic     | enigmatic  |
| esoteric        | inscrutable | obscure    |
| opaque          | paradoxical | perplexing |
| recondite       | turbid      |            |

## EASY TO UNDERSTAND

|            |        |          |
|------------|--------|----------|
| articulate | cogent | eloquent |
| evident    | limpid | lucid    |
| pellucid   |        |          |

## SMART/LEARNED

|               |       |         |
|---------------|-------|---------|
| astute        | canny | erudite |
| perspicacious |       |         |

## CRITICIZE/CRITICISM

|             |                 |                |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| aspersion   | belittle        | berate         |
| calumny     | castigate       | decry          |
| defamation  | denounce        | derideldersive |
| diatribe    | disparage       | excoriate      |
| gainsay     | harangue        | impugn         |
| inveigh     | <b>lambaste</b> | obloquy        |
| objurgate   | opprobrium      | pillory        |
| remonstrate | rebuke          | reprehend      |
| reprove     | revile          | tirade         |
| vituperate  |                 |                |

## CAROUSAL

|              |                  |            |
|--------------|------------------|------------|
| bacchanalian | depraved         | dissipated |
| iniquity     | <b>libertine</b> | libidinous |
| licentious   | reprobate        | ribald     |
| salacious    | sordid           | turpitude  |

## TRUTH

|               |             |            |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| candor candid | fealty      | frankness  |
| indisputable  | indubitable | legitimate |
| probity       | sincere     | veracious  |
| verity        |             |            |



## Vocabulary Builder

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### FALSEHOOD

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

### BITING (as in wit or temperament)

|            |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| acerbic    | acidulous | acrimonious |
| asperity   | caustic   | mordant     |
| mordacious | trenchant |             |

### PRAISE

|          |                |            |
|----------|----------------|------------|
| acclaim  | accolade       | aggrandize |
| encomium | eulogize       | extol      |
| fawn     | laud/laudatory | venerate   |

### HARMFUL

|          |            |             |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| baleful  | baneful    | deleterious |
| inimical | injurious  | insidious   |
| minatory | perfidious | pernicious  |

### TIMID/TIMIDITY

|          |           |               |
|----------|-----------|---------------|
| craven   | diffident | pusillanimous |
| recreant | timorous  | trepidation   |

### BORING

|           |         |            |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| banal     | fatuous | hackneyed  |
| insipid   | mundane | pedestrian |
| platitude | prosaic | quotidian  |
| trite     |         |            |

### WEAKEN

|            |          |                 |
|------------|----------|-----------------|
| adulterate | enervate | exacerbate      |
| inhibit    | obviate  | <b>stultify</b> |
| undermine  | vitiate  |                 |

**ASSIST**

abet  
bolster  
espouse  
proponent

advocate  
corroborate  
mainstay  
stalwart

ancillary  
countenance  
munificent  
sustenance

**HOSTILE**

antithetic  
irascible  
truculent

churlish  
malevolent  
vindictive

curmudgeon  
misanthropic

**STUBBORN**

implacable  
intransigent  
recalcitrant  
untoward

inexorable  
obdurate  
refractory  
vexing

**intractable**  
obstinate  
renitent

**BEGINNING/YOUNG**

burgeoning  
inchoate

callow  
incipient

engender  
nascent

**GENEROUS/KIND**

altruistic  
largess  
philanthropic

beneficent  
magnanimous  
unstinting

clement  
munificent

**GREEDY**

avaricious  
miserly  
rapacious

covetous  
penurious

mercenary  
venal

**TERSE**

compendious  
pithy

curt  
succinct

laconic  
taciturn

## Vocabulary Builder

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### OVERBLOWN/WORDY

bombastic  
grandiloquent  
prolix  
verbose

circumlocution  
loquacious  
rhetoric

**garrulous**  
periphrastic  
turgid

### DICTATORIAL

dogmatic  
hegemonic  
peremptory

authoritarian  
hegemony  
tyrannical

despotic  
imperious

### HATRED

abhorrence  
antipathy  
loathing  
rancor

antagonism  
detestation  
malice

anathema  
enmity  
odium

### BEGINNER/AMATEUR

dilettante  
novitiate

fledgling  
proselyte

neophyte  
tyro

### LAZYISLUGGISH

indolent  
languid  
phlegmatic  
torpid

inert  
lassitude  
quiescent

lackadaisical  
lethargic  
slothful

### PACINISATISN

ameliorate  
defer  
placate  
slake

appease  
mitigate  
propitiate

assuage  
**mollify**  
satiare

### FORGIVE

absolve  
exonerate  
redress

acquit  
expiate  
vindicate

exculpate  
palliate

**POOR**

destitute  
impecunious

esurient

indigent

**FAVORING/NOT IMPARTIAL**

ardor/ardent  
partisan

doctrinaire  
tendentious

fervid  
zealot

**DENYING OF SELF**

abnegate  
Spartan

abstain  
stoic

ascetic  
temperate

**WALKING ABOUT**

ambulatory

itinerant

peripatetic

**INSINCERE**

disingenuous  
ostensible

dissemble  
unctuous

fulsome

**PREVENT/OBSTRUCT**

discomfit  
forfend  
inhibit

encumber  
hinder  
occlude

fetter  
impede

**ECCENTRIC/DISSIMILAR**

aberrant  
eclectic  
iconoclast

anomalous  
esoteric

anachronism  
discrete

**FUNNY**

chortle  
flippant  
levity  
riposte

droll  
gibe  
ludicrous  
simper

facetious  
jocular  
raillery

## Vocabulary Builder

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### SORROW

disconsolate  
elegiac  
lugubrious  
plaintive

doleful  
forlorn  
melancholy  
threnody

dolor  
lament  
morose

### DISGUSTING/OFFENSIVE

defile  
noisome  
rebarbative

fetid  
odious

invidious  
putrid

### WITHDRAWAL/RETREAT

abeyance  
abortive  
demur  
remission  
retrograde

abjure  
abrogate  
recant  
renege

abnegation  
decamp  
recidivism  
rescind

### DEATH/MOURNING

bereave  
demise  
knell  
moribund  
wraith

cadaver  
dolorous  
lament  
obsequies

defunct  
elegy  
macabre  
sepulchral

### COPY

counterpart  
factitious  
quintessence

emulate  
paradigm  
simulated

facsimile  
precursor  
vicarious

### EQUAL

equitable

equity

tantamount

### UNUSUAL

aberration  
idiosyncrasy

anomaly

iconoclast

**WANDERING**

|            |               |             |
|------------|---------------|-------------|
| discursive | expatiate     | forage      |
| itinerant  | peregrination | peripatetic |
| sojourn    |               |             |

**GAPS/OPENINGS**

|             |             |            |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| abatement   | aperture    | fissure    |
| hiatus      | interregnum | interstice |
| <b>lull</b> | orifice     | rent       |
| respite     | rift        |            |

**HEALTHY**

|            |            |          |
|------------|------------|----------|
| beneficial | salubrious | salutary |
|------------|------------|----------|

**ABBREVIATED COMMUNICATION**

|         |            |          |
|---------|------------|----------|
| abridge | compendium | cursory  |
| curtail | syllabus   | synopsis |
| terse   |            |          |

**WISDOM**

|         |           |             |
|---------|-----------|-------------|
| adage   | aphorism  | apothegm    |
| axiom   | bromide   | dictum      |
| epigram | platitude | sententious |
| truism  |           |             |

**FAMILY**

|            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| conjugal   | consanguine | distaff    |
| endogamous | filial      | fratricide |
| progenitor | scion       |            |

**NOT A STRAIGHT LINE**

|         |             |            |
|---------|-------------|------------|
| askance | <b>awry</b> | careen     |
| carom   | circuitous  | circumvent |
| gyrate  | labyrinth   | meander    |
| oblique | serrated    | sidle      |
| sinuous | undulating  | vortex     |

## Vocabulary Builder

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### INVESTIGATE

|          |           |       |
|----------|-----------|-------|
| appraise | ascertain | assay |
| descry   | peruse    |       |

### TIME/ORDER/DURATION

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

### BAD MOOD

|           |         |           |
|-----------|---------|-----------|
| bilious   | dudgeon | irascible |
| petulant  | pettish | pique     |
| querulous | umbrage | waspish   |

### EMBARRASS

|            |            |             |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| abash      | chagrin    | compunction |
| contrition | diffidence | expiate     |
| foible     | gaucherie  | rue         |

### HARDHEARTED

|           |              |           |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| asperity  | baleful      | dour      |
| fell      | malevolent   | mordant   |
| sardonic  | scathing     | truculent |
| vitriolic | vituperation |           |

### NAG

|          |          |             |
|----------|----------|-------------|
| admonish | cavil    | belabor     |
| enjoin   | exhort   | harangue    |
| hector   | martinet | remonstrate |
| reproof  |          |             |

### PREDICT

|           |               |         |
|-----------|---------------|---------|
| augur     | auspice       | fey     |
| harbinger | portentous    | presage |
| prescient | prognosticate |         |

**LUCK**

adventitious  
fortuitous  
optimum  
propitious

amulet  
kismet  
portentous  
providential

auspicious  
nemesis  
propitiate  
talisman

**NASTY**

fetid

noisome

noxious

**HARSH-SOUNDING**

assonance  
dissonant

cacophony  
raucous

din  
strident

**PLEASANT-SOUNDING**

euphonious  
sonorous

harmonious

melodious



# Chapter 10

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## WORD ROOT LIST

### INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD ROOT LIST

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

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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- A, AN** NOT, WITHOUT  
amoral, anarchy, anomalous, anonymous, aseptic, asexual, atheism, atro-  
phy, averse
- AB** FROM, AWAY, APART  
abdicate, abduct, abhor, -abject, abnormal, abrupt, absent, abuse
- ABLE, IBLE** CAPABLE OF, WORTHY OF  
changeable, durable, laudable, indubitable, inevitable, infallible, irre-  
ducible, tolerable, variable
- AC, ACR** SHARP, SOUR  
acerbic, acetate, acid, acid, acrimony, acumen, acute
- ACOU** HEARING  
acoustic
- AD, A** TO  
(Often d is dropped and the first letter to which a is prefixed is doubled.)  
adapt, adequate, adumbrate, advocate, accede, adduce, affiliate, aggregate,  
allocate, annunciation, appall, arrest, assiduous, attract
- AMBI, AMPHI** BOTH, ON BOTH SIDES, AROUND  
ambidextrous, ambient, ambiguous, ambition, ambivalent, amphibian,  
amphitheater
- AMBL, AMBUL** WALK  
amble, ambulance, ambulatory, perambulator, preamble
- ANIM** MIND, SPIRIT, BREATH  
animadversion, animal, animate, animosity, equanimity, magnanimity,  
pusillanimous, unanimity,
- ANT, ANTE** BEFORE  
antecedent, antechamber, antediluvian, anterior, anticipate, antiquity,  
ancient
- ANTI, ANT** AGAINST, OPPOSITE  
antclimax, antidote, antipathy, antiphony, antipodes, antithesis,  
antagonism
- AQUA, AQUE** WATER  
aquamarine, aquarium, aquatic, aquatint, aqueduct, subaqueous

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| ARD, ASS            | <b>BURN</b><br><i>gây cháy</i><br><b>ardent, ardor, arson</b><br><i>Nhét huyết</i>  |
| AUTO, AUT           | <b>SELF</b><br>autobiography, <u>autocracy</u> , autograph, automaton, autonomous, autopsy, autism  |
| BEL, BELL           | <b>BEAUTIFUL</b><br>belle, <u>embellish</u>   |
| BELL, BELLI         | <b>WAR</b> <i>warlike hay gây gổ, đánh hay</i><br>antebellum, <u>bellicose</u> , <u>belligerent</u> , <u>rebellion</u>  |
| BEN, BEN            | <b>WELL, GOOD</b> <i>(whole từ)</i><br><u>benediction</u> , benefactor, benevolent, benign  |
| BI, BIN             | <b>TWO</b> <i>2 trong 2 mắt</i><br><i>characterized</i><br>bicameral, bicycle, bifocals, bifurcate, bilateral, <u>binoculars</u> , binomial,<br><i>đôi mắt</i><br>biped, combination, <u>biennial</u>                         |
| BON, BOUN           | <b>GOOD, GENEROUS</b><br>bonus, <u>bountiful</u> , bounty, debonair <i>phong cách</i>   |
| BREW, BRID,<br>brev | <b>SHORT, SMALL</b><br>abbreviate, abridge, brevet, <u>breviary</u> , <u>breviloquent</u> , <u>brevity</u> , brief  |
| BURS                | <b>PURSE, MONEY</b><br><i>pay out repay khoản tiền (tiền)</i><br><u>bursar</u> , <u>bursary</u> , <u>disburse</u> , reimburse<br><i>trả tiền, trả</i>   |
| CARN                | <b>FLESH</b> <i>thịt</i><br>carnage, carnal, carnival, carnivorous, charnel, <u>incarnate</u>   |
| CAUS, CAUT          | <b>BURN</b><br>caustic, <u>cauterize</u> , cautery, <u>encaustic</u> , <u>holocaust</u>   |
| CED, CESS           | <b>YIELD, GO</b><br>abscess, accede, access, accessory, ancestor, antecedent, cession, <u>concede</u> ,<br>exceed, excess, intercede, precede, proceed, recede, recess, recession, <u>secede</u> ,<br>succeed <i>đạt được</i> |
| CELER               | <b>SPEED</b><br>accelerate, celerity, <u>decelerate</u>   |

## Vocabulary Builder

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>CENT</b>                            | <b>HUNDRED, HUNDREDTH</b><br>cent, centennial, bicentennial, centigrade, centigram, centiliter, centimeter, centipede, century, percent                 |
| <b>CHROM</b>                           | <b>COLOR</b><br>chromatic, chrome, chromosome, monochromatic  |
| <b>CHRON</b>                           | <b>TIME</b><br>anachronism, chronic, chronicle, chronological, chronometer, synchronize   |
| <b>CIRCUM</b>                          | <b>AROUND</b><br>circumference, circumlocution, circumnavigate, circumspect, circumstance   |
| <b>CO, COM, CON</b>                    | <b>WITH, TOGETHER</b><br>coeducation, coefficient, coincide, communicate, communist, compare, concert, concubine, conflict, cooperate, correspond       |
| <b>CONTRA,<br/>CONTRO,<br/>COUNTER</b> | <b>AGAINST</b><br>contradict, contrary, controversy, counter, counteract, counterattack, counterfeit, countermand, counterpart, counterpoint, encounter |
| <b>CORD, CARD</b>                      | <b>HEART</b><br>accord, cardiac, cardiograph, cardiology, concord, cordial, discord, record   |
| <b>CORP, CORS</b>                      | <b>BODY</b><br>corporate, corps, corpse, corpulent, corpus, corpuscle, corset, incorporation  |
| <b>COSM</b>                            | <b>ORDER, UNIVERSE, WORLD</b><br>cosmetic, cosmic, cosmology, cosmonaut, cosmopolitan, cosmos, microcosm  |
| <b>CRED</b>                            | <b>TRUST, BELIEVE</b><br>accredit, credentials, credible, credit, creditable, credo, credulity, creed, incredible, incredulous                          |
| <b>CRYPT</b>                           | <b>HIDE</b><br>crypt, cryptic, cryptography, apocryphal   |
| <b>CULP</b>                            | <b>FAULT, BLAME</b><br>culpable, culprit, inculcate, exculpate  |
| <b>CUMB, CUB</b>                       | <b>LIE DOWN</b><br>concubine, cubicle, incubate, incubus, incumbent, recumbent, succubus, succumb   |

**Word Root List**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>CYN, CAN</b>       | DOG<br><u>canine</u> , cynic   |
| <b>DE</b>             | DOWN, OUT, AWAY FROM, APART<br>dehydrate, deject, depend, depress, deport, descend, describe, devalue  |
| <b>DELE</b>           | ERASE<br>dele, delete, indelible   |
| <b>DEXT</b>           | RIGHT HAND, RIGHT SIDE<br><u>ambidextrous</u> , <u>dexterity</u> , <u>dexterous</u>  |
| <b>DI</b>             | DAY<br>dial, diary, dismal, <u>diurnal</u> , meridian, <u>quotidian</u>  |
| <b>DIA</b>            | THROUGH, ACROSS<br>diadem, diagnosis, diagonal, diagram, dialect, dialogue, diameter, diaphanous, diaphragm, diarrhea, diatribe<br><i>diagnosis/diagnose</i>   |
| <b>DIC, DICT, DIT</b> | SPEAK<br>abdicate, <u>addict</u> , benediction, condition, contradict, dedicate, dictate, dictator, diction, dictionary, <u>dictum</u> , ditto, <u>dictate</u> , indict, interdict, malediction, <u>predicament</u> , <u>predicate</u> , predict, valedictorian, verdict<br><i>dictum: statement</i> |
| <b>DI, DIS</b>        | AWAY, APART<br>disagreeable, discard, discern, disdain, dismay, dismiss, distant, diverge<br><i>dis: not</i>   |
| <b>DOL</b>            | GRIEVE <i>bow</i><br>condole, condolence, doleful, dolor, <u>indolent</u><br><i>lazy</i>   |
| <b>DORM</b>           | SLEEP<br><u>dormant</u> , dormitory  |
| <b>DORS</b>           | BACK<br>dorsal, <u>endorse</u>   |
| <b>DUC, DUCT</b>      | LEAD <i>conduce, conduce, conduit</i><br>adduce, <u>conduce</u> , <u>conduit</u> , deduce, duct, duke, educate, induction, misconduct, produce, reduce, seduce, traduce, viaduct<br><i>ductile, flexible, phable</i><br><i>roadway (arched)</i>  |
| <b>DULC</b>           | SWEET<br>dulcet, dulcified, <u>dulcimer</u><br><i>sm</i>   |

**Vocabulary Builder**

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|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>DUR</b>               | <b>HARD, LASTING</b> <i>độc lập, bền vững</i><br><i>nhẫn nại, kiên trì</i>   |
|                          | <u>dour</u> , durable, duration, <u>duress</u> , during, endure, obdurate, perdurable  |
| <b>EI EX. EC, EF</b>     | <b>OM</b> <i>tiêu, trừ</i> <i>đến tận cùng</i><br>eliminate, emanate, eradicate, erase, evade, evict, <u>evince</u> , exact, excavate,<br>except, <u>excerpt</u> , <u>Xid</u> excite, exclusive, excommunicate, excrescence, execute,<br>exhale, exile, exit |
| <b>EGO</b>               | <b>SELF</b> <i>ở cái tôi</i><br>ego, egocentric, egoism, egotist   |
| <b>EQU</b>               | <b>EQUAL</b><br>adequate, equable, equal, equation, equator, equilibrium, equinox, equivocate  |
| <b>ERR</b>               | <b>WANDER</b> <i>(lạc thng, lảm lạc)</i> <i>lạc, vụng</i><br>aberration, err, errant, erratic, erroneous, error  |
| <b>EU</b>                | <b>WELL, GOOD</b><br>eugenics, eulogy, euphemism, euphony, <u>euphoria</u> , euthanasia  |
| <b>FAL</b>               | <b>LIABLE TO ERR TO DECEIVE</b><br>default, fail, fallacy false, faux pas, infallible  |
| <b>FATU</b>              | <b>FOOLISH</b><br><u>fatuity</u> , <u>fatuous</u> , infatuate  |
| <b>FERN</b>              | <b>BOIL</b> <i>(chủt %A, luyt)</i><br><u>effervescent</u> , <u>fervent</u> , <u>fervid</u> , fervor <i>→ chủt thn. đn</i> <i>đj, đt đj đj</i>  |
| <b>FID, FI</b>           | <b>FAITH</b> <i>(tuệ) trung thn</i><br><u>affiance</u> , <u>affidavit</u> , <u>confidant</u> , fealty, <u>fidelity</u> , <u>fiducial</u> , <u>fiduciary</u>  |
| <b>FLAGR, FULG, FULM</b> | <b>BURN, SHINE</b> <i>đốt, cháy, sáng</i><br><u>conflagration</u> , <u>effulgent</u> , <u>flagrant</u> , <u>fulgent</u> , <u>fulminate</u> , <u>refulgent</u> <i>đốt cháy, sáng chói</i>   |
| <b>FLECT, FLEX</b>       | <b>BEND, TURN</b><br>circumflex, <u>deflect</u> , flex, flexible, inflection, reflect  |
| <b>FUG</b>               | <b>FLEE</b> <i>(trần)</i><br><u>centrifuge</u> , fugitive, fugue, <u>refuge</u> , refugee, <u>subterfuge</u>   |
| <b>FUM</b>               | <b>SMOKE</b><br>fume, fumigate, perfume  |

**GEN** BIRTH, CLASS, **KIN**  
 gender, gene, general, generation, generosity, genesis, genetics, genial, **geni-**  
 tal, genius, gentle, gentile, gentility, gentry, congenital, degenerate, **engender**  
 eugenics, ingenious, ingenuity, ingenuous, progeny, progenitor, regenerate

**GNO, GNI,** **KNOW**  
**COGN,** agnostic, **cognition**, cognizance, diagnosis, gnomonic, ignore, **incognito**,  
**CONN** prognosis, quaint, recognize, reconnaissance ~ econnoiter

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

**GREG** **FLOCK**  
 aggregate, congregate, **egregious**, gregarious, segregate

**HAP** **BY CHANCE**  
 haphazard, hapless, happen, happily, happy, mayhap, mishap

**HEMI** **HALF**  
 hemiptera, hemisphere, hemistich

**HETERO** **OTHER**  
 heterodox, heterodyne, heterogeneous, heterosexual

**HOL** **WHOLE**  
 catholic, holocaust, hologram, holograph, holistic

**HOMO** **SAME** (from Greek)  
 homogeneous, homogenize, homologue, homonym, homophone,  
 homoptera, homosexual, **homotype**

**HUM** **EARTH**  
 exhumed, humble, humility, posthumous

**ICON** **IMAGE, IDOL**  
 icon, iconic, iconoclast, iconography, iconology

**IM, IN** **NOT**  
 immature, immutable, imperfect, improvident, indigestible, inhospitable,  
 innocuous, intolerant

## Vocabulary Builder

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|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>IN, IM, I</b>               | <b>IN, ON</b><br>(Often <i>n</i> is dropped and the first letter to which <i>i</i> is prefixed is doubled.)<br>illuminate, incantation, induct, infer, imbibe, immigrate, impact, irrigate |
| <b>INTER</b>                   | <b>BETWEEN, AMONG</b><br>intercept, interchange, interfere, interject, interpret, interval   |
| <b>INTRA</b>                   | <b>INSIDE, WITHIN</b><br>intramural, intrastate, intravenous   |
| <b>IT, ITER</b>                | <b>WAY, JOURNEY</b><br>ambition, circuit, initial, <u>itinerant</u> , <u>itinerary</u> , reiterate, transit  |
| <b>JOC</b>                     | <b>JOKE</b><br>jocose, jocular, jocularity, jocund, joke   |
| <b>JOUR</b>                    | <b>DAY</b><br>adjourn, journey, journal, adjourn   |
| <b>JUD</b>                     | <b>JUDGE</b><br>adjudicate, judiciary, judicious, prejudice  |
| <b>JUNCT, JUG</b>              | <b>JOIN</b><br>adjunct, conjugal conjunction, injunction, junction, junta, subjugate, sub-junctive   |
| <b>JUR</b>                     | <b>LAW</b><br>abjure, adjure, conjure, injure, juridical, jurisdiction, jurisprudence, jurist, jury, perjury   |
| <b>JUV</b>                     | <b>YOUNG</b><br>juvenile, juvenilia, rejuvenate  |
| <b>LAUD</b>                    | <b>PRAISE</b><br>applaud, cum laude, laud, laudable, laudatory, <u>plaudits</u>  |
| <b>LAV, LAU, LU</b>            | <b>WASH</b><br>ablution, laundry, lava, lavatory, lave   |
| <b>LAX, LAK,<br/>LEAS, LES</b> | <b>LOOSE</b><br>lax, laxative, laxity, lease, leash, lessee, lessor, relax, release  |
| <b>LEG, LEC, LEX</b>           | <b>READ, SPEAK</b><br>dialect, <u>lectern</u> , lecture, <u>legend</u> , legible, lesson, lexicographer, lexicon   |



|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>LEV</b>                | <b>LIGHT</b> <i>nhc ... son bay hien the tang</i><br>alleviation, elevate, <u>leaven</u> , lever, <u>levitate</u> , <u>levity</u> , <u>levy</u> , relieve   |
| <b>LIBER</b>              | <b>FREE</b> <i>lock of freedom -&gt; impeller / is ... / ...<br/>is the key thing lac ... / ... do the</i><br>delivery, illiberal, liberal, liberality, liberate, <u>libertine</u> , <u>livery</u>  |
| <b>LIG, LI</b>            | <b>TIE, BIND</b> <i>equal from - city</i><br>ally, league, liaison, liable, lien, ligament, ligature, oblige, religion, rely  |
| <b>LING, LANG</b>         | <b>TONGUE</b><br>bilingual, language, linguistics   |
| <b>LITH</b>               | <b>STONE</b><br>acrolith, lithography, lithoid, lithology, lithotomy, megalith, monolith  |
| <b>LOG, LOQU</b>          | <b>SPEECH, THOUGHT</b><br>biology, <u>circumlocution</u> , colloquial, dialogue, ecology, elocution, eloquent, geology, grandiloquent, interlocutor, locution, logic, <u>loquacious</u> , monologue, obloquy, soliloquy, ventriloquism, zoology |
| <b>LUX, LUC</b>           | <b>LIGHT</b> <i>sa ... / ... / ...</i><br>elucidate, lucid, lucubrate, luster, pellucid, <u>translucent</u>   |
| <b>MACRO</b>              | <b>GREAT, LONG</b><br>macrobotics, macrocephalous, <u>macrocosm</u>   |
| <b>MAG, MAX, MAJ, MAS</b> | <b>GREAT</b> <i>magistrate ... / ... / ...</i><br>magistrate, <u>magnanimous</u> , <u>magnate</u> , magnificent, magnify, <u>magniloquent</u> , <u>magnitude</u> , <u>majesty</u> , major, majority, master, maxim, <u>maximum</u> , mistress   |
| <b>MAL</b>                | <b>BAD</b> <i>lines</i><br><u>maladroit</u> , malady, <u>malediction</u> , malefactor, malevolence, malice, malingering   |
| <b>MAN, MANU</b>          | <b>HAND</b> <i>man ... / ... / ...</i><br>amanuensis, <u>emancipation</u> , manacle, manage, maneuver, manifest, manipulate, manner, manual, manufacture, manuscript  |
| <b>MAND, MEND</b>         | <b>COMMAND, ORDER</b> <i>command, mend ... / ... / ...</i><br>command, <u>countermand</u> , demand, mandate, <u>mandatory</u> , recommend, remand, reprimand  |
| <b>MEDI</b>               | <b>MIDDLE</b><br>immediate, intermediate, mean, media, median, mediate, medieval, mediocre, medium medius   |

## Vocabulary Builder

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|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>MEGA</b>               | LARGE, GREAT<br>megalithic, megalomania, megalopolis, megaphone, megaton  |
| <b>MICRO</b>              | VERY SMALL<br>microbe, microcosm, micron, microorganism, microphone, microscope   |
| <b>MIS</b>                | BAD, WRONG, HATE<br>misadventure, misanthropist, misapply, miscarry, mischance, mischief, misconstrue, miscount, misfit, misinterpret   |
| <b>MOLL</b>               | SOFT<br>emollient, mild, mollify, mollusk, <i>mollusc, mollusk, mollify</i>   |
| <b>MON, MONO</b>          | ONE<br>monarchy, monastic, monism, monk, monochord, monograph, monogram, monograph, monolithic, monologue, monomania, monosyllable, monotonous <i>monotonous, monotonous</i>        |
| <b>MOR, MORT</b>          | DEATH<br>amortize, immortal, morbid, moribund, mortality, mortgage, mortification, mortuary <i>amortize, mortal, morbid, moribund, mortality, mortgage, mortification, mortuary</i> |
| <b>MOT, MOV, MOM, MOB</b> | MOVE<br>automobile, demote, immovable, locomotion, mob, mobile, mobility, mobilize, momentous, momentum, motion, motive, motor, move, mutiny, promote, removable                    |
| <b>MULT</b>               | MANY<br>multiplex, multiply, multitudinous, <i>multiplex, multiply, multitudinous, multiplex, multiply</i>  |
| <b>MUT</b>                | CHANGE<br>commute, immutable, mutability, mutation, mutual, permutation, transmute  |
| <b>NASC, NAT, GNA</b>     | BIRTH<br>cognate, innate, nascent, natal, native, natural, nature, pregnant, Renaissance <i>cognate, innate, nascent, natal, native, natural, nature, pregnant, Renaissance</i>     |
| <b>NAU, NAV</b>           | SHIP, SAILOR<br>astronaut, cosmonaut, circumnavigate, nauseous, nautical, naval, nave, navy <i>astronaut, cosmonaut, circumnavigate, nauseous, nautical, naval, nave, navy</i>      |
| <b>NEO</b>                | NEW<br>neolithic, neologism, neophyte, neoplasm <i>neolithic, neologism, neophyte, neoplasm</i>   |
| <b>NIHIL</b>              | NOTHING, NONE<br>annihilate, nihilism <i>annihilate, nihilism</i>   |

**Word Root List**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>NOCT, NOX</b>              | <b>NIGHT</b><br><u>equinox</u> , <u>noctambulent</u> , <u>nocturnal</u> , nocturne   |
| <b>NOX, NOC</b>               | <b>HARM</b><br>innocent, <u>innocuous</u> , <u>internecine</u> , <u>noxious</u> , nuisance, <u>obnoxious</u> , <u>pernicious</u> .<br><i>= offensive &amp; harmful, go to n</i>  |
| <b>NOM, NYM</b><br><b>NEC</b> | <b>NAME</b><br>anonymous, antonym, cognomen, denominator, <u>homonym</u> , <u>misnomer</u> ,<br>nomenclature, nominal, nominate, noun, pronoun, <u>pseudonym</u> ,<br>renowned, synonym . . . <i>very destructive, very strong</i><br><i>in the same way, not with</i> |
| <b>NON</b>                    | <b>NOT</b><br>nonconformist, <u>nONENTITY</u> , nonpareil, nonpartisan   |
| <b>NOV</b>                    | <b>NEW</b><br>innovate, nova, <u>novel</u> , <u>novelty</u> , <u>novice</u> , novitiate, <u>renovate</u>   |
| <b>NULL</b>                   | <b>NOTHING</b><br>annul, null, nullify, nullity  |
| <b>OB</b>                     | <b>AGAINST</b><br><u>obdurate</u> , obliterate, oblong, obloquy, object, obstacle, obstreperous, obstruct  |
| <b>OMNI</b>                   | <b>ALL</b><br>omnibus, <u>omnipresent</u> , <u>omnipotent</u> , <u>omniscient</u> , <u>omnivorous</u>  |
| <b>ONER</b>                   | <b>BURDEN</b><br><u>exonerate</u> , <u>onerous</u> , <u>onus</u>   |
| <b>OSS, OSTE</b>              | <b>BONE</b><br><u>osseous</u> , ossicle, ossiferous, <u>ossify</u> , ossuary, osstectomy, osteopathy<br><i>bone, eye - on the chair, room, etc.</i>  |
| <b>PALP</b>                   | <b>FEEL</b><br><u>palpable</u> , palpate, <u>palpitation</u> <i>palpation, palpable</i>  |
| <b>PAN, PANT</b>              | <b>ALL</b><br>panacea, <u>pandemic</u> , <u>pandemonium</u> , <u>panegyric</u> , <u>panoply</u> , panorama, pantheon, pantomime<br><i>all - melt each other into one</i>   |
| <b>PATH</b>                   | <b>SUFFER, FEEL</b><br>apathy, antipathy, empathy, <u>pathetic</u> , <u>pathology</u> , <u>pathos</u> , sympathy<br><i>path, pathy</i> <i>HC pathy</i>   |
| <b>PEC</b>                    | <b>MONEY</b><br>impecunious, speculation, <u>pecuniary</u><br><i>pecunia</i>   |

## Vocabulary Builder

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|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>PED, POD</b>        | <b>FOOT</b><br>arthropod, <u>expedient</u> , impede, pedal, pedestal, pedestrian, pediment, pedigree, tripod   |
| <b>PED</b>             | <b>CHILD, EDUCATION</b><br>encyclopedia, <u>pedagogue</u> , pedant, pediatrician   |
| <b>PEL</b>             | <b>DRIVE, PUSH</b><br>appellate, appellation, compel, dispel, expel, impel, propel   |
| <b>PENE, PEN</b>       | <b>ALMOST</b><br>antepenult, peninsula, penult, penultimate, penumbra  |
| <b>PERI</b>            | <b>AROUND</b><br>pericardium, perihelion, perimeter, perineum, periphery, periscope  |
| <b>PHIL</b>            | <b>LOVE</b><br>bibliophile, necrophilia, philanthropy, philately, philharmonic, <u>philogyny</u> , philology, philosophy   |
| <b>PHOB</b>            | <b>FEAR</b><br>claustrophobia, hydrophobia, phobia, phobic, xenophobia   |
| <b>PHON</b>            | <b>SOUND</b><br>antiphony, euphony, megaphone, phonetics, phonograph, polyphony, saxophone, symphony, telephone  |
| <b>PLAC</b>            | <b>PLEASE</b><br>complacent, implacable, placate, placebo, placid  |
| <b>PLEN, PLET, PLE</b> | <b>FILL, FULL</b><br>accomplishment, complement, complete, deplete, implement, plenary, plenipotentiary, <u>plenitude</u> , plenty, replenish, replete, supplement                               |
| <b>POLY</b>            | <b>MANY</b><br>polyandry, polygamy, polyglot, polygon, polyhedron, polynomial, polysyllable, polytechnic, polytheism   |
| <b>PORT</b>            | <b>CARRY</b><br><u>comport</u> , deportment, <u>disport</u> , export, import, important, portable, portage, porter, portfolio, portly, <u>purport</u> , rapport, reporter, supportive, transport |
| <b>POST</b>            | <b>BEHIND, AFTER</b><br>posterior, posterity, postern, <u>posthumous</u> , postmeridian, postmortem, <u>postpone</u> , <u>postprandial</u> , postscript, postwar, <u>preposterous</u>            |

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>POT</b>              | <b>DRINK</b><br>potable, potation, <u>potion</u>  |
| <b>PRE</b>              | <b>BEFORE, IN FRONT</b><br><u>preamble</u> , precaution, <u>preclude</u> , precocity, precursor, <u>predecessor</u> , predict, <u>preface</u> , <u>prefigure</u> , <u>prelate</u> , <u>premonition</u> , <u>prescribe</u> , president |
| <b>PRIM, PRI</b>        | <b>FIRST</b><br>prime, primary, primal, primeval, <u>primordial</u> , <u>pristine</u>   |
| <b>PRO</b>              | <b>IN FRONT, BEFORE</b><br><u>problem</u> , proboscis, procedure, proceed, proclaim, <u>proclivity</u> , <u>procrastinate</u> , procure, propound, prostrate, protest   |
| <b>PROP, PROX</b>       | <b>NEAR</b><br>approximate, propinquity, proximate, proximity   |
| <b>PROTO, PROT</b>      | <b>FIRST</b><br>protagonist, protocol, prototype, protozoan   |
| <b>PSEUDO, PSEUD</b>    | <b>FALSE</b><br>pseudepigrapha, pseudoclassic, pseudomorph, pseudonym, pseudopod, pseudoscientific  |
| <b>PUG, PUN</b>         | <b>HIT, PRICK</b><br>expunge, <u>impugn</u> , poignant, pugilist, <u>pugnacious</u> , punch, punctual, <u>punctuate</u> , <u>pungent</u> , <u>repugnant</u>   |
| <b>PYR</b>              | <b>FIRE</b><br>pyre, <u>pyromania</u> , pyromania, pyrometer, pyrosis, pyrotechnic  |
| <b>QUAD, QUAR, QUAT</b> | <b>FOUR</b><br>quadrant, quadrille, quadrinomial, quadruple, quadruplets, quart, quarter, quaternary  |
| <b>QUIE, QUIT</b>       | <b>QUIET, TEST</b><br>acquiesce, acquit, coy, <u>disquiet</u> , <u>quiescent</u> , quiet, quietude, quietus, quit, <u>requiem</u> , <u>requital</u> , <u>tranquil</u>   |
| <b>QUINT, QUIN</b>      | <b>FIVE</b><br>quincunx, quinquennial, <u>quintessence</u> , <u>quintile</u> , quintillion, quintuple   |
| <b>RADI, RACI, RAMI</b> | <b>ROOT, BRANCH</b><br>deracinate, eradicate, radical, radish, <u>ramification</u> , ramiform, <u>ramify</u>  |

## Vocabulary Builder

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|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>RE</b>                 | <b>BACK, AGAIN</b><br>recline, refer, regain, remain, reorganize, repent, request   |
| <b>RECT</b>               | <b>STRAIGHT, RIGHT</b><br>correct, direct, erect, rectangle, rectify, rectilinear, <u>rectitude</u> , rector  |
| <b>REG</b>                | <b>KING, RULE</b><br>interregnum, realm, regal, regent, regicide, regime, regiment, region, regular, regulate —   |
| <b>RETRO</b>              | <b>BACKWARD</b><br><u>retroactive</u> , retroflex, retrograde, retrospective  |
| <b>RUB, RUD</b>           | <b>RED</b><br>rouge, rubella, rubicund, <u>rubric</u> , ruby, ruddy, russet   |
| <b>RUD</b>                | <b>CRUDE</b> <i>Two so, ny / chait</i><br>erudite, rude, rudimentary, rudiments   |
| <b>SACER, SACR, SANCT</b> | <b>HOLY</b><br>consecration, desecrate, execrate, sacerdotal, sacrament, sacred, sacrifice, sacrilege, sacristy, sacrosanct, saint, sanctify, sanctimonious, sanction, sanctity, sanctuary, sanctum |
| <b>SAL</b>                | <b>SALT</b><br>salary, <u>saline</u>  |
| <b>SAG, SAP, SAV</b>      | <b>TASTE, THINK</b><br>insipid, sagacious, sagacity, sage, <u>sapid</u> , sapient, savant, savor  |
| <b>SALU, SALV</b>         | <b>HEALTH, SAVE</b><br>safe, <u>salubrious</u> , salutary, salute, salvage, salvation, salve, savior  |
| <b>SAN</b>                | <b>HEALTHY</b><br>sane, sanitarium, sanitation, sanity  |
| <b>SANG</b>               | <b>BLOOD</b><br>consanguinity, <u>sanguinary</u> , sanguine   |
| <b>SAT</b>                | <b>ENOUGH</b><br>asset, dissatisfied, insatiable, sate, satiate, satisfy, saturate  |

- SCRIB, SCRIV, SCRIPT** WRITE  
*scribere*  
ascribe, circumscription, conscript, describe, indescribable, inscription, postscript, prescribe, proscribe, scribble, scribe, script, scripture, scrivener, subscribe, transcription
- SE** DOWN, OUT, AWAY, APART  
secede, seclude, secret, secrete, secure, sedition, seduce, segregate, select, separate
- SED, SID** SIT  
*sedere*  
assiduous, dissident, insidious, preside, reside, residue, seance, sedate, sedative, sedentary, sediment, sedulous, session, siege, subside, supersede
- SEM** SEED, SOW  
*semen*  
disseminate, semen, seminal, seminar, seminary
- SEMI** HALF  
*semih*  
semicircle, semicolon, semiconscious, semifluid
- SEN** OLD  
*senex*  
senate, senescent, senile, senior, sire
- SEQU, SECU, SUE, SUI** FOLLOW  
*sequi*  
consecutive, consequent, execute, executive, non sequitur, obsequious, obsequy, persecute, prosecution, pursue, sequel, sequence, subsequent, sue, suitable, suite, suitor
- SINU, SIN** BEND, FOLD  
*sinuere*  
cosine, insinuate, sine, sinuous, sinus
- SOL** SUN  
*solaris*  
parasol, solar, solarium, solstice
- SOL** ALONE  
*solus*  
desolate, isolate, sole, soliloquize, solipsism, solitude, solo
- SOMN** SLEEP  
*sonnare*  
insomnia, somnambulist, somniferous, somniloquist, somnolent
- SOPH** WISDOM  
*sophos*  
philosopher, sophism, sophist, sophisticated, sophistry, sophomore

## Vocabulary Builder

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|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>SPEC, SPIC</b>            | <b>LOOK, SEE</b><br>aspect, <u>auspicious</u> , <u>circumspect</u> , <u>conspicuous</u> , despicable, <u>expect</u> , <u>inspect</u> , <u>introspection</u> , perspective, <u>perspicacious</u> , <u>perspicuous</u> , <u>prospectus</u> , respectable, retrospect, specimen, spectacle, spectator, specter, <u>spectrum</u> , suspect, suspicious |
| <b>SPIR</b>                  | <b>BREATH</b><br>aspire, <u>conspire</u> , <u>expire</u> , inspire, perspire, respirator, spirit, spiritual, sprightly, sprite, suspire, <u>transpire</u>  |
| <b>STRICT, STRING, TIGHT</b> |  |
| <b>STRAN</b>                 | <u>astringency</u> , <u>constrain</u> , constrict, district, restriction, strain, strait, strangle, strict, <u>stringent</u>   |
| <b>SUA</b>                   | <b>PLEASE</b><br>assuage, <u>dissuade</u> , persuade, persuasive, suasion, suave, sweet  |
| <b>SUB</b>                   | <b>UNDER</b><br>subdivide, subdue, subjugate, subjunctive, sublunary, submarine, submerge, <u>subordinate</u> , subpoena, subscribe, subside, substitute, subterfuge, subterranean, suburb   |
| <b>SUMM</b>                  | <b>HIGHEST</b><br>consummate, sum, summary, summit   |
| <b>SUPER, SUR</b>            | <b>ABOVE</b><br>insuperable, superabound, superannuated, superb, supercharge, <u>supercilious</u> , superficial, <u>superfluous</u> , <u>superior</u> , <u>superlative</u> , supernatural, <u>supernumerary</u> , supervise, <u>surmount</u> , <u>surpass</u> , surrealism, <u>survey</u>  |
| <b>SURG, SOURC, SURRECT</b>  | <b>RISE</b><br><u>insurgent</u> , <u>insurrection</u> , resource, <u>resurge</u> , resurrection, source, surge   |
| <b>SYM, SYN</b>              | <b>TOGETHER</b><br><u>ymbiosis</u> , <u>symmetry</u> , sympathy, symposium, synonym, synthesis   |
| <b>TACIT</b>                 | <b>SILENT</b><br>reticent, <u>facit</u> , <u>taciturn</u>  |
| <b>TACT, TAG, TAM, TANG</b>  | <b>TOUCH</b><br>contact, <u>contagious</u> , <u>contamination</u> , <u>contiguous</u> , cotangent, intact, intangible, integral tact, <u>tactile</u> , <u>tangent</u> , <u>tangential</u>  |



|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>TEST</b>            | BEAR WITNESS<br>attest, contest, detest, intestate, protest, testament, <u>testify</u> , <u>testimonial</u> , <i>testimon</i>                              |
| <b>THERM</b>           | HEAT<br>diathermy, thermal, thermesthesia, thermometer, thermonuclear, <u>thermophilic</u> , <u>thermos</u> , thermostat                                   |
| <b>TIM</b>             | FEAR<br><u>intimidate</u> , <u>timid</u> , timidity, <u>timorous</u>   |
| <b>TORP</b>            | STIFF, NUMB <i>tim, tē, tēt</i><br>torpedo, torpid, <u>torpor</u> - <i>torpor</i>  |
| <b>TORQ, TORT, TOR</b> | TWIST <i>torq, tort, tor</i><br><u>contort</u> , <u>distort</u> , <u>extort</u> , <u>retort</u> , torch, torment, torque, torsion, tort, tortuous, torture |
| <b>TOX</b>             | POISON<br>antitoxin, intoxication, toxemia, toxic, toxicology, toxin   |
| * <b>TRANS</b>         | ACROSS, BEYOND<br><u>intransigent</u> , <u>transcend</u> , transcontinental, <u>transcribe</u> , <u>transient</u> , transmit, transpire, transport         |
| <b>ULT</b>             | LAST, BEYOND<br>penultimate, ulterior, ultimate, <u>ultimatum</u> , ultramarine, ultramontane, ultraviolet   |
| <b>UMBR</b>            | SHADOW<br>adumbrate, penumbra, <u>somber</u> , umber, <u>umbrage</u> , umbrella  |
| <b>UN</b>              | NOT<br>unaccustomed, unruly, unseen, untold, unusual   |
| <b>UND</b>             | WAVE<br>abound, abundance, inundate, redundant, <u>undulant</u> , <u>undulate</u>  |
| <b>UNI, UN</b>         | ONE<br>reunion, unanimous, unicorn, uniform, union, <u>unison</u> , unit, unite, unity, universe   |
| <b>URB</b>             | CITY<br>exurbanite, suburban, urban, urbane, urbanity, urbanization  |

## Vocabulary Builder

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|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>VAL, VAIL</b>  | <b>STRENGTH, USE, WORTH</b><br><u>ambivalent</u> , avail, convalescent, countervailing, equivalent, evaluate, invalid, prevalent, valediction, valiant, <u>valid</u> , <u>valor</u> , value                     |
| <b>VER</b>        | <b>TRUE</b><br>aver, <u>veracious</u> , verdict, verify, verily, <u>verisimilitude</u> , verity, very   |
| <b>VERB</b>       | <b>WORD</b><br>adverb, proverb, verb, verbal, <u>verbalize</u> , <u>verbatim</u> , verbose, verbiage  |
| <b>VERD</b>       | <b>GREEN</b><br>verdant, verdigris, <u>verdure</u>  |
| <b>VIL</b>        | <b>BASE, MEAN</b><br>revile, vile, vilify, <u>vilification</u>  |
| <b>VIRU</b>       | <b>POISON</b><br>virulence, virulent, <u>viruliferous</u> , virus   |
| <b>VIT, VIV</b>   | <b>LIFE</b><br><u>convivial</u> , revival, revive, survive, vital, vitality, vivacious, vivid, viviparous, vivisection  |
| <b>VOC, VOU</b>   | <b>CALL, WORD</b><br>advocacy, advocate, <u>avow</u> , convocation, convoke, equivocal, evoke, invocation, invoke, provoke, revoke, vocabulary, vocal, vocalist, vocation, <u>vociferous</u> , vouch, vouchsafe |
| <b>VOL</b>        | <b>FLY</b><br>volant, volatile, volley  |
| <b>VOLU, VOLV</b> | <b>ROLL, TURN</b><br>circumvolve, convolution, <u>devolve</u> , evolve, involution, revolt, revolve, voluble, volume, voluminous, volute  |

# Chapter 11

## OPPOSITE DRILLS

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

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

### HAPPY

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- BLITHE
- DISCONSOLATE
- DISPIRITED
- DOLDRUMS
- DOLOROUS
- EBULLIENT
- EUPHORIC
- FELICITY
- PROVIDENT
- RUE
- WOE

### SAD

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Answer key on page 289.

## Vocabulary Builder

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TRUE

FALSE

TRUE

FALSE

|                       |             |                       |                       |              |                       |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | APOCRYPHAL  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | FRANKNESS    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CALUMNY     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | GUILE        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CANARD      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | INDISPUTABLE | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CANDOR      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | INDUBITABLE  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CHICANERY   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | LEGITIMATE   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DISSEMBLE   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | MALINGER     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DISSIMULATE | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | MENDACIOUS   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DUPE        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | MENDACITY    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DUPLICITY   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PERFIDY      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | EQUIVOCATE  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PREVARICATE  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ERRONEOUS   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PROBITY      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ERSATZ      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SINCERE      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FALLACIOUS  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SPECIOUS     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FEALTY      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SPURIOUS     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FEIGNED     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | VERACIOUS    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FOIST       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | VERITY       | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 290.

| <b>AGREEMENT</b>      |             | <b>DISAGREEMENT</b>   |  | <b>AGREEMENT</b>      |           | <b>DISAGREEMENT</b>   |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | ACCORD      | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | DETRACTOR | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ALTERCATE   | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | DIFFER    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ALTERCATION | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | DISPARAGE | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ANTITHETIC  | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | DISPUTE   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ASKANCE     | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | DISSENT   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ASSENT      | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | EXCORIATE | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | AVERSE      | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | FEUD      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BICKER      | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | HARMONY   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CAVIL       | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | INIMICAL  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONCORD     | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | MOOT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONCUR      | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | POLEMIC   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONSENSUS   | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | QUIBBLE   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONSONANCE  | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | RAPPORT   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONTENTION  | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | SQUABBLE  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONTENTIOUS | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | UNANIMITY | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONTRADICT  | <input type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/> | WRANGLE   | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 291.

**Vocabulary Builder**

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**ATTRACTION  
OR LIKE**

**REPULSION  
OR DISLIKE**

**ATTRACTION  
OR LIKE**

**REPULSION  
OR DISLIKE**

|                       |           |                       |                       |              |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | ABHOR     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | ENCHANT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ABOMINATE | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | ENTICE       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | AFFINITY  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | ESCHEW       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ALLURE    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | INVEIGLE     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ANATHEMA  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | LOATH        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ANTIPATHY | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PARRY        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BANE      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PENCHANT     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BEGUILE   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PREDILECTION | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BENT      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PROCLIVITY   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CHARM     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PROPENSITY   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DISSUADE  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | RANCOR       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DRAW      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | REVILE       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ELICIT    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SPURN        | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 292.

**BRAVERY OR CONFIDENCE**

**FEAR OR CAUTION**

|                       |                |                       |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | APLOMB         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | APPREHENSION   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | AUDACIOUS      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | AUDACITY       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CHARY          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CIRCUMSPECTION | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CRAVEN         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DAUNTLESS      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DOUGHTY        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | GALLANTRY      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | GAME           | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INTREPID       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | METTLESOME     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | MISGIVING      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PLUCKY         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PUSILLANIMOUS  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TEMERITY       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TREPIDATION    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | UNDAUNTED      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | VALIANT        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | VALOROUS       | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 293.

## Vocabulary Builder

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### CALMNESS

### AGITATION

### CALMNESS

### AGITATION

|                       |               |                       |                       |            |                       |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | BECALM        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | NONCHALANT | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BLUSTER       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PERTURB    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | COLLECTED     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PLACID     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | COMPOSED      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | QUIESCENT  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | COMPOSURE     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | RAGING     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DETACHED      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | RAIL       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DISCOMPOSED   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | REPOSE     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DISPASSIONATE | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | ROIL       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DISQUIETED    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | RUFFLED    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DISTRAUGHT    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SEDENTARY  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FLURRIED      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SERENE     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FLUSTER       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | STAID      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FRENETIC      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | STEADY     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FULMINATE     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | TRANQUIL   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FUROR         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | TUMULTUOUS | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | IMPERTURBABLE | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | TURBID     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INDOLENT      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | TURBULENT  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INSURGENT     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | UNRUFFLED  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | KINETIC       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | VEHEMENCE  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | LANGUOR       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | VERVE      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | LULL          | <input type="radio"/> |                       |            |                       |

Answer key on page 294.



**CHANGE**

**LACK OF CHANGE**

|                       |                 |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | CATALYST        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | COMMUTATION     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONSISTENT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONSTANT        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DETERMINATE     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ENTRENCHED      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FIXITY          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | IMMUTABLE       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | IMPERVIOUS      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INERT           | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INGRAINED       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INNOVATIVE      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INVARIABLE      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INVIOATE        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | LODGED          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | METAMORPHOSIS   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | MUTABLE         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ROOTED          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | STEADFAST       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TRANSFIGURATION | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TRANSFORMATION  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TRANSLATION     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TRANSMOGRIFY    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TRANSMUTATION   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | UNFAILING       | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 295.

## Vocabulary Builder

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GOODNESS  
OR MORALITY

EVIL  
OR IMMORALITY

GOODNESS  
OR MORALITY

EVIL  
OR IMMORALITY

|                       |              |                       |                       |            |                       |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | ALTRUISM     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | INVIDIOUS  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BACCHANALIAN | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | LASCIVIOUS | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BEATIFIC     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | LICENTIOUS | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BENEFICENT   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | LURID      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BENIGN       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | MISCREANT  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BENISON      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | NEFARIOUS  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CLEMENT      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | NOBLE      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONTINENCE   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PERFIDIOUS | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DEBAUCH      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PROBITY    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DECADENCE    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PROFLIGATE | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ELEVATED     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | PRURIENT   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ETHICAL      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | RAPACITY   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | EXEMPLARY    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | RECTITUDE  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FIENDISH     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | REPROBATE  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ILLICIT      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | RIGHTEOUS  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INFERNAL     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | TEMPERANCE | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INIQUITOUS   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | TURPITUDE  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INTEGRITY    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | VIRTUE     | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 296.

| LARGE AMOUNT<br>OR EXCESS |               | SMALL AMOUNT<br>OR SHORTAGE | LARGE AMOUNT<br>OR EXCESS        |                | SMALL AMOUNT<br>OR SHORTAGE      |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/>     | CAPACIOUS     | <input type="radio"/>       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | MYRIAD         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>     | CAVALCADE     | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | OPULENCE       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | CLOYING       | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | OVERABUNDANCE  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | CORNUCOPIA    | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | PAUCITY        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | DEARTH        | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | PLETHORA       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | DEFECT        | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | POVERTY        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | DEFICIENT     | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | PREPONDERANCE  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | DILATE        | <input type="radio"/>       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PRIVATION      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>     | DISTEND       | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | PRODIGIOUS     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | EFFUSIVE      | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | PROFUSION      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | FAMINE        | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | REPLETE        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | FRAUGHT       | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | SCANTINESS     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | GLUT          | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | SCARCITY       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | INSUFFICIENCY | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | STINTING       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | MANIFOLD      | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | SUPERABUNDANCE | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | MEAGER        | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | SUPEREROGATORY | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>     | MULTIFARIOUS  | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>            | SUPERFLUITY    | <input type="radio"/>            |
|                           |               |                             | <input type="radio"/>            | SURFEIT        | <input type="radio"/>            |

Answer key on page 297.

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## Vocabulary Builder

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### GROW

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- ABATE
- ACCRETE
- AGGRANDIZE
- AMPLIFY
- APPEND
- AUGMENT
- BURGEON
- CONSTRIC
- CORRODE
- DWINDLE
- EBB
- ERODE
- ESCALATE
- UPSURGE
- WAX
- WANE

### SHRINK

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Answer key on page 298.

| <b>GRAND<br/>AND IMPORTANT</b> |                 | <b>PETTY<br/>OR UNIMPORTANT</b> |  | <b>GRAND<br/>AND IMPORTANT</b> |             | <b>PETTY<br/>OR UNIMPORTANT</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/>          | ABJECT          | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | MOMENTOUS   | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | APOTHEOSIS      | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | NEGLIGIBLE  | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | ASTRAL          | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | NIGGLING    | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | AUGUST          | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | NONENTITY   | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | CONSEQUENTIAL   | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | OVERWEENING | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | CONSIDERABLE    | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | PALTRY      | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | DEBASED         | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | PICAYUNE    | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | ELEVATED        | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | PIDDLING    | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | ELOQUENT        | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | PRETENTIOUS | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | EXALTED         | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | REGAL       | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | FRIVOLOUS       | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | SALIENT     | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | GRANDIOSE       | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | SERVILE     | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | IGNOBLE         | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | SPLENDID    | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | INCONSEQUENTIAL | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | STATELY     | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | INGLORIOUS      | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | SUBLIME     | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | LOFTY           | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | SUBSTANTIAL | <input type="radio"/>           |
| <input type="radio"/>          | MEANINGFUL      | <input type="radio"/>           |  | <input type="radio"/>          | WEIGHTY     | <input type="radio"/>           |

Answer key on page 299.

## Vocabulary Builder

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### UNLIMITED OR FREE

### LIMITED OR CLOSED

|                       |               |                       |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | CIRCUMSCRIBED | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DURESS        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | EMANCIPATED   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ENCUMBRED     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | FETTERED      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | HERMETIC      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | IMMURE        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INCOMMUNICADO | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INDENTURE     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | INSULAR       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | LATITUDE      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | LAXITY        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | LICENSE       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | MANUMISSION   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | MAVERICK      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | OCCLUSION     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | STRICTURE     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | STYMIE        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | THRALL        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TRAMMELED     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | UNBRIDLED     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | UNFETTERED    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | UNTRAMMELED   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | YOKE          | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 300.

**YOUTH OR IMMATURITY**

**OLD AGE OR MATURITY**

|                                  |               |                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/>            | ABIDING       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ANTEDELUVIAN  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CALLOW        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DOTAGE        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | GERIATRIC     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | GREEN         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | HOARY         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INVETERATE    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | JUVENILE      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | NEOPHYTE      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | PUERILE       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | SENESCENT     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | SOPHOMORIC    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | STRIPLING     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | SUPERANNUATED | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TYRO          | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 301.

## Vocabulary Builder

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### PRAISE

- |                                  |             |                       |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ACCLAIM     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ACCOLADE    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ADULATORY   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | APPLAUSE    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | APPROBATION | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BOUQUET     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CELEBRATE   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CENSURE     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | COMMEND     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DEFAME      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | DEMEAN      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | DENIGRATE   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | DENOUNCE    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DENUNCIATE  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DEPRECATE   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ENCOMIUM    | <input type="radio"/> |

### CRITICISM

### PRAISE

- |                                  |            |                       |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EULOGIZE   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EXALT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | EXTOL      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | HAIL       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | HOMAGE     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | HONOR      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | IMPUGN     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | KUDOS      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | LAUD       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | PAEAN      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PANEGYRIC  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PEJORATIVE | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | PLAUDIT    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TRIBUTE    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | VENERATE   | <input type="radio"/> |

### CRITICISM

Answer key on page 302.



SWIFTNES OR BRIEFNESS

DELAY OR SLOWNESS

|                       |                 |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | ALACRITY        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CELERITY        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CURSORY         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DALLY           | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DILATORY        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | EPHEMERAL       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | EVANESCENT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | EXTEMPORANEOUS  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | IMPROMPTU       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | LAGGARD         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | MERCURIAL       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PERFUNCTORY     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PERPETUITY      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PRECIPITOUS     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PROCRASTINATION | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PROTRACTED      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | RETARD          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | SLUGGISH        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TORPID          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TRANSIENT       | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 303.

## Vocabulary Builder

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### SUBTLE OR SLIGHT

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BLATANT  
EGREGIOUS  
FLAGRANT  
GOSSAMER  
MANIFEST  
MODICUM  
NUANCE  
OSTENTATIOUS  
OVERT  
PATENT  
RAREFY  
REFINED  
SCINTILLA

### OBVIOUS

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Answer key on page 304.

**RUDENESS**

**POLITENESS**

|                       |              |                       |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | ASOCIAL      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BOORISH      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CHEEKY       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CHURLISH     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CIVIL        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CRASS        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DEFERENTIAL  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DEMURE       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | EARTHY       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | EFFRONTERY   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | GALLANT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | GENTEEL      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | OBEISANCE    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | OBLIGING     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | OBSTREPEROUS | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PHILISTINE   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PUNCTILIOUS  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | RAW          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | SCABROUS     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | SOLICITOUS   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TACTFUL      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | UNGRACIOUS   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | UNPOLISHED   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | WLGAR        | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 305.

## Vocabulary Builder

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| INTELLIGENCE<br>AND ABILITY |           | STUPIDITY<br>AND CLUMSINESS |  | INTELLIGENCE<br>AND ABILITY |               | STUPIDITY<br>AND CLUMSINESS |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/>       | ACUMEN    | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | INGENIOUS     | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | ASININE   | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | KEN           | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | ASTUTE    | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | MALADROIT     | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | DERANGED  | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | OMNISCIENT    | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | DOLTISH   | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | PERCIPIENT    | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | FATUOUS   | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | PERSPICACIOUS | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | FINESSE   | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | PRECOCIOUS    | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | FLAIR     | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | PUNDIT        | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | GAUCHE    | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | SAGACIOUS     | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | GULLIBLE  | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | SAPIENT       | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | IGNORAMUS | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | SIMPLE        | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | IMPOLITIC | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | UNWITTING     | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | INANE     | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | VACUOUS       | <input type="radio"/>       |
| <input type="radio"/>       | INCISIVE  | <input type="radio"/>       |  | <input type="radio"/>       | VAPID         | <input type="radio"/>       |

Answer key on page 306.

**LOUD, LONG,  
OR A LOT OF SPEECH**

**QUIET, SHORT,  
OR ABSENCE OF SPEECH**

|                       |               |                       |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | BOMBAST       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CURT          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DUMB          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ELOQUENT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | GARRULOUS     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | GRANDILOQUENT | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | LACONIC       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | LOQUACIOUS    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | MUTE          | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | OROTUND       | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PLANGENT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | PROLIX        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | RETICENT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | STENTORIAN    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | SUCCINCT      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TACIT         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TACITURN      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TERSE         | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | TURGID        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | VERBOSE       | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 307.

## Vocabulary Builder

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### CLEAN

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- ABLUTION
- BESMEAR
- BESPATTER
- DEFILE
- GRIMY
- GRUBBY
- IMMACULATE
- PRISTINE
- SLOVENLY
- SMUTTY
- SULLY
- UNSOILED
- UNSULLIED
- VIRGINAL

### DIRTY

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Answer key on page 308.

**TOGETHER  
OR CONTINUOUS**

**SEPARATE  
OR DISCONTINUOUS**

**TOGETHER  
OR CONTINUOUS**

**SEPARATE  
OR DISCONTINUOUS**

- |                       |              |                       |                       |             |                       |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | ABUT         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | DISCRETE    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | AGGREGATION  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | DISJOINTED  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | ASUNDER      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | DISPERSE    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | BIFURCATE    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | DISSIPATE   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | <b>CABAL</b> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | DIVERGE     | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | COLLATE      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | ESTRANGE    | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | COLLOQUY     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | HIATUS      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | COLLUSION    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | INCONGRUOUS | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONCATENATE  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | INTERREGNUM | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONCOMITANT  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | INTERSTICE  | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONFLUENCE   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | RIFT        | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONJOIN      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SCHISM      | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONSENSUS    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SEQUESTERED | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | CONSONANCE   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SYNCHRONOUS | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | COTERIE      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | SYNTHESIS   | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> | DIFFUSE      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | TANDEM      | <input type="radio"/> |

Answer key on page 309.

## Vocabulary Builder

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### STUBBORN

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

### AGREEABLE

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Answer key on page 310.



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## Opposite Drill Answer Keys

### HAPPY



### SAD



BLITHE  
DISCONSOLATE  
DISPIRITED  
DOLDRUMS  
DOLOROUS  
EBULLIENT  
EUPHORIC  
FELICITY  
PROVIDENT  
RUE  
WOE

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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| TRUE                             |             | FALSE                            |  | TRUE                             |              | FALSE                            |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/>            | APOCRYPHAL  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | FRANKNESS    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CALUMNY     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | GUILE        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CANARD      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INDISPUTABLE | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CANDOR      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INDUBITABLE  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CHICANERY   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | LEGITIMATE   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DISSEMBLE   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | MALINGER     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DISSIMULATE | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | MENDACIOUS   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DUPE        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | MENDACITY    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DUPLICITY   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | PERFIDY      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | EQUIVOCATE  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | PREVARICATE  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ERRONEOUS   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PROBITY      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ERSATZ      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | SINCERE      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FALLACIOUS  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | SPECIOUS     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | FEALTY      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | SPURIOUS     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FEIGNED     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | VERACIOUS    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FOIST       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | VERITY       | <input type="radio"/>            |

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

**Opposite Drills**

| <b>AGREEMENT</b>                 |             | <b>DISAGREEMENT</b>              |  | <b>AGREEMENT</b>                 |           | <b>DISAGREEMENT</b>              |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ACCORD      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | DETRACTOR | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ALTERCATE   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | DIFFER    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ALTERCATION | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | DISPARAGE | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ANTITHETIC  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | DISPUTE   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ASKANCE     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | DISSENT   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ASSENT      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | EXCORIATE | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | AVERSE      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | FEUD      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | BICKER      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | HARMONY   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CAVIL       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | INIMICAL  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CONCORD     | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | MOOT      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CONCUR      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | POLEMIC   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CONSENSUS   | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | QUIBBLE   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CONSONANCE  | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | RAPPORT   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CONTENTION  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | SQUABBLE  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CONTENTIOUS | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | UNANIMITY | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CONTRADICT  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | WRANGLE   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

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

## Vocabulary Builder

---

| ATTRACTION<br>OR LIKE            |           | REPULSION<br>OR DISLIKE          |  | ATTRACTION<br>OR LIKE            |              | REPULSION<br>OR DISLIKE          |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/>            | ABHOR     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ENCHANT      | <input type="radio"/>            |  |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ABOMINATE | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ENTICE       | <input type="radio"/>            |  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | AFFINITY  | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | ESCHEW       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ALLURE    | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INVEIGLE     | <input type="radio"/>            |  |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ANATHEMA  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | LOATHE       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ANTIPATHY | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | PARRY        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  |
| <input type="radio"/>            | BANE      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PENCHANT     | <input type="radio"/>            |  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BEGUILE   | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PREDILECTION | <input type="radio"/>            |  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BENT      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PROCLIVITY   | <input type="radio"/>            |  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CHARM     | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PROPENSITY   | <input type="radio"/>            |  |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DISSUADE  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | RANCOR       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | DRAW      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | REVILE       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ELICIT    | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | SPURN        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  |

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

BRAVERY OR CONFIDENCE

FEAR OR CAUTION

|                                  |                |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | APLOMB         | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | APPREHENSION   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | AUDACIOUS      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | AUDACITY       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CHARY          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CIRCUMSPECTION | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CRAVEN         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | DAUNTLESS      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | DOUGHTY        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | GALLANTRY      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | GAME           | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INTREPID       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | METTLESOME     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | MISGIVING      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PLUCKY         | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | PUSILLANIMOUS  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TEMERITY       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | TREPIDATION    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | UNDAUNTED      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | VALIANT        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | VALOROUS       | <input type="radio"/>            |

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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### CALMNESS

### AGITATION

### CALMNESS

### AGITATION

|                                  |               |                                  |                                  |            |                                  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BECALM        | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | NONCHALANT | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | BLUSTER       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | PERTURB    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | COLLECTED     | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PLACID     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | COMPOSED      | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | QUIESCENT  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | COMPOSURE     | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | RAGING     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | DETACHED      | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | RAIL       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DISCOMPOSED   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | REPOSE     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | DISPASSIONATE | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | ROIL       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DISQUIETED    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | RUFFLED    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FLURRIED      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | SEDENTARY  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FLUSTER       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | SERENE     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FRENETIC      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | STAID      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FULMINATE     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | STEADY     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FUROR         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TRANQUIL   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | IMPERTURBABLE | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | TUMULTUOUS | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INDOLENT      | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | TURBID     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INSURGENT     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | TURBULENT  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | KINETIC       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | UNRUFFLED  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | LANGUOR       | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | VEHEMENCE  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | LULL          | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | VERVE      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

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

**CHANGE**

**LACK OF CHANGE**

|                                  |                 |                                  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CATALYST        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | COMMUTATION     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CONSISTENT      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CONSTANT        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DETERMINATE     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ENTRENCHED      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FIXITY          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | IMMUTABLE       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | IMPERVIOUS      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INERT           | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INGRAINED       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INNOVATIVE      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INVARIABLE      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INVIOULATE      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | LODGED          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | METAMORPHOSIS   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | MUTABLE         | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ROOTED          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | STEADFAST       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TRANSFIGURATION | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TRANSFORMATION  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TRANSLATION     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TRANSMOGRIFY    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TRANSMUTATION   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | UNFAILING       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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| GOODNESS<br>OR MORALITY          |              | EVIL<br>OR IMMORALITY            |  | GOODNESS<br>OR MORALITY          |            | EVIL<br>OR IMMORALITY            |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ALTRUISM     | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | INVIDIOUS  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | BACCHANALIAN | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | LASCIVIOUS | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BEATIFIC     | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | LICENTIOUS | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BENEFICENT   | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | LURID      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BENIGN       | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | MISCREANT  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BENISON      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | NEFARIOUS  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CLEMENT      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | NOBLE      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CONTINENCE   | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | PERFIDIOUS | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DEBAUCH      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PROBITY    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DECADENCE    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | PROFLIGATE | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ELEVATED     | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | PRURIEST   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ETHICAL      | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input type="radio"/>            | RAPACITY   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EXEMPLARY    | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | RECTITUDE  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FIENDISH     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | REPROBATE  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ILLICIT      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | RIGHTEOUS  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INFERNAL     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TEMPERANCE | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INIQUITOUS   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | <input type="radio"/>            | TURPITUDE  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INTEGRITY    | <input type="radio"/>            |  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | VIRTUE     | <input type="radio"/>            |

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



| LARGE AMOUNT<br>OR EXCESS |               | SMALL AMOUNT<br>OR SHORTAGE |  | LARGE AMOUNT<br>OR EXCESS |                | SMALL AMOUNT<br>OR SHORTAGE |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| ●                         | CAPACIOUS     | ○                           |  | ●                         | MYRIAD         | ○                           |
| ●                         | CAVALCADE     | ○                           |  | ●                         | OPULENCE       | ○                           |
| ●                         | CLOYING       | ○                           |  | ●                         | OVERABUNDANCE  | ○                           |
| ●                         | CORNUCOPIA    | ○                           |  | ○                         | PAUCITY        | ●                           |
| ○                         | DEARTH        | ●                           |  | ●                         | PLETHORA       | ○                           |
| ○                         | DEFECT        | ●                           |  | ○                         | POVERTY        | ●                           |
| ○                         | DEFICIENT     | ●                           |  | ●                         | PREPONDERANCE  | ○                           |
| ●                         | DILATE        | ○                           |  | ○                         | PRIVATION      | ●                           |
| ●                         | DISTEND       | ○                           |  | ●                         | PRODIGIOUS     | ○                           |
| ●                         | EFFUSIVE      | ○                           |  | ●                         | PROFUSION      | ○                           |
| ○                         | FAMINE        | ●                           |  | ●                         | REPLETE        | ○                           |
| ●                         | FRAUGHT       | ○                           |  | ○                         | SCANTINESS     | ●                           |
| ●                         | GLUT          | ○                           |  | ○                         | SCARCITY       | ●                           |
| ○                         | INSUFFICIENCY | ●                           |  | ○                         | STINTING       | ●                           |
| ●                         | MANIFOLD      | ○                           |  | ●                         | SUPERABUNDANCE | ○                           |
| ○                         | MEAGER        | ●                           |  | ●                         | SUPEREROGATORY | ○                           |
| ●                         | MULTIFARIOUS  | ○                           |  | ●                         | SUPERFLUITY    | ○                           |
|                           |               |                             |  | ●                         | SURFEIT        | ○                           |

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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### GROW



### SHRINK



ABATE  
ACCRETE  
AGGRANDIZE  
AMPLIFY  
APPEND  
AUGMENT  
BURGEON  
CONSTRICT  
CORRODE  
DWINdle  
EBB  
ERODE  
ESCALATE  
UPSURGE  
WAX  
WANE

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

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

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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### UNLIMITED OR FREE

### LIMITED OR CLOSED

|                                  |               |                                  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/>            | CIRCUMSCRIBED | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DURESS        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EMANCIPATED   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ENCUMBRED     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FETTERED      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | HERMETIC      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | IMMURE        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INCOMMUNICADO | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INDENTURE     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INSULAR       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | LATITUDE      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | LAXITY        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | LICENSE       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | MANUMISSION   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | MAVERICK      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | OCCLUSION     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | STRICTURE     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | STYMIE        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | THRALL        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | TRAMMELED     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | UNBRIDLED     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | UNFETTERED    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | UNTRAMMELED   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | YOKE          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

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

YOUTH OR IMMATURITY

OLD AGE OR MATURITY

|                                  |               |                                  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/>            | ABIDING       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ANTEDELUVIAN  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CALLOW        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DOTAGE        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | GERIATRIC     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | GREEN         | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | HOARY         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INVETERATE    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | JUVENILE      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | NEOPHYTE      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PUERILE       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | SENESCENT     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | SOPHOMORIC    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | STRIPLING     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | SUPERANNUATED | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TYRO          | <input type="radio"/>            |

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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### PRAISE

### CRITICISM

### PRAISE

### CRITICISM

|                                  |             |                                  |                                  |            |                                  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ACCLAIM     | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EULOGIZE   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ACCOLADE    | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EXALT      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ADULATORY   | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EXTOL      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | APPLAUSE    | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | HAIL       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | APPROBATION | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | HOMAGE     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BOUQUET     | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | HONOR      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CELEBRATE   | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | IMPUGN     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CENSURE     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | KUDOS      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | COMMEND     | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | LAUD       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DEFAME      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PAEAN      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DEMEAN      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PANEGYRIC  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DENIGRATE   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | PEJORATIVE | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DENOUNCE    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PLAUDIT    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DENUNCIATE  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TRIBUTE    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DEPRECATE   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | VENERATE   | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ENCOMIUM    | <input type="radio"/>            |                                  |            |                                  |

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

SWIFTNESS OR BRIEFNESS

DELAY OR SLOWNESS

|                                  |                 |                                  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ALACRITY        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CELERITY        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CURSORY         | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DALLY           | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DILATORY        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EPHEMERAL       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EVANESCENT      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | EXTEMPORANEOUS  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | IMPROMPTU       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | LAGGARD         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | MERCURIAL       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PERFUNCTORY     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | PERPETUITY      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PRECIPITOUS     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | PROCRASTINATION | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | PROTRACTED      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | RETARD          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | SLUGGISH        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | TORPID          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TRANSIENT       | <input type="radio"/>            |

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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### SUBTLE OR SLIGHT



BLATANT  
EGREGIOUS  
FLAGRANT  
GOSSAMER  
MANIFEST  
MODICUM  
NUANCE  
OSTENTATIOUS  
OVERT  
PATENT  
RAREFY  
REFINED  
SCINTILLA

### OBVIOUS



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



**RUDENESS**

**POLITENESS**

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

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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| INTELLIGENCE<br>AND ABILITY      |           | STUPIDITY<br>AND CLUMSINESS      | INTELLIGENCE<br>AND ABILITY      |               | STUPIDITY<br>AND CLUMSINESS      |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ACUMEN    | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INGENIOUS     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ASININE   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | KEN           | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ASTUTE    | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | MALADROIT     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DERANGED  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | OMNISCIENT    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DOLTISH   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PERCIPIENT    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | FATUOUS   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PERSPICACIOUS | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | FINESSE   | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PRECOCIOUS    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | FLAIR     | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PUNDIT        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | GAUCHE    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | SAGACIOUS     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | GULLIBLE  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | SAPIENT       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | IGNORAMUS | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | SIMPLE        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | IMPOLITIC | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | UNWITTING     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | INANE     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | VACUOUS       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INCISIVE  | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | VAPID         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

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

**LOUD, LONG,  
OR A LOT OF SPEECH**

**QUIET, SHORT.,  
OR ABSENCE OF SPEECH**

|                                  |               |                                  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | BOMBAST       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CURT          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | DUMB          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | ELOQUENT      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | GARRULOUS     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | GRANDILOQUENT | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | LACONIC       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | LOQUACIOUS    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | MUTE          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | OROTUND       | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PLANGENT      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PROLIX        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | RETICENT      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | STENTORIAN    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | SUCCINCT      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | TACIT         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | TACITURN      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | TERSE         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | TURGID        | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | VERBOSE       | <input type="radio"/>            |

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

## Vocabulary Builder

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### CLEAN



ABLUTION

BESMEAR

BESPATTER

DEFILE

GRIMY

GRUBBY

IMMACULATE

PRISTINE

SLOVENLY

SMUTTY

SULLY

UNSOILED

UNSULLIED

VIRGINAL

### DIRTY



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

**Opposite Drills**

| TOGETHER<br>OR CONTINUOUS        |  | SEPARATE<br>OR DISCONTINUOUS |                                  | TOGETHER<br>OR CONTINUOUS        |  | SEPARATE<br>OR DISCONTINUOUS |                                  |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | ABUT                         | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | DISCRETE                     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | AGGREGATION                  | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | DISJOINTED                   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            |  | ASUNDER                      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            |  | DISPERSE                     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            |  | BIFURCATE                    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            |  | DISSIPATE                    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | CABAL                        | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | DIVERGE                      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | COLLATE                      | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | ESTRANGE                     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | COLLOQUY                     | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | .. TUS                       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | COLLUSION                    | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | INCONGRUOUS                  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | CONCATENATE                  | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | INTERREGNUM                  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | CONCOMITANT                  | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | INTERSTICE                   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | CONFLUENCE                   | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | RIFT                         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | CONJOIN                      | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | SCHISM                       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | CONSENSUS                    | <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            |  | SEQUESTERED                  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | CONSONANCE                   | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | SYNCHRONOUS                  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | COTERIE                      | <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | SYNTHESIS                    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            |  | DIFFUSE                      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |  | TANDEM                       | <input type="radio"/>            |

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

**Vocabulary Builder**

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**STUBBORN**

**AGREEABLE**

|                                  |               |                                  |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/>            | ACCEDE        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ACCOMMODATING | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | ACQUIESCE     | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | AMENABLE      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CAPITULATE    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | COMPLY        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/>            | CONCEDE       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | CONTUMACIOUS  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | DOGMATIC      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | HIDEBOUND     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | INTRANSIGENT  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | OBDURACY      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input type="radio"/>            | OBLIGING      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | OBSTINATE     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | OSSIFIED      | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | PERTINACIOUS  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | RECALCITRANT  | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | REFRACTORY    | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | UNBENDING     | <input type="radio"/>            |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | UNSWAYABLE    | <input type="radio"/>            |

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

# Chapter 12

## GRE MIN-IDICTIONARY

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

### A

ABANDON (n) total lack of inhibition

ABASE to humble, disgrace

ABASH to embarrass

ABATEMENT decrease, reduction

ABDICATE to give up a position, right, or power

ABERRANT atypical, not normal

ABERRATION something different from the usual or normal

ABET to aid, act as accomplice

ABEYANCE temporary suppression or suspension

ABHOR to loathe, detest

ABIDING enduring, continuing

ABJECT miserable, pitiful

ABJURE to reject, abandon formally

ABLUTION act of **cleansing**

ABNEGATE to deny, renounce

ABOLITIONIST one who opposes the practice of slavery

ABOMINATE to hate

ABORTIVE interrupted while incomplete

ABRIDGE to condense, shorten

ABROGATE to abolish or invalidate by authority

ABRUPT sudden, unexpected

ABSCOND to depart secretly

ABSOLVE to forgive, free from blame

ABSTAIN to refrain deliberately from something

ABSTEMIOUS moderate in appetite

ABSTRACT (adj) theoretical; complex, difficult

ABSTRUSE difficult to comprehend

ABUT to touch, to be in contact with

ABYSS an extremely great depth

ACCEDE to express approval; agree to

ACCESSIBLE attainable, available; approachable

ACCESSORY attachment, ornament; accomplice, partner

ACCLAIM praise

ACCOLADE praise, distinction

ACCOMMODATING helpful

ACCORD to reconcile, come to an agreement

ACCOST to approach and speak to someone

ACCRETION growth in size or increase in amount

ACCRUE to accumulate, grow by additions

- ACERBIC bitter, sharp in taste or temper
- ACIDULOUS sour in taste or manner
- ACME highest point, summit
- ACQUIESCE to agree, comply quietly
- ACQUITTAL release from blame
- ACRID harsh, bitter
- ACRIMONY bitterness, animosity
- ACUITY sharpness
- ACUMEN sharpness of insight
- ACUTE sharp, pointed
- ADAGE old saying or proverb
- ADAMANT uncompromising, unyielding
- ADAPT to accommodate, adjust
- ADHERE to cling or to **follow** without deviation
- ADJACENT next to
- ADJUNCT something added, attached, or joined
- ADMONISH to caution or reprimand
- ADROIT skillful, accomplished, highly competent
- ADULATION high praise
- ADULTERATE to corrupt or make impure
- ADUMBRATE to sketch, outline in a shadowy way
- ADVANTAGEOUS favorable, useful
- ADVENTITIOUS accidental
- ADVERSARIAL antagonistic, competitive
- ADVERSE unfavorable, unlucky, harmful
- ADVOCATE to speak in favor of
- AERIAL having to do with the air
- AERIE nook or nest built high in the air
- AERODYNAMIC relating to objects moving through the air
- AESTHETIC pertaining to beauty or art
- AFFABLE friendly, easy to approach
- AFFECTED (adj) pretentious, phony
- AFFINITY fondness, liking; similarity
- AFFLUENT rich, abundant
- AFFRONT (n) personal offense, insult
- AGENDA plan, schedule
- AGGRANDIZE to make larger or greater in power
- AGGREGATE (n) collective mass or sum; total
- AGGRIEVE to afflict, distress
- AGILE well coordinated, nimble
- AGITATION commotion, excitement; uneasiness
- AGNOSTIC one doubting that people can know God
- AGRARIAN relating to farming or rural matters
- ALACRITY** cheerful willingness, eagerness; speed
- ALCHEMY medieval chemical philosophy based on quest to change metal into gold
- ALGORITHM **mechanical** problem-solving procedure
- ALIAS assumed name
- ALIENATED distanced, estranged
- ALIGNED precisely adjusted; committed to one side or **party**
- ALLAY to lessen, ease, or soothe
- ALLEGORY symbolic representation
- ALLEVIATE to relieve, improve partially
- ALLITERATION repetition of the beginning sounds of words
- ALLOCATION allowance, portion, share
- ALLURE (v) to entice by charm; attract
- ALLUSION indirect reference
- ALLUSIVENESS quality of making many indirect references
- ALOOF detached, indifferent
- ALTERCATION noisy dispute
- ALTRUISM unselfish concern for others' welfare
- AMALGAM** mixture, combination, alloy
- AMBIDEXTROUS able to use both hands equally well
- AMBIGUOUS uncertain; subject to multiple interpretations
- AMBIVALENCE attitude of **uncertainty**; conflicting emotions
- AMBULATORY itinerant; related to walking around
- AMELIORATE** to ~~make~~ better, improve



- AMENABLE **agreeable**, cooperative
- AMEND to improve or correct **flaws** in
- AMENITY pleasantness; something increasing comfort
- AMIABLE friendly, pleasant, likable
- AMICABLE friendly, agreeable
- AMITY friendship
- AMORAL unprincipled, unethical
- AMOROUS strongly attracted to love; showing love
- AMORPHOUS having no definite form
- AMORTIZE to diminish by installment payments
- AMPHIBIAN (n) creature equally at home on land or in water
- AMPHITHEATER arena theater with ruing tiers around a central open space
- AMPLE abundant, plentiful
- AMPLIFY to increase, intensify
- AMULET ornament worn as a charm against evil spirits
- ANACHRONISM something **chronologically** inappropriate
- ANACHRONISTIC outdated
- ANALGESIA a lessening of pain
- ANALOGOUS comparable, parallel
- ANARCHY absence of government or law; chaos
- ANATHEMA ban, curse; something shunned or disliked
- ANCILLARY accessory, subordinate, helping
- ANECDOTE short, usually funny account of an event
- ANGULAR characterized by sharp angles; lean and gaunt
- ANIMATION enthusiasm, excitement
- ANIMOSITY hatred, hostility
- ANNUL to cancel, nullify, **declare** void, or make **legally** invalid
- ANODYNE something that **calms** or soothes pain
- ANOINT to apply oil to, **esp.** as a sacred rite
- ANOMALY irregularity or deviation from the norm
- ANONYMITY condition of having no name or an unknown name
- ANTAGONIST foe, opponent, adversary
- ANTECEDENT (adj) coming before in place or time
- ANTEDATE dated prior to **the** actual occurrence
- ANTEDILUVIAN prehistoric, ancient beyond measure
- ANTEPENULTIMATE third from last
- ANTERIOR preceding, previous, before, prior (to)
- ANTHOLOGY collection of literary works
- ANTHROPOMORPHIC **attributing** human qualities to nonhumans
- ANTIPATHY dislike, hostility; extreme opposition or aversion
- ANTIQUATED outdated, obsolete
- ANTIQUITY ancient times; the quality of being old or ancient
- ANTITHESIS exact opposite or direct contrast
- APACE done **quickly**
- APATHETIC indifferent, unconcerned
- APATHY lack of feeling or emotion
- APERTURE an opening or hole
- APHASIA inability to speak or use words
- APHELION point in a planet's orbit that is farthest from the sun
- APHORISM old saying or short **pithy** statement
- APLOMB poise, confidence
- APOCRYPHAL not genuine; **fictional**
- APOSTATE (n) one who renounces a religious faith
- APOSTROPHE speech to the reader or someone not present; a superscript sign (')
- APOTHEGM a short, instructive saying
- APOTHEOSIS glorification; glorified ideal
- APPEASE to satisfy, placate, **calm**, pacify
- APPEND to attach
- APPLAUSE praise
- APPRAISE to evaluate the value of something
- APPREHENSION the act of comprehending; fear, foreboding
- APPRISE to give notice of; inform

## approbation

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- APPROBATION praise; **official** approval
- APPROPRIATE (v) to take possession of
- AQUATIC belonging or living in water
- ARABLE suitable for cultivation
- ARBITRARY depending **solely** on individual will; inconsistent
- ARBITRATOR mediator, negotiator
- ARBOREAL relating to trees; **living** in trees
- ARBORETUM place where trees are displayed and studied
- ARCANE secret, obscure, known only to a few
- ARCHAIC antiquated, from an earlier time; outdated
- ARCHIPELAGO large group of islands
- ARDENT passionate, enthusiastic, fervent
- ARDOR great emotion or passion
- ARDUOUS extremely difficult, laborious
- ARID extremely dry or deathly boring
- ARRAIGN to call to court to answer a charge
- ARROGATE to demand, claim arrogantly
- ARSENAL ammunition storehouse
- ARTICULATE (adj) well-spoken, expressing oneself clearly
- ARTIFACT historical relic, item made by human craft
- ARTISAN craftsman; expert
- ARTLESS open and honest
- ASCEND to rise or climb
- ASCENDANCY state of rising, ascending; power or control
- ASCERTAIN to **determine**, discover, make certain of
- ASCETIC (adj) self-denying, abstinent, austere
- ASCRIBE to attribute to, assign
- ASHEN resembling ashes; deathly pale
- ASININE lacking intelligence or sound judgment
- ASKANCE scornfully
- ASKEW crooked, tilted
- ASOCIAL unable or **unwilling** to interact socially
- ASPERITY harshness, roughness
- ASPERSION false **rumor**, damaging report, slander
- ASPIRE to have great hopes; to **aim** at a **goal**
- ASSAIL to attack, **assault**
- ASSAY to analyze or estimate
- ASSENT (v) to express agreement
- ASSERT to affirm, attest
- ASSIDUOUS diligent, persistent, hardworking
- ASSIGNATION appointment for lovers' meeting; assignment
- ASSIMILATION act of **blending** in, becoming similar
- ASSONANCE resemblance in sound, especially in vowel sounds; partial rhyme
- ASSUAGE to make less severe, ease, relieve
- ASTRAL exalted, elevated in position; relating to the stars
- ASTRINGENT harsh, severe, stem
- ASTUTE having good judgment
- ASUNDER (adv) into different **parts**
- ASYMMETRICAL not corresponding in size, shape, position, etcetera
- ATONE to make amends for a wrong
- ATROCIOUS monstrous, **shockingly** bad, wicked
- ATROPHY (v) to waste away, wither from disuse
- ATTAIN to accomplish, gain
- ATTENUATE to make thin or slender; weaken
- ATTEST to testify, stand as proof of, bear witness
- AUDACIOUS bold, daring, fearless
- AUDIBLE capable of being heard
- AUDIT (n) formal **examination** of financial records
- AUDITORY having to do **with** hearing
- AUGMENT to expand, extend
- AUGURY (adj) prophecy, prediction of **events**
- AUGUST dignified, awe-inspiring, venerable
- AUSPICIOUS having favorable prospects, promising
- AUSTERE stern, strict, unadorned
- AUTHORITARIAN extremely **strict**, bossy
- AUTOCRAT dictator
- AUTONOMOUS separate, independent

AUXILIARY supplementary, reserve  
 AVARICE greed  
 AVENGE to retaliate, take revenge for an injury or crime  
 AVER to declare to be true, **affirm**  
 AVERSE being disinclined toward something  
 AVERSION intense dislike  
 AVERT to turn (something) away; prevent  
 AVIARY large **enclosure** housing birds  
 AVOW to state openly or **declare**  
 AWRY crooked, askew, amiss  
 AXIOM premise, postulate, self-evident truth

**B**

BACCHANALIAN drunkenly festive  
 BALEFUL harmful, with evil intentions  
 BALK (v) to refuse, shirk; prevent  
 BALLAD folk song, narrative poem  
 BALM soothing, healing influence  
 BAN (v) to forbid, outlaw  
 BANAL trite and overly common  
 BANE something causing ruin, death, or destruction  
 BANTER playful conversation  
 BASE being of low value or position  
 BASTION fortification, stronghold  
 BAY (v) to bark, especially in a deep, prolonged way  
 BEATIFIC appearing to be saintly, angelic  
 BECALM to make calm or still; keep motionless by lack of wind  
 BECLOUD to confuse; darken with clouds  
 BEGUILE to deceive, mislead; charm  
 BEHEMOTH huge creature  
 BELABOR to insist repeatedly or harp on  
 BELATED late  
 BELEAGUER to harass, plague  
 BELFRY bell tower, room in which a bell is hung

BELIE to misrepresent; expose as false  
**BELITTLE** to represent as unimportant, make light of  
 BELLICOSE warlike, aggressive  
 BELLIGERENT hostile, tending to fight  
 BELLOW to roar, shout  
 BEMUSE to confuse, stupefy; plunge deep into thought  
 BENCHMARK standard of measure  
 BENEFACTOR someone giving aid or money  
 BENEFICIAL advantageous  
 BENEFICENT kindly, charitable; doing good deeds; producing good effects  
 BENIGHTED unenlightened  
 BENIGN kindly, gentle or harmless  
 BENISON blessing  
 BENT a natural inclination toward something  
 BEQUEATH to give or leave through a will; to hand down  
 BERATE to **scold** harshly  
 BEREAVED suffering the death of a loved one  
 BESEECH to beg, plead, implore  
 BESMEAR to smear  
 BESPATTER to spatter  
 BESTIAL beastly, animal-like  
 BESTOW to give as a gift  
 BETOKEN to indicate, signify, give evidence of  
 BEVY group  
**BIAS** prejudice, slant  
 BIBLIOGRAPHY list of books  
 BIBLIOPHILE book lover  
 BICKER to have a petty argument  
 BIFURCATE divide into two parts  
 BILATERAL two-sided  
 BILIOUS bad-natured  
 BILK to cheat, defraud  
 BILLET board and lodging for troops  
 BIPED two-footed animal

## bisect

---

**BISECT** to cut into two (**usually** equal) parts

**BLANCH** to pale; take the color out of

**BLANDISH** to coax with flattery

**BLASPHEMOUS** cursing, profane, irreverent

**BLATAST** glaring, obvious, showy

**BLIGHT (v)** to afflict, destroy

**BLITHE** joyful, cheerful, or without appropriate thought

**BLUDGEON** to hit as with a short heavy club

**BLUSTER** to boast or make threats loudly

**BOISTEROUS** rowdy, loud, unrestrained

**BOLSTER** to support; reinforce

**BOMBASTIC** using high-sounding but meaningless language

**BONANZA** extremely large amount; something profitable

**BONHOMIE** good-natured geniality; atmosphere of good cheer

**BOOK** blessing, something to be thankful for

**BOOR** crude person, one lacking manners or taste

**BOTANIST** scientist who **studies** plants

**BOUNTIFUL** plentiful

**BOUQUET** a bunch of cut flowers

**BOURGEOIS** middle-class

**BOVINE** relating to cows

**BRAZEN** bold, shameless, impudent; of or like brass

**BREACH** act of breaking, violation

**BREVITY** the quality of being brief in time

**BRIGAND** bandit, **outlaw**

**BROACH** to mention or suggest for the first time

**BROMIDE** a dull, commonplace person **or** idea

**BRUSQUE** rough and abrupt in manner

**BUFFET (v)** to strike, hit

**BUFFOON** **clown** or fool

**BULWARK** defense wall; anything serving as defense

**BURGEON** to sprout or flourish

**BURLY** brawny, husky

**BURNISH** to polish, make smooth and bright

**BURSAR** treasurer

**BUSTLE** commotion, energetic activity

**BUTT** person or thing that is object of ridicule

**BUTTRESS (v)** to reinforce or support

**BYWAY** back road

## C

**CABAL** a secret group seeking to overturn something

**CACOPHONOUS** jarring, unpleasantly noisy

**CADAVER** dead body

**CADENCE** rhythmic flow of poetry; marching beat

**CAJOLE** to flatter, coax, persuade

**CALAMITOUS** disastrous, catastrophic

**CALLOUS** thick-skinned, insensitive

**CALLOW** immature, lacking sophistication

**CALUMNY** false and malicious accusation, misrepresentation, slander

**CANARD** a lie

**CANDID** frank or fair

**CANDOR** honesty of expression

**CANNY** smart; founded on common sense

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

**CANVASS** to examine **thoroughly**; conduct a poll

**CAPACIOUS** large, roomy; **extensive**

**CAPITULATE** to submit completely, surrender

**CAPRICIOUS** impulsive, **whimsical**, without much thought

**CARDIOLOGIST** physician specializing in diseases of the heart

**CAREEN** to lean to one side

**CARICATURE** exaggerated portrait, cartoon

**CARNAL** of the flesh

**CARNIVOROUS** meat-eating

**CAROM** to strike and rebound

**CARP (v)** to **find** fault, complain constantly

|                |  |                   |   |
|----------------|--|-------------------|---|
| CARTOGRAPHY    | science or art of making maps  | CHARM             | compelling attractiveness   |
| CAST (n)       | copy, replica  | CHARY             | watchful, cautious, extremely shy                                   |
| CAST (v)       | to <b>fling</b> , to throw   | CHASTISE          | to punish, discipline, <b>xold</b>                                  |
| CASTIGATE      | to punish, <b>chastise</b> , <b>criticize</b> severely                 | CHATTEL           | piece of personal property  |
| CATAclysmic    | disastrous   | CHAUVINIST        | someone prejudiced in the belief of their <b>kind's</b> superiority |
| CATALYST       | something causing change without being changed                         | CHEEKY            | lacking prudence or discretion                                      |
| CATEGORICAL    | absolute, without exception  | CHERUBIC          | sweet, innocent, resembling a cherub angel                          |
| CATHARSIS      | purification, <b>cleansing</b>   | CHICANERY         | trickery, fraud, deception  |
| CATHOLIC       | universal; broad and comprehensive                                     | CHIDE             | to <b>xold</b> , express disapproval                                |
| CAUCUS         | <b>smaller</b> group within an organization; a meeting of such a group | CHIMERICAL        | fanciful, imaginary, visionary; impossible                          |
| CAULK          | to make watertight   | CHOICE (adj)      | specially selected, preferred                                       |
| CAUSALITY      | cause-and-effect relationship  | CHOLERIC          | easily angered, short-tempered                                      |
| CAUSTIC        | biting, sarcastic; able to burn  | CHORTLE           | to chuckle  |
| CAVALCADE      | a procession   | CHROMATIC         | relating to color   |
| CAVALIER (adj) | carefree, happy; with lordly disdain                                   | CHRONICLER        | one who keeps records of historical events                          |
| CAVIL          | to raise trivial objections  | CHURLISH          | rude  |
| CAVORT         | to frolic, frisk   | CIRCUITOUS        | roundabout  |
| CEDE           | to surrender possession of something                                   | CIRCUMFERENCE     | boundary or distance around a circle or sphere                      |
| CELEBRITY      | fame, widespread acclaim   | CIRCUMLOCUTION    | roundabout, lengthy way of saying something                         |
| CELERITY       | quick moving or acting   | CIRCUMNAVIGATE    | to sail completely around   |
| CENSORIOUS     | severely critical  | CIRCUMSCRIBE      | to encircle; set limits on, confine                                 |
| CENSURE        | to criticize or <b>find</b> fault with                                 | CIRCUMSPECT       | cautious, wary  |
| CENTRIPETAL    | directed or moving toward the center                                   | CIRCUMVENT        | to go around; avoid   |
| CERTITUDE      | assurance, certainty   | CISTERN           | tank for rainwater  |
| CESSATION      | temporary or complete <b>halt</b>                                      | CITADEL           | fortress or stronghold  |
| CESSION        | act of surrendering something  | CIVIL             | polite; relating to citizens  |
| CHAGRIN        | shame, embarrassment, humiliation                                      | CMLITY            | courtesy, politeness  |
| CHALICE        | goblet, cup  | CLAIRVOYANT (adj) | having ESP, psychic   |
| CHAMP (v)      | <b>chew</b> noisily  | CLAMOR (n)        | noisy outcry  |
| CHAMPION (v)   | to defend or support   | CLAMOR (v)        | to make a noisy outcry  |
| CHAOS          | confusion  | CLANDESTINE       | secretive, concealed for a darker purpose                           |
| CHAOTIC        | extremely disorderly   | CLARITY           | dearness; clear understanding                                       |
| CHARLATAN      | quack, fake  | CLAUSTROPHOBIA    | fear of small, <b>confined</b> places                               |

## cleave

---

- CLEAVE to split or separate; to stick, cling, adhere
- CLEMENCY merciful leniency
- CLEMENT mild
- CLOISTER (v) to confine, seclude
- CLOYING indulging to excess
- COAGULATE to clot or change from a liquid to a solid
- COALESCE to grow together or cause to unite as one
- CODDLE to baby, treat indulgently
- COERCE to compel by force or intimidation
- COFFER strongbox, large chest for money
- COGENT logically forceful, compelling, convincing
- COGNATE related, similar, akin
- COGNITION mental process by which knowledge is acquired
- COGNOMEN family name; any name, especially a **nickname**
- COHABIT to live together
- COHERENT intelligible, lucid, understandable
- COLLATE to arrange in an order
- COLLATERAL accompanying
- COLLECTED acting calm and composed
- COLLOQUIAL characteristic of informal speech
- COLLOQUY dialogue or conversation, conference
- COLLUSION collaboration, complicity, conspiracy
- COMELINESS physical grace and beauty
- COMMEND to compliment, praise
- COMMENSURATE proportional
- COMMISSION fee payable to an agent; authorization
- COMMODIOUS roomy, spacious
- COMMONPLACE ordinary, found every day
- COMMUNICABLE transmittable
- COMMUTE to change a penalty to a less severe one
- COMPATRIOT fellow countryman
- COMPELLING (adj) having a powerful and irresistible effect
- COMPENDIOUS summarizing completely and briefly
- COMPENSATE to repay or reimburse
- COMPLACENT self-satisfied, smug, affable
- COMPLAISANT agreeable, friendly
- COMPLEMENT to complete, perfect
- COMPLIANT submissive and yielding
- COMPLICITY knowing partnership in wrongdoing
- COMPOSED acting calm
- COMPOSURE a calm manner or appearance
- COMPOUND (adj) complex; composed of **several** parts
- COMPOUND (v) to combine, add to
- COMPRESS (v) to reduce, squeeze
- COMPULSIVE obsessive, fanatic
- COMPUNCTIOUS feeling guilty or having misgivings
- COMPUNCTION feeling of uneasiness caused by guilt or regret
- CONCATENATE linked together
- CONCAVE curving inward
- CONCEDE to yield, admit
- CONCEPTUALIZE to envision, imagine
- CONCERN a matter of importance or worthy of consideration
- CONCERTO musical composition for orchestra and **soloist(s)**
- CONCILIATORY overcoming distrust or hostility
- CONCOMITANT accompanying something
- CONCORD agreement
- CONCUR to agree
- CONDONE to pardon or forgive; overlook, justify, or excuse a fault
- CONDUIT tube, pipe, or similar passage
- CONFECTION something sweet to eat
- CONFISCATE to appropriate, **seize**
- CONFLAGRATION big, destructive fire
- CONFLUENCE meeting place; meeting of two streams
- CONFOUND to baffle, perplex
- CONGEAL to become thick or solid, as a liquid freezing

- CONGENIAL similar in **tastes** and habits
- CONGENITAL existing since birth
- CONGLOMERATE collected group of varied things
- CONGRESS formal meeting or assembly
- CONGRUITY correspondence, harmony, agreement
- CONJECTURE speculation, **prediction**
- CONJOIN to join together
- CONJUGAL pertaining to marriage
- CONJURE to **evoke** a spirit, cast a spell
- CONNIVE to conspire, scheme
- CONNOISSEUR a person with refined taste
- CONSANGUINEOUS of the same origin; related by blood
- CONSCIENTIOUS governed by conscience; careful and thorough
- CONSECRATE to declare sacred; dedicate to a goal
- CONSENSUS unanimity, **agreement** of opinion or attitude
- CONSEQUENTIAL important
- CONSIDERABLE significant, worth considering
- CONSIGN to commit, entrust
- CONSISTENT containing no **contradictions**, being harmonious
- CONSOLATION something providing comfort or solace for a loss or hardship
- CONSOLIDATE to combine, incorporate
- CONSONANT (adj) consistent with, in agreement with
- CONSTANT completely uniform and unchanging
- CONSTITUENT component, part; citizen, voter
- CONSTRAINED forced, compelled; confined, restrained
- CONSTRAINT something that forces or compels; something that restrains or confines
- CONSTRIC to inhibit
- CONSTRUE to explain or interpret
- CONSUMMATE (adj) accomplished, complete, perfect
- CONSUMMATE (v) to complete, fulfill
- CONTEND to battle, clash; compete
- CONTENTIOUS quarrelsome, **disagreeable**, belligerent
- CONTINENCE self-control, self-restraint
- CONTRADICT** to deny or oppose
- CONTRAVENE to contradict, deny, act contrary to
- CONTRITE deeply **sorrowful** and repentant for a wrong
- CONTUMACIOUS rebellious
- CONTUSION bruise
- CONUNDRUM riddle, puzzle or problem with no solution
- CONVALESCENCE gradual recovery after an **illness**
- CONVENE to meet, come together, assemble
- CONVENTIONAL typical, customary, commonplace
- CONVEX curved outward
- CONVIVIAL sociable; fond of eating, drinking, and people
- CONVOKE to call together, summon
- CONVOLUTED twisted, complicated, involved
- COPIOUS abundant, plentiful
- COQUETTE woman who flirts
- CORNUCOPIA abundance
- CORPOREAL having to do with the body; tangible, material
- CORPULENCE obesity, fatness, bulkiness
- CORRELATION association, mutual relation of two or more things
- CORROBORATE to confirm, verify
- CORRODE to weaken or destroy
- CORRUGATE to mold in a shape with parallel grooves and ridges
- COSMETIC (adj) relating to beauty; affecting the surface of something
- COSMOGRAPHY science that deals with the nature of the universe
- COSMOPOLITAN sophisticated, free from local prejudices
- COSSET to pamper, treat with great care
- COTERIE group of people with a common interest or purpose
- COTERIE small group of persons with a similar purpose
- COUNTENANCE (n) facial expression; look of approval or support
- COUNTENANCE (v) to favor, support

## countermand

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COUNTERMAND to annul, cancel, make a contrary order

COUNTERVAIL to counteract, to exert force **against**

COVEN group of witches

COVERT hidden; secret

COVET to strongly desire something possessed by another

COWER to cringe in fear

CRASS crude, unrefined

CRAVEN cowardly

CREDENCE acceptance of something as true or **real**

CREDIBLE plausible, believable

CREDULOUS gullible, trusting

CREED statement of belief or principle

CRESCENDO gradual increase in volume of sound

CRINGE to shrink in fear

CRITERION standard for judging, rule for testing

CRYPTIC puzzling

CUISINE characteristic style of **cooking**

CULMINATION climax, final stage

CULPABLE guilty, responsible for wrong

CULPRIT guilty person

CUMULATIVE resulting from gradual increase

CUPIDITY greed

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

CURMUDGEON cranky person

CURSORY hastily done, superficial

CURT abrupt, blunt

CURTAIL to shorten

CUTLERY cutting instruments; tableware

CYGNET young swan

CYNIC person who distrusts the motives of others

## D

DALLY to act playfully or waste time

DAUNT to discourage, intimidate

DEARTH lack, scarcity, insufficiency

DEBASE to degrade or lower in quality or stature

DEBAUCH to corrupt, seduce from virtue or duty; indulge

DEBILITATE to weaken, enfeeble

DEBUNK to discredit, disprove

DEBUTANTE young woman making debut in high society

DECADENCE **decline** or decay, deterioration

DECAMP to leave suddenly

DECAPITATE to behead

DECATHLON athletic contest with ten events

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

DECLIVITY downward slope

DECOROUS proper, tasteful, **socially** correct

DECORUM proper behavior, etiquette

DECRY to belittle, openly condemn

DEFACE to mar the appearance of, vandalize

DEFAMATORY slanderous, injurious to the reputation

DEFAME to disgrace or slander

DEFECT an imperfection or **shortcoming**

DEFENDANT person required to answer a legal action or suit

DEFER to submit or yield

DEFERENCE respect, honor

DEFERENTIAL respectful and polite in a submissive way

DEFICIENT defective, not meeting a normal standard

DEFILE to make unclean or dishonor

DEFINITIVE dear-cut, **explicit** or decisive

DEFLATION decrease, depreciation

DEFORM to **disfigure**, distort

**DEFT** skillful, dexterous

DEFUNCT no longer **existing, dead**, extinct



|                  |  |               |   |
|------------------|--|---------------|---|
| DELECTABLE       | appetizing, delicious  | DEROGATE      | to belittle, disparage                      |
| DELEGATE (v)     | to <b>give powers</b> to another   | DESCRY        | to <b>discover</b> or <b>reveal</b>         |
| DELETERIOUS      | harmful, destructive, detrimental  | DESECRATE     | to abuse something sacred                   |
| DELINEATION      | depiction, representation  | DESICCATE     | to dry completely, dehydrate                |
| DELTA            | tidal deposit at the mouth of a river                                    | DESIST        | to stop doing something                     |
| DELUGE (n)       | <b>flood</b>   | DESPONDENT    | feeling discouraged and dejected            |
| DELUGE (v)       | to submerge, overwhelm   | DESPOT        | tyrannical ruler                            |
| DEMAGOGUE        | leader or rabble-rouser who usually uses appeals to emotion or prejudice | DESTITUTE     | very poor, poverty-stricken                 |
| DEMARCATION      | borderline; act of defining or marking a boundary or distinction         | DESULTORY     | at random, rambling, <b>unmethodical</b>    |
| DEMEAN           | to degrade, humiliate, humble  | DETACHED      | separate, unconnected                       |
| DEMISE           | death  | DETER         | to discourage; prevent from happening       |
| DEMOGRAPHICS     | data relating to study of human population                               | DETERMINE     | having defined limits; conclusive           |
| DEMOTE           | to reduce to a lower grade or rank                                       | DETESTATION   | extreme hatred                              |
| DEMOTION         | lowering in <b>rank</b> or grade   | DETRACTOR     | one who takes something away                |
| DEMUR            | to express doubts or objections  | DETRIMENTAL   | causing harm or injury                      |
| <b>DEMYSTIFY</b> | to remove mystery from, clarify  | DEVIATE       | to stray, wander                            |
| DENIGRATE        | to slur or <b>blacken</b> someone's reputation                           | DEVIATION     | departure, exception, anomaly               |
| DENOUNCE         | to accuse, blame   | DEVOID        | totally lacking                             |
| DENUDE           | to <b>make</b> bare, uncover, undress                                    | DEVOUT        | deeply religious                            |
| DENUNCIATION     | public condemnation  | DEXTEROUS     | skilled physically or mentally              |
| DEPICT           | to describe, represent   | DIABOLICAL    | fiendish; wicked                            |
| DEplete          | to use up, exhaust   | DIALECT       | regional style of speaking                  |
| DEPLORE          | to express or feel disapproval of; regret strongly                       | DIAPHANOUS    | allowing light to show through; delicate    |
| DEPLOY           | to spread out strategically over an area                                 | DIATRIBE      | bitter verbal attack                        |
| DEPOSE           | to remove from a high position, as from a throne                         | DICHOTOMY     | division into two parts                     |
| DEPRAVITY        | sinfulness, moral corruption   | DICTUM        | authoritative statement; popular saying     |
| DEPRECATE        | to belittle, disparage   | DIDACTIC      | excessively instructive                     |
| DEPRECIATE       | to lose value gradually  | DIFFER        | disagree                                    |
| DERANGED         | to be disturbed or insane  | DIFFERENTIATE | to distinguish between two items            |
| DERIDE           | to mock, ridicule, make <b>fun</b> of                                    | DIFFIDENCE    | shyness, lack of confidence                 |
| DERISIVE         | expressing ridicule or scorn   | DIFFRACT      | to cause to separate into parts, esp. light |
| DERIVATIVE       | copied or adapted; not <b>original</b>                                   | DIFFUSE       | widely spread out                           |
| DERIVE           | to originate; take from a certain source                                 | DIGRESS       | to turn aside; to stray from the main point |
|                  |  | DILAPIDATED   | in disrepair, run-down, neglected           |
|                  |  | DILATE        | to enlarge, swell, extend                   |

## dilatory

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- DILATORY slow, tending to delay
- DILETTANTE an amateur
- DILUVIAL relating to a flood
- DIMINUTIVE small
- DIPLOMACY discretion, tact
- DIRGE funeral hymn
- DISABUSE to free from a misconception
- DISAFFECTED discontented and disloyal
- DISARRAY clutter, disorder
- DISBAND to break up
- DISBAR to expel from **legal** profession
- DISBURSE to pay out
- DISCERN to perceive something obscure
- DISCLAIM to deny, disavow
- DISCLOSE to confess, **divulge**
- DISCOMFIT to cause **perplexity** and embarrassment
- DISCOMPOSE to disturb the composure or **serenity**
- DISCONCERTING bewildering, perplexing, slightly disturbing
- DISCONSOLATE unable to be consoled; extremely sad
- DISCORDANT harsh-sounding, badly out of tune
- DISCREDIT to dishonor or disgrace
- DISCREDITED disbelieved, discounted; disgraced, dishonored
- DISCREPANCY difference between
- DISCRETE distinct, separate
- DISCRETIONARY subject to one's own judgment
- DISCURSIVE wandering from topic to topic
- DISDAIN to regard with scorn and contempt
- DISDAINFUL contemptuous, scornful
- DISENGAGED disconnected, disassociated
- DISGORGE to vomit, discharge violently
- DISHEVELED untidy, disarranged, unkempt
- DISINCLINED averse, unwilling, lacking desire
- DISINGENUOUS sly and crafty
- DISINTEREST lack of interest or a disadvantage
- DISJOINTED lacking coherence or order, being separated
- DISPARAGE to belittle, speak disrespectfully about
- DISPARATE dissimilar, different in **kind**
- DISPARITY contrast, dissimilarity
- DISPASSIONATE free from emotion; impartial, unbiased
- DISPEL to drive out or scatter
- DISPENSE to distribute, administer
- DISPENSE **WITH** to **suspend** the operation of, do without
- DISPERSE to break up, **scatter**
- DISPIRIT to dishearten, make dejected
- DISPUTE to debate, to quarrel
- DISQUIETED **feeling anxiety**, being disturbed, lacking peace
- DISREGARD to neglect, pay no attention to
- DISREPUTE disgrace, dishonor
- DISSEMBLE to pretend, disguise one's motives
- DISSEMINATE to spread far and wide
- DISSENSION difference of opinion
- DISSIMULATE to disguise or put on a false appearance
- DISSIPATE to scatter; to pursue pleasure to excess
- DISSOCIATE to separate; remove from an association
- DISSONANT harsh and unpleasant sounding
- DISSUADE to persuade someone to alter original intentions
- DISTAFF the female branch of a family
- DISTEND to **swell**, inflate, bloat.
- DISTRAUGHT very worried and distressed
- DISTRUST (n) disbelief and suspicion
- DITHER (v) to move or act confusedly or **without** clear purpose
- DIURNAL daily
- DIVERGE to move in different directions, to deviate from a source
- DIVERSE differing
- DIVERT to turn from one course to another
- DNEST to get rid of
- DMNE (v) to **foretell** or know by inspiration

DMSIVE creating **disunity** or **conflict**  
 DOCILE tame, willing to be taught  
 DOCTRINAIRE rigidly devoted to theories  
 DOGGED (adj) persistent, stubborn  
 DOGMATIC rigidly fixed in opinion, opinionated  
 DOLDRUMS a period of despondency  
 DOLEFUL sad, mournful  
 DOLOR sadness  
 DOLT idiot, dimwit, foolish person  
 DOMINEER to rule over something in a **tyrannical** way  
 DONOR benefactor, contributor  
 DORMANT at rest, inactive, in suspended animation  
 DOTAGE senile condition, mental decline  
 DOTARD senile old person  
 DOTING excessively fond, loving to excess  
 DOUGHTY courageous  
 DOUR sullen and gloomy; stern and **severe**  
 DOWRY money or property given by a bride to her husband  
 DRAFT (v) to plan, outline; to recruit, conscript  
 DRAW to attract, to pull toward  
 DRIVEL stupid talk; slobber  
 DROLL amusing in a **wry**, subtle way  
 DROSS waste produced during metal smelting; garbage  
 DUDGEON angry indignation  
 DULCET pleasant sounding, soothing to the ear  
 DUMB unable to speak  
 DUPE (n) fool, pawn  
 DUPE (v) to deceive, trick  
 DUPLICITY deception, dishonesty, double-dealing  
 DURABILITY strength, sturdiness  
 DURATION period of time that something lasts  
 DURESS threat of force or intimidation; imprisonment  
 DWINDLE to shrink or decrease  
 DYSPEPTIC suffering from indigestion; **gloomy and irritable**

## E

**EARTHY** crude  
 EBB (v) to fade away, recede  
 EBULLIENT exhilarated, full of enthusiasm and high spirits  
 ECLECTIC selecting from various sources  
 ECSTATIC joyful  
 EDDY air or wind current  
 EDICT law, command, official public order  
 EDIFICE building  
 EDIFY to instruct morally and spiritually  
 EDITORIALIZE to **express** an opinion on an issue  
 EFFACE to erase or make illegible  
 EFFERVESCENT bubbly, lively  
 EFFICACIOUS effective, efficient  
 EFFIGY stuffed **doll**; likeness of a person  
 EFFLUVIA outpouring of gases or vapors  
 EFFRONTERY impudent boldness; audacity  
 EFFULGENT brilliantly shining  
 EFFUSIVE expressing emotion without restraint  
 EGOCENTRIC acting as if things are centered around oneself  
 EGREGIOUS conspicuously bad  
 EGRESS exit  
 ELATION **exhilaration**, joy  
 ELEGY mournful poem, usually about the dead  
 ELEVATED high in status, exalted  
 ELICIT to draw out, provoke  
 ELOQUENCE fluent and effective speech  
 ELUCIDATE to explain, clarify  
 EMACIATED skinny, scrawny, gaunt, esp. from hunger  
 EMANCIPATE to set free, liberate  
 EMBELLISH to ornament, make attractive with decoration or details; add details to a statement  
 EMBEZZLE to steal money in violation of a trust  
 EMBROIL to involve in; cause to fall into disorder

## emend

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- EMEND to correct a text
- EMINENT celebrated, distinguished; outstanding, towering
- EMOLLIENT having soothing qualities, esp. for skin
- EMOTIVE appealing to or expressing emotion
- EMPATHY identification with another's feelings
- EMULATE to copy, imitate
- ENCHANT to charm or attract
- ENCIPHER to translate a message into code
- ENCOMIUM warm praise
- ENCORE additional performance, often demanded by audience
- ENCUMBER to hinder, burden, restrict motion
- ENDEMIC belonging to a particular area, inherent
- ENDOGAMOUS marrying within a specific group due to law or custom
- ENDURANCE ability to withstand hardships
- ENERVATE to weaken, sap strength from
- ENGENDER to produce, cause, bring about
- ENIGMATIC puzzling, inexplicable
- ENJOIN to urge, order, command; forbid or prohibit, as by judicial order
- ENMITY hostility, antagonism, ill-will
- ENNUI boredom, lack of interest and energy
- ENORMITY state of being gigantic or terrible
- ENSCONCE to settle comfortably into a place
- ENSHROUD to cover, enclose with a dark cover
- ENTAIL to involve as a necessary result, necessitate
- ENTHRALL to captivate, enchant, enslave
- ENTICE to lure or tempt
- ENTITY something with its own existence or form
- ENTOMOLOGIST scientist who studies insects
- ENTREAT to plead, beg
- ENTRENCHED established solidly
- ENUMERATE to count, list, itemize
- ENUNCIATE to pronounce clearly
- EON indefinitely long period of time
- EPHEMERAL momentary, transient, fleeting
- EPICURE person with refined taste in food and wine
- EPIGRAM short, witty saying or poem
- EPIGRAPH quotation at the beginning of a literary work
- EPILOGUE concluding section of a literary work
- EPITHET an abusive word or phrase
- EPITOME representative of an entire group; summary
- EPOCHAL very significant or **influential**; defining an epoch or time period
- EQUANIMITY calmness, composure
- EQUESTRIAN (n) one who rides on horseback
- EQUINE relating to horses
- EQUITABLE fair
- EQUITY justice, fairness
- EQUIVOCAL ambiguous, open to two interpretations
- EQUIVOCATE to ~~use~~ use vague or ambiguous language intentionally
- ERADICATE to erase or wipe out
- ERODE to diminish or **destroy** over a period of time
- ERRANT straying, mistaken, **roving**
- ERRATIC wandering and unpredictable
- ERRONEOUS in error; mistaken
- ERSATZ fake
- ERUDITE learned, scholarly
- ESCALATE to increase the intensity or scope of
- ESCHEW to abstain **from**, avoid
- ESOTERIC understood only by a learned few
- ESPOUSE to support or advocate; to marry
- ESTIMABLE admirable
- ESTRANGE to alienate, keep at a distance
- ESURIENT hungry, greedy
- ETHEREAL not earthly, spiritual, delicate
- ETHICAL moral, abiding by an accepted code of conduct
- ETHOS beliefs or character of a group
- ETYMOLOGY origin and history of a word; study of words

- EULOGY high praise, often in a public speech
- EUPHEMISM use of an inoffensive word or phrase in place of a more distasteful one
- EUPHONY pleasant, harmonious sound
- EUPHORIA feeling of well-being or happiness
- EURYTHMICS art of harmonious bodily movement
- EUTHANASIA mercy killing; intentional, easy and painless death
- EVADE to avoid, dodge
- EVANESCENT momentary, transitory, short-lived
- EVICT to put out or force out
- EVIDENT clear, able to be understood
- EVINCE to show clearly, display, signify
- EVOKE to inspire memories; to produce a reaction
- EXACERBATE to aggravate, intensify the bad qualities of
- EXALT to glorify, to elevate
- EXASPERATION irritation
- EXCERPT (n) selection from a book or play
- EXCOMMUNICATE to bar from membership in the church
- EXCORIATE to denounce
- EXCRUCIATING agonizing, intensely painful
- EXCULPATE to clear of blame or fault
- EXECRABLE utterly detestable
- EXEMPLARY serving as an example, commendable
- EXHILARATION state of being energetic or filled with happiness
- EXHORT to urge or incite by strong appeals
- EXHUXIE to remove from a grave; uncover a secret
- EXIGENT urgent; excessively demanding
- EXONERATE to clear of blame
- EXORBITANT extravagant, greater than reasonable
- EXORCISE to expel evil spirits
- EXOTIC foreign; romantic, excitingly strange
- EXPANSIVE sweeping, comprehensive; tending to expand
- EXPATiate to wander; to discuss or describe at length
- EXPATRIATE (n) one who lives outside one's native land
- EXPATRIATE (v) to drive someone from his/her native land
- EXPEDIENT (adj) convenient, efficient, practical
- EXPIATE to atone for, make amends for
- EXPIRE to come to an end; die; breathe out
- EXPLICABLE capable of being explained
- EXPLICIT clearly defined, specific; forthright in expression
- EXPLODE to debunk, disprove; blow up, burst
- EXPONENT one who champions or advocates
- EXPOUND to elaborate; to expand or increase
- EXPUNGE to erase, eliminate completely
- EXPURGATE to censor
- EXTEMPORANEOUS unrehearsed, on the spur of the moment
- EXTENUATE to lessen the seriousness, strength, or effect of
- EXTINCTION end of a living thing or species
- EXTOL to praise
- EXTORT to obtain something by threats
- EXTRANEOUS irrelevant, unrelated, unnecessary
- EXTRAPOLATE to estimate
- EXTREMITY outermost or farthest point
- EXTRICATE to free from, disentangle, free
- EXTRINSIC not inherent or essential, coming from without
- EXTROVERT an outgoing person
- EXUBERANT lively, happy, and full of good spirits
- EXUDE to give off, ooze
- EXULT to rejoice
- F**
- FABRICATE to make or devise; construct
- FABRICATED constructed, invented; faked, falsified
- FACADE face, front; mask, superficial appearance
- FACETIOUS witty in an inappropriate way
- FACILE very easy
- FACILITATE to aid, assist
- FACILITY aptitude, ease in doing something

## facsimile

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- FACSIMILE an exact copy
- FALLACIOUS wrong, unsound, illogical
- FALLIBLE capable of failing
- FALLOW uncultivated, unused
- FAMINE extreme scarcity of food
- FANATICISM extreme devotion to a cause
- FARCICAL absurd, ludicrous
- FASTIDIOUS careful with details
- FATHOM (v) to measure the depth of, gauge; to understand
- FATUOUS stupid; foolishly self-satisfied
- FAULT break in a rock formation; mistake or error
- FAWN (v) to flatter excessively; seek the favor of
- FAZE to bother, upset, or disconcert
- FEALTY intense loyalty
- FEASIBLE possible, capable of being done
- FECKLESS ineffective, careless, irresponsible
- FECUND fertile, fruitful, productive
- FEDERATION union of organizations; union of several states, each of which retains local power
- FEIGN to pretend, give a false impression; to invent falsely
- FEISTY excitable, easily drawn into quarrels
- FELICITOUS suitable, appropriate; well-spoken
- FELICITY feeling great happiness
- FELL (v) to chop, cut down
- FELL cruel
- FERVID passionate, intense zealous
- FETID foul-smelling, putrid
- FETTER to bind, chain, confine
- FEUD a prolonged quarrel between families
- FEY otherworldly; doomed
- FIASCO disaster, utter failure
- FICKLE unreliable
- FICTIVE fictional, imaginary
- FIDELITY loyalty
- FIENDISH excessively bad or cruel
- FILCH to steal
- FILIAL appropriate for a child
- FILIBUSTER use of obstructive tactics in a legislative assembly to prevent adoption of a measure
- FINESSE refinement or skill at a task or in a situation
- FINICKY fuss); difficult to please
- FISSION process of splitting into two parts
- FISSURE a crack or break
- FITFUL intermittent, irregular
- FIXITY being fixed or stable
- FLACCID limp, flabby, weak
- FLAG to lose energy and strength
- FLAGRANT outrageous, shameless
- FLAIR a natural inclination toward something
- FLAMBOYANT flashy, garish; exciting, dazzling
- FLAMMABLE combustible, being easily burned
- FLAUNT to show off
- FLEDGLING young bird just learning to fly; beginner, novice
- FLIPPANT disrespectful, casual
- FLORA plants
- FLORID gaudy, extremely ornate; ruddy, flushed
- FLOUNDER to falter, waver; to muddle, struggle
- FLOUT to treat contemptuously, scorn
- FLUCTUATE to alternate, waver
- FLURRIED to become agitated and confused
- FLUSTER to agitate or confuse
- FODDER raw material; feed for animals
- FOIBLE minor weakness or character flaw
- FOIL (v) to defeat, frustrate
- FOIST to pass off as genuine
- FOLIATE to grow, sprout leaves
- FOMENT to arouse or incite
- FORAGE to wander in search of food
- FORBEARANCE patience, restraint, leniency

FORD (v) to cross a body of water at a **shallow** place  
 FOREBODING dark sense of **evil** to come  
 FORECLOSE to rule out; to seize debtor's property for **lack** of payments  
 FORENSIC relating to legal proceedings; relating to debates  
 FORENSICS study of argumentation and debate  
 FORESTALL to prevent, delay; anticipate  
 FORETHOUGHT anticipation, foresight  
 FORFEND to prevent  
 FORGO to go without, refrain from  
 FORLORN dreary, deserted; unhappy; hopeless, despairing; pitiful in appearance  
 FORMULATE to conceive, devise; to draft, plan; to express, state  
 FORSAKE to abandon, withdraw from  
 FORSWEAR to repudiate, renounce, disclaim, reject  
 FORTE (n) strong point, something a person does **well**  
 FORTNIGHT two weeks  
 FORTUITOUS happening by luck, fortunate  
 FOSTER (v) to nourish, cultivate, promote  
 FOUNDATION groundwork, support; institution established by donation to aid a certain cause  
 FOUNDER (v) to fall helplessly; sink  
 FRACAS noisy dispute  
 FRACTIOUS unruly, rebellious  
 FRAGMENTATION division, separation into parts, disorganization  
 FRANK honest and straightforward  
 FRATRICIDE the killing of a brother or sister  
 FRAUD deception, hoax  
 FRAUDULENT deceitful, dishonest, unethical  
 FRAUGHT full of, accompanied by  
 FRENETIC wildly frantic, frenzied, hectic  
 FRENZIED feverishly fast, hectic, and confused  
 FRIVOLOUS petty, trivial; **flippant, silly**  
 FROND leaf

FRUGAL thrifty; cheap  
 FULMINATE to explode with anger  
 FULSOME excessive, overdone, **sickeningly** abundant  
 FUNERAL mournful, appropriate to a **funeral**  
 FUROR rage, fury  
 FURTIVE secret, stealthy  
 FUSION process of merging things into one

## G

GAINSAY to deny  
 GALL (n) bitterness; careless nerve  
 GALL (v) to exasperate and irritate  
 GALLANT a very fashionable young man  
 GAMBOL to dance or skip around playfully  
 GAME (adj) courageous  
 GARGANTUAN giant, tremendous  
 GARNER to gather and store  
 GARRULOUS very talkative  
 GAUCHE crude, socially awkward  
 GAUCHERIE a tactless or awkward act  
 GAUNT thin and bony  
 GAVEL mallet used for commanding attention  
 GENRE type, **class**, category  
 GENTEEL stylish, elegant in manner or appearance  
 GERIATRIC relating to old age or the process of aging  
 GERMINATE to begin to grow (as in a seed or idea)  
 GESTATION growth process from conception to birth  
 GIBE (v) to make heckling, taunting remarks  
 GIRTH distance around something  
 GLIB fluent in an insincere manner; offhand, casual  
 GLOBAL involving the entire world; relating to a whole  
 GLOWER to glare, stare angrily and intensely  
 GLUTTONY eating and **drinking** to excess  
 GNARL to make knotted, deform  
 GNOSTIC having to do with knowledge

## goad

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GOAD to prod or urge

GOSSAMER something light, delicate, or tenuous

GOUGE scoop out; extort

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

GRANDILOQUENCE pompous talk, fancy but meaningless language

GRANDIOSE magnificent and imposing; **exaggerated** and pretentious

GRANULAR having a grainy texture

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

GRATIS free, costing nothing

GRATUITOUS free, voluntary; unnecessary **and unjustified**

GRATUITY something given voluntarily, tip

GREGARIOUS outgoing, sociable

GRIEVOUS causing **grief** or **sorrow**; serious and distressing

GRIMACE facial expression showing pain or disgust

GRIMY dirty, filthy

GROSS (adj) **obscene** blatant, flagrant

GROSS (n) total before deductions

GROVEL to humble oneself in a demeaning way

GRUBBY dirty, sloppy

GUILE trickery, deception

GULLIBLE easily deceived

GUSTATORY relating to sense of taste

GYRATE to move in a circular motion

## H

HABITAT dwelling place

HACKNEYED worn out by over-use

HAIL to greet with praise

HALLOW to make holy; treat **as** sacred

HAMLET **small** village

HAPLESS unfortunate, having bad **luck**

HARANGUE a pompous speech

HARBINGER precursor, sign of something to come

HARDY robust, vigorous

HARMONY accord, tranquillity, agreement

HARROWING extremely distressing, terrifying

HASTEN to hurry, to speed up

HAUGHTY arrogant and condescending

HEADLONG recklessly

HEADSTRONG reckless; insisting on one's own way

HEATHEN pagan; uncivilized and irreligious

HECTIC hasty, hurried, confused

HECTOR a bully, **braggart**

HEDONISM pursuit of pleasure as a goal

HEGEMONY leadership, domination, usually by a country

HEIGHTEN to raise

HEINOUS shocking, wicked, terrible

HEMICYCLE semicircular form or structure

HEMORRHAGE (n) **heavy** bleeding

HEMORRHAGE (v) to bleed heavily

HERETICAL opposed to an established religious **orthodoxy**

HERMETIC tightly sealed

HETERODOX unorthodox, not widely accepted

HETEROGENEOUS composed of unlike parts, different, diverse

HEW to cut with an **ax**

HIATUS a gap or a break

HIDEBOUND excessively rigid; dry and stiff

HINDER to hamper

HINDSIGHT perception of events after they happen

HINTERLAND wilderness

HOARY very **old**; whitish or gray from age

HOLISTIC emphasizing importance of the whole and interdependence of its parts

HOLOCAUST widespread destruction, **usually** by fire

HOMAGE public honor and respect

HOMOGENEOUS composed of identical parts

HOMONYM word identical in pronunciation but different in meaning



- HONE to sharpen
- HONOR (v) to praise, glorify, pay **tribute** to
- HUMANE merciful, **kindly**
- HUSBAND (v) to farm; manage carefully and thriftily
- HUTCH pen or coop for animals; shack, shanty
- HYDRATE to add water to
- HYGIENIC clean, sanitary
- HYMN religious song, **usually** of praise or thanks
- HYPERBOLE purposeful exaggeration for effect
- HYPERVENTILATE to breathe abnormally fast
- HYPOCHONDRIA unfounded belief that one is often **ill**
- HYPOCRITE person **claiming** beliefs or virtues he or she doesn't really possess
- HYPOTHERMIA abnormally low body temperature
- HYPOTHESIS assumption subject to proof
- HYPOTHETICAL theoretical, speculative
- I
- ICONOCIAST one who attacks traditional beliefs
- IDEALISM pursuit of noble goals
- IDIOSYNCRASY peculiarity of temperament, eccentricity
- IGNOBLE dishonorable, not noble in character
- IGNOMINIOUS disgraceful and dishonorable
- IGNORAMUS an ignorant person
- ILK type or kind
- ILLICIT **illegal**, improper
- ILLIMITABLE limitless
- ILLUSORY unreal, deceptive
- ILLUSTRIOUS famous, renowned
- IMBUE to infuse; dye, wet, moisten
- IMMACULATE spotless; free from error
- IMMATERIAL extraneous, inconsequential, nonessential; not consisting of matter
- IMMENSE enormous, huge
- IMMERSE to bathe, dip; to engross, preoccupy
- IMMOBILE not moveable; still
- IMMUNE exempt; protected from harm or disease; unresponsive to
- IMMUNOLOGICAL relating to immune system
- IMMURE to imprison
- IMMUTABLE unchangeable, invariable
- IMPAIR to damage, injure
- IMPASSE blocked path, dilemma with no solution
- IMPASSIONED with passion
- IMPASSIVE showing no emotion
- IMPEACH to charge with misdeeds in public office; accuse
- IMPECCABLE flawless, without fault
- IMPECUNIOUS poor, having no money
- IMPEDIMENT barrier, obstacle; speech disorder
- IMPERATIVE essential; mandatory
- IMPERIOUS arrogantly self-assured, domineering, overbearing
- IMPERTINENT rude
- IMPETURBABLE not capable of being disturbed
- IMPERVIOUS impossible to penetrate; incapable of being affected
- IMPETUOUS quick to act without thinking
- IMPIOUS not devout in religion
- IMPLACABLE inflexible, **incapable** of being pleased
- IMPLANT to set securely or deeply; to instill
- IMPLAUSIBLE improbable, inconceivable
- IMPLICATE to involve in a crime, incriminate
- IMPLICIT implied, not directly expressed
- IMPOLITIC **unwise**
- IXIPORTUNE to ask repeatedly, beg
- IMPOSE to inflict, force upon
- IMPOSING dignified, grand
- IMPOTENT **powerless**, ineffective, lacking strength
- IMPOUND to seize and confine
- IMPOVERISH to make poor or bankrupt
- IMPRECATION curse
- IMPREGNABLE totally safe from attack, able to resist defeat

## impressionable

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- IMPRESSIONABLE easily **influenced** or affected
- IMPROMPTU spontaneous, without rehearsal
- IMPROVIDENT without planning or foresight, **negligent**
- IMPRUDENT **unwise**
- IMPUDENT arrogant and rude
- IMPUGN to call into question, **attack verbally**
- IMPULSE sudden tendency, **inclination**
- IMPULSIVE spontaneous, unpredictable
- INADVERTENTLY **unintentionally**
- INANE foolish, silly, lacking significance
- INAUGURATE to begin or start officially; to induct into office
- INCANDESCENT shining brightly
- INCARCERATE to put in jail; to **confine**
- INCARCERATION imprisonment
- INCARNADINE blood-red in color
- INCARNATE having bodily form
- INCENDIARY combustible, flammable, burning easily
- INCENSE (**v**) to infuriate, enrage
- INCEPTION beginning
- INCESSANT continuous, never ceasing
- INCHOATE just begun; disorganized
- INCIPIENT beginning to exist or appear; in an initial stage
- INCISIVE perceptive, penetrating
- INCLINATION tendency towards
- INCLUSIVE comprehensive, all-encompassing
- INCOGNITO in disguise, concealing one's identity
- INCOMMUNICADO lacking a means to communicate
- INCONCEIVABLE impossible, unthinkable
- INCONGRUOUS incompatible, not harmonious
- INCONSEQUENTIAL unimportant, trivial
- INCONTROVERTIBLE unquestionable, beyond dispute
- INCORRIGIBLE incapable of being corrected
- INCREDULOUS skeptical, doubtful
- INCULCATE to teach, impress in the mind
- INCULPATE to blame, charge with a crime
- INCUMBENT (adj) holding a specified office, often political; required, obligatory
- INCURSION sudden invasion
- INDEFATIGABLE never tired
- INDEFENSIBLE inexcusable, unforgivable
- INDELIBLE permanent, not erasable
- INDENTURE bound to another by contract
- INDICATIVE showing or pointing out, suggestive of
- INDICT to accuse formally, charge with a crime
- INDIGENOUS native, occurring naturally in an area
- INDIGENT very poor
- INDIGNANT angry, incensed, offended
- INDISPUTABLE not disputed, unquestioned
- INDOLENT habitually **lazy**, idle
- INDOMITABLE fearless, unconquerable
- INDUBITABLE unquestionable
- INDUCE to persuade; bring about
- INDUCT to place **ceremoniously in office**
- INDULGE to give in to a craving or desire
- INDUSTRY business or trade; diligence, energy
- INEBRIATED drunk, intoxicated
- INEPT clumsy, awkward
- INERT unable to move, tending to inactivity
- INESTIMABLE too great to be estimated
- INEVITABLE certain, **unavoidable**
- INEXORABLE inflexible, **unyielding**
- INEXTRICABLE incapable of being disentangled
- INFALLIBLE incapable of making a mistake
- INFAMY reputation for bad deeds
- INFANTILE childish, immature
- INFATUATED strongly or foolishly attached to, inspired with foolish passion, overly in love
- INFER to **conclude**, deduce
- INFERNAL hellish, diabolical

|               |  |                 |   |
|---------------|--|-----------------|---|
| INFILTRATE    | to pass secretly into enemy territory                    | INSENTIENT      | unfeeling, unconscious                            |
| INFINITESIMAL | extremely tiny   | INSIDIOUS       | sly, treacherous, devious                         |
| INFIRMITY     | disease, ailment   | INSINUATE       | to suggest, say <b>indirectly</b> , imply         |
| INFINGE       | to encroach, trespass; to transgress, violate            | INSIPID         | bland, Lacking flavor; lacking excitement         |
| INFURIATE     | to anger, provoke, outrage                               | INSOLENT        | insulting and arrogant                            |
| INFURIATING   | provoking anger or outrage                               | INSOLUBLE       | not able to be solved or explained                |
| INGENIOUS     | original, clever, inventive                              | INSOLVENT       | bankrupt, unable to pay one's debts               |
| INGENUOUS     | <b>straightforward</b> , open; naive and unsophisticated | INSTIGATE       | to incite, urge, agitate                          |
| INGLORIOUS    | lacking fame or honor, shameful                          | INSUBSTANTIAL   | modest, insignificant                             |
| INGRAINED     | an innate quality, deep-seated                           | INSUFFICIENCY   | lacking in something                              |
| INGRATE       | ungrateful person  | INSULAR         | isolated, detached                                |
| INGRATIATE    | to bring oneself purposely into another's good graces    | INSUPERABLE     | insurmountable, unconquerable                     |
| INGRESS       | entrance   | INSURGENT (adj) | rebellious, insubordinate                         |
| INHIBIT       | to hold back, prevent, restrain                          | INSURRECTION    | rebellion   |
| INIMICAL      | hostile, unfriendly                                      | INTEGRAL        | central, indispensable                            |
| INIQUITY      | sin, evil act  | INTEGRATED      | unified   |
| INITIATE      | to begin, introduce; to enlist, induct                   | INTEGRITY       | decency, honest; wholeness                        |
| INJECT        | to force into; to introduce into conversation            | INTEMPERATE     | not moderate                                      |
| INJUNCTION    | command, order   | ISTER           | to bury   |
| INJURIOUS     | causing injury   | INTERDICT       | to forbid, prohibit                               |
| INKLING       | hint; vague idea   | INTERJECT       | to interpose, insert                              |
| INNATE        | natural, inborn  | INTERLOCUTOR    | someone taking part in a dialogue                 |
| INNATENESS    | state of being natural or inborn                         | INTERLOPER      | trespasser; meddler in others' affairs            |
| INNOCUOUS     | harmless; inoffensive                                    | INTERMINABLE    | endless   |
| INNOVATE      | to invent, modernize, revolutionize                      | INTERMITTENT    | starting and stopping                             |
| INNUENDO      | indirect and subtle criticism, insinuation               | INTERNECINE     | deadly to both sides                              |
| INNUMERABLE   | too many to be counted                                   | INTERPOLATE     | to insert; change by adding new words or material |
| INOFFENSIVE   | harmless, <b>innocent</b>                                | INTERPOSE       | to insert; to intervene                           |
| INOPERABLE    | not operable; incurable by surgery                       | INTERREGNUM     | interval between reigns                           |
| INQUEST       | investigation; court or legal <b>proceeding</b>          | INTERROGATE     | to question formally                              |
| INQUISITIVE   | curious  | INTERSECT       | to divide by passing through or across            |
| INSATIABLE    | never satisfied  | INTERSPERSE     | to distribute among, mix with                     |
| INSCRUTABLE   | impossible to understand <b>fully</b>                    | INTERSTICE      | a space between things                            |
|               |  | INTIMATION      | clue, suggestion                                  |

## intractable

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**INTRACTABLE** not easily managed  
**INTRAMURAL** within an institution like a school  
**INTRANSIGENT** uncompromising, refusing to be reconciled  
**INTREPID** fearless  
**INTRIGUED** interested, curious  
**INTRINSIC** inherent, internal  
**INTROSPECTIVE** contemplating one's own thoughts and feelings  
**INTROVERT** someone given to self-analysis  
**INTRUSION** trespass, invasion of another's privacy  
**INTUITIVE** instinctive, untaught  
**INUNDATE** to cover with water; overwhelm  
**INURE** to harden; accustom; become used to  
**INVALIDATE** to negate or nullify  
**INVARIABLE** constant, not changing  
**INVECTIVE** verbal abuse  
**INVEIGH** protest strongly  
**INVESTITURE** ceremony conferring authority  
**INVETERATE** confirmed, long-standing, deeply rooted  
**INVIDIOUS** likely to provoke ill will, offensive  
**INVINCIBLE** invulnerable, unbeatable  
**INVIOLENT** safe from violation or assault  
**INVOKE** to call upon, request help  
**IOTA** very tiny amount  
**IRASCIBLE** easily angered  
**IRIDESCENT** showing many colors  
**IRRESOLVABLE** unable to be resolved; not analyzable  
**IRREVERENT** disrespectful  
**IRREVOCABLE** conclusive, irreversible  
**ITINERANT** wandering from place to place, unsettled  
**ITINERARY** route of a traveler's journey

## J

**JADED** tired by excess or overuse; slightly cynical  
**JANGLING** clashing, jarring; harshly unpleasant (in sound)  
**JARGON** nonsensical talk; specialized language  
**JAUNDICE** yellowish discoloration of skin  
**JAUNDICED** affected by jaundice; prejudiced or embittered  
**JETTISON** to cast off, throw cargo overboard  
**JIBE** to shift suddenly from one side to the other  
**JINGOISM** belligerent support of one's country  
**JOCULAR** jovial, playful, humorous  
**JUBILEE** special anniversary  
**JUDICIOUS** sensible, showing good judgment  
**JUGGERNAUT** huge force destroying everything in its path  
**JUNCTURE** point where two things are joined  
**JURISPRUDENCE** philosophy of law  
**JUVENILE** young or childish acting  
**JUXTAPOSITION** side-by-side placement

## K

**KEEN** having a sharp edge; intellectually sharp, perceptive  
**KERNEL** innermost, essential part: seed grain, often in a shell  
**KEYNOTE** note or tone on which a musical key is founded; main idea of a speech, program, etcetera  
**KINDLE** to set fire to or ignite; excite or inspire  
**KINETIC** relating to motion; characterized by movement  
**KISMET** fate  
**KNELL** sound of a funeral bell; omen of death or failure  
**KUDOS** fame, glory, honor

## L

**LABYRINTH** maze  
**LACERATION** cut or wound  
**LACHRYMOSE** tearful  
**LACKADAISICAL** idle, lazy; apathetic, indifferent  
**LACKLUSTER** dull

|               |  |             |  |
|---------------|--|-------------|--|
| LACONIC       | using few words                            | LICENSE     | freedom to act   |
| LAGGARD       | dawdler, loafer, <b>lazy</b> person        | LICENTIOUS  | <b>immoral</b> ; unrestrained by society                         |
| LAMBASTE      | disapprove angrily                         | LIEN        | <b>right</b> to possess and <b>sell</b> the property of a debtor |
| LAMENT (v)    | to deplore, grieve                         | LIMPID      | clear and simple; serene; transparent                            |
| LAMPOON (v)   | to attack with satire, mock harshly        | LINEAGE     | ancestry   |
| LANGUID       | lacking energy, indifferent, slow          | LINGUISTICS | study of language  |
| LANGUOR       | listlessness                               | LINIXIENT   | medicinal liquid used externally to ease pain                    |
| LAP (v)       | to drink using the tongue; to wash against | LIONIZE     | to treat as a celebrity  |
| LAPIDARY      | relating to precious stones                | LISSOME     | easily flexed, limber, agile                                     |
| LARCENY       | theft of property                          | LISTLESS    | lacking energy and enthusiasm                                    |
| LARDER        | place where food is stored                 | LITERAL     | word for word; upholding the exact meaning of a word             |
| LARGESS       | generosity; gift                           | LITERATE    | able to read and write; well-read and educated                   |
| LARYNX        | organ containing <b>vocal</b> cords        | LITHE       | <b>moving</b> and bending <b>with ease</b> ; <b>graceful</b>     |
| LASCIVIOUS    | lewd, lustful                              | LITIGATION  | lawsuit  |
| LASSITUDE     | lethargy, <b>sluggishness</b>              | LIVID       | discolored from a bruise; reddened with anger                    |
| LATENT        | present but hidden; potential              | LOATHE      | to abhor, despise, hate  |
| LATITUDE      | freedom of action or choice                | LOCOMOTION  | movement from place to place                                     |
| LAUDABLE      | <b>deserving</b> of praise                 | LODGED      | fixed in one position  |
| LAVISH        | to give plentiful amounts of               | LOFTY       | noble, elevated in position                                      |
| LAXITY        | carelessness                               | LOGO        | corporate symbol   |
| LEERY         | suspicious                                 | LOITER      | to stand around idly   |
| LEGERDEMAIN   | trickery                                   | LOQUACIOUS  | talkative  |
| LEGIBLE       | readable                                   | LOW (v)     | to make a sound like a cow, moo                                  |
| LEGISLATE     | to decree, mandate, <b>make</b> laws       | LUCID       | clear and easily understood                                      |
| LEGITIMATE    | adhering to the law, rightful              | LUDICROUS   | laughable, ridiculous  |
| LENIENT       | easygoing, permissive                      | LUGUBRIOUS  | sorrowful, mournful  |
| LETHARGY      | indifferent inactivity                     | LULL        | to soothe  |
| LEVITATE      | to rise in the air or cause to rise        | LUMBER (v)  | to move slowly and <b>awkwardly</b>                              |
| LEVITY        | humor, frivolity, gaiety                   | LUMINARY    | <b>bright</b> object; celebrity; source of inspiration           |
| LEXICON       | dictionary, list of words                  | LUMINOUS    | bright, brilliant, glowing                                       |
| LIBERAL (adj) | tolerant, broad-minded; generous, lavish   | LUNAR       | relating to the moon   |
| LIBERATION    | freedom, emancipation                      | LURID       | harshly shocking, sensational; glowing                           |
| LIBERTARIAN   | one who believes in unrestricted freedom   | LURK        | to prowl, sneak  |
| LIBERTINE     | one without moral restraint                |             |  |
| LIBIDINOUS    | lustful                                    |             |  |

## **luscious**

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LUSCIOUS very good-tasting

LUXURIANCE elegance, lavishness

LYRICAL suitable for poetry and song; expressing feeling

## **M**

MACABRE gruesome, producing horror

MACHINATION plot or scheme

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

MACROCOSM system regarded as an entity with subsystems

MAELSTROM whirlpool; turmoil; agitated state of mind

MAGNANIMOUS generous, noble in spirit

MAGNATE powerful or influential person

MAGNITUDE extent, greatness of size

MAINSTAY chief support

MALADROIT clumsy, tactless

MALADY illness

MALAPROPISM humorous misuse of a **word**

MALCONTENT discontented person, one who holds a grudge

MALEDICTION curse

MALEFACTOR evildoer; **culprit**

MALEVOLENT ill-willed; causing evil or harm to others

MALFUNCTION (n) **breakdown, failure**

MALFUNCTION (v) to **fail** to work

MALICE animosity, spite, hatred

MALINGER to evade **responsibility** by **pretending** to be ill

MALLEABLE capable of being shaped

MALNUTRITION undernourishment

MALODOROUS foul-smelling

MANDATORY necessary, required

MANIFEST (adj) **obvious**

MANIFOLD diverse, varied, comprised of many parts

MANNERED artificial or stilted in character

MANUAL (adj) hand-operated; physical

MANUMISSION release from slavery

MAR to damage, deface; spoil

MARGINAL barely sufficient

MARITIME relating to the sea or sailing

MARTIAL warlike, pertaining to the military

MARTINET strict disciplinarian, one **who rigidly follows** rules

MARTYR person dying for **his/her** beliefs

MASOCHIST one who enjoys pain or humiliation

MASQUERADE disguise; action that conceals the truth

MATERIALISM preoccupation with material things

MATRICULATE to enroll as a member of a college or university

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

MAUDLIN overly sentimental

MAVERICK a person who resists adherence to a group

MAWKISH sickeningly sentimental

MEAGER scanty, sparse

MEANDER to wander aimlessly without direction

MEANINGFUL significant

MEDDLER person **interfering** in others' **affairs**

MEDIEVAL relating to the Middle Ages

MEGALITH huge stone used in prehistoric structures

MEGALOMANIA mental state **with** delusions of wealth and power

MELANCHOLY sadness, depression

MELODIOUS having a pleasing melody

MELODY pleasing musical sounds; tune

MENAGERIE various animals kept together for exhibition

MENDACIOUS dishonest

MENDACITY a lie, falsehood

MENDICANT beggar

MENTOR experienced teacher and **wise** adviser

MERCENARY (adj) motivated only by greed

- MERCENARY (n) soldier for hire in foreign countries
- MERCURIAL quick, shrewd, and unpredictable
- MERETRICIOUS gaudy, falsely attractive
- MERIDIAN **circle** passing through the two poles of the earth
- MERITORIOUS deserving reward or praise
- METAMORPHOSIS change, **transformation**
- METAPHOR figure of speech comparing two different things
- METICULOUS extremely **careful**, fastidious, painstaking
- METRONOME time-keeping device used in music
- METTLE** courageousness; endurance
- MICROBE microorganism
- MICROCOSM tiny system used as analogy for larger system
- MIGRATORY wandering from place to place with the seasons
- MILITATE to operate against, work against
- MILLENNIUM one thousand years
- MINATORY menacing, threatening
- MINIMAL smallest in amount, least possible
- MINUSCULE very **small**
- MIRTH frivolity, gaiety, laughter
- MISANTHROPE person who hates human beings
- MISAPPREHEND to misunderstand, fail to know
- MISCONSTRUE to misunderstand, fail to discover
- MISCREANT one who behaves criminally
- MISERLINESS extreme stinginess
- MISGIVING apprehension, doubt, sense of foreboding
- MISHAP accident; misfortune
- MISNOMER an incorrect name or designation
- MISSIVE note or letter
- MITIGATE to soften, or make milder
- MNEMONIC relating to memory; designed to assist memory
- MOBILITY ease of movement
- MOCK (v) to deride, ridicule
- MODERATE (adj) reasonable, not extreme
- MODERATE (v) to make less excessive, restrain; regulate
- MODICUM a small amount
- MOLLIFY to **calm** or make less severe
- MOLLUSK sea animal with a soft body
- MOLT (v) to shed hair, skin, or an outer layer periodically
- MOMENTOUS important
- MONASTIC extremely plain or seduced, as in a monastery
- MONOCHROMATIC having one color
- MONOGAMY custom **of marriage** to one person at a time
- MONOLITH large block of stone
- MONOLOGUE dramatic speech performed by one actor
- MONOTONY lack of variation; wearisome sameness
- MONTAGE composite picture
- MOOT **debatable**; previously decided
- MORBID gruesome; relating to disease; abnormally gloomy
- MORDACIOUS caustic, biting
- MORDANT sarcastic
- MORES customs or manners
- MORIBUND dying, decaying
- MOROSE gloomy, sullen, or surly
- MORSEL small bit of food
- MOTE small particle, speck
- MOTLEY many-colored; composed of diverse parts
- MOTTLE to mark with spots
- MULTIFACETED having many parts, many-sided
- MULTIFARIOUS diverse
- MUNDANE worldly; commonplace
- MUNIFICENT generous
- MUNITIONS ammunition
- MUTABILITY changeability
- MUTE unable to speak
- MYOPIC** near-sighted
- MYRIAD immense number, multitude

**N**

NADIR lowest point

NAIVE lacking sophistication

NAIVETÉ a lack of worldly wisdom

NARRATIVE account, story

NASCENT starting to develop, coming into existence

NATAL relating to birth

NEBULOUS vague, cloudy

NECROMANCY black magic

NEFARIOUS vicious, evil

NEGLIGENT careless, inattentive

NEGLIGIBLE not worth considering

NEMESIS a formidable, often victorious opponent

NEOLOGISM new word or expression

NEONATE newborn child

NEOPHYTE novice, beginner

NETHER located under or below

KETTLE (v) to irritate

NEUTRALITY disinterest, impartiality

NEUTRALIZE to balance, offset

NICETY elegant or delicate feature; minute distinction

NICHE recess in a wall; best position for something

NIGGARDLY stingy

NIGGLING trifle, petty

NIHILISM belief that existence and all traditional values are meaningless

NOBLE illustrious, moral

NOCTURNAL pertaining to night; active at night

NOISOME stinking, putrid

NOMADIC moving from place to place

NOMENCLATURE terms used in a particular science or discipline

NOMINAL existing in name **only**; negligible

NON SEQUITUR conclusion not **following** from apparent evidence

NONCHALANT unconcerned, indifferent

NONDESCRIPT lacking interesting or distinctive qualities; dull

NONENTITY an insignificant person

NOTORIETY fame; unfavorable fame

NOVICE apprentice, beginner

NOVITIATE period of being a beginner or novice

NOXIOUS harmful, unwholesome

NUANCE shade of meaning

NULLIFY to make legally invalid; to counteract the effect of

NUMISMATICS coin collecting

NUPTIAL relating to marriage

NUTRITIVE relating to nutrition or health

**O**

OBDURATE stubborn

OBEISANCE a show of respect or submission

OBFUSCATE to confuse, obscure

OBJURGATE scold

OBLIGING accommodating, agreeable

OBLIQUE indirect, evasive; misleading, devious

OBLITERATE demolish completely, wipe out

OBLIVIOUS unaware, inattentive

OBLOQUY abusive language; ill repute

OBSCURE (adj) dim, unclear; not well known

OBSCURITY place or thing that's hard to perceive

OBSEQUIOUS overly submissive, brownnosing

OBSEQUY funeral ceremony

OBSESSIVE preoccupying, all-consuming

OBSOLETE no longer in use

OBSTINATE stubborn

OBSTREPEROUS troublesome, boisterous, unruly

OBTRUSIVE pushy, too conspicuous

OBTUSE insensitive, stupid, dull

OBVIATE to make unnecessary; to anticipate and prevent

OCCLUDE to shut, block



ODIOUS hateful, contemptible  
 OFFICIOUS too helpful, meddlesome  
 OFFSHOOT branch  
 OMINOUS menacing, threatening, indicating misfortune  
 OMNIPOTENT having unlimited power  
 OMNISCIENT **having** infinite knowledge  
 OMNIVOROUS eating everything; absorbing everything  
 ONEROUS burdensome  
 ONTOLOGY theory about the nature of existence  
 OPALESCENT iridescent, displaying colors  
 OPAQUE impervious to light; **difficult** to understand  
 OPERATIVE functioning, working  
 OPINE to express an opinion  
 OPPORTUNE appropriate, fitting  
 OPPORTUNIST one who takes advantage of circumstances  
 OPPROBRIOUS disgraceful, contemptuous  
 OPTIMUXI the most favorable degree  
 OPULENCE wealth  
 ORACLE person who foresees the future and gives advice  
 ORATION lecture, formal speech  
 ORATOR lecturer, speaker  
 ORB spherical body; eye  
 ORCHESTRATE to arrange music for performance; to coordinate, organize  
 ORDAIN to make someone a priest or minister; to order  
 ORIFICE an opening  
 ORNITHOLOGIST scientist who studies birds  
 OROTUND pompous  
 OSCILLATE to move back and forth  
 OSSIFY to turn to bone; to become rigid  
 OSTENSIBLE apparent  
 OSTENTATIOUS showy  
 OSTRACISM exclusion, temporary banishment  
 OUSTER expulsion, ejection  
 OVERABUNDANCE excess, surfeit

OVERSTATE to embellish, exaggerate  
 OVERT in the open, obvious  
 OVERTURE musical introduction; proposal, offer  
 OVERWEENING arrogant  
 OVERWROUGHT agitated, overdone

**P**

PACIFIC **calm**, peaceful  
 PACIFIST one opposed to war  
 PACIFY to restore calm, bring peace  
 PAEAN a song of praise or thanksgiving  
 PALATIAL like a palace, **magnificent**  
 PALAVER idle talk  
 PALEONTOLOGY study of past geological eras through fossil remains  
 PALETTE board for mixing paints; range of colors  
 PALISADE fence made up of stakes  
 PALL (n) covering that darkens or obscures; coffin  
 PALL (v) to lose strength or interest  
 PALLIATE to make less serious, ease  
 PALLID lacking color or liveliness  
 PALPABLE obvious, real, tangible  
 PALPITATION trembling, shaking, irregular beating  
 PALTRY pitifully small or worthless  
 PANACEA cure-all  
 PANACHE flamboyance, **verve**  
 PANDEMIC spread over a whole area or country  
 PANEGYRIC elaborate praise; formal hymn of praise  
 PANOPLY impressive array  
 PANORAMA broad view; comprehensive picture  
 PARADIGM ideal example, model  
 PARADOX contradiction, incongruity; dilemma, **puzzle**  
 PARADOXICAL **self-contradictory** but true  
 PARAGON model of excellence or perfection  
 PARAMOUNT supreme, dominant, primary

## paraphrase

---

PARAPHRASE to reword, usually in simpler terms

PARASITE person or animal that lives at another's expense

PARCH to dry or shrivel

PARE to trim

PARIAH outcast

PARITY equality

PARLEY discussion, usually **between** enemies

PAROCHIAL of limited scope or outlook, provincial

PARODY humorous imitation

PAROLE conditional release of a prisoner

PARRY to ward off or deflect

PARSIMONY stinginess

PARTISAN (adj) biased in **favor** of

PARTISAN (n) strong supporter

PASTICHE piece of literature or music imitating other works

PATENT (adj) obvious, unconcealed

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

PATERNITY fatherhood; descent from father's ancestors

PATHOGENIC causing disease

PATHOS pity, compassion

PATRICIAN aristocrat

PATRICIDE murder of one's father

PATRIMONY inheritance or heritage derived from one's father

PATRONIZE to condescend to, disparage; to buy from

PAUCITY scarcity, lack

PAUPER very poor person

PAVILION tent or light **building** used for shelter or exhibitions

PECCADILLO minor sin or offense

PECULATION theft of money or goods

PEDAGOGUE teacher

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

PEDESTRIAN (adj) **commonplace**

PEDIATRICIAN doctor specializing in children and their ailments

PEDIMENT triangular gable on a roof or facade

PEER (n) contemporary, equal, match

PEERLESS unequaled

PEJORATIVE having bad connotations; disparaging

PELLUCID transparent; translucent; easily understood

PENANCE voluntary suffering to repent for a wrong

PENCHANT inclination

PENDING (prep) during, while **awaiting**

PENITENT expressing sorrow for sins or offenses, repentant

PENSIVE thoughtful

PENULTIMATE next to last

PENUMBRA partial shadow

PENURY extreme poverty

PERAMBULATE walk about

PERCIPIENT discerning, able to perceive

PERDITION complete and utter loss; damnation

PEREGRINATE to wander from place to place

PEREMPTORY imperative; dictatorial

PERENNIAL present throughout the years; persistent

PERFIDIOUS faithless, disloyal, untrustworthy

PERFUNCTORY done in a routine way; **indifferent**

PERIHELION point in orbit nearest to the sun

PERIPATETIC moving from place to place

PERIPHRASTIC containing too many words

PERJURE to tell a lie under oath

PERMEABLE penetrable

PERNICIOUS very harmful

PERPETUAL endless, **lasting**

PERPETUITY continuing **forever**

PERPLEXING **puzzling**, bewildering

PERSONIFICATION act of attributing human qualities to objects or abstract qualities

|               |   |             |  |
|---------------|---|-------------|--|
| PERSPICACIOUS | shrewd, astute, keen-witted   | PLACATE     | to soothe or pacify                                      |
| PERT          | lively and bold   | PLACID      | calm   |
| PERTINACIOUS  | persistent, stubborn  | PLAGIARIST  | one who steals words or ideas                            |
| PERTINENT     | applicable, appropriate   | PLAINTIFF   | injured person in a lawsuit                              |
| PERTURBATION  | disturbance   | PLAINTIVE   | expressing sorrow  |
| PERUSAL       | close examination   | PLAIT       | to braid   |
| PERVASIVE     | present throughout  | PLANGENT    | loud sound; wailing sound                                |
| PERVERT (v)   | to cause to change in immoral way; to misuse  | PLASTIC     | flexible; pliable  |
| PESTILENCE    | epidemic, plague  | PLATITUDE   | stale, overused expression                               |
| PETTISH       | fretful   | PLAUDIT     | applause   |
| PETULANCE     | rudeness, peevishness   | PLEBEIAN    | crude, vulgar; low-class                                 |
| PHALANX       | massed group of soldiers, people, or things   | PLENITUDE   | abundance, plenty  |
| PHILANDERER   | pursuer of casual love affairs  | PLETHORA    | excess, overabundance                                    |
| PHILANTHROPY  | love of humanity; generosity to worthy causes   | PLIANT      | pliable, yielding  |
| PHILISTINE    | narrow-minded person, someone lacking appreciation for art or culture                             | PLUCK       | to pull strings on musical instrument                    |
| PHILOLOGY     | study of words  | PLUCKY      | courageous, spunky                                       |
| PHLEGLI       | coldness or indifference  | PLUMMET     | to fall, plunge  |
| PHLEGMATIC    | calm in temperament; sluggish   | PLURALISTIC | including a variety of groups                            |
| PHOBIA        | anxiety, horror   | PLY (v)     | to use diligently; to engage; to join together           |
| PHOENIX       | mythical, immortal bird that lives for 500 years, burns itself to death, and rises from its ashes | PNEUMATIC   | relating to air; worked by compressed air                |
| PHONETICS     | study of speech sounds  | POACH       | to steal game or fish; cook in boiling liquid            |
| PHONIC        | relating to sound   | PODIUM      | platform or lectern for orchestra conductors or speakers |
| PICAYUNE      | petty, of little value  | POIGNANT    | emotionally moving                                       |
| PIDDLING      | trivial   | POLAR       | relating to a geographic pole; exhibiting contrast       |
| PIETY         | devoutness  | POLARIZE    | to tend towards opposite extremes                        |
| PILFER        | to steal  | POLEMIC     | controversy, argument; verbal attack                     |
| PILLAGE       | to loot, especially during a war  | POLITIC     | shrewd and practical; diplomatic                         |
| PILLORY       | ridicule and abuse  | POLYGLOT    | speaker of many languages                                |
| PINNACLE      | peak, highest point of development  | POMPOUS     | self-important   |
| PIOUS         | dedicated, devout, extremely religious  | PONDEROUS   | weighty, heavy, large                                    |
| PIQCE         | fleeting feeling of hurt pride  | PONTIFICATE | to speak in a pretentious manner                         |
| PITHY         | profound, substantial; concise, succinct, to the point  | PORE (v)    | to study closely or meditatively                         |
| PITTANCE      | meager amount or wage   | POROUS      | full of holes, permeable to liquids                      |

## portent

---

PORTENT omen

PORTLY stout, dignified

POSIT to put in position; to suggest an idea

POSTERIOR bottom, rear

POSTERITY future generations; all of a person's descendants

POTABLE drinkable

POTENTATE monarch or ruler with great power

POVERTY lacking money or possessions

PRAGMATIC practical; moved by facts rather than abstract ideals

PRATTLE meaningless, foolish talk

PRECARIOUS uncertain

PRECEPT principle; law

PRECIPICE edge, steep overhang

PRECIPITATE (adj) sudden and unexpected

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

PRECIPITOUS hasty quickly, with too little caution

PRECIS short summary of facts

PRECISION state of being precise; exactness

PRECLUDE to rule out

PRECOCIOUS unusually advanced at an early age

PRECURSOR forerunner, predecessor

PREDATOR one that preys on others, destroyer, plunderer

PREDESTINE to decide in advance

PREDICAMENT difficult situation

PREDICATE (v) to found or base on

PREDICTIVE relating to prediction, indicative of the future

PREDILECTION preference, liking

PREDISPOSITION tendency, inclination

PREEMINENT celebrated, distinguished

PREFACE introduction to a book; introductory remarks to a speech

PREMEDITATE to consider, plan beforehand

PREMONITION forewarning; presentiment

PREPONDERANCE majority in number; dominance

PREPOSSESSING attractive, engaging, appealing

PREPOSTEROUS absurd, illogical

PRESAGE to foretell, indicate in advance

PRESCIENT having foresight

PRESCRIBE to set down a rule; to recommend a treatment

PRESENTIMENT premonition, sense of foreboding

PRESTIDIGITATION sleight of hand

PRESUMPTUOUS rude, improperly bold

PRETENTIOUS showy, self-important

PRETEXT excuse, pretended reason

PREVALENT widespread

PREVARICATE to lie, evade the truth

PRIMEVAL ancient, primitive

PRIMORDIAL original, existing from the beginning

PRISTINE untouched, uncorrupted

PRIVATION lack of usual necessities or comforts

PROBITY honesty, high-mindedness

PROCLIVITY tendency, inclination

PROCRASTINATION putting off something that must be done

PROCRASTISATOR one who continually and unjustifiably postpones

PROCURE to obtain

PRODIGAL wasteful, extravagant, lavish

PRODIGIOUS vast, enormous, extraordinary

PROFANE impure; contrary to religion; sacrilegious

PROFICIENT expert, skilled in a certain subject

PROFLIGATE corrupt, degenerate

PROFUNDITY great depth

PROFUSE lavish, extravagant

PROGENITOR originator, forefather, ancestor in a direct line

PROGENY offspring, children

PROGNOSIS prediction of disease outcome; any prediction

PROGNOSTICATE to predict

PROGRESSIVE favoring progress or change; moving forward  
 PROLIFERATION propagation, reproduction; enlargement, expansion  
 PROLIFIC productive, fertile  
 PROLIX tedious; wordy  
 PROLOGUE introductory section of a literary work or play  
 PROMONTORY piece of land or rock higher than its surroundings  
 PROMULGATE to make known publicly  
 PROPAGATE to breed  
 PROPESSITY inclination, tendency  
 PROPINQUITY nearness  
 PROPITIATE to win over, appease  
 PROPITIOUS favorable, advantageous  
 PROponent advocate, defender, supporter  
 PROPRIETY appropriateness  
 PROSAIC relating to prose; dull, commonplace  
 PROSCRIBE to condemn; to forbid, outlaw  
 PROSE ordinary language used in everyday speech  
 PROSECUTOR person who initiates a legal action or suit  
 PROSELYTIZE to convert to a particular belief or religion  
 PROSTRATE lying face downward, lying flat on the ground  
 PROTAGONIST main character in a play or story, hero  
 PROTEAN readily assuming different forms or characters  
 PROTESTATION declaration  
 PROTOCOL ceremony and manners observed by diplomats  
 PROTRACT to prolong, draw out, extend  
 PROTRUSION something that sticks out  
 PROVIDENT prudent, frugal  
 PROVIDENTIAL prudent, lucky  
 PROVINCIAL rustic, unsophisticated, limited in scope  
 PROVOCATION cause, incitement to act or respond  
 PROWESS bravery, skill  
 PROXIMITY nearness  
 PROXY power to act as substitute for another

PRUDE one who is excessively proper or modest  
 PRUDENT careful, cautious  
 PRURIENT lustful, exhibiting lewd desires  
 PRY to intrude into; force open  
 PSECDONYM pen name; fictitious or borrowed name  
 PSYCHIC (adj) having to do with the mind; perceptive of nonmaterial, spiritual forces  
 PCDGY chubby, overweight  
 PCERILE childish, immature, silly  
 PUGILISM boxing  
 PUGNACIOUS quarrelsome, eager and ready to fight  
 PULCHRITUDE beauty  
 PCLLERIZE to pound, crush, or grind into powder; destroy  
 PUMMEL to pound, beat  
 PUNCTILIOUS careful in observing rules of behavior or ceremony  
 PUNDIT an authority or critic  
 PCSGENT strong or sharp in smell or taste  
 PUNITIVE having to do with punishment  
 PURGATION process of cleansing, purification  
 PCRGE (v) to cleanse or free from impurities  
 PURITANICAL adhering to a rigid moral code  
 PCRPORT to profess, suppose, claim  
 PUSILLANIMOUS cowardly  
 PUTRID rotten

**Q**

QUACK (n) faker; one who falsely claims to have medical skill  
 QUADRILATERAL four-sided polygon  
 QUADRUPED animal having four feet  
 QCAFF to drink heartily  
 QUAGMIRE marsh; difficult situation  
 QUALIFY to provide with needed skills; modify, limit  
 QUANDARY dilemma, difficulty  
 QUARANTINE isolation period, originally 40 days, to prevent spread of disease

## quaternary

---

QUATERXARY consisting of or relating to four units or members

QUELL to crush or subdue

QUERULOUS inclined to complain, irritable

QUERY (n) question

QUIBBLE to argue about insignificant and irrelevant details

QUICKEN to hasten, arouse, excite

QUIESCENCE inactivity, stillness

QUIESCENT inactive, at rest

QUINTESENCE most **typical** example; concentrated essence

QUIVER (v) to shake slightly, tremble, vibrate

QUIXOTIC overly idealistic, impractical

QUOTIDIAN occurring daily; **commonplace**

## R

RACONTEUR witty, skillful storyteller

RADICAL (adj) fundamental; drastic

RAGING violent, wild

RAIL (v) to scold with bitter or abusive language

RAILLERY lighthearted jesting

RALLY (v) to assemble; **recover**, recuperate

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

RAMIFICATION implication, outgrowth, or consequence

RAMPANT unrestrained

RAMSHACKLE **likely** to collapse

RANCID spoiled, rotten

RANCOR bitter hatred

RANT to harangue, rave, forcefully scold

RAPACIOUS greedy; predatory

RAPPORT relationship of trust and respect

RAPPROCHEMENT having a cordial relationship

RAPT deeply absorbed

RAREFY to make thinner, purer, or more refined

RASH (adj) **careless, hasty**, reckless

RATIFY to approve **formally**, confirm

RATIOCINATION methodical, logical reasoning

RATION (n) portion, share

RATION (v) to supply; to restrict consumption of

RATIONAL logical, reasonable

RATIONALE line of reasoning

RAUCOUS harsh-sounding; boisterous

RAVAGE to destroy, devastate

RAVENOUS extremely hungry

RAVINE deep, narrow gorge

RAW vulgar, coarse

RAZE to tear down, demolish

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

REBARBATIVE irritating; repellent

REBUFF (n) blunt rejection

REBUKE (v) to reprimand, scold

REBUT to refute by evidence or argument

RECALCITRANT resisting **authority** or control

RECAN'T to retract a statement, opinion, etcetera

RECAPITULATE to review with a **brief** summary

RECEPTIVE open to others' ideas; congenial

RECIDIVISM tendency to repeat **previous** behavior

RECIPROCATE to show or feel in return

RECLUSIVE shut off from the world

RECONDITE relating to obscure learning; **known** to only a few

RECOUNT (v) to describe facts or **events**

RECREANT disloyal; cowardly

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

RECTIFY to correct

RECTITUDE moral uprightness

RECURRENCE repetition

REDRESS (n) relief from wrong or injury

REDUNDANCY unnecessary repetition

REFECTORY room where meals are served

|              |   |               |   |
|--------------|---|---------------|---|
| REFLECTION   | image, likeness; opinion, thought, impression   | RENT          | (adj) torn apart  |
| REFORM (v)   | to change, correct  | REPAST        | meal or mealtime  |
| REFRACT      | to deflect sound or light   | REPEAL        | to revoke or <b>formally</b> withdraw (often a law)                               |
| REFRACTORY   | obstinately resistant   | REPEL         | to rebuff, repulse; disgust, offend   |
| REFUGES      | escape, shelter   | REPENT        | to regret a past action   |
| REFURBISH    | to renovate   | REPENTANT     | apologetic, <b>guilty</b> , <b>remorseful</b>                                     |
| REFUTE       | to contradict, <b>discredit</b>   | REPLETE       | abundantly supplied   |
| REGAL        | magnificent, splendid, fit for royalty  | REPLICATE     | to duplicate, repeat  |
| REGARD       | high esteem   | REPOSE        | relaxation, leisure   |
| REGIMES      | government <b>rule</b> ; systematic plan  | REPREHEND     | to criticize  |
| REGRESS      | to move backward; <b>revert</b> to an earlier form or state                           | REPREHENSIBLE | blameworthy, disreputable   |
| REHABILITATE | to restore to good health or condition; <b>reestablish</b> a person's good reputation | REPRESS       | to restrain or hold in  |
| REITERATE    | to say again, repeat  | REPRESSION    | act of restraining or holding in  |
| REJOINDER    | response  | REPRISE       | repetition, esp. of a piece of music  |
| REJUVENATE   | to make young again; renew  | REPROACH (v)  | to find fault with; blame   |
| RELEGATE     | to assign to a class, especially to an inferior one                                   | REPROBATE     | morally unprincipled person   |
| RELENT       | to become gentler in attitude   | REPROVE       | to criticize or correct   |
| RELINQUISH   | to renounce or surrender something  | REPUDIATE     | to reject as having no authority  |
| RELISH (v)   | to enjoy greatly  | REPULSE       | to repel, fend <b>off</b> , sicken, disgust                                       |
| REMEDIAL     | capable of being corrected  | REQUIEM       | hymns or religious service for the dead   |
| REMEDY (v)   | to cure, correct  | REQUIRE       | to return or repay  |
| REMINISCENCE | remembrance of past events  | RESCIND       | to repeal, cancel   |
| REMISSION    | lessening, relaxation   | RESIDUE       | remainder, leftover, remnant  |
| REMIT        | to send ( <b>usually</b> money) as payment  | RESILIENT     | able to recover quickly after illness or bad luck; able to bounce back into shape |
| REMONSTRATE  | to protest or object  | RESOLUTE      | determined; with a clear purpose  |
| REMOTE       | distant, isolated   | RESOLVE (n)   | determination, firmness of purpose  |
| REMUNERATION | pay or reward for work, trouble, etcetera   | RESOLVE (v)   | to conclude, <b>determine</b>   |
| RENASCENT    | reborn, coming into being again   | RESONATE      | to echo   |
| RENEGADE     | traitor, person abandoning a cause  | RESPIRE       | to breathe  |
| RENEGE       | to go back on one's word  | RESPITE       | interval of relief  |
| RENITENT     | resisting pressure, obstinate   | RESPLENDENT   | splendid, brilliant   |
| RENOUNCE     | to give up or reject a right, <b>title</b> , <b>person</b> , etcetera                 | RESTITUTION   | act of compensating for loss or damage  |
| RENOWN       | fame, <b>widespread</b> acclaim   | RESTIVE       | impatient, uneasy, restless   |
|              |   | RESTORATIVE   | having the power to renew or revitalize   |

## restrained

---

RESTRAINED controlled, repressed, restricted  
RESUSCITATE to revive, bring back to life  
RETAIN to hold, keep possession of  
RETARD (v) to slow, hold back  
RETICENT not speaking freely; reserved  
RETINUE group of attendants with an important person  
RETIRING shy, modest, reserved  
RETORT cutting response  
RETRACT to draw in or take back  
RETRESCHE to regroup, reorganize  
RETRIEVE to bring, fetch; reclaim  
RETROACTIVE applying to an earlier time  
RETROGRADE having a backward motion or direction  
RETROSPECTIVE looking back to the past  
REVELRY boisterous festivity  
REVERE to worship, regard with awe  
REVERT to backslide, regress  
REVILE to criticize with harsh language, verbally abuse  
REVITALIZE to renew; give new energy to  
REVOKE to annul, cancel, call back  
REVULSION strong feeling of repugnance or dislike  
RHAPSODY emotional literary or musical work  
RHETORIC persuasive use of language  
RHYTHM regular pattern or variation of sounds and stresses  
RIBALD humorous in a vulgar way  
RIDDLE (v) to make many holes in; permeate  
RIFE widespread, prevalent; abundant  
RIFT an open space; to divide  
RIGHTEOUS morally right  
RIPOSTE a retort  
RISQUÉ bordering on being inappropriate or indecent  
ROBUST strong and healthy; hardy  
ROCOCO very, highly ornamented  
ROIL to disturb or cause disorder

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

ROOTED to have an origin or base

ROSTRUM stage for public speaking

ROTUND round in shape; fat

RUE to regret

RUFFLED irritated

RUMINATE to contemplate, reflect upon

RUSTIC rural

## S

SACCHARINE excessively sweet or sentimental

SACROSANCT extremely sacred; beyond criticism

SAGACIOUS shrewd, wise

SALACIOUS lustful

SALIENT prominent or conspicuous

SALLOW sickly yellow in color

SALUBRIOUS healthful

SALUTATION greeting

SANCTION permission, support; law; penalty

SANCTUARY haven, retreat

SANGUINE ruddy; cheerfully optimistic

SAP (v) to weaken gradually

SAPIENT wise

SARDONIC cynical, scornfully mocking

SATIATE to satisfy

SAUNTER to amble; walk in a leisurely manner

SAVANT learned person

SAVORY agreeable in taste or smell

SCABBARD sheath for sword or dagger

SCABROUS dealing with indecent things; blemished

SCALE (v) to climb to the top of

SCANTINESS barely enough, meager

SCARCITY not enough, insufficient

SCATHING harshly critical; painfully hot

SCENARIO plot outline; possible situation



- SCHISM a division or separation; disharmony
- SCINTILLA very small amount
- SCINTILLATE to sparkle, flash
- SCION descendent, child
- SCOFF to deride, ridicule
- SCORE (n) notation for a musical composition
- SCORE (v) to make a notch or scratch
- SCRIVENER professional copyist
- SCRUPULOUS restrained; careful and precise
- SCRUTINY careful observation
- SCURRILOUS vulgar, low, indecent
- SECANT straight line intersecting a curve at two points
- SECEDE to withdraw formally from an organization
- SECLUDED isolated and remote
- SECTARIAS narrow-minded; relating to a group or sect
- SECULAR not specifically pertaining to religion
- SEDENTARY inactive, stationary; sluggish
- SEDITION behavior promoting rebellion
- SEISMOLOGY science of earthquakes
- SEMINAL relating to the beginning or seeds of something
- SENESCENT aging, growing old
- SENSUAL satisfying or gratifying the senses; suggesting sexuality
- SENTENTIOUS having a moralizing tone
- SENTIENT aware, conscious, able to perceive
- SEPULCHRAL typical of a place of burial
- SEQUEL anything that follows
- SEQUESTER to remove or set apart; put into seclusion
- SERAPHIC angelic, pure, sublime
- SERENDIPITY habit of making fortunate discoveries by chance
- SERENITY calm, peacefulness
- SERPENTINE serpentlike; twisting, winding
- SERRATED saw-toothed, notched
- SERVILE submissive, obedient
- SHARD piece of broken glass or pottery
- SHEEPISH timid, meek, or bashful
- SHIRK to avoid a task due to laziness or fear
- SIDLE to cause to turn sideways; to move along one side
- SIGNIFY denote, indicate; symbolize
- SIMIAN apelike; relating to apes
- SIMPER to smirk, smile foolishly
- SIMPLE lacking in knowledge or intelligence
- SIMULATED fake, made to look real
- SINCERE genuine, true
- SINECURE well-paying job or office that requires little or no work
- SINGE to burn slightly, scorch
- SINUOUS winding; intricate, complex
- SKEPTICAL doubtful, questioning
- SKULK to move in a stealthy, or cautious manner; sneak
- SLAKE to calm down or moderate
- SLIGHT to treat as unimportant; insult
- SLIPSHOD careless, hasty
- SLOTH sluggishness, laziness
- SLOUGH to discard or shed
- SLOVENLY untidy, messy
- SLUGGARD lazy, inactive person
- SMELT (v) to melt metal in order to refine it
- SMUTTY obscene, indecent
- SNIPPET tiny part, tidbit
- SOBRIETY seriousness
- SOBRIQUET nickname
- SODDEN thoroughly soaked; saturated
- SOJOURN visit, stay
- SOLACE comfort in distress; consolation
- SOLARIUM room or glassed-in area exposed to the sun
- SOLECISM grammatical mistake
- SOLICITOUS concerned, attentive; eager
- SOLIDARITY unity based on common aims or interests

## **soliloquy**

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- SOLILOQUY** literary or dramatic speech by one character, not addressed to others
- SOLIPSISM** belief that the self is the only reality
- SOLSTICE** shortest or longest day of the year
- SOLUBLE** capable of being solved or dissolved
- SOMBER** dark and gloomy; melancholy, dismal
- SOMNAMBULIST** sleepwalker
- SOMNOLENT** drowsy, sleepy; inducing sleep
- SONIC** relating to sound
- SONOROUS** producing a full, rich sound
- SOPHIST** person good at arguing deviously
- SOPHISTRY** **deceptive** reasoning or argumentation
- SOPHOMORIC** immature and overconfident
- SOPORIFIC** sleepy or tending to cause sleep
- SORDID** filthy; contemptible and corrupt
- SOVEREIGN** having supreme power
- SPARTAN** austere, severe, grave; simple, bare
- SPAWN** to generate, produce
- SPECIOUS** deceptively attractive
- SPECULATION** contemplation; act of taking business **risks** for financial gain
- SPECULATIVE** involving assumption; **uncertain**; theoretical
- SPLENDID** grand, illustrious
- SPONTANEOUS** on the spur of the moment, impulsive
- SPORADIC** infrequent, irregular
- SPORTIVE** frolicsome, playful
- SPRIGHTLY** lively, animated, energetic
- SPUR (v)** to prod
- SPURIOUS** lacking authenticity; counterfeit, false
- SPURN** to **reject** or refuse contemptuously; scorn
- SQUABBLE** quarrel
- SQUALID** filthy; morally repulsive
- SQUANDER** to waste
- STACCATO** marked by abrupt, clear-cut sounds
- STAGNANT** immobile, stale
- STALWART** strong, unwavering
- STALK (v)** to hunt, pursue
- STALWART** strong, unwavering
- STAND (n)** group of trees
- STARK** bare, empty, vacant
- STASIS** motionless state; standstill
- STATELY** grand, unapproachable
- STEADFAST** immovable
- STEADY** stable, unflinching
- STENTORIAN** extremely loud
- STIFLE** to smother or suffocate; suppress
- STIGMA** mark of disgrace or inferiority
- STILTED** stiff, unnatural
- STINT (n)** period of time spent doing something
- STINT (v)** to be sparing or frugal
- STIPEND** allowance; fixed amount of money paid regularly
- STOCKADE** **enclosed** area forming defensive **wall**
- STOIC** indifferent to or unaffected by emotions
- STOLID** having or showing little emotion
- STRATAGEM** trick designed to deceive an enemy
- STRATIFY** to arrange into layers
- STRIATE** striped, grooved
- STRICTURE** something that restrains; negative criticism
- STRIDENT** loud, harsh, unpleasantly noisy
- STRINGENT** imposing severe, rigorous standards
- STRIPLING** an adolescent boy
- STULTIFY** to impair or reduce to uselessness
- STUNTED** having arrested growth or development
- STUPEFY** to **dull** the senses of; stun, astonish
- STYLIZE** to fashion, formalize
- STYMIE** to block or thwart
- SUAVE** smoothly gracious or polite; blandly ingratiating
- SUBDUE** suppressed, **stifled**
- SUBJECTION** dependence, obedience, submission
- SUBJUGATE** to conquer, subdue; enslave

- SUBLIMATE to repress impulses
- SUBLIME awe-inspiring; of high spiritual or **moral** value
- SUBLIMINAL subconscious; imperceptible
- SUBMISSIVE tending to be meek and submit
- SUBPOENA notice ordering someone to appear in court
- SUBSEQUENT following in time or order
- SUBSTANTIAL important, real
- SUBTERFUGE trick or tactic used to avoid something
- SUBTERRANEAN hidden, secret; underground
- SUBTLE intended to detect or describe; perceptive
- SUBVERT to undermine or corrupt
- SUCCINCT terse, brief, concise
- SUCCULEST juicy; full of vitality or freshness
- SUFFERABLE bearable
- SUFFRAGIST one who advocates extended voting rights
- SULLEN brooding, gloomy
- SULLY to soil, stain, tarnish; taint
- SUMPTUOUS lavish, splendid
- SUPERABUNDANCE excessive
- SUPERANNUATED too old, obsolete, outdated
- SUPERCILIOUS arrogant, **haughty**, overbearing, condescending
- SUPEREROGATORY nonessential
- SUPERFICIAL hasty; shallow and phony
- SUPERFLUOUS extra, more than necessary
- SUPERSEDE to take the place of; replace
- SUPERVISE to direct or oversee the work of others
- SUPPLANT to replace, substitute
- SUPPLE flexible, pliant
- SUPPLICANT one who asks humbly and earnestly
- SUPPOSITION assumption
- SURFEIT excessive amount
- SURLY rude and bad-tempered
- SURMISE to make an educated guess
- SURMOUNT to conquer, overcome
- SURPASS to do better than, be superior to
- SURPLUS **excess**
- SURREPTITIOUS characterized by secrecy
- SURVEY (v) to examine in a comprehensive way
- SUSCEPTIBLE vulnerable, unprotected
- SUSPEND to defer, interrupt; dangle, hang
- SUSTAIN support, uphold; endure, undergo
- SUSTENANCE supplying the necessities of life
- SWARTHY having a dark complexion
- SYBARITE person devoted to pleasure and **luxury**
- SYCOPHANT self-serving flatterer, yes-man
- SYLLABUS outline of a course
- SYMBIOSIS cooperation, mutual helpfulness
- SYMPOSIUM meeting with short presentations on related topics
- SYNCHRONOUS happening at the same time
- SYNCOPE temporary **irregularity** in musical rhythm
- SYNOPSIS plot summary
- SYNTHESIS blend, combination
- SYNTHETIC artificial, imitation
- T**
- TABLEAU vivid description, striking incident or scene
- TACIT silently understood or implied
- TACITURN uncommunicative, not inclined to speak much
- TACTFUL **skillful** in dealing with others
- TACTILE relating to the sense of touch
- TAINT to spoil or infect; to stain honor
- TAINTED stained, tarnished; corrupted, poisoned
- TALISMAN something producing a magical effect
- TALON claw of an animal, esp. a bird of prey
- TANDEM acting as a group or in partnership
- TANG sharp flavor or odor
- TANGENTIAL digressing, diverting
- TANGIBLE able to be sensed; perceptible, measurable

## **tantamount**

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**TANTAMOUNT** equivalent in value or significance; amounting to

**TARNISHED** corroded, discolored; discredited, disgraced

**TAM'DRY** gaudy, cheap, showy

**TAXONOMY** science of classification

**TECHNOCRAT** strong believer in technology; technical expert

**TEETER** to waver or move unsteadily

**TEMERITY** recklessness

**TEMPERANCE** restraint, self-control, moderation

**TEMPERED** moderated, restrained

**TEMPESTUOUS** stormy, raging, furious

**TEMPORAL** relating to time; chronological

**TENABLE** defensible, reasonable

**TENACIOUS** stubborn, holding firm

**TENDENTIOUS** biased

**TENET** belief, doctrine

**TENSILE** capable of withstanding physical stress

**TENUOUS** weak, insubstantial

**TEPID** lukewarm; showing little enthusiasm

**TERMINAL (adj)** concluding, final; fatal

**TERMINAL (n)** depot, station

**TERRESTRIAL** earthly; down-to-earth, commonplace

**TERSE** concise, brief, free of extra words

**TESTAMENT** statement of belief; will

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

**TETHER (v)** to bind, tie

**THEOCRACY** government by priests representing a god

**THEOLOGY** study of God and religion

**THEORETICAL** abstract

**THERAPEUTIC** medicinal

**THESAURUS** book of synonyms and antonyms

**THESIS** theory or hypothesis; dissertation or long written composition

**THRALL** a person in servitude, enslaved

**THRENODY** a sad poem or song

**THWART** to block or prevent from happening; frustrate

**TIDINGS** news

**TIMOROUS** timid, shy, full of apprehension

**TINGE** to color slightly

**TIRADE** long violent speech; verbal assault

**TITAN** person of colossal stature or achievement

**TOADY** flatterer, hanger-on, yes-man

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

**TOME** book, usually large and academic

**TONAL** relating to pitch or sound

**TOPOGRAPHY** art of making maps or charts

**TORPID** lethargic; unable to move; dormant

**TORRID** burning hot; passionate

**TORSION** act of twisting and turning

**TORTUOUS** having many twists and turns; highly complex

**TOTTERING** barely standing

**TOXIN** poison

**TRACTABLE** obedient, yielding

**TRAMMEL** to impede or hamper

**TRANQUIL** to calm or steady

**TRANSCEND** to rise above, go beyond

**TRANSCENDENT** rising above, going beyond

**TRANSCRIPTION** copy, reproduction; record

**TRANSFIGURATION** a change; an exalting change

**TRANSFORMATION** a change in form or appearance

**TRANSGRESS** to trespass, violate a law

**TRANSIENT (adj)** temporary, short-lived, fleeting

**TRANSITORY** short-lived, existing only briefly

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

**TRANSLUCENT** partially transparent

**TRANSMUTE** to change in appearance or shape

**TRANSPIRE** to happen, occur; become known

**TRAVESTY** parody, exaggerated imitation, caricature

TREMULOUS trembling, quivering, fearful, timid  
 TRENCHANT acute, sharp, incisive; forceful, effective  
 TREPIDATION fear and anxiety  
 TRIBUTE a gift or statement showing respect or gratitude  
 TRIFLING of slight worth, trivial, insignificant  
 TRITE shallow, superficial  
 TROUNCE to beat severely, defeat  
 TROUPE group of actors  
 TRUCULENT savage and cruel; fierce; ready to fight  
 TRUISM something that is obviously true  
 TRUNCATE to cut off, shorten by cutting  
 TRYING difficult to deal with  
 TRYST agreement between lovers to meet; rendezvous  
 TUMULT state of confusion; agitation  
 TUNDRA treeless plain found in Arctic or subarctic regions  
 TURBID muddled; unclear  
 TURBULENCE commotion, disorder  
 TURGID swollen, bloated  
 TURPITUDE inherent vileness, foulness, depravity  
 TYRANNICAL oppressive; dictatorial  
 TYRO beginner, novice

**U**

UBIQUITOUS being everywhere simultaneously  
 UMBRAGE offense, resentment  
 UNADULTERATED absolutely pure  
 UNANIMITY state of total agreement or unity  
 UNAPPEALING unattractive, unpleasant  
 UNAVAILING hopeless, useless  
 UNBENDING inflexible, unyielding  
 UNBRIDLED unrestrained  
 UNCONSCIONABLE unscrupulous; shockingly unfair or unjust  
 UNCTUOUS greasy, oily; smug and falsely earnest  
 UNDAUNTED resolute even in adversity  
 UNDERMINE to sabotage, thwart

UNDOCUMENTED not certified, unsubstantiated  
 UNDULATING moving in waves  
 UNEQUIVOCAL absolute, certain  
 UNFAILING not likely to fail, constant, infallible  
 UNFETTERED free, unrestrained  
 UNFROCK to strip of priestly duties  
 UNGRACIOUS rude, disagreeable  
 UNHERALDED unannounced, unexpected  
 UNIDIMENSIONAL having one size or dimension  
 UNIFORM (adj) consistent and unchanging; identical  
 UNIMPEACHABLE beyond question  
 UNINITIATED not familiar with an area of study  
 UNKEMPT uncombed, messy in appearance  
 UNOBTRUSIVE modest, unassuming  
 UNPOLISHED lacking sophistication  
 UNRUFFLED poised, calm  
 UNSCRUPULOUS dishonest  
 UNSOILED clean, pure  
 UNSOLICITED unrequested  
 UNSTINTING generous  
 UNSULLIED clean  
 UNSWAYABLE unable to change  
 UNTOWARD not favorable; unruly  
 UNTRAMMELED unhampered  
 UNWARRANTED groundless, unjustified  
 UNWITTING unconscious; unintentional  
 UNYIELDING firm, resolute  
 UPBRAID to scold sharply  
 UPROARIOUS loud and forceful  
 UPSURGE sudden rise  
 URBANE courteous, refined, suave  
 USURP to seize by force  
 USURY practice of lending money at exorbitant rates  
 UTILITARIAN efficient, functional, useful  
 UTOPIA perfect place

## vacillate

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### V

- VACILLATE to waver, show indecision
- VACUOUS empty, void; **lacking** intelligence, purposeless
- VAGRANT poor person with no home
- VALIANT brave, courageous
- VALIDATE to authorize, certify, confirm
- VALOROUS brave, valiant
- VANQUISH to conquer, defeat
- VAPID tasteless, **dull**
- VARIABLE changeable, inconstant
- VARIEGATED varied; marked with different colors
- VAUNTED boasted about, bragged about
- VEHEMENTLY strongly, urgently
- VENAL willing to do wrong for money
- VENDETTA prolonged feud marked by bitter **hostility**
- VENERABLE respected because of age
- VENERATION adoration, honor, respect
- VENT (v) to express, say out loud
- VERACIOUS **truthful**, accurate
- VERACITY accuracy, truth
- VERBATIM word for word
- VERBOSE wordy
- VERDANT green with vegetation; inexperienced
- VERDURE fresh, rich vegetation
- VERIFIED proven true
- VERISIMILITUDE quality of appearing true or real
- VERITY truthfulness; belief viewed as true and enduring
- VERMIN small creatures offensive to humans
- VERNACULAR everyday language used by ordinary **people**; specialized language of a profession
- VERNAL related to spring
- VERSATILE adaptable, all-purpose
- VERVE energy, vitality
- VESTIGE trace, remnant
- VETO (v) to reject **formally**
- VEX to irritate, annoy; confuse, **puzzle**
- VIABLE workable, able to succeed or grow
- VIADUCT series of elevated arches used to cross a valley
- VICARIOUS substitute, surrogate; enjoyed through imagined participation in another's experience
- VICISSITUDE change or variation; ups and downs
- VIE to compete, contend
- VIGILANT attentive, watchful
- VIGNETTE decorative design; short literary composition
- VILIFY to slander, defame
- VIM energy, enthusiasm
- VINDICATE to clear of blame; support a claim
- VINDICATION clearance from blame or suspicion
- VINDICTIVE spiteful, vengeful, unforgiving
- VIRGINAL pure, chaste
- VIRILE manly, having qualities of an adult male
- VIRTUE conforming to what is right
- VIRTUOSO someone **with** masterly skill; expert musician
- VIRULENT extremely poisonous; malignant; hateful
- VISCOUS thick, syrupy and **sticky**
- VITIATE reduce in **value** or effectiveness
- VITRIOLIC burning, caustic; sharp, bitter
- VITUPERATE to abuse verbally
- VIVACIOUS lively, spirited
- VIVID bright and intense in color; strongly perceived
- VOCIFEROUS loud, vocal and noisy
- VOID (adj) not legally **enforceable**; empty
- VOID (n) emptiness, vacuum
- VOID (v) to cancel, invalidate
- VOLATILE explosive
- VOLITION free choice, free **will**; act of choosing
- VOLLEY (n) flight of missiles, round of gunshots
- VOLUBLE speaking much and easily, talkative; glib
- VOLUMINOUS large; of great quantity; writing or speaking at great length

VORACIOUS having a great appetite

VORTEX swirling, resembling a whirlpool

WLGAR obscene; common, of low class

VULNERABLE **defenseless**, unprotected; innocent, naive

## W

WAIVE to refrain from enforcing a rule; to give up a **legal** right

WALLOW to indulge oneself excessively, luxuriate

WAN sickly pale

WANE to dwindle, to decrease

WANTON undisciplined, unrestrained, reckless

WARRANTY guarantee of a product's soundness

WARY careful, cautious

WASPISH rude, behaving badly

WAVER to show indecision

WAX to increase

WAYWARD erratic, unrestrained, reckless

WEATHER (v) to endure, undergo

WEIGHTY important, momentous

WELTER (n) a confused mass; a jumble

WHET to sharpen, stimulate

WHIMSY **playful** or fanciful idea

WILY clever, deceptive

WINDFALL sudden, unexpected good fortune

WINSOME charming, happily engaging

WITHDRAWN unsociable, aloof; shy, timid

WIZENED withered, shriveled, wrinkled

WOE deep suffering or grief

WRAITH a ghost

WRANGLE loud quarrel

WRIT written document, **usually in law**

WRY amusing, ironic

## X

XENOPHOBIA fear or hatred of foreigners or strangers

## Y

YOKE (v) to join together

## Z

ZEALOT someone passionately devoted to a cause

ZENITH highest point, summit

ZEPHYR gentle breeze

ZOOLOGIST scientist who studies animals

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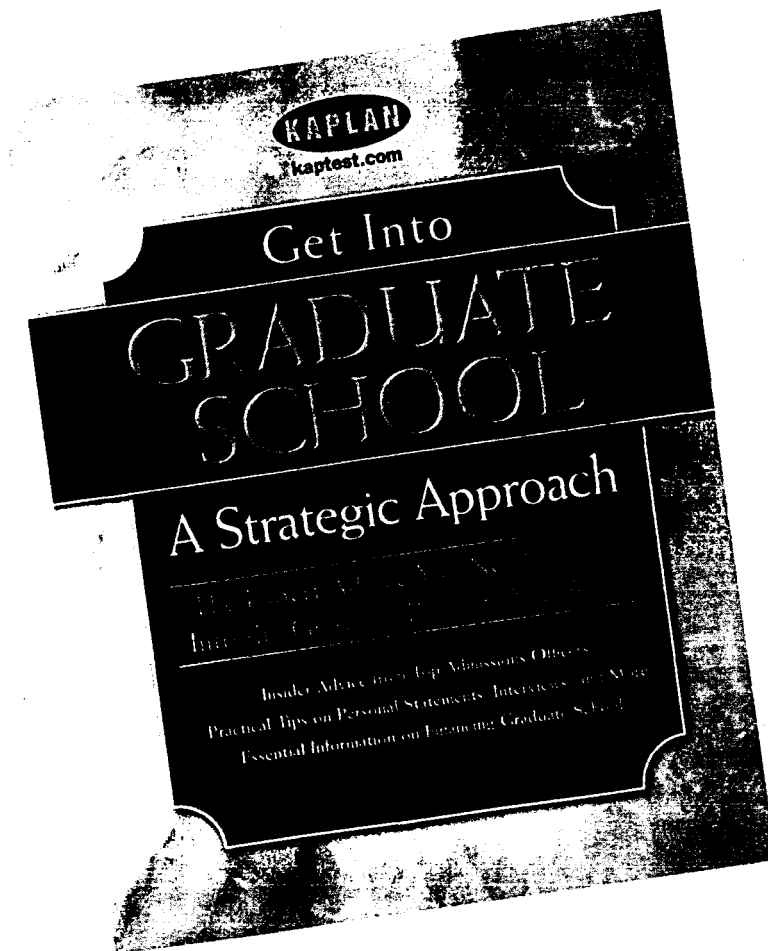
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