



VOCABULARY LISTS > TEST PREP

The Vocabulary.com Top 1000 1000 words



May 19, 2011 By Vocabulary.com (NY) 

The top 1,000 vocabulary words have been carefully chosen to represent difficult but common words that appear in everyday academic and business writing. These words are also the most likely to appear on the SAT, ACT, GRE, and ToEFL.

To create this list, we started with the words that give our users the most trouble and then ranked them by how frequently they appear in our corpus of billions of words from edited sources. If you only have time to study one list of words, this is the list.

consider

deem to be

1.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*At the moment, artemisinin-based therapies are **considered** the best treatment, but cost about \$10 per dose - far too much for impoverished communities.*

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

2. minute

infinitely or immeasurably small



EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

3. accord

concurrence of opinion



EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

4. evident

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment



EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Reuters \(Jan 15, 2012\)](#)

5. practice

a customary way of operation or behavior



EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BBC \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

6. intend



have in mind as a purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Lipstick, as a product **intended** for topical use with limited absorption, is ingested only in very small quantities," the agency said on its website.*
— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

7. concern



something that interests you because it is important or affects you

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The scandal broke out in October after former chief executive Michael Woodford claimed he was fired for raising **concerns** about the company's accounting practices.*
— [BBC \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

8. commit



perform an act, usually with a negative connotation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In an unprecedented front page article in 2003 The Times reported that Mr. Blair, a young reporter on its staff, had **committed** journalistic fraud.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

9. issue



some situation or event that is thought about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As a result, the privacy **issues** surrounding mobile computing are becoming ever-more complex.*
— [Time \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

10. approach



move towards

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Spain's jobless rate for people ages 16 to 24 is **approaching** 50 percent.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

11. establish



set up or found

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A small French colony, Port Louis, was **established** on East Falkland in 1764 and handed to the Spanish three years later.*
— [BBC \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

12. utter



without qualification; used informally as (often pejorative) intensifiers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*No one can blame an honest mechanic for holding a wealthy snob in **utter** contempt.*

— [Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)

13. **conduct**



direct the course of; manage or control

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

14. **engage**



consume all of one's attention or time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We had nearly two hundred passengers, who were seated about on the sofas, reading, or playing games, or **engaged** in conversation.*

— [Field, Henry M. \(Henry Martyn\)](#)

15. **obtain**



come into possession of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He delayed making the unclassified report public while awaiting an Army review, but Rolling Stone magazine **obtained** the report and posted it Friday night.*

— [New York Times \(Feb 11, 2012\)](#)

16. **scarce**



deficient in quantity or number compared with the demand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Meanwhile, heating oil could grow more **scarce** in the Northeast this winter, the Energy Department warned last month.*

— [New York Times \(Jan 21, 2012\)](#)

17. **policy**



a plan of action adopted by an individual or social group

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

18. **straight**



successive (without a break)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

19. **stock** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words, Apple's **stock** is cheap, and you should buy it.*

— [Forbes \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

20. **apparent** ✓

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the elderly creak is beginning to become **apparent** in McCartney's voice.*

— [Time \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

21. **property** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Owing to these magic **properties**, it was often planted near dwellings to keep away evil spirits.*

— [Parsons. Mary Elizabeth](#)

22. **fancy** ✓

imagine; conceive of; see in one's mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For a time, indeed, he had **fancied** that things were changed.*

— [Weyman. Stanley J.](#)

23. **concept** ✓

an abstract or general idea inferred or derived from specific instances

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As a psychologist, I have always found the **concept** of speed dating fascinating.*

— [Scientific American \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

24. **court** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*When Brown pleaded not guilty to assaulting Rihanna, their violent past came out in **court**.*

— [Slate \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

25. **appoint** ✓

assign a duty, responsibility or obligation to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Various](#)

26. **passage** ✓

a section of text; particularly a section of medium length

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His interpretation of many obscure scriptural **passages** by means of native manners and customs and traditions is particularly helpful and informing.*

— [Sheets, Emily Churchill Thompson](#)

27. **vain** ✓

unproductive of success

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Various](#)

28. **reflect** ✓

show an image of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Time \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

29. **instance** ✓

an occurrence of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Clarke, Helen Archibald](#)

30. **coast** ✓

the shore of a sea or ocean

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Wingfield, Lewis](#)

31. **project** ✓

a planned undertaking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

32. **commission** ✓

a special group delegated to consider some matter

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The developers are now seeking approval from the landmarks **commission**.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

33. **constant** 

a quantity that does not vary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In 1929, Hubble independently put forward and confirmed the same idea, and the parameter later became known as the Hubble **constant**.*
— [Nature \(Nov 15, 2011\)](#)

34. **constitute** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Oil and natural gas **constituted** almost 50 percent of Russian government revenue last year.*
— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)

35. **circumstances** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **circumstances** leading up to the shootings was not immediately available.*
— [Chicago Tribune \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)

36. **level** 

a relative position or degree of value in a graded group

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

37. **affect** 

have an effect upon

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

38. **institute** 

set up or lay the groundwork for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

39. **render** 

give an interpretation or rendition of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

40. **appeal**



be attractive to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

41. **generate**



bring into existence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Qualities such as these are not **generated** under bad working practices of any sort.*

— [Hungerford, Edward](#)

42. **theory**



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Testing that **theory** begins Saturday night, as the Capitals take on Tampa Bay in another important contest.*

— [Washington Post \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)

43. **range**



a variety of different things or activities

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Like American community colleges, admission at an open university is not competitive, but the schools offer a **range** of programs, including doctoral degrees.*

— [Time \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)

44. **campaign**



a race between candidates for elective office

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

45. **league**



an association of sports teams that organizes matches for its members

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

46. **labor** ✓

any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

More **labor** is entailed, more time is required, greater delay is occasioned in cleaning up, and the amount of water used is much greater.

— [Hoskin, Arthur J.](#)

47. **insist** ✓

be emphatic or resolute and refuse to budge

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Interior Department officials **insisted** that they had conducted an extensive scientific inquiry before moving ahead with the spill response plan.

— [New York Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

48. **confer** ✓

have a conference in order to talk something over

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [New York Times \(Jan 4, 2012\)](#)

49. **grant** ✓

allow to have

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [New York Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

50. **dwell** ✓

think moodily or anxiously about something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But it is hardly necessary to **dwell** on so normal an event.

— [Vinogradoff, Paul](#)

51. **entertain** ✓

provide entertainment for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The first Super Bowl in 1967 featured college marching bands **entertaining** the crowds at halftime.

— [Reuters \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)

52. **contract** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Contracts with utilities will be signed starting next month, he said.

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

53. **earnest**



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Too much praise cannot be given to the **earnest** and efficient missionaries who founded and have maintained this mission.*

— [Miller, George A.](#)

54. **yield**



give or supply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It is a very important honey plant, as it **yields** an exceptionally pure nectar and remains in bloom a long time.*

— [Parsons, Mary Elizabeth](#)

55. **wander**



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While each animal **wandered** through the maze, its brain was working furiously.*

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

56. **knight**



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **knight** was gallant not only in war, but in love also.*

— [Crothers, Samuel McChord](#)

57. **convince**



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But though he listened he was not **convinced**.*

— [Reade, Charles](#)

58. **inspire**



serve as the inciting cause of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His surprising performance **inspired** an outpouring of fan adoration that has been dubbed "Linsanity."*

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

59. **convention** ✓

a large formal assembly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Last year, the industry's main trade **convention**, the Inside Self-Storage World Expo, organized workshops in Las Vegas focusing on lien laws and auction sales.*

— [New York Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

60. **skill** ✓

an ability that has been acquired by training

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He says many new drivers are terrified of motorway driving because they do not have the **skills** or confidence needed.*

— [BBC \(Feb 20, 2012\)](#)

61. **harry** ✓

annoy continually or chronically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [New York Times \(Feb 9, 2012\)](#)

62. **financial** ✓

involving financial matters

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

63. **novel** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Before Robert Barr publishes a **novel** he spends years in thinking the thing out.*

— [Anonymous](#)

64. **furnish** ✓

provide or equip with furniture

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Instead, according to court documents, the money went toward **furnishing** mansions, flying in private jets, and retaining a \$120,000-a-year personal hairstylist.*

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)

65. **compel** ✓

force somebody to do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the flames grew too large, **compelling** firefighters to call off the rescue.*

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

66. **venture** 

proceed somewhere despite the risk of possible dangers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Clearly he would not **venture** to descend while his enemy moved.

— [Strang. Herbert](#)

67. **territory** 

the geographical area under the jurisdiction of a sovereign state

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

On Friday, West Africa regional group Ecowas condemned the rebels, urging them to end hostilities and surrender all occupied **territory**.

— [BBC \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)

68. **temper** 

a characteristic (habitual or relatively temporary) state of feeling

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Anonymous](#)

69. **bent** 

fixed in your purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

70. **tour** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [New York Times \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)

71. **intimate** 

marked by close acquaintance, association, or familiarity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

72. **undertake** 

enter upon an activity or enterprise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An autopsy has reportedly been **undertaken** but the results are not expected for several weeks.*
— [The Guardian \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

73. **majority** ✓

(elections) more than half of the votes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Republicans need just four seats in the Senate to take control as the **majority** party.*
— [Reuters \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)

74. **assert** ✓

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In your talk you **asserted** the pill's risks of blood clotting, lung artery blockage, heart attack and stroke are minimal.*
— [Science Magazine \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)

75. **liberal** ✓

having political or social views favoring reform and progress

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

76. **crew** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Several pilots and **crew** members would have to escape at once, while safety divers watched, ready to rescue anyone who became stuck.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)

77. **chamber** ✓

a natural or artificial enclosed space

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Today," said the old man, "you must push through with me into my most solitary **chamber**, that we may not be disturbed."*
— [Carlyle, Thomas](#)

78. **humble** ✓

marked by meekness or modesty; not arrogant or prideful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Challenging yourself, playing up against stronger, tougher, and overall better competition will keep you **humble**."*
— [Washington Post \(Jan 17, 2012\)](#)

79. **scheme** ✓

an elaborate and systematic plan of action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some companies in the Globe District of Arizona have started extensive underground **schemes** for mining large tonnages very cheaply by "caving" methods.*— [Hoskin, Arthur J.](#)

80. **keen** ✓

having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

81. **despair** ✓

a state in which all hope is lost or absent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

82. **tide** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

83. **attitude** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

84. **justify** ✓

show to be reasonable or provide adequate ground for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He felt sure that if the circumstances **justified** it, the necessary proceedings could be taken."*— [Anonymous](#)

85. **flag** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

half staff.

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

86. merit



any admirable quality or attribute

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Ayres, Harry Morgan](#)

87. manifest



reveal its presence or make an appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

A too rapid transformation of existing conditions might very easily lead to an economic crisis, symptoms of which are already beginning to **manifest** themselves.

— [Vay, P?ter](#)

88. notion



a general inclusive concept

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Seattle Times \(Jan 13, 2012\)](#)

89. scale



relative magnitude

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

90. formal



characteristic of or befitting a person in authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

91. resource



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

92. persist



continue to exist

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)

93. **contempt** ✓

lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Time \(Dec 20, 2011\)](#)

94. **plead** ✓

enter a plea, as in courts of law

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

95. **weigh** ✓

to be oppressive or burdensome

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [New York Times \(Feb 11, 2012\)](#)

96. **mode** ✓

how something is done or how it happens

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Speaking of science, he says, in language far in advance of his times: 'There are two **modes** of knowing—by argument and by experiment.*

— [Adams, W. H. Davenport \(William Henry Davenport\)](#)

97. **distinction** ✓

a discrimination between things as different and distinct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Anonymous](#)

98. **inclined** ✓

at an angle to the horizontal or vertical position

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Hoskin, Arthur J.](#)

99. **attribute** 

an abstraction belonging to or characteristic of an entity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The authors found that when the available prospects varied more in **attributes** such as age, height, occupation and educational background, people made fewer dating proposals.*

— [Scientific American \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

100. **exert** 

make a great effort at a mental or physical task

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Forbes \(Jan 23, 2012\)](#)

101. **oppress** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Reuters \(Jan 18, 2012\)](#)

102. **contend** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Strang, Herbert](#)

103. **stake** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Andrews, William](#)

104. **toil** 

work hard

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Adler, Felix](#)

105. **perish** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BBC \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)

106. **disposition** ✓

your usual mood

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

107. **rail** ✓

complain bitterly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Gray **railed** against lengthy stage directions, saying he crossed them out in scripts before he would begin rehearsals with his actors.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)

108. **cardinal** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

109. **boast** ✓

show off

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Estes was also well connected politically, **boasting** that the president of the United States took his calls.*
— [New York Times \(Dec 10, 2011\)](#)

110. **advocate** ✓

a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Well, safety **advocates**, consumers and the government dragged the automobile industry toward including seat belts, air bags, more visible taillights and other safety features.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)

111. **bestow** ✓

present

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

112. **device** ✓

an instrumentality invented for a particular purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*You've probably also noticed that the telephone and computer are no longer the only **devices** on your employees' desks.*

— [Forbes \(Feb 26, 2012\)](#)

113. **allege** ✓

report or maintain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It is being fired into enclosed areas and homes, the human rights group **alleges**.*

— [BBC \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)

114. **notwithstanding** ✓

despite anything to the contrary (usually following a concession)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He seems to have taken things easily enough, **notwithstanding** the sorrow and suffering that surrounded him on every side.*

— [Adams, W. H. Davenport \(William Henry Davenport\)](#)

115. **lofty** ✓

of imposing height; especially standing out above others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente](#)

116. **multitude** ✓

a large indefinite number

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

117. **steep** ✓

having a sharp inclination

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was narrow and very **steep**, and had precipices in all parts, so that they could not mount upward except one at a time.*

— [Various](#)

118. **heed** ✓

pay close attention to; give heed to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Adler, Felix](#)

119. **modest** ✓

not large but sufficient in size or amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Slate \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

120. **partial** ✓

being or affecting only a part; not total

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Clarke, Helen Archibald](#)

121. **apt** ✓

(usually followed by `to') naturally disposed toward

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [New York Times \(Jan 9, 2012\)](#)

122. **esteem** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [The Guardian \(Feb 10, 2012\)](#)

123. **credible** ✓

appearing to merit belief or acceptance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

124. **provoke** ✓

provide the needed stimulus for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [The Guardian \(Feb 10, 2012\)](#)

125. **tread** ✓

a step in walking or running

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Woolson, Constance Fenimore](#)

126. **ascertain**

learn or discover with certainty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Forbes \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

127. **fare**

proceed or get along

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

128. **cede**

relinquish possession or control over

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Reuters \(Jan 3, 2012\)](#)

129. **perpetual**

continuing forever or indefinitely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Waddington, Mary King](#)

130. **decree**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)

131. **contrive**

make or work out a plan for; devise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Thornbury, Walter](#)

132. **derived** ✓

formed or developed from something else; not original

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Slate \(Feb 21, 2012\)](#)

133. **elaborate** ✓

marked by complexity and richness of detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But the tobacco industry and owners of other convenience stores say tribal cigarette manufacturing is just an **elaborate** form of tax evasion.

— [New York Times \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)

134. **substantial** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Defence lawyers said the large number of forensic tests which had been carried out had failed to find any **substantial** evidence linked to the accused.

— [BBC \(Feb 23, 2012\)](#)

135. **frontier** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [New York Times \(Feb 9, 2012\)](#)

136. **facile** ✓

arrived at without due care or effort; lacking depth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

As one teacher remarks about a troubled student, "There is no **facile** solution."

— [New York Times \(Oct 11, 2011\)](#)

137. **cite** ✓

make reference to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The Federal Reserve has pledged low interest rates until late 2014, **citing** in part the weakness of the job market.

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 21, 2012\)](#)

138. **warrant** ✓

show to be reasonable or provide adequate ground for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In the United Kingdom and Europe the devices are not used unless the need is **warranted** by the

patient's medical condition.

— [US News \(Jan 17, 2012\)](#)

139. **sob** ✓

weep convulsively

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Weyman, Stanley J.](#)

140. **rider** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Time \(Jan 5, 2012\)](#)

141. **dense** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)

142. **afflict** ✓

cause physical pain or suffering in

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Reuters \(Dec 16, 2011\)](#)

143. **flourish** ✓

grow vigorously

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His business had been all along steadily **flourishing**, his patrons had been of high social position, some most illustrious, others actually royal.*

— [Petherick, Horace William](#)

144. **ordain** ✓

invest with ministerial or priestly authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*One of the present bishops was consecrated when quite a young boy, and deacons are often **ordained** at sixteen, and even much earlier.*

— [Bird, Isabella L. \(Isabella Lucy\)](#)

145. **pious** ✓

having or showing or expressing reverence for a deity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mother, you see, is a very **pious** woman, and she attributes it all to Providence, saying that it was the Divine interference in her behalf.*

— [Various](#)

146. **vex** ✓

cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Forbes \(Oct 21, 2011\)](#)

147. **gravity** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

148. **suspended** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Frustrating enough at ground level, but can you imagine the agony about a stranded, ever-soggier Oreo being **suspended** 11 feet above the ground?*

— [Washington Post \(Feb 21, 2012\)](#)

149. **conspicuous** ✓

obvious to the eye or mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Anonymous](#)

150. **retort** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

151. **jet** ✓

an airplane powered by one or more jet engines

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 20, 2012\)](#)

152. **bolt** 

run away; usually includes taking something or somebody along

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The blare of bugles was heard, and a few seconds afterwards Jackson, still facing the enemy, shouted: "By Jupiter, they're **bolting**, sir."*

— [Strang, Herbert](#)

153. **assent** 

to agree or express agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Keightley, Thomas](#)

154. **purse** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Shorter, Clement K.](#)

155. **plus** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Dec 29, 2011\)](#)

156. **sanction** 

give authority or permission to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)

157. **proceeding** 

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Reuters \(Jan 30, 2012\)](#)

158. **exalt** 

praise, glorify, or honor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

159. **siege**



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Nicholson, Reynold](#)

160. **malice**



feeling a need to see others suffer

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Lyman, Olin L.](#)

161. **extravagant**



recklessly wasteful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Advisers say new millionaires are prone to mistakes, like making **extravagant** purchases or risky deals with friends.

— [Reuters \(Feb 2, 2012\)](#)

162. **wax**



increase in phase

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Carols had existed for centuries, though their popularity **waxed** and waned as different governments and religious movements periodically declared them sinful.

— [Time \(Dec 12, 2011\)](#)

163. **throng**



press tightly together or cram

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Deafening cheers rent the air as he landed; hundreds **thronged** around him to clasp his hand.

— [Strang, Herbert](#)

164. **venerate**



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He **venerated** me like a being descended from an upper world.

— [Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente](#)

165. **assail**



attack someone physically or emotionally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His campaign even issued a press release **assailing** other rivals for, in Mr. Paul's view, taking Mr. Romney's quote about firing people out of context.*

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

166. **sublime** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was uneven, disproportioned, saying ordinary things on great occasions, and now and then, without the slightest provocation, uttering the **sublimest** and most beautiful thoughts.*

— [Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)

167. **exploit** ✓

draw from; make good use of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

168. **exertion** ✓

use of physical or mental energy; hard work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)

169. **kindle** ✓

catch fire

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Wamer, Susan](#)

170. **endow** ✓

furnish with an endowment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Various](#)

171. **imposed** ✓

set forth authoritatively as obligatory

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)

172. **humiliate** ✓

cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [BBC \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)

173. **suffrage** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There has been a great deal said in this country of late in regard to giving the right of **suffrage** to women.*

— [Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)

174. **ensue** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

175. **brook** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

176. **gale** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Fitzroy, Robert](#)

177. **muse** ✓

reflect deeply on a subject

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Time \(Jan 24, 2012\)](#)

178. **satire** ✓

witty language used to convey insults or scorn

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There's plenty of humor on Russian television, though not much political **satire**; Mr. Putin put a stop to that long ago.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

179. **intrigue**



cause to be interested or curious

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Designing and building models that **intrigue** and educate without overwhelming has been challenging.*
— [Science Magazine \(Nov 24, 2011\)](#)

180. **indication**



something that serves to indicate or suggest

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Authorities said an autopsy found no **indications** of foul play or obvious signs of trauma on Houston.*
— [Seattle Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

181. **dispatch**



send away towards a designated goal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*More than one assassin was **dispatched** by the Turkish authorities to murder Napoleon.*
— [Various](#)

182. **cower**



crouch or curl up

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

183. **wont**



an established custom

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He made his customary slick feeds to open teammates, but as is their **wont**, the Nets struggled at times to convert points on his passes.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 20, 2012\)](#)

184. **tract**



a system of body parts that together serve some particular purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*When probiotics flourish in the digestive **tract**, nutrients are better absorbed and bad bugs are held at bay, research suggests.*
— [Seattle Times \(Jan 10, 2012\)](#)

185. **canon** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [The Guardian \(Jan 10, 2011\)](#)

186. **impel** ✓

cause to move forward with force

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente](#)

187. **latitude** ✓

freedom from normal restraints in conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

— [Inc \(Feb 21, 2012\)](#)

188. **vacate** ✓

leave behind empty; move out of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Their number diminished sharply after Villaraigosa announced last week that he wanted protesters to **vacate** the grounds by Monday or be forcibly removed.*

— [Chicago Tribune \(Nov 30, 2011\)](#)

189. **undertaking** ✓

any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Let my epitaph be, Here lies Joseph, who was unsuccessful in all his **undertakings**."*

— [Marvin, Frederic Rowland](#)

190. **slay** ✓

kill intentionally and with premeditation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"It were shame," said Lancelot, "for an armed to **slay** an unarmed man."*

— [Unknown](#)

191. **predecessor** ✓

one who precedes you in time (as in holding a position or office)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Heller fills in the blanks about Taft, overshadowed by colorful **predecessor** Teddy Roosevelt.*

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)

192. **delicacy** ✓
the quality of being beautiful and delicate in appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This refinement appears in his works, which are full of artistic grace and dainty **delicacy**.*

— [Drake, Samuel Adams](#)

193. **forsake** ✓
leave someone who needs or counts on you; leave in the lurch

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"I'm surprised," said Philip, cautiously opening fire, "that you were ever allowed to **forsake** your native land."*

— [Hay, Ian](#)

194. **beseech** ✓
ask for or request earnestly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Utterly distraught, he ran up and down the bank, hunting for his clothes, calling, crying out, imploring, **beseeching** help from somewhere.*

— [Frank, Ulrich](#)

195. **philosophical** ✓
of or relating to philosophy or philosophers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His arguments, like Einstein's, were qualitative, verging on highly **philosophical**.*

— [Scientific American \(Jan 30, 2012\)](#)

196. **grove** ✓
a small growth of trees without underbrush

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Soon after we came to Pasadena, father bought an orange **grove** of twenty-five acres.*

— [Chamberlain, James Franklin](#)

197. **frustrate** ✓
hinder or prevent (the efforts, plans, or desires) of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

***Frustrated** after two years of missed budget targets, finance chiefs demanded Greek officials put their verbal commitments into law.*

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

198. **illustrious** ✓
widely known and esteemed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She will be joining an **illustrious** list of recipients that include Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II and Princess Diana.

— [BBC \(Feb 24, 2012\)](#)

199. **pomp** 

cheap or pretentious or vain display

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Throughout U.S. history, Americans have been fascinated by royal **pomp** – even on a movie screen.

— [Reuters \(Feb 21, 2011\)](#)

200. **entreat** 

ask for or request earnestly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Let me go now, please," she **entreated**, her eyes unable to meet his any longer.

— [Hope, Anthony](#)

201. **impart** 

transmit (knowledge or skills)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Long before writing and books were in common use, proverbs were the principal means of **imparting** instruction.

— [Preston, Thomas](#)

202. **propriety** 

correct or appropriate behavior

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

I felt a trifle doubtful about the **propriety** of taking a short cut across private grounds, and said as much.

— [Sutphen, Van Tassel](#)

203. **consecrate** 

render holy by means of religious rites

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The building was **consecrated** as a Protestant Episcopal church in May, 1814.

— [Faris, John T. \(John Thomson\)](#)

204. **proceeds** 

the income or profit arising from such transactions as the sale of land or other property

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His own share in the **proceeds** was about a hundred thousand dollars.

— [Stark, James H.](#)

205. **fathom** 

come to understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But after flying for so many years, the idea of hanging up his sparkling wings is hard for him to fathom.— [New York Times \(Mar 17, 2012\)](#)206. **objective** 

the goal intended to be attained (and which is believed to be attainable)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The objective was to mobilize students from 18 high schools across the city to provide community services and inspire others.— [New York Times \(Feb 5, 2012\)](#)207. **clad** 

wearing or provided with clothing; sometimes used in combination

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

A few of the villagers came behind, clad in mourning robes, and bearing lighted tapers.— [Various](#)208. **partisan** 

devoted to a cause or party

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But given the bitter partisan divide in an election year, Democrats said they would never be able to get such legislation passed.— [Chicago Tribune \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)209. **faction** 

a dissenting clique

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

One faction declared it would begin an armed struggle against the government of the United States.— [Slate \(Feb 29, 2012\)](#)210. **contrived** 

artificially formal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In lesser hands the story about a young man who discovers life among the dead could be impossibly cute and contrived.— [New York Times \(Mar 25, 2012\)](#)211. **venerable** 

impressive by reason of age

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Thus, after much more than two hundred years, the **venerable** building looks almost as it did when the first students entered its doors.

— [Faris, John T. \(John Thomson\)](#)

212. **restrained**



not showy or obtrusive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

By contrast, Mr. Pei's **restrained** design took time to claim my attention, particularly since it sat quietly next door to Saarinen's concrete gull wings.

— [New York Times \(Oct 6, 2011\)](#)

213. **besiege**



harass, as with questions or requests

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He can't trot down the street without being **besieged** by paparazzi.

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

214. **manifestation**



a clear appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Singing and dancing are **manifestations** of what many Syrians describe as a much broader cultural flowering.

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

215. **rebuke**



an act or expression of criticism and censure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Afterward, the leaders fought court orders to release records showing what they had done, drawing an uncommonly sharp **rebuke** from a federal judge.

— [Washington Post \(Mar 14, 2012\)](#)

216. **insurgent**



in opposition to a civil authority or government

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The Free Syrian Army, an **insurgent** group made of defecting soldiers and based in southern Turkey, claimed responsibility for both attacks.

— [New York Times \(Nov 20, 2011\)](#)

217. **rhetoric**



using language effectively to please or persuade

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His fiery **rhetoric** in support of limiting cuts to projected defense spending has surprised and impressed some of Obama's toughest Republican critics.

— [Reuters \(Jan 5, 2012\)](#)

218. **ratify** ✓

approve and express assent, responsibility, or obligation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Company officials at Safeway said those replacement workers will remain on standby until the agreement is **ratified** by union members.

— [Washington Post \(Mar 29, 2012\)](#)

219. **scrupulous** ✓

having scruples; arising from a sense of right and wrong; principled

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The reason is that the vast majority of businesses are **scrupulous** and treat their employees well.

— [The Guardian \(Jun 4, 2010\)](#)

220. **stump** ✓

cause to be perplexed or confounded

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Though family members long suspected Evans, a local handyman who frequently hired local youths, the case **stumped** investigators for years.

— [Washington Post \(Aug 30, 2011\)](#)

221. **discreet** ✓

marked by prudence or modesty and wise self-restraint

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Sarkozy has attempted to tone down his image, becoming more **discreet** about his private life.

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)

222. **imposing** ✓

impressive in appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

These buildings were grand and stylized with intricate details and a bit of an **imposing** presence.

— [Scientific American \(Mar 5, 2012\)](#)

223. **wistful** ✓

showing pensive sadness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She turned toward him, her face troubled, her eyes most **wistful**.

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

224. **mortify** ✓

cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Intensely **mortified** at this humiliation, the king fell sick, and henceforth his health failed rapidly.

— [Various](#)

225. **ripple** 

stir up (water) so as to form ripples

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That could precipitate higher interest rates that would **ripple** across the economy.*— [Washington Post \(Jul 27, 2011\)](#)

226. **premise** 

a statement that is assumed to be true and from which a conclusion can be drawn

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Success, real success, comes to the jack of all trades, a major **premise** handed down from pioneer days.*— [Gilbert, Clinton W. \(Clinton Wallace\)](#)

227. **subside** 

wear off or die down

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Affliction is allayed, grief **subsides**, sorrow is soothed, distress is mitigated.*— [Webster, Noah](#)

228. **adverse** 

contrary to your interests or welfare

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*High doses can have **adverse** effects and even cause death.*— [Seattle Times \(Mar 26, 2012\)](#)

229. **caprice** 

a sudden desire

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nobody is really in charge, and decisions are made on whim and **caprice**."*— [New York Times \(Apr 10, 2011\)](#)

230. **muster** 

gather or bring together

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Yet Fox needed all the strength that he could **muster**.*— [Rosebery, Archibald Phillip Primrose](#)

231. **comprehensive** 

broad in scope

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The United States Army developed a **comprehensive** plan to address problematic race relations in the 1970s, recognizing that they were hampering military effectiveness.*— [New York Times \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)

-
232. **accede** ✓
yield to another's wish or opinion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Therefore he made up his mind to **accede** to his uncle's desire.

— [Streckfuss, Adolph](#)

233. **fervent** ✓
characterized by intense emotion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But, to **fervent** applause and scattered fist pumps from two sets of worshipers, he pledged to legally challenge the claims against him.

— [New York Times \(Sep 26, 2010\)](#)

234. **cohere** ✓
cause to form a united, orderly, and aesthetically consistent whole

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Two antagonistic values may **cohere** in the same object.

— [Anderson, Benjamin M. \(Benjamin McAlester\)](#)

235. **tribunal** ✓
an assembly (including one or more judges) to conduct judicial business

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The military has historically been protected from civilian courts, with any crimes committed by soldiers being decided in closed military **tribunals**.

— [Wall Street Journal \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

236. **austere** ✓
severely simple

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

A certain **austere** simplicity was noticeable all over Longfellow's house.

— [Anonymous](#)

237. **recovering** ✓
returning to health after illness or debility

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"The **recovering** economy is bringing more people back into the market.

— [Washington Post \(Mar 22, 2012\)](#)

238. **stratum** ✓
people having the same social, economic, or educational status

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She belonged to the upper **stratum** of the profession, and, knowing it, could not sink.*
— [George. Walter Lionel](#)

239. **conscientious** ✓

characterized by extreme care and great effort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A **conscientious** hostess would be very much mortified if she served chicken out of its proper course.*
— [Reed. Myrtle](#)

240. **arbitrary** ✓

based on or subject to individual discretion or preference or sometimes impulse or caprice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Sandra Nurse, a member of Occupy's direct action working group, said police treated demonstrators roughly and made **arbitrary** arrests.*
— [Time \(Mar 18, 2012\)](#)

241. **exasperate** ✓

exasperate or irritate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shopkeepers, **exasperated** at the impact of higher taxes and reduced consumer spending, are planning to close down for the day.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)

242. **conjure** ✓

summon into action or bring into existence, often as if by magic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Vacation homes typically **conjure** up dreams of blue skies, pristine sand and crystalline waters.*
— [Wall Street Journal \(Feb 28, 2012\)](#)

243. **ominous** ✓

threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Count's words were so **ominous**, so full of sinister meaning that for the moment he felt like crying out with fear.*
— [Hocking. Joseph](#)

244. **edifice** ✓

a structure that has a roof and walls and stands more or less permanently in one place

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are here erecting a fine stone **edifice** for an Episcopal Church.*
— [Clark, John A.](#)

245. **elude** 

escape, either physically or mentally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But despite racking up world titles, Olympic gold was **eluding** him.*
— [The Guardian \(Feb 10, 2012\)](#)

246. **pervade** 

spread or diffuse through

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An air of intense anticipation **pervaded** the General's dining room.*
— [Burnett, Carolyn Judson](#)

247. **foster** 

promote the growth of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Horne accused the district's Mexican-American studies program of using an antiwhite curriculum to **foster** social activism.*
— [New York Times \(Mar 19, 2012\)](#)

248. **admonish** 

take to task

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Children, children, stop quarrelling, right here in public!" **admonished** Mrs. Dering, in a low, shocked tone.*
— [Perry, Nora](#)

249. **repeal** 

cancel officially

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If Republicans **repeal** the law, Ms. Schakowsky said, they would be "taking away benefits that seniors are already getting."*
— [New York Times \(Mar 19, 2012\)](#)

250. **retiring** 

not arrogant or presuming

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Foster was an extremely modest, unworldly, **retiring** gentleman.*
— [Rosenbach, A. S. W.](#)

251. **incidental** 

not of prime or central importance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The models themselves are **incidental** on "Scouted," merely empty planets around which revolve some fascinating characters and plenty more dull ones.*

— [New York Times \(Nov 27, 2011\)](#)

252. acquiesce



to agree or express agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

American officials initially tried to resist President Karzai's moves but eventually **acquiesced**.

— [New York Times \(Mar 9, 2012\)](#)

253. slew



(often followed by `of') a large number or amount or extent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In fact, intense focus may be one reason why so-called savants become so extraordinary at performing extensive calculations or remembering a **slew** of facts.

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

254. usurp



seize and take control without authority and possibly with force; take as one's right or possession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

More than anything, though, officials expressed concern about reigniting longstanding Mexican concerns about the United States' **usurping** Mexico's authority.

— [New York Times \(Mar 15, 2011\)](#)

255. sentinel



a person employed to keep watch for some anticipated event

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The prisoners undressed themselves as usual, and went to bed, observed by the **sentinel**.

— [Drake, Samuel Adams](#)

256. precision



the quality of being reproducible in amount or performance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

At this time, home ranges of small rodents can not be measured with great **precision**, therefore any such calculations are, at best, only approximations.

— [Douglas, Charles L.](#)

257. depose



force to leave (an office)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Late Wednesday, Mr. Touré, the **deposed** president, spoke out from hiding for the first time.

— [New York Times \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)

258. wanton



occurring without motivation or provocation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I am not a sentimentalist by any means, yet I abominate **wanton** cruelty.*

— [Stables, Gordon](#)

259. **odium** 

state of disgrace resulting from detestable behavior

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This was one of the men who bring **odium** on the whole class of prisoners, and prejudice society against them.*

— [Henderson, Frank](#)

260. **precept** 

rule of personal conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The law of nature has but one **precept**, "Be strong."*

— [Williams, C. M.](#)

261. **deference** 

a courteous expression (by word or deed) of esteem or regard

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Other rules, as indicated in Mr. Collins' book, concerned deportment, and demanded constant **deference** to superiors.*

— [Faris, John T. \(John Thomson\)](#)

262. **fray** 

a noisy fight

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Armed rebels have joined the **fray** in recent months.*

— [Reuters \(Jan 27, 2012\)](#)

263. **candid** 

openly straightforward and direct without reserve or secretiveness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The actor was **candid** about his own difficult childhood growing up with alcoholic parents.*

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

264. **nominal** 

insignificantly small; a matter of form only ('tokenish' is informal)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He sought **nominal** damages of one dollar from each defendant.*

— [Reuters \(Jan 23, 2012\)](#)

265. **enduring** 

unceasing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*What makes the galumphing hubby such an **enduring** stock character?*

— [Slate \(Mar 26, 2012\)](#)

266. **impertinent**



improperly forward or bold

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Imagine calling a famous writer by his first name—it seemed **impertinent**, to say the least.*

— [Watkins, Shirley](#)

267. **bland**



lacking stimulating characteristics; uninteresting

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many critics were less than enamored with the kind of “easy listening” Mr. Williams embodied, deriding his approach as **bland** and unchallenging.*

— [New York Times \(Oct 9, 2011\)](#)

268. **insinuate**



give to understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“Good heavens, do you mean to **insinuate** that I did anything crooked?” said Bojo loudly, yet at the bottom ill at ease.*

— [Johnson, Owen](#)

269. **suppliant**



humbly entreating

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The colonists asked for nothing but what was clearly right and asked in the most respectful and even **suppliant** manner.*

— [Judson, L. Carroll](#)

270. **languid**



lacking spirit or liveliness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many viewers, bored by the **languid** pace of the show, tuned out early.*

— [New York Times \(Dec 30, 2011\)](#)

271. **monetary**



relating to or involving money

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A hundred years ago, **monetary** policy – control over interest rates and the availability of credit – was viewed as a highly contentious political issue.*

— [New York Times \(Mar 29, 2012\)](#)

272. **rave** ✓

praise enthusiastically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I have heard lots of women simply **rave** about him.*— [Kauffman, Reginald Wright](#)273. **headlong** ✓

in a hasty and foolhardy manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"They may not be wishing to rush **headlong** back into the same sort of risks just yet."*— [BusinessWeek \(Dec 24, 2010\)](#)274. **infallible** ✓

incapable of failure or error

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But conductors are no more **infallible** than other people, and once in a blue moon in going through a train they miss a passenger.*— [Lynde, Francis](#)275. **coax** ✓

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He used his most enticing manner and did his best to **coax** the little animal out again.*— [Kay, Ross](#)276. **explicate** ✓

elaborate, as of theories and hypotheses

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He urged judges to resist the rigid guidelines and to write opinions **explicating** their reasons for doing so.*— [New York Times \(Jan 22, 2010\)](#)277. **gaunt** ✓

very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

***Gaunt**, starved, and ragged, the men marched northwards, leaving the Touat country upon their left hand.*— [Mason, A. E. W. \(Alfred Edward Woodley\)](#)278. **morbid** ✓

suggesting the horror of death and decay

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Earlier in the day, however, his demise was watched by spectators with a **morbid** fascination.*

— [New York Times \(Aug 16, 2010\)](#)

279. **ranging**



wandering freely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His detective work is fascinating and wide **ranging**.*

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)

280. **pacify**



cause to be more favorably inclined; gain the good will of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How they **pacified** him I don't know, but at the end of two hours he had cooled off enough to let us go aboard.*

— [Quincy. Samuel M.](#)

281. **pastoral**



(used with regard to idealized country life) idyllically rustic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He made a considerable reputation as an accomplished painter of quiet **pastoral** subjects and carefully elaborated landscapes with cattle.*

— [Various](#)

282. **dogged**



stubbornly unyielding

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some analysts expect Mr. Falcone, who is known for his **dogged** determination, to just continue to limp along while slashing costs.*

— [New York Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

283. **ebb**



fall away or decline

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Although Gardner's competitive appetite **ebbed** after 2004, other cravings did not.*

— [New York Times \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)

284. **aide**



someone who acts as assistant

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She later found work as a teacher's **aide** in a Head Start program in Harlem.*

— [New York Times \(Jan 12, 2012\)](#)

285. **appease**



cause to be more favorably inclined; gain the good will of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The king also has tried to **appease** public anger over corruption.*
— [New York Times \(Feb 9, 2012\)](#)

286. **stipulate** ✓

specify as a condition or requirement in a contract or agreement; make an express demand or provision in an agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The mayor has an executive order in place **stipulating** that all top officials, except those granted a waiver, live in the city.*
— [New York Times \(Sep 22, 2011\)](#)

287. **recourse** ✓

something or someone turned to for assistance or security

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bargain hunters and holiday shoppers are bad guys' favorite targets and have little or no **recourse** when shoddy or fake merchandise arrives.*
— [Forbes \(Nov 22, 2011\)](#)

288. **constrained** ✓

lacking spontaneity; not natural

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All his goodness, however, will be of a forced, **constrained**, artificial, and at bottom unreal character.*
— [Hyde, William De Witt](#)

289. **bate** ✓

moderate or restrain; lessen the force of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"You called her 'an interfering, disagreeable old woman!'" whispered Bertha with **bated** breath, glancing half fearfully at the door as she spoke.*
— [Vaizey, George de Home, Mrs.](#)

290. **aversion** ✓

a feeling of intense dislike

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Already my passive dislike had grown into an active **aversion**.*
— [Oppenheim, E. Phillips \(Edward Phillips\)](#)

291. **conceit** ✓

an artistic device or effect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An urban panorama is viewed from a high vantage point, a **conceit** used in topographic art to render vast perspectives.*
— [New York Times \(Sep 30, 2011\)](#)

292. **loath** 

(usually followed by `to') strongly opposed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Friends and political allies are **loath** to talk about her, knowing the family's intense obsession with privacy.*

— [New York Times \(Aug 14, 2011\)](#)

293. **rampart** 

an embankment built around a space for defensive purposes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The night was gloomy, dark, and wet; the soldiers, wearied with watching at the **ramparts**, dozed, leaning on their weapons.*

— [Sienkiewicz, Henryk](#)

294. **extort** 

obtain by coercion or intimidation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The owners, in turn, have called the lawyers shakedown artists bent on ruining their good reputations to **extort** money.*

— [New York Times \(Jan 27, 2012\)](#)

295. **tarry** 

leave slowly and hesitantly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For two days I **tarried** in Paris, settling my little property.*

— [Ford, Paul Leicester](#)

296. **perpetrate** 

perform an act, usually with a negative connotation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Come on it's just a cruel joke **perpetrated** by the airline industry."*

— [Forbes \(Dec 11, 2011\)](#)

297. **decorum** 

propriety in manners and conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Wishing to observe the rules of **decorum** she invited him to stay for supper, though absolutely nothing had been prepared for a guest.*

— [Sudermann, Hermann](#)

298. **luxuriant** 

produced or growing in extreme abundance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Her **luxuriant** curly hair, restrained by no net, but held together simply by a flowering spray, waved*

over her shoulders in all its rich abundance.
— [Elisabeth Burstenbinder \(AKA E. Werner\)](#)

299. **cant** ✓

insincere talk about religion or morals

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was the familiar **cant** of the man rich enough to affect disdain for money, and Wade was not impressed.*
— [Day, Holman](#)

300. **enjoin** ✓

give instructions to or direct somebody to do something with authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He turned to beckon the others forward with one hand, while laying the other over his mouth in a gesture **enjoining** silence.*
— [Breckenridge, Gerald](#)

301. **avarice** ✓

extreme greed for material wealth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The old man's fears were assailed with threats, and his **avarice** was approached by bribes, and he very soon capitulated.*
— [Abbott, John S. C. \(John Stevens Cabot\)](#)

302. **edict** ✓

a formal or authoritative proclamation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An **edict** was issued by him forbidding any Christian to give instruction in Greek literature under any circumstances.*
— [Lightfoot, J. B.](#)

303. **disconcert** ✓

cause to lose one's composure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Perplexed and **disconcerted**, I found no words to answer such an amazing sally.*
— [Chambers, Robert W. \(Robert William\)](#)

304. **symmetry** ✓

balance among the parts of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Even the staging displays **symmetry**, with actors lined up on either side in formal precision.*
— [New York Times \(Jan 24, 2011\)](#)

305. **capitulate** ✓

surrender under agreed conditions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Alas, no," said Bergfeld, mournfully, "the day after the battle our brave soldiers were surrounded by overwhelming forces and obliged to **capitulate**."

— [Meding. Johann Ferdinand Martin Oskar](#)

306. **arbitrate** ✓

act between parties with a view to reconciling differences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The Scottish throne was now disputed by many claimants, and the Scots asked Edward to **arbitrate** between them.

— [Various](#)

307. **cleave** ✓

separate or cut with a tool, such as a sharp instrument

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Instead someone shouts "Go" and he is bearing down on me and almost **cleaves** my shield in two with his first blow.

— [BBC \(Aug 7, 2011\)](#)

308. **append** ✓

add to the very end

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Some specimens will appear in the papers **appended** to this report.

— [Various](#)

309. **visage** ✓

the human face ('kisser' and 'smiler' and 'mug' are informal terms for 'face' and 'phiz' is British)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

An honest, quiet laugh often mantled his pale earnest **visage**.

— [Turnbull. Robert](#)

310. **horde** ✓

a moving crowd

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hordes of puzzled tourists, many with rolling suitcases attached, poured down the staircases.

— [New York Times \(Jan 1, 2012\)](#)

311. **chastise** ✓

censure severely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She remembers an upsetting incident when a headmistress **chastised** her for working too much.

— [The Guardian \(Jan 14, 2011\)](#)

312. **foil** ✓

hinder or prevent (the efforts, plans, or desires) of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

On March 1st, a Turkish newspaper reported that the country's intelligence service had **foiled** an attempt by Syrian agents to kidnap the colonel.

— [Time \(Mar 8, 2012\)](#)

313. **veritable** ✓

often used as intensifiers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The heavy rain had reduced this low-lying ground to a **veritable** quagmire, making progress very difficult even for one as unburdened as he was.

— [Putnam Weale, B. L. \(Bertram Lenox\)](#)

314. **grapple** ✓

come to terms with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But, he said, all coastal communities will have to **grapple** with rising seas.

— [New York Times \(Mar 24, 2012\)](#)

315. **gentry** ✓

the most powerful members of a society

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The mode of travel of the **gentry** was riding horses, but most people traveled by walking.

— [Reilly, S. A.](#)

316. **pall** ✓

a sudden numbing dread

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Residents who fled in recent days spoke of the smell of death and piles of garbage drifting like snowbanks, casting a **pall** over the city.

— [New York Times \(Mar 7, 2012\)](#)

317. **maxim** ✓

a saying that is widely accepted on its own merits

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The **maxim** "All is fair in love and war" was applied literally.

— [Thomson, Basil](#)

318. **projection** ✓

a prediction made by extrapolating from past observations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Volume is down 25 percent from five years ago, and **projections** show even further declines, said Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe.
— [New York Times \(Mar 22, 2012\)](#)

319. **prowess** 

a superior skill that you can learn by study and practice and observation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

While our engineering **prowess** has advanced a great deal over the past sixty years, the principles of innovation largely have not.
— [Time \(Mar 21, 2012\)](#)

320. **dingy** 

thickly covered with ingrained dirt or soot

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Though composed amid the unromantic surroundings of a **dingy**, dusty, and neglected back room, the speech has become a memorable document.
— [Herndon, William H.](#)

321. **semblance** 

an outward or token appearance or form that is deliberately misleading

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He was perceptibly older, in the way in which people look older all at once after having long kept the **semblance** of youth.
— [King, Basil](#)

322. **tout** 

advertize in strongly positive terms

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Testing is being **touted** as the means of making the U.S. education system competitive, even world-class.
— [Washington Post \(Mar 23, 2012\)](#)

323. **fortitude** 

strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity with courage

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Leigh Hunt bore himself in his captivity with cheerful **fortitude**, suffering severely in health but flagging little in spirits or industry.
— [Colvin, Sidney](#)

324. **parable** 

a short moral story (often with animal characters)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In most instances, I have closed my visits by reading some interesting story or **parable**.
— [Frothingham, Octavius Brooks](#)

325. **asunder** ✓

into parts or pieces

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In 1854, as I have already remarked, Nicaragua was split **asunder** by civil war.*— [Powell, E. Alexander \(Edward Alexander\)](#)326. **rout** ✓

an overwhelming defeat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It's how Seattle won Sunday's game in Chicago, scoring 31 consecutive second-half points as an impressive comeback became an overwhelming **rout**.*— [Seattle Times \(Dec 19, 2011\)](#)327. **staid** ✓

characterized by dignity and propriety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was prim and **staid** and liked to do things in an orderly fashion.*— [Doyle, A. Conan](#)328. **beguile** ✓

influence by slyness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I can no longer remain silent in the presence of the schemers who seek to **beguile** you.*— [Bolanden, Conrad von](#)329. **purport** ✓

have the often specious appearance of being, intending, or claiming

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Of course, none of these **purported** medical benefits have any grounding in science.*— [Scientific American \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)330. **deprave** ✓

corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The people who make up this typical Gorky offering are drunkards, thieves, **depraved** creatures of every kind.*— [Kilmer, Joyce](#)331. **bequeath** ✓

leave or give by will after one's death

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*No matter how often she changed her will, she told me, that diamond pin was always **bequeathed** to me.*

— [Wells, Carolyn](#)

332. **enigma**



something that baffles understanding and cannot be explained

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tails are often an **enigma**; many creatures have them, but scientists know little about their function, particularly for extinct species.*

— [Science Magazine \(Jan 4, 2012\)](#)

333. **assiduous**



marked by care and persistent effort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He's an **assiduous** diary-keeper and regularly rereads ancient entries to check up on himself.*

— [The Guardian \(Jul 17, 2010\)](#)

334. **placate**



cause to be more favorably inclined; gain the good will of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The East India Company was **placated** by the concession of further exemptions in its favour.*

— [Smith, A. D.](#)

335. **vassal**



a person holding a fief; a person who owes allegiance and service to a feudal lord

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And what was of still greater importance, he could only obtain taxes and soldiers from among the **vassals**, by the consent of their feudal lords.*

— [Freytag, Gustav](#)

336. **quail**



draw back, as with fear or pain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He **quailed** before me, and forgetting his new part in old habits, muttered an apology.*

— [Weyman, Stanley John](#)

337. **outskirts**



outlying areas (as of a city or town)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ms. Waters talked about how she had spent the day at an organic farm on the **outskirts** of Beijing looking at vegetables for the dinner.*

— [New York Times \(Nov 14, 2011\)](#)

338. **bulwark**



a protective structure of stone or concrete; extends from shore into the water to prevent a beach from washing away

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The cliffs are of imposing height, nearly three hundred feet: a formidable **bulwark**.
— [White, Walter](#)

339. **swerve** 

an erratic deflection from an intended course

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

However, I was not going to **swerve** from my word.
— [Johnstone, James Johnstone, chevalier de](#)

340. **gird** 

prepare oneself for a military confrontation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Protesters are **girding** for another police raid as several City Council members have called on protesters to leave.
— [Washington Post \(Nov 11, 2011\)](#)

341. **betrothed** 

pledged to be married

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

We are not **betrothed**—her eyes filled with tears,—'he can never marry me; and he and my father have quarrelled.
— [Fleming, George](#)

342. **prospective** 

of or concerned with or related to the future

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Most **prospective** homesteaders make the same mistake I did in buying horses, unless they are experienced.
— [Micheaux, Oscar](#)

343. **advert** 

make reference to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In the family circle it was rarely **adverted** to, and never except when some allusion to the approaching separation had to be made.
— [Werner, E. T. C. \(Edward Theodore Chalmers\)](#)

344. **peremptory** 

not allowing contradiction or refusal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

This time it was not a request but a **peremptory** order to go at once to Cuba and undertake the work.
— [Johnson, Willis Fletcher](#)

345. **rudiment** ✓

the elementary stages of any subject (usually plural)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He retraced his steps, and came to Cape Girardeau, in Missouri, where he remained some time, acquiring the **rudiments** of the English language.*

— [Anonymous](#)

346. **deduce** ✓

reason by deduction; establish by deduction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They then used models of global wind circulation to **deduce** which dust sources have become stronger and which weaker.*

— [Economist \(Jan 6, 2011\)](#)

347. **halting** ✓

fragmentary or halting from emotional strain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"I so much love cricket," he said, shyly, in **halting** English.*

— [New York Times \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)

348. **ignominy** ✓

a state of dishonor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After all, we love nothing better than seeing the powerful and formerly smug dragged across the front pages in **ignominy**.*

— [Time \(Jun 7, 2011\)](#)

349. **ideology** ✓

an orientation that characterizes the thinking of a group or nation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bill O'Reilly and others picked up on the theme, summing up left-wing **ideology** as "San Francisco values."*

— [Slate \(Jan 19, 2012\)](#)

350. **pallid** ✓

lacking in vitality or interest or effectiveness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But too often the music sounded thin and **pallid**.*

— [New York Times \(Apr 25, 2010\)](#)

351. **chagrin** ✓

strong feelings of embarrassment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But he was feeling deeply **chagrined** and mortified over his last escapade.*

— [White, Fred M. \(Fred Merrick\)](#)

352. **obtrude**



thrust oneself in as if by force

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She had no right to **obtrude** herself into his life and to disturb it.*

— [Packard, Frank L. \(Frank Lucius\)](#)

353. **audacious**



disposed to venture or take risks

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In an **audacious** operation that unfolded like a Hollywood thriller, the Navy Seals executed a daring raid deep into Pakistan to kill Osama bin Laden.*

— [New York Times \(Sep 4, 2011\)](#)

354. **construe**



make sense of; assign a meaning to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But nothing that was said Tuesday can be **construed** as good news.*

— [Washington Post \(Sep 14, 2011\)](#)

355. **ford**



cross a river where it's shallow

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Sometimes they drive their teams through unsettled country, without roads, swimming and **fording** streams, clearing away obstructions, and camping where night overtakes them.*

— [Folsom, William Henry Carman](#)

356. **repast**



the food served and eaten at one time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Fragrant coffee, light rolls, fresh butter, ham and eggs, fried crocuses and soft crabs, formed the **repast**.*

— [Reid, Mayne](#)

357. **stint**



an unbroken period of time during which you do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He found his unionized warehouse job after a **stint** working for his father, an accountant.*

— [New York Times \(Mar 21, 2012\)](#)

358. **fresco**



a mural done with watercolors on wet plaster

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The little church has an ancient **fresco** of St. Christopher, placed, as usual, opposite the entrance.*
— [Corybeare, Edward](#)

359. **dutiful** 

willingly obedient out of a sense of duty and respect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Perhaps he thinks an engaged young lady should be demure and **dutiful**, having no eyes or ears for any one except her betrothed.*
— [Harland, Marion](#)

360. **hew** 

make or shape as with an axe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They bought a log chain, and lumber for a door; the window frames were **hewed** from logs.*
— [Daughters of the American Revolution. Nebraska](#)

361. **parity** 

functional equality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How many of the world's problems would be solved, or at least greatly reduced, if women had true **parity** with men?*
— [New York Times \(Dec 15, 2011\)](#)

362. **affable** 

diffusing warmth and friendliness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was well liked and respected in these islands, for his **affable** manners had obtained for him much popularity.*
— [Various](#)

363. **interminable** 

tiresomely long; seemingly without end

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All was going well, but slowly, the time taken for the last few feet seeming to be **interminable**.*
— [Cumberland, Barlow](#)

364. **pillage** 

steal goods; take as spoils

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In addition great material losses were inflicted: seven hundred houses were destroyed, six hundred stores **pillaged**, and thousands of families utterly ruined.*
— [Straus, Oscar S.](#)

365. **foreboding** ✓

a feeling of evil to come

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Harding had strong **forebodings** that the trouble, so far from being ended, was only just beginning.*

— [Marsh, Richard](#)

366. **rend** ✓

tear or be torn violently

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the distance heavy artillery was growling, and high explosive shells were bursting with a violence that seemed to **rend** the sky.*

— [Tracy, Louis](#)

367. **livelihood** ✓

the financial means whereby one lives

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With businesses shut, fields untended and fishing abandoned many have lost their **livelihoods** as well as their homes, our correspondent says.*

— [BBC \(Apr 15, 2011\)](#)

368. **deign** ✓

do something that one considers to be below one's dignity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*To Mr. Gompers' courteous letter Czar Gary did not **deign** to reply.*

— [Foster, William Z.](#)

369. **capricious** ✓

determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Her admirers were **capricious**, returning to her at times, and then holding aloof again; and as for suitors, they entirely disappeared.*

— [Schubin, Ossip](#)

370. **stupendous** ✓

so great in size or force or extent as to elicit awe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The fact was so **stupendous** that Terry felt almost frightened over the great good fortune.*

— [Sabin, Edwin L. \(Edwin Legrand\)](#)

371. **chaff** ✓

material consisting of seed coverings and small pieces of stem or leaves that have been separated from the seeds

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The wheat, being heavy, falls, while the **chaff** is blown away.*

— [Starr, Frederick](#)

372. **innate**



not established by conditioning or learning

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words, one of our most essential abilities as humans—reading—is the product of a combination of **innate** and learned traits.*

— [Time \(Dec 9, 2011\)](#)

373. **reverie**



an abstracted state of absorption

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He stood still, seemingly lost in **reverie**, and quite oblivious to the group about him.*

— [Frey, Hildegard G. \(Hildegard Gertrude\)](#)

374. **wrangle**



to quarrel noisily, angrily or disruptively

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Here were many fierce and bitter **wrangles** over vexed questions, turbulent scenes, displays of sectional feelings.*

— [Raymond, Evelyn](#)

375. **crevice**



a long narrow opening

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The disruptive power of tree roots, growing in the **crevices** of rocks, is well known.*

— [Various](#)

376. **ostensible**



appearing as such but not necessarily so

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This already-exhaustive book is studded with diary entries, academic papers and other **ostensible** evidence that its fictitious stories of destruction are true.*

— [New York Times \(Jun 6, 2010\)](#)

377. **craven**



lacking even the rudiments of courage; abjectly fearful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Was it for them to follow the **craven** footsteps of a cowardly generation?*

— [Robinson, Victor](#)

378. **vestige**



an indication that something has been present

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Now, there was no **vestige** of vegetation; no living thing.

— [Hopkins, William John](#)

379. **plumb** ✓

examine thoroughly and in great depth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Tellingly, Ms. Liao said she had great difficulty finding three actors willing to **plumb** their own personalities.

— [New York Times \(Jun 1, 2011\)](#)

380. **reticent** ✓

temperamentally disinclined to talk

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

No questions were asked, and few indeed were the words spoken, his **reticent** manner preventing any undue familiarity.

— [Maclean, John](#)

381. **propensity** ✓

an inclination to do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

A longtime colleague, Gate Theatre director Michael Colgan, noted Kelly's old-school charms, punctuated by his **propensity** for bow ties and smart suits.

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

382. **chide** ✓

censure severely or angrily

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He **chided** reporters as having "stalked" family members, demanding that his relatives be left alone.

— [New York Times \(Nov 8, 2011\)](#)

383. **espouse** ✓

choose and follow; as of theories, ideas, policies, strategies or plans

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He said Islam should not be equated with terrorism or the kind of violence **espoused** by Bin Laden.

— [Reuters \(May 2, 2011\)](#)

384. **raiment** ✓

especially fine or decorative clothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Clothed in fine **raiment** and faring sumptuously every day, he soon developed into a handsome lad.

— [Oxley, J. Macdonald \(James Macdonald\)](#)

385. **intrepid** 

invulnerable to fear or intimidation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There are some very courageous and **intrepid** reporters in Afghanistan, including some who work for American media outlets.*

— [Salon \(Apr 5, 2010\)](#)

386. **seemly** 

according with custom or propriety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Baron was less conscientious, for he ate more beefsteak than was **seemly**, and talked a great deal of stupid nonsense, as was his wont.*

— [Hoffmann, Ernst Theodor Wilhelm](#)

387. **allay** 

lessen the intensity of or calm

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Our boy was scared and confused; we tried to **allay** his fears.*

— [New York Times \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)

388. **fitful** 

occurring in spells and often abruptly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She had lost her composure, her breath came in **fitful**, uneven gasps, and as she sat there she pressed one hand over her heart.*

— [Davis, Owen](#)

389. **erode** 

become ground down or deteriorate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Another report today showed home prices fell more than forecast in November, **eroding** the wealth of families as they seek to rebuild savings.*

— [BusinessWeek \(Jan 31, 2012\)](#)

390. **unaffected** 

free of artificiality; sincere and genuine

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His conversation was **unaffectedly** simple and frank; his language natural; always abounding in curious anecdotes.*

— [Conway, Moncure Daniel](#)

391. **canto** 

a major division of a long poem

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Folengo's next production was the *Orlandino*, an Italian poem of eight **cantos**, written in rhymed octaves.

— [Various](#)

392. **docile**



easily handled or managed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Time and again humans have domesticated wild , producing tame individuals with softer appearances and more **docile** temperaments, such as dogs and guinea pigs.

— [Scientific American \(Jan 25, 2012\)](#)

393. **patronize**



treat condescendingly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Ms. Paul herself noted that “glib talk about appreciating dyslexia as a ‘gift’ is unhelpful at best and **patronizing** at worst.”

— [New York Times \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)

394. **teem**



be teeming, be abuzz

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The coast, once **teeming** with traffic, is now lonely and deserted.

— [Mahaffy, J. P.](#)

395. **estrangle**



arouse hostility or indifference in where there had formerly been love, affection, or friendliness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

An atmosphere of distrust, suspicion and fear can cause workers to feel **estranged** from one another, Dr. Wright has written.

— [New York Times \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)

396. **spat**



a quarrel about petty points

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Public **spats** are rare in the asset-management industry, where companies typically resolve disputes behind closed doors.

— [BusinessWeek \(Sep 16, 2011\)](#)

397. **warble**



sing or play with trills, alternating with the half note above or below

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Meadow larks, as you have undoubtedly noticed, **warble** many different songs.

— [Barrett, R. E.](#)

398. **mien** 

dignified manner or conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nevertheless, before going to meet Samuel, she assumed a calm and dignified **mien**.*

— [Kraszewski, Jo?zef Ignacy](#)

399. **sate** 

fill to satisfaction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His appetite was not **sated** by any means, but he knew the danger of overloading his stomach, so he stopped.*

— [Dewey, Edward Hooker](#)

400. **patrician** 

belonging to or characteristic of the nobility or aristocracy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Respectable ladies, long resident, wearing black poke bonnets and camel's-hair shawls, lifted their **patrician** eyebrows with disapproval.*

— [Brooks, Charles Stephen](#)

401. **constituency** 

the body of voters who elect a representative for their area

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Each posited that the blue-collar Democratic **constituency** rooted in the New Deal had grown increasingly conservative, alienated from "big government."*

— [New York Times \(Jan 14, 2012\)](#)

402. **parry** 

avoid or try to avoid fulfilling, answering, or performing (duties, questions, or issues)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The boys asked a few guarded questions, but gained no information whatever, their questions being **parried** in every instance.*

— [Mears, James R.](#)

403. **practitioner** 

someone who practices a learned profession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In particular, modern medical **practitioners** are coming around to the idea that certain illnesses cannot be reduced to one isolatable, treatable cause.*

— [Nature \(Dec 21, 2011\)](#)

404. **ravel** 

disentangle

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Overcasting is done by taking loose stitches over the raw edge of the cloth, to keep it from ravelling or fraying.

— [Ontario. Ministry of Education](#)

405. **infest** 

occupy in large numbers or live on a host

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many lived in dilapidated apartments with leaky pipes, broken windows, rooms full of mold, and walls **infested** with cockroaches and rats.*

— [New York Times \(Jul 28, 2011\)](#)

406. **actuate** 

give an incentive for action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He knew that men were **actuated** by other motives, good and bad, than self-interest.*

— [Blease, Walter Lyon](#)

407. **surly** 

inclined to anger or bad feelings with overtones of menace

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But Blake, being **surly** and quarrelsome even when sober, gave the lapel a savage jerk, and reached out with his other hand.*

— [Chisholm, A. M. \(Arthur Murray\)](#)

408. **convalesce** 

get over an illness or shock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Patients **convalescing** from pneumonia were evacuated to England or given Base Duty.*

— [Jahns, Lewis E.](#)

409. **demoralize** 

lower someone's spirits; make downhearted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The storm clobbered many communities still recovering from the flooding two months ago caused by Hurricane Irene, leaving weary homeowners exhausted and **demoralized**.*

— [Washington Post \(Nov 1, 2011\)](#)

410. **devolve** 

grow worse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As the rhetoric heated up inside, the violence outside **devolved** into chaos.*

— [Time \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

411. **alacrity**

liveliness and eagerness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Every one exerted himself not only without murmuring and discontent, but even with an **alacrity** which almost approached to cheerfulness.

— [Kippis, Andrew](#)

412. **waive**

do without or cease to hold or adhere to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Low rates have also led retail brokerages to **waive** fees on money market funds to avoid negative returns for their clients.

— [Reuters \(Jan 13, 2012\)](#)

413. **unwonted**

out of the ordinary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He must rush off to see his people, who no doubt were quite confounded by his **unwonted** energy.

— [Speed, Nell](#)

414. **seethe**

be in an agitated emotional state

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Outwardly quite calm and matter-of-fact, his mind was in a **seething** turmoil.

— [Douglas, Hudson](#)

415. **scrutinize**

to look at critically or searchingly, or in minute detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Fans and commentators are **scrutinizing** every blemish: his turnovers, his weak left hand, his jump shot.

— [New York Times \(Mar 5, 2012\)](#)

416. **diffident**

lacking self-confidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Shyly **diffident** in the presence of strangers, her head was lowered.

— [Packard, Frank L. \(Frank Lucius\)](#)

417. **execrate**

curse or declare to be evil or anathema or threaten with divine punishment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

When all Great Britain was **execrating** Napoleon, picturing him as a devil with horns and hoofs, Byron looked upon him as the world's hero.

— [Hubbard, Elbert](#)

418. **implacable** ✓

incapable of being placated

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This man was a savage in his **implacable** desire for revenge.*

— [Kelly, Florence Finch](#)

419. **pique** ✓

a sudden outburst of anger

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A talented youngster who smashes his guitar in a fit of **pique** finds it magically reassembled just in time for a crucial concert.*

— [The Guardian \(May 31, 2010\)](#)

420. **mite** ✓

a slight but appreciable amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I never saw anybody so pleased with monkeys as she is, and not one **mite** afraid.*

— [Raymond, Evelyn](#)

421. **encumber** ✓

hold back

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Two others were making slower progress for the reason that each was **encumbered** by supporting a disabled man.*

— [Westerman, Percy F. \(Percy Francis\)](#)

422. **uncouth** ✓

lacking refinement or cultivation or taste

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He had not stopped to consider her rough speech and **uncouth** manners.*

— [Johnston, Annie F. \(Annie Fellows\)](#)

423. **petulant** ✓

easily irritated or annoyed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The black eyes emitted an angry flash, the voice that answered was sharp and **petulant**.*

— [Fleming, May Agnes](#)

424. **expiate** ✓

make amends for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Wulphere was absolved on condition that he should **expiate** his crime by founding churches and monasteries all over his kingdom.

— [Clifton, A. B.](#)

425. **cavalier** ✓

given to haughty disregard of others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Some would have given Nicklaus a **cavalier** response: polite nod while thinking, "Yeah, whatever."

— [New York Times \(Jun 18, 2011\)](#)

426. **bluster** ✓

act in an arrogant, overly self-assured, or conceited manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Slade, despite his swaggers and **blustering**, was at heart a coward.

— [Landon, Herman](#)

427. **banter** ✓

light teasing repartee

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Our easy **banter** had suddenly been replaced by strained and awkward interaction.

— [Slate \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

428. **debase** ✓

corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Long oppression had not, on the whole, either blunted their intellects or **debased** their morals.

— [Adler, Felix](#)

429. **retainer** ✓

a person working in the service of another (especially in the household)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

This faithful and trusted **retainer** is greatly valued by his employers.

— [Black, Helen C.](#)

430. **subjugate** ✓

make subservient; force to submit or subdue

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The Confederacy was led by thoroughgoing racists who wanted to keep blacks **subjugated** for all time because of the color of their skin.

— [Slate \(Apr 7, 2010\)](#)

431. **extol** ✓

praise, glorify, or honor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How I praised the duck at that first dinner, and **extolled** Madame's skill in cookery!*

— [Warren, Arthur](#)

432. **fraught**



filled with or attended with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the ocean remains an unpredictable place, **fraught** with hazards.*

— [Scientific American \(Apr 5, 2012\)](#)

433. **august**



profoundly honored

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*At all times reserved in his manner and his bearing full of dignity, never before had she realized the majesty of General Washington's **august** presence.*

— [Madison, Lucy Foster](#)

434. **fissure**



a long narrow depression in a surface

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The brown bark is not very rough, though its numerous **fissures** and cracks give it a rugged appearance.*

— [Step, Edward](#)

435. **knoll**



a small natural hill

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Opened in 2008, the park serves as a true public space; elderly couples stroll around the artificial lake as toddlers roll down grassy **knolls**.*

— [New York Times \(May 7, 2010\)](#)

436. **callous**



emotionally hardened

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Outwardly merry and good-humoured, he was by nature coldly fierce, calculating, **callous**.*

— [Wingfield, Lewis](#)

437. **inculcate**



teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But instruction in history has been for a long time systematically used to **inculcate** certain political sentiments in the pupils.*

— [Liebknecht, Karl Paul August Friedrich](#)

438. **nettle** ✓

cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Lincoln began these remarks by good-humored but **nettling** chaffing of his opponent.*— [Various](#)439. **blanch** ✓

turn pale, as if in fear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He is silent, as if struck dumb, his face showing **blanched** and bloodless, while she utters a shriek, half terrified, half in frenzied anger.*— [Reid, Mayne](#)440. **inscrutable** ✓

of an obscure nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The fashion industry is notoriously opaque and often **inscrutable** for outsiders, even ones as well connected as him.*— [Seattle Times \(Oct 1, 2011\)](#)441. **tenacious** ✓

stubbornly unyielding

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She was a **tenacious** woman, one who would even hold fast a thing which she no longer valued, simply because it belonged to her.*— [Morris, Clara](#)442. **thrall** ✓

the state of being under the control of another person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Then Kiss commenced in earnest, and quickly held his audience in **thrall**.*— [Farjeon, Benjamin Leopold](#)443. **exigency** ✓

a pressing or urgent situation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **exigency** of the situation roused Mr. Popkiss' sluggish faculties into prompt action.*— [Magnay, William](#)444. **disconsolate** ✓

sad beyond comforting; incapable of being consoled

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Was there a bereaved mother or **disconsolate** sister weeping over their dead?*

— [Steward, T. G. \(Theophilus Gould\)](#)

445. impetus



a force that moves something along

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Critics say it has known mixed success at best, although supporters hope the U.S. drawdown could provide just the **impetus** it needs to thrive.*

— [Reuters \(Jan 10, 2012\)](#)

446. imposition



an uncalled-for burden

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On that far-away day he had considered the little, lost girl a nuisance and an **imposition**.*

— [Chisholm, A. M. \(Arthur Murray\)](#)

447. auspices



kindly endorsement and guidance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In March 2009, negotiations between Israel and Hamas were held in Cairo, under the **auspices** of the Egyptian intelligence agency.*

— [New York Times \(Nov 9, 2011\)](#)

448. sonorous



full and loud and deep

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His voice rang out firmly now, a deep and **sonorous** bass.*

— [Bedford-Jones, H.](#)

449. exploitation



an act that exploits or victimizes someone (treats them unfairly)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In a scathing report released last year, Amnesty International found there was widespread **exploitation** of migrants in Malaysia.*

— [BBC \(Apr 4, 2011\)](#)

450. bane



something causing misery or death

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Knee pain is the **bane** of many runners, sometimes causing them to give up altogether.*

— [Seattle Times \(Jun 7, 2010\)](#)

451. dint



interchangeable with 'means' in the expression 'by means of'

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If only certain puzzles could be solved by **dint** of sheer hard thinking!*
— [Marsh, Richard](#)

452. **ignominious** 

(used of conduct or character) deserving or bringing disgrace or shame

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The great Ottawa chief saw his partially accomplished scheme withering into **ignominious** failure.*
— [Rudd, John](#)

453. **amicable** 

characterized by friendship and good will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After a short colloquy the two men evidently came to an **amicable** understanding, for they shook hands.*
— [Kraszewski, Jo?zef Ignacy](#)

454. **onset** 

the beginning or early stages

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thousands of families are living in makeshift camps as temperatures fall to freezing with the **onset** of winter.*
— [New York Times \(Nov 10, 2011\)](#)

455. **conservatory** 

a schoolhouse with special facilities for fine arts

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The young instrumental talent that is coming out of local music schools and **conservatories** is as amazingly good as you are going to find anywhere.*
— [Chicago Tribune \(Jun 1, 2011\)](#)

456. **zenith** 

the point above the observer that is directly opposite the nadir on the imaginary sphere against which celestial bodies appear to be projected

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words it never reaches the **zenith**, a point directly overhead.*
— [George H. Lowery](#)

457. **voluble** 

marked by a ready flow of speech

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I find him charming: shy – yet easy to talk to – **voluble** and funny once he gets going.*
— [The Guardian \(Aug 21, 2010\)](#)

458. **yeoman** 

in former times was free and cultivated his own land

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On one extreme was the well-to-do **yeoman** farmer farming his own land.*
— [Reilly, S. A.](#)

459. **levity** 

a manner lacking seriousness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The same balance of seriousness and **levity** runs through her plays, which put an absurdist spin on everyday problems.*
— [New York Times \(May 7, 2010\)](#)

460. **rapt** 

feeling great rapture or delight

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She was watching the development of the investigation with **rapt**, eager attention.*
— [Mitford, Bertram](#)

461. **sultry** 

characterized by oppressive heat and humidity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*New guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics arrive just as school sports ramp up in **sultry** August temperatures.*
— [Washington Post \(Aug 9, 2011\)](#)

462. **pinion** 

bind the arms of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The prisoners having dismounted, were placed in a line on the ground facing the guillotine, their arms **pinioned**.*
— [Various](#)

463. **axiom** 

(logic) a proposition that is not susceptible of proof or disproof; its truth is assumed to be self-evident

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The fundamental **axiom** of scientific thought is that there is not, never has been, and never will be, any disorder in nature.*
— [Huxley, Thomas H.](#)

464. **descry** 

catch sight of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Looking off seaward, I could **descry** no sails.*

— [Drake, Samuel Adams](#)

465. **retinue**



the group following and attending to some important person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Despite his **retinue** of security personnel, Atambaev had been poisoned during his short tenure as prime minister.*

— [Salon \(Apr 9, 2010\)](#)

466. **functionary**



a worker who holds or is invested with an office

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was the **functionary** of the assize court, impaneling its juries, bringing accused men before it, and carrying out its penalties.*

— [Reilly, S. A.](#)

467. **imbibe**



take in liquids

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"We're cornered at last," he said suddenly, as the old man set the bottle down after having **imbibed** the best half of its contents.*

— [Douglas, Hudson](#)

468. **diversified**



having variety of character or form or components; or having increased variety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Funds in both categories tend to be highly **diversified**, typically with 100 or more stocks across at least 10 industries.*

— [Wall Street Journal \(Feb 24, 2012\)](#)

469. **maraud**



raid and rove in search of booty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Its reporter says armed gangs and looters are **marauding** the streets.*

— [BBC \(Apr 8, 2011\)](#)

470. **grudging**



petty or reluctant in giving or spending

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Expect delays, scattered outages and surly, **grudging** customer service in the interim.*

— [Time \(Aug 30, 2011\)](#)

471. **partiality**



a predisposition to like something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She still showed a **partiality** for bright colors, by her gown of deep crimson.*

— [Sage, William](#)

472. **philology**



the humanistic study of language and literature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I had determined to study **philology**, chiefly Greek and Latin, but the fare spread out by the professors was much too tempting.*

— [Müller, F. Max \(Friedrich Max\)](#)

473. **wry**



humorously sarcastic or mocking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She also has a very understated but very **wry** sense of humour; watch out for it.*

— [The Guardian \(Oct 13, 2010\)](#)

474. **caucus**



meet to select a candidate or promote a policy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Representative Ron Paul of Texas isn't campaigning in Florida, instead focusing on Maine, which will **caucus** in late February.*

— [BusinessWeek \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)

475. **permeate**



spread or diffuse through

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Florida's summertime heat **permeates** almost every scene, becoming something like a character.*

— [New York Times \(Mar 13, 2012\)](#)

476. **propitious**



presenting favorable circumstances; likely to result in or show signs of success

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With the Athens stock market down nearly 30 percent so far this year, it would not seem a **propitious** time for initial public offerings.*

— [New York Times \(Jun 2, 2010\)](#)

477. **resonant**



characterized by resonance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His eyes were piercing but sad, his voice grand and **resonant**, suiting well the wrathful, impassioned Calvinism of his sermons.*

— [Barr, Amelia Edith Huddleston](#)

478. **salient**

having a quality that thrusts itself into attention

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bullying has become an increasingly **salient** problem for school-age children, and in rare cases has ended tragically with victims committing suicide.*

— [Reuters \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)

479. **propitiate**

make peace with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*King Edward, having subdued the Welsh, "endeavoured to **propitiate** his newly acquired subjects by becoming a resident in the conquered country.*

— [Frith, William Powell](#)

480. **excise**

remove by cutting

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Wielding a razor, Jefferson **excised** all passages containing supernaturalistic elements from the gospels, extracting what he took to be Jesus's pure ethical teachings.*

— [The Guardian \(Apr 8, 2011\)](#)

481. **betoken**

be a signal for or a symptom of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The haggard face and sombre eyes **betokened** considerable mental anguish.*

— [Young, F.E. Mills](#)

482. **palatable**

acceptable to the taste or mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If nicely cooked in this way, cabbage is as **palatable** and as digestible as cauliflower.*

— [Ronald, Mary](#)

483. **upbraid**

express criticism towards

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*When Kahn warned of a serious economic "depression", he was **upbraided** by the White House for using such language.*

— [The Guardian \(Jan 12, 2011\)](#)

484. **renegade**

someone who rebels and becomes an outlaw

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It he went off to another people he lost all standing among the Sioux and was thereafter treated as an outlaw and a **renegade**.*

— [Robinson, Doane](#)

485. **hoary**

ancient

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The device of the trapped young person saved by books is a **hoary** one, but Ms. Winterson makes it seem new, and sulfurous.*

— [New York Times \(Mar 8, 2012\)](#)

486. **pedantic**

marked by a narrow focus on or display of learning especially its trivial aspects

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The reader is treated to **pedantic** little footnotes, and given a good deal of information which is either gratuitous or uninteresting.*

— [Hay, Ian](#)

487. **coy**

showing marked and often playful or irritating evasiveness or reluctance to make a definite or committing statement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was funny watching such a solid person, based in faith and education, grow a trifle **coy** about the year of his birth.*

— [New York Times \(Jul 11, 2010\)](#)

488. **troth**

a solemn pledge of fidelity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She had pledged to him her **troth**, and she would not attempt to go back from her pledge at the first appearance of a difficulty.*

— [Trollope, Anthony](#)

489. **encroachment**

entry to another's property without right or permission

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The move may mark yet another attempt by France to rein in what it sees as the **encroachment** of online services on the country's culture.*

— [BusinessWeek \(Jan 8, 2010\)](#)

490. **belie**

be in contradiction with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"It is a fine morning," he said, taken aback by my sudden movement, but affecting an indifference which the sparkle in his eye **belied**.*

— [Weyman, Stanley John](#)

491. **armada** 

a large fleet

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

An **armada** of three hundred ships manned by eighteen thousand marines assembled in the bay on their way to the conquest of Algiers.

— [Douglas, Frances](#)

492. **succor** 

assistance in time of difficulty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Given his health woes, succession worries and persistent isolation, Mr. Kim may simply be seeking **succor** from what may be his last friend on earth.

— [New York Times \(May 5, 2010\)](#)

493. **imperturbable** 

not easily perturbed or excited or upset; marked by extreme calm and composure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Ordinarily **imperturbable**, even in the face of unexpected situations, he was now visibly agitated.

— [Griggs, Sutton E. \(Sutton Elbert\)](#)

494. **irresolute** 

uncertain how to act or proceed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

I stood for a moment before I entered on my arduous undertaking, **irresolute** and hesitating, swayed by two conflicting impulses.

— [Waugh, Joseph Laing](#)

495. **knack** 

a special way of doing something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He had a special **knack** of hunting out farm houses, engaging madame in conversation, and coming away with bread, eggs, or cheese in his knapsack.

— [Price, Lucien](#)

496. **unseemly** 

not in keeping with accepted standards of what is right or proper in polite society

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The square mile's upbeat mood may strike some as **unseemly** at a time of national gloom.

— [The Guardian \(Jan 1, 2011\)](#)

497. **accentuate** 

to stress, single out as important

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

This sparkling marvel lies modestly nestled among the law courts, whose plainer modern buildings

serve but to **accentuate** its wonderful beauty.

— [Sherrill, Charles Hitchcock](#)

498. **divulge**



make known to the public information that was previously known only to a few people or that was meant to be kept a secret

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She hectors her children not to **divulge** personal information like phone numbers online.*

— [Seattle Times \(Nov 15, 2011\)](#)

499. **brawn**



possessing muscular strength

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He believes Hollywood has often have had an over-reliance on physical **brawn** as the deciding factor for portraying a strong man.*

— [Reuters \(Jul 9, 2010\)](#)

500. **burnish**



polish and make shiny

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Great cleanliness is enforced in all that belongs to a lighthouse, the reflectors and lenses being constantly **burnished**, polished, and cleansed.*

— [Whymper, Frederick](#)

501. **palpitate**



beat rapidly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After supper my heart started racing, **palpitating** like a tick.*

— [Isaacson, Lauren Ann](#)

502. **promiscuous**



not selective of a single class or person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A **promiscuous** assembly had gathered there—men of all creeds and opinions—and an "open-air" meeting was in progress.*

— [Whitney, Orson F.](#)

503. **dissemble**



make believe with the intent to deceive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Pictures have always **dissembled**—there are millions of snaps of miserable families grinning bravely—but now they directly lie.*

— [The Guardian \(Dec 4, 2010\)](#)

504. **flotilla** 

a fleet of small craft

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She was guarded by a **flotilla** of boats equipped with satellites, Global Positioning System devices, advanced navigation systems and shark shields.*

— [New York Times \(Aug 11, 2011\)](#)

505. **invective** 

abusive or venomous language used to express blame or censure or bitter deep-seated ill will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There's much more name-calling, shouting and personal **invective** in American life than anywhere I've ever traveled outside the United States.*

— [Washington Post \(Jan 15, 2011\)](#)

506. **hermitage** 

the abode of a hermit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All the rest of their time is passed in solitude in their **hermitages**, which are built quite separate from one another.*

— [Various](#)

507. **despoil** 

destroy and strip of its possession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Wherever his lordship's army went, plantations were **despoiled**, and private houses plundered.*

— [Campbell, Charles](#)

508. **sully** 

make dirty or spotty, as by exposure to air; also used metaphorically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Why **sully** the reputation of an otherwise fascinating online community with really deeply questionable, troubling content?*

— [Forbes \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

509. **malevolent** 

having or exerting a malignant influence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*So you don't believe in evil, as an actual **malevolent** force?*

— [New York Times \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)

510. **irksome** 

so lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was pretty **irksome** passing the time in his enforced prison, and finally Andy went to sleep.*

— [Webster, Frank V.](#)

511. prattle

speaking (about unimportant matters) rapidly and incessantly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She **prattled** on about the gossip of the town until Penny and her father were thoroughly bored.*

— [Clark, Joan](#)

512. subaltern

inferior in rank or status

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The careful commanding officer of a regiment discourages his young **subalterns** from taking leave to Hill Stations.*

— [Cassidy, Gordon](#)

513. welt

a raised mark on the skin (as produced by the blow of a whip); characteristic of many allergic reactions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But red, itchy **welts** typically appear within 24 to 48 hours of being bitten.*

— [US News \(Nov 23, 2010\)](#)

514. wreak

cause to happen or to occur as a consequence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The burden of paying for college is **wreaking** havoc on the finances of an unexpected demographic: senior citizens.*

— [Washington Post \(Apr 1, 2012\)](#)

515. tenable

based on sound reasoning or evidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*First, it is no longer really **tenable** – and in fact a bit disrespectful – to call a country like China an emerging economy.*

— [The Guardian \(Feb 18, 2011\)](#)

516. inimitable

defying imitation; matchless

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Leave aside Spain, where Barcelona breeds its own, **inimitable** style, and the answer might be that we are rushing toward uniformity.*

— [New York Times \(Sep 26, 2010\)](#)

517. depredation

(usually plural) a destructive action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Wild elephants abound and commit many **depredations**, entering villages in large herds, and consuming everything suitable to their tastes.*

— [Various](#)

518. **amalgamate** ✓

to bring or combine together or with something else

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Where two weak tribes **amalgamated** into one, there it exceptionally happened that two closely related dialects were simultaneously spoken in the same tribe.*

— [Engels. Friedrich](#)

519. **immutable** ✓

not subject or susceptible to change or variation in form or quality or nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We are mistaken to imagine a work of literature is or should be **immutable**, sculpted in marble and similarly impervious to change.*

— [The Guardian \(May 27, 2010\)](#)

520. **proxy** ✓

a person authorized to act for another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ideally, everybody over 18 should execute a living will and select a health care **proxy** — someone to represent you in medical matters.*

— [New York Times \(Jan 17, 2011\)](#)

521. **dote** ✓

shower with love; show excessive affection for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He **doted** on him, just dearly loved him, and thought he could do no wrong," Kredell said.*

— [Washington Post \(Oct 17, 2011\)](#)

522. **reactionary** ✓

extremely conservative

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Old people are often accused of being too conservative, and even **reactionary**.*

— [Chinard. Gilbert](#)

523. **rationalism** ✓

the doctrine that reason is the right basis for regulating conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Offering a religious rationale for policy goals threatens what for many has become the cherished principle of secular **rationalism** in public life.*

— [Salon \(Apr 24, 2011\)](#)

524. **endue** ✓

give qualities or abilities to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*To say the least of it, he was **endued** with sufficient intelligence to acquire an ordinary knowledge of such matters.*— [Various](#)

525. **discriminating** ✓

showing or indicating careful judgment and discernment especially in matters of taste

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jobs' Apple specializes in delighting the most **discriminating**, hard-to-please customers.*— [Forbes \(Oct 12, 2011\)](#)

526. **brooch** ✓

a decorative pin worn by women

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Upon her breast she wore a **brooch** of gold set with many precious stones.*— [Butler, Pierce](#)

527. **pert** ✓

characterized by a lightly pert and exuberant quality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Her **pert**, lively manner said she hadn't taken any wooden nickels lately.*— [Schoenherr, John](#)

528. **disembark** ✓

go ashore

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The immigrants **disembarked** from their ships tired and underfed—generally in poor health.*— [Hughes, Thomas Proctor](#)

529. **aria** ✓

an elaborate song for solo voice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ms. Netrebko sang an elegantly sad **aria** with lustrous warmth, aching vulnerability and floating high notes.*— [New York Times \(Sep 27, 2011\)](#)

530. **trappings** ✓

(usually plural) accessory wearing apparel

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were caparisoned in Indian fashion with gay colors and fancy **trappings**.*

— [Roy, Lillian Elizabeth](#)

531. **abet**



assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Since YouTube, digital culture has aided and enhanced -- or maybe the better word is **abetted** -- the celebrity meltdown," said Wired magazine senior editor Nancy Miller.

— [Reuters \(Mar 9, 2011\)](#)

532. **clandestine**



conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

For Jordan, this is a **clandestine** relationship it would much prefer to have kept secret.

— [BBC \(Jan 5, 2010\)](#)

533. **distend**



swell from or as if from internal pressure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Some kids said LaNiyah's **distended** abdomen looked like she was carrying a baby.

— [Seattle Times \(Apr 7, 2011\)](#)

534. **glib**



having only superficial plausibility

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The other sort of engineer understands that **glib** comparisons between computers and humans don't do justice to the complexities of either.

— [Forbes \(Jul 22, 2010\)](#)

535. **pucker**



to gather something into small wrinkles or folds

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Godmother, 'she went on, **puckering** her forehead again in perplexity, 'it almost feels like feathers.

— [Molesworth, Mrs. \(Mary Louisa\)](#)

536. **rejoinder**



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Not at all!" was Aunt Susannah's brisk **rejoinder**.

— [Various](#)

537. **spangle**



adornment consisting of a small piece of shiny material used to decorate clothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Magdalen's garments are rich with **spangles**; her mantle is scarlet; she has flowers in her luxuriant tresses, and looks a vain creature.

— [O'Shea, John Augustus](#)

538. **blighted** ✓

affected by blight; anything that mars or prevents growth or prosperity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hudec, whose career has been **blighted** by knee injuries and operations, won for the first time in more than four years.

— [New York Times \(Feb 4, 2012\)](#)

539. **nicety** ✓

conformity with some esthetic standard of correctness or propriety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

They accepted the invitation; but Mrs. Rowlandson did not appreciate the **niceties** of Indian etiquette.

— [Abbott, John S. C. \(John Stevens Cabot\)](#)

540. **aggrieve** ✓

infringe on the rights of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Some fallout appears evident in donations from Wall Street executives, who feel particularly **aggrieved** by Mr. Obama's criticisms and policies.

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

541. **vestment** ✓

gown (especially ceremonial garments) worn by the clergy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And then a priest, arrayed in all his **vestments**, came in at the open door, and the prince and princess exchanged rings, and were married.

— [Glinski, A. J.](#)

542. **urbane** ✓

showing a high degree of refinement and the assurance that comes from wide social experience

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Polished, **urbane** and gentlemanly—his manners were calculated to refine all around him.

— [Judson, L. Carroll](#)

543. **defray** ✓

bear the expenses of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The legislation also calls for \$1.6 billion in spending cuts to help **defray** the disaster costs.

— [Washington Post \(Sep 26, 2011\)](#)

544. **spectral** 

resembling or characteristic of a phantom

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Hawthorne's figures are somewhat **spectral**; they lack flesh and blood.*— [Merwin, Henry Childs](#)545. **munificent** 

very generous

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They have shown themselves very loving and generous lately, in making a quite **munificent** provision for his traveling.*— [Carlyle, Thomas](#)546. **dictum** 

an authoritative declaration

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words, they seemed fully subscribed to Andy Warhol's **dictum** that business art is the best art.*— [New York Times \(Dec 10, 2011\)](#)547. **fad** 

an interest followed with exaggerated zeal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*According to Chinese media, the hottest new **fad** in China involves selling small live-animal key chains.*— [Time \(Apr 5, 2011\)](#)548. **scabbard** 

a sheath for a sword or dagger or bayonet

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Drawing his own sabre from its **scabbard**, he pointed to a stain on it, saying, "This is the blood of an Englishman."*— [Reed, Helen Leah](#)549. **adulterate** 

corrupt, debase, or make impure by adding a foreign or inferior substance; often by replacing valuable ingredients with inferior ones

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shady dealers along the supply chain frequently **adulterate** olive oil with low-grade vegetable oils and add artificial coloring.*— [New York Times \(Dec 7, 2011\)](#)550. **beleaguer** 

annoy persistently

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Rock concert ticket sales dropped sharply last year, sounding another sour note for the beleaguered music industry.

— [The Guardian \(Dec 30, 2010\)](#)

551. **gripe**
complain



EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

If America is going to gripe about the yuan's rate, then China will complain about the dollar's role.

— [Economist \(Jan 20, 2011\)](#)

552. **remission**



an abatement in intensity or degree (as in the manifestations of a disease)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

After a few hours there is a remission of the pain, slight perspiration takes place, and the patient may fall asleep.

— [Various](#)

553. **exorbitant**



greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Soon, stories began trickling across the Atlantic of crazed fans paying exorbitant sums to get into London gigs.

— [Slate \(Oct 10, 2011\)](#)

554. **invocation**



the act of appealing for help

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

These dances are prayers or invocations for rain, the crowning blessing in this dry land.

— [Roosevelt, Theodore](#)

555. **cajole**



influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hamilton, however, was not to be cajoled into friendliness by superficial compliment.

— [Fisher, Harrison](#)

556. **inclusive**



including much or everything; and especially including stated limits

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

We are going to adhere to our basic programing strategy of nonpartisan information inclusive of all different points of view.

— [Reuters \(Sep 27, 2010\)](#)

557. **interdict** 

command against

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Failing to satisfy his examiners, he was **interdicted** from practice, but ignored the prohibition, and suffered more than one imprisonment in consequence.

— [Worley, George](#)

558. **abase** 

cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Ashamed, **abased**, degraded in his own eyes, he turned away his head.

— [Caine, Hall, Sir](#)

559. **obviate** 

do away with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Comfortable sleeping-cars **obviate** the necessity of stopping by the way for bodily rest, provided the traveller be physically strong and in good health.

— [Ballou, Maturin Murray](#)

560. **hurtle** 

move with or as if with a rushing sound

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The hurricane was expected to hit Washington in the early hours of Sunday before **hurtling** toward New York City.

— [Reuters \(Aug 27, 2011\)](#)

561. **unanimity** 

everyone being of one mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

On all other points of colonial policy, Mackenzie declared, people would be found to differ, but as regards the post office there was absolute **unanimity**.

— [Smith, William, Sir](#)

562. **mettle** 

the courage to carry on

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The deployment will also test the emotional **mettle** of soldiers and their families.

— [New York Times \(Jun 26, 2010\)](#)

563. **interpolate** 

insert words into texts, often falsifying it thereby

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Most scholars agree that these lines are **interpolated**, since they do not fit in with the rest of the

poem.

— [Various](#)

564. **surreptitious**



marked by quiet and caution and secrecy; taking pains to avoid being observed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He noticed that the peddler was eying the bag Scotty had picked up, and was trying to be **surreptitious** about it.*

— [Goodwin, Harold L. \(Harold Leland\)](#)

565. **dissimulate**



hide (feelings) from other people

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From infancy these people have been schooled to **dissimulate** and hide emotion, and ordinarily their faces are as opaque as those of veteran poker players.*

— [Kephart, Horace](#)

566. **ruse**



a deceptive maneuver (especially to avoid capture)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Overseas criminals use elaborate **ruses**, including phony websites, to trick job-seekers into helping transfer stolen funds.*

— [BusinessWeek \(Aug 4, 2011\)](#)

567. **specious**



plausible but false

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*You might be tempted to think of the biggest airline as the one with the most aircraft, but capacity differences make this reasoning **specious**.*

— [Salon \(May 6, 2010\)](#)

568. **revulsion**



intense aversion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After a first instinctive cry of horrified **revulsion**, the men reached down under water with their hands and drew out—a corpse.*

— [Livingston, Arthur](#)

569. **hale**



exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From a hearty, **hale**, corn-fed boy, he has become pale, lean, and wan.*

— [Adams, Abigail](#)

570. **palliate** ✓

lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or extent of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Divisions and inequalities persist, but government can **palliate** their effects with hard cash.*
— [The Guardian \(Aug 14, 2010\)](#)

571. **obtuse** ✓

lacking in insight or discernment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The affair had been mentioned so plainly that it was impossible for the most dense and **obtuse** person not to have understood the allusion.*
— [Brazil, Angela](#)

572. **querulous** ✓

habitually complaining

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was, at times, as **querulous** as a complaining old man.*
— [Williams, Ben Ames](#)

573. **vagary** ✓

an unexpected and inexplicable change in something (in a situation or a person's behavior, etc.)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Today such acquisitions are more likely to stay put, destined to survive both market fluctuations and the **vagaries** of style.*
— [New York Times \(Sep 29, 2010\)](#)

574. **incipient** ✓

only partly in existence; imperfectly formed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Above all, medical teams will need to establish quick surveillance to identify health needs and pinpoint **incipient** outbreaks before they explode.*
— [Time \(Jan 13, 2010\)](#)

575. **obdurate** ✓

stubbornly persistent in wrongdoing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Several appeared deeply affected, with tears of repentance standing in their eyes, others sullen and **obdurate**.*
— [Huth, Alexander](#)

576. **parochial** ✓

narrowly restricted in outlook or scope

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But Republicans in Pennsylvania also have narrower and more **parochial** things to worry about.*

— [New York Times \(Sep 17, 2011\)](#)

577. **grovel** ✓

show submission or fear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The two young men who drove them had fallen flat and were **grovelling** and wailing for mercy.*

— [Mitford, Bertram](#)

578. **refractory** ✓

stubbornly resistant to authority or control

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Beyond them the gardener struggled with a **refractory** horse that refused to draw his load of brush and dead leaves.*

— [Bacon, Josephine Dodge Daskam](#)

579. **ascendancy** ✓

the state that exists when one person or group has power over another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But in a few days he had secured an almost incredible **ascendancy** over the sullen, starved, half-clothed army.*

— [Various](#)

580. **dregs** ✓

sediment that has settled at the bottom of a liquid

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Right got to go," Ali says, draining the **dregs** of his beer.*

— [BBC \(Feb 25, 2012\)](#)

581. **supercilious** ✓

having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A **supercilious**, patronizing person—son of a wretched country parson—used to loll against the wall of your salon—with his nose in the air.*

— [Pinero, Arthur Wing, Sir](#)

582. **pundit** ✓

someone who has been admitted to membership in a scholarly field

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

***Pundits** of agricultural science explore the sheds, I believe, the barns, stables, machine-rooms, and so forth, before inspecting the crops.*

— [Boyle, Frederick](#)

583. **commiserate** ✓

to feel or express sympathy or compassion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We had spent countless hours together drinking wine and **commiserating** about child-rearing, long Wisconsin winters and interrupted sleep.*
— [New York Times \(Mar 24, 2011\)](#)

584. **alcove** ✓

a small recess opening off a larger room

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They showed him where he would sleep, in a little closet-like **alcove** screened from the big room by a gay curtain.*
— [Wilson, Harry Leon](#)

585. **assay** ✓

make an effort or attempt

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He decided to **assay** one last project before giving up.*
— [New York Times \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)

586. **conjugal** ✓

of or relating to marriage or to the relationship between a wife and husband

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They even had **conjugal** visits for prisoners — five hours in a private room every three months with your wife.*
— [New York Times \(Nov 23, 2010\)](#)

587. **abjure** ✓

formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief, usually under pressure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The caste abstain from liquor, and some of them have **abjured** all flesh food while others partake of it.*
— [Russell, R. V. \(Robert Vane\)](#)

588. **frieze** ✓

an architectural ornament consisting of a horizontal sculptured band between the architrave and the cornice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All the doorways mentioned above have cornices, and in those at Palmyra and Baalbec richly carved **friezes** with side corbels.*
— [Various](#)

589. **cabal** ✓

a clique (often secret) that seeks power usually through intrigue

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Supposedly, see, there's this global **cabal** of scientists conspiring to bring about socialist one-world government.*
— [Salon \(Jul 7, 2010\)](#)

590. **ornate** ✓

marked by complexity and richness of detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Unlike his literary icon, Herman Melville, he doesn't adorn his writing with **ornate** flourishes or complicated scaffolding.

— [Scientific American \(Dec 20, 2011\)](#)

591. **inflammatory** ✓

arousing to action or rebellion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

We don't know whether **inflammatory** language or images can incite the mentally ill to commit acts of violence.

— [Time \(Jan 13, 2011\)](#)

592. **machination** ✓

a crafty and involved plot to achieve your (usually sinister) ends

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He was continued a member of Congress until 1777 when his enemies succeeded in their long nursed **machinations** against him.

— [Judson, L. Carroll](#)

593. **mendicant** ✓

a pauper who lives by begging

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In others are the broken-down **mendicants** who live on soup-kitchens and begging.

— [Ritchie, J. Ewing \(James Ewing\)](#)

594. **meander** ✓

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

They paused beside one of the low stone walls that **meandered** in a meaningless fashion this way and that over the uplands.

— [Vance, Louis Joseph](#)

595. **bullion** ✓

gold or silver in bars or ingots

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In times of economic turmoil, more people tend to invest in **bullion** gold.

— [Washington Post \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)

596. **diffidence** ✓

lack of self-confidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His grave **diffidence** and continued hesitation in offering an opinion confirmed me in my own.
— [Froude, James Anthony](#)

597. **makeshift** 

done or made using whatever is available

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The house was still under construction, so he climbed up a ladder being used as a **makeshift** stairway, fell and injured his leg.
— [New York Times \(Apr 12, 2012\)](#)

598. **husbandry** 

the practice of cultivating the land or raising stock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The U.S. can take a lesson from Denmark, which has efficiently raised livestock without hurting farmers, by using better animal **husbandry** practices.
— [Scientific American \(Mar 22, 2011\)](#)

599. **podium** 

a platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Leyva beamed as he stood atop the **podium**, nodding as the American flag was raised and "The Star-Spangled Banner" played in his honor.
— [New York Times \(Oct 22, 2011\)](#)

600. **dearth** 

an insufficient quantity or number

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

A continuing **dearth** of snow in many U.S. spots usually buried by this time of year has turned life upside down.
— [Washington Post \(Jan 5, 2012\)](#)

601. **granary** 

a storehouse for threshed grain or animal feed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Here is where he does his husking, and the "clear com" produced is stored away in some underground **granary** till it is needed.
— [Seton, Ernest Thompson](#)

602. **whet** 

make keen or more acute

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

While he described the fishing as "pretty good," the silver salmon running in the creek only **whetted** his appetite to return to Alaska.
— [Washington Post \(Aug 17, 2011\)](#)

603. **imposture**

pretending to be another person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He got somebody to prosecute him for false pretences and **imposture**, on the ground that Madame was a man.*

— [Leland, Charles Godfrey](#)

604. **diadem**

an ornamental jeweled headdress signifying sovereignty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I dethrone monarchs and the people rejoicing crown me instead, showering **diadems** upon my head.*

— [Tilney, Frederick Colin](#)

605. **fallow**

undeveloped but potentially useful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Several new prostate cancer drugs have been approved in the last couple of years, after a long **fallow** period, and others are in advanced development.*

— [New York Times \(Nov 3, 2011\)](#)

606. **hubbub**

loud confused noise from many sources

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There was some good-humoured pushing and thrusting, the drum beating and the church bells jangling bravely above the **hubbub**.*

— [Weyman, Stanley J.](#)

607. **dispassionate**

unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The commission sitting by, judicial, **dispassionate**, presided with cold dignity over the sacrifice, and pronounced it good.*

— [Candee, Helen Churchill Hungerford, Mrs.](#)

608. **harrowing**

extremely painful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Belgium found itself in turmoil as hundreds of people came forward to offer **harrowing** accounts of abuse over several decades.*

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

609. **askance**

with suspicion or disapproval

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

A secret marriage in these days would be looked upon **askance** by most people.

— [Wood, Mrs. Henry](#)

610. **lancet**

a surgical knife with a pointed double-edged blade; used for punctures and small incisions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His left arm was held by the second physician, while the chief surgeon bent over it, **lancet** in hand.

— [Hay, Marie, Hon. \(Agnes Blanche Marie\)](#)

611. **rankle**

gnaw into; make resentful or angry

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He was feeling more like himself now, though the memory of the bully's sneering words **rankled**.

— [Chadwick, Lester](#)

612. **ramify**

have or develop complicating consequences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Cometary science has **ramified** in unexpected ways during the last hundred years.

— [Various](#)

613. **gainsay**

take exception to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

That Whitman entertained a genuine affection for men and women is, of course, too obvious to be **gainsaid**.

— [Rickett, Arthur](#)

614. **polity**

a politically organized unit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

China needs a **polity** that can address its increasingly sophisticated society, and to achieve that there must be political reform, Mr. Sun said.

— [New York Times \(Mar 21, 2012\)](#)

615. **credence**

the mental attitude that something is believable and should be accepted as true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Well-known brand names that promote new products receive more **credence** than newcomers that people don't know about."

— [US News \(Oct 6, 2010\)](#)

616. **indemnify** ✓

make amends for; pay compensation for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She put her affairs in order and left instructions that those whom she had unwittingly wronged should be **indemnified** out of her private fortune.*

— [Butler, Pierce](#)

617. **ingratiate** ✓

gain favor with somebody by deliberate efforts

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He became kindly and coaxing, leaning across the table with an **ingratiating** smile.*

— [King, Basil](#)

618. **declivity** ✓

a downward slope or bend

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In this frightful condition, the hunter grappled with the raging beast, and, struggling for life, they rolled together down a steep **declivity**.*

— [Goodrich, Samuel G. \(Samuel Griswold\)](#)

619. **importunate** ✓

expressing earnest entreaty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The young man was then passionately **importunate** in the protestations of his love.*

— [Barr, Amelia Edith Huddleston](#)

620. **passe** ✓

out of fashion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*My friend is very keen on the new crowd; everything else he declares is " **passe**."*

— [Holliday, Robert Cortes](#)

621. **whittle** ✓

cut small bits or pare shavings from

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tad followed, **whittling** on a stick with his knife and kicking at the shavings as they fell.*

— [Kjelgaard, James Arthur](#)

622. **repine** ✓

express discontent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Those poor fellows above, accustomed to the wild freshness and freedom of the sea, how they must mourn and **repine**!*

— [O'Shea, John Augustus](#)

623. **flay**

strip the skin off

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Once at the moose and hastily **flaying** the hide from the steaming meat my attention became centered on the task.

— [Sinclair, Bertrand W.](#)

624. **larder**

a small storeroom for storing foods or wines

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Mr. Goncalves's **larder** holds staples like beefsteak, salt cod, sardines, olives, artichokes, hot and sweet peppers and plenty of garlic.

— [New York Times \(Feb 18, 2011\)](#)

625. **threadbare**

having the nap worn away so that the threads show through

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

They were all poor folk, wrapped in **threadbare** cloaks or tattered leather.

— [Brackett, Leigh Douglass](#)

626. **grisly**

shockingly repellent; inspiring horror

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Television video showed a heavily damaged building and a **grisly** scene inside, with clothing and prayer mats scattered across a blood-splattered floor.

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

627. **untoward**

not in keeping with accepted standards of what is right or proper in polite society

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Responding to criticism that cash payments are a classic means of tax evasion, he said he had done nothing **untoward**.

— [New York Times \(Aug 2, 2011\)](#)

628. **idiosyncrasy**

a behavioral attribute that is distinctive and peculiar to an individual

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

One of his well-known **idiosyncrasies** was that he would never allow himself to be photographed.

— [Le Queux, William](#)

629. **quip**

make jokes or quips

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"I could have joined the FBI in a shorter period of time and with less documentation than it took to get that mortgage," she **quipped**.

— [Reuters \(Oct 13, 2010\)](#)

630. **blatant** ✓

without any attempt at concealment; completely obvious

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

There was no **blatant** display of wealth, and every article of furniture bore signs of long though careful use.

— [Bull, Charles Livingston](#)

631. **stanch** ✓

stop the flow of a liquid

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She did not attempt to **stanch** her tears, but sat looking at him with a smiling mouth, while the heavy drops fell down her cheeks.

— [Stockley, Cynthia](#)

632. **incongruity** ✓

the quality of disagreeing; being unsuitable and inappropriate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hanging out wet clothes and an American flag at the North Pole seemed an amusing **incongruity**.

— [Cook, Frederick A.](#)

633. **perfidious** ✓

tending to betray; especially having a treacherous character as attributed to the Carthaginians by the Romans

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The **perfidious** Italian at length confessed that it was his intention to murder his master, and then rob the house.

— [Billingshurst, Percy J.](#)

634. **platitude** ✓

a trite or obvious remark

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But details are fuzzy and rebel leaders often resort to **platitudes** when dismissing suggestions of discord, saying simply that "Libya is one tribe."

— [Wall Street Journal \(Jun 20, 2011\)](#)

635. **revelry** ✓

unrestrained merrymaking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But all this **revelry** — dancing, drinks, exuberant youth — can be hard to manage.

— [New York Times \(Jun 3, 2010\)](#)

636. **delve**

turn up, loosen, or remove earth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*So she did what any reporter would do: she **delved** into the scientific literature and talked to investigators.*

— [New York Times \(Dec 27, 2010\)](#)

637. **extenuate**

lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or extent of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Prosecutors often spend time weighing mitigating and **extenuating** circumstances before deciding to seek the death penalty.*

— [Washington Post \(Oct 15, 2011\)](#)

638. **polemic**

a controversy (especially over a belief or dogma)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Would it be a **polemic** that denounced Western imperialism for using cinema to undermine emerging nations like Kazakhstan?*

— [New York Times \(Oct 4, 2010\)](#)

639. **enrapture**

hold spellbound

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I was delighted, **enraptured**, beside myself—the world had disappeared in an instant.*

— [Spielhagen, Friedrich](#)

640. **virtuoso**

someone who is dazzlingly skilled in any field

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Each of the seven instrumentalists was a **virtuoso** in his own right and had ample opportunity to prove it, often in long, soulful solos.*

— [New York Times \(May 3, 2010\)](#)

641. **glower**

look angry or sullen, wrinkle one's forehead, as if to signal disapproval

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A moment later he would collapse, sit **glowering** in his chair, looking angrily at the carpet.*

— [Hecht, Ben](#)

642. **mundane**

found in the ordinary course of events

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Now, it would seem, that the Chinese are getting back to their everyday concerns, paying attention

to events more **mundane** and less cataclysmic.

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

643. **fatuous**



devoid of intelligence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They're too stupid, for one thing; they go on burning houses and breaking windows in their old **fatuous** way.*

— [McKenna, Stephen](#)

644. **incorrigible**



impervious to correction by punishment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She scolded and lectured her sister in vain; Cynthia was **incorrigible**.*

— [Various](#)

645. **postulate**



maintain or assert

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In fact, when Einstein formulated his cosmological vision, based on his theory of gravitation, he **postulated** that the universe was finite.*

— [Scientific American \(Jul 26, 2011\)](#)

646. **gist**



the central meaning or theme of a speech or literary work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The syntax was a little off, even comical at times, but I got the **gist** of what was going on.*

— [Time \(May 6, 2010\)](#)

647. **vociferous**



conspicuously and offensively loud; given to vehement outcry

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The complaints grew so loud and **vociferous** that even President Obama was forced to address the backlash from Lisbon on Saturday.*

— [New York Times \(Nov 23, 2010\)](#)

648. **purvey**



supply with provisions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And we will agree also to **purvey** food for these horses and people during nine months.*

— [Villehardouin, Geoffroi de](#)

649. **baleful**



deadly or sinister

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"But he is dead," put in Fanning, wondering at the **baleful** expression of hatred that had come into the man's face.

— [Burnham, Margaret](#)

650. **gibe**



laugh at with contempt and derision

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

So much did their taunts prey upon him that he ran away from school to escape their **gibes**.

— [Hubbard, Elbert](#)

651. **dyspeptic**



irritable as if suffering from indigestion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

One may begin with heroic renunciations and end in undignified envy and **dyspeptic** comments outside the door one has slammed on one's self.

— [Wells, H. G. \(Herbert George\)](#)

652. **prude**



a person excessively concerned about propriety and decorum

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Criticising high-profile programmes about teenage sex education often means risking being written off as a **prude**.

— [The Guardian \(Feb 11, 2011\)](#)

653. **luminary**



a celebrity who is an inspiration to others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Founded in 1947, the group's members have included such **luminaries** as Walt Disney, Spencer Tracy and another American president, Ronald Reagan.

— [Seattle Times \(Apr 11, 2011\)](#)

654. **amenable**



disposed or willing to comply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He, Jean Boulot, being so **amenable** to sensible argument, would at once fall in with his views.

— [Wingfield, Lewis](#)

655. **willful**



habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

I crossed my arms like a **willful** child.

— [New York Times \(Aug 18, 2011\)](#)

656. **overbearing** ✓

having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"True; but—" "Just so," interrupted Mr. Fauntleroy, in his decisive and rather **overbearing** manner.

— [Wood, Mrs. Henry](#)

657. **dais** ✓

a platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The throne was elevated on a **dais** of silver steps.

— [Tracy, Louis](#)

658. **automate** ✓

make automatic or control or operate automatically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And because leap seconds are needed irregularly their insertion cannot be **automated**, which means that fallible humans must insert them by hand.

— [Economist \(Jan 12, 2012\)](#)

659. **enervate** ✓

weaken mentally or morally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The reviewers have **enervated** men's minds, and made them indolent; few think for themselves.

— [Rossetti, William Michael](#)

660. **wheedle** ✓

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

On one level, I expected incessant flattery in attempts to **wheedle** equipment or even money from American forces.

— [New York Times \(Aug 16, 2010\)](#)

661. **gusto** ✓

vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The audience, surprisingly large given the inclement weather, responded with **gusto**, applauding each song, including those within the Shostakovich cycle.

— [New York Times \(Mar 2, 2010\)](#)

662. **bouillon** ✓

a clear seasoned broth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The meat soups are called broths, **bouillon**, or consomme, according to their richness.*

— [Ronald. Mary](#)

663. **omniscient**



infinitely wise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Robbe-Grillet responds that his work is in fact far less objective than the godlike, **omniscient** narrator who presides over so many traditional novels.*

— [The Guardian \(May 13, 2010\)](#)

664. **apostate**



not faithful to religion or party or cause

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are atheist conservatives — Mr. Khan an **apostate** to his family's Islamic faith, Ms. Mac Donald to her left-wing education.*

— [New York Times \(Feb 18, 2011\)](#)

665. **carriion**



the dead and rotting body of an animal; unfit for human food

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Habitually his diet is not carnivorous, but he will eat at times either **carriion** or living flesh.*

— [Reid. Mayne](#)

666. **emolument**



compensation received by virtue of holding an office or having employment (usually in the form of wages or fees)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As the TUC has pointed out, those incomes — except for senior executives, whose **emoluments** seem to know few bounds — are rising more slowly than prices.*

— [The Guardian \(Jan 8, 2011\)](#)

667. **ungainly**



lacking grace in movement or posture

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thomas looked up furtively and saw that an **ungainly** human figure with crooked legs was being led into the church.*

— [Gogol. Nikolai Vasilievich](#)

668. **impiety**



unrighteousness by virtue of lacking respect for a god

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That, however, is unbelief, extreme **impiety**, and a denial of the most high God.*

— [Bente. F. \(Friedrich\)](#)

669. **decadence** 

the state of being degenerate in mental or moral qualities

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But there are people who really do not want to import what they regard as Western **decadence**, especially public drunkenness.*
— [BBC \(Jun 11, 2011\)](#)

670. **homily** 

a sermon on a moral or religious topic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In his New Year's **homily**, the pope said "words were not enough" to bring about peace, particularly in the Middle East.*
— [Reuters \(Jan 2, 2011\)](#)

671. **avocation** 

an auxiliary activity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Unlike many retired doctors, whom he says often have no life outside their profession, he always knew sailing would become his **avocation**.*
— [Newsweek \(Nov 17, 2010\)](#)

672. **circumvent** 

avoid or try to avoid fulfilling, answering, or performing (duties, questions, or issues)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Bloomberg said he would take several steps to **circumvent** obstacles to his proposals posed by city labor unions.*
— [New York Times \(Jan 12, 2012\)](#)

673. **syllogism** 

deductive reasoning in which a conclusion is derived from two premises

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The conclusions arrived at by means of **syllogisms** are irresistible, provided the form be correct and the premises be true.*
— [Webster, W. F. \(William Franklin\)](#)

674. **collation** 

assembling in proper numerical or logical sequence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the case of early printed books or manuscripts, which are often not paged, special knowledge is needed for their **collation**.*
— [Rooke, Noel](#)

675. **haggle** 

wrangle (over a price, terms of an agreement, etc.)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Obama said while officials can **haggle** over the makeup of spending cuts, the policy issues have no place in the measure.

— [BusinessWeek \(Apr 6, 2011\)](#)

676. **waylay** ✓

wait in hiding to attack

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Sir Samuel Clithering was not, of course, a member of it; but he lurked about outside and **waylaid** us as we went in.

— [Birmingham, George A.](#)

677. **savant** ✓

someone who has been admitted to membership in a scholarly field

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Frank had studied something of almost everything and imagined himself a **savant**.

— [Roussel, John](#)

678. **cohort** ✓

a group of people having approximately the same age

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The current **cohort** of college students is, as many have pointed out, the first truly digital generation.

— [Washington Post \(Dec 1, 2011\)](#)

679. **unction** ✓

excessive but superficial compliments given with affected charm

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"You couldn't ask too much of me," he returned, with no **unction** of flattery, but the cheerfully frank expression of an ingenuous heart.

— [Ogden, George W. \(George Washington\)](#)

680. **adjure** ✓

command solemnly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"I **adjure** thee," she said, "swear to me that you will never go near those Christians again or read their books."

— [Pennell, T. L. \(Theodore Leighton\)](#)

681. **acrimony** ✓

a rough and bitter manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Relations with India have been slowly improving, although talks ended in **acrimony** last July with the two sides indulging in a public spat over Kashmir.

— [BBC \(Feb 10, 2011\)](#)

682. **clarion**

loud and clear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"He has been the single, **clarion** voice for commuter rail in central Florida for 20 years," said Mayor Ken Bradley of Winter Park.*

— [New York Times \(Jun 27, 2011\)](#)

683. **turbid**

(of liquids) clouded as with sediment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The thick **turbid** sea rolled in, casting up mire and dirt from its depths.*

— [Reynolds, Mrs. Baillie](#)

684. **cupidity**

extreme greed for material wealth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Well educated, but very corrupt at heart, he found in his insatiable **cupidity** many ways of gaining money.*

— [Kraszewski, Jozef Ignacy](#)

685. **disaffected**

discontented as toward authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The financial crisis, largely caused by banker incompetence, has created legions of **disaffected** customers.*

— [Forbes \(Sep 15, 2011\)](#)

686. **preternatural**

surpassing the ordinary or normal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In fact, they regarded the Spaniards as superior beings endowed with **preternatural** gifts.*

— [Gilson, Jewett Castello](#)

687. **eschew**

avoid and stay away from deliberately; stay clear of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Morrissey is among those seniors who are **eschewing** nursing homes in favor of independent living.*

— [Washington Post \(Mar 23, 2012\)](#)

688. **expatiate**

add details, as to an account or idea; clarify the meaning of and discourse in a learned way, usually in writing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He then **expatiated** on his own miseries, which he detailed at full length.

— [Manzoni, Alessandro](#)

689. **didactic**



instructive (especially excessively)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Let us have a book so full of good illustrations that **didactic** instruction shall not be needed.

— [Various](#)

690. **rancor**



a feeling of deep and bitter anger and ill-will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The current session of Parliament has so far produced only **rancor**, as opposition parties have shut down proceedings with angry, theatrical protests against corruption.

— [New York Times \(Aug 14, 2011\)](#)

691. **sinuous**



curved or curving in and out

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In origami parlance, Mr. Joisel was a wet-folder, dampening his paper so that he could coax it into **sinuous** curves.

— [New York Times \(Oct 20, 2010\)](#)

692. **puissant**



powerful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The ship was not fighting now, but yielding—a complacent leviathan held captive by a most **puissant** and ruthless enemy.

— [Tracy, Louis](#)

693. **homespun**



characteristic of country life

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His rural, **homespun** demeanor ordinarily might elicit snickers from India's urban elite.

— [New York Times \(Aug 18, 2011\)](#)

694. **embroil**



force into some kind of situation, condition, or course of action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But Mr. Marbury, often **embroiled** in controversy during his N.B.A. days, seems to have found some measure of peace in China.

— [New York Times \(Apr 1, 2012\)](#)

695. **pathological**

caused by or evidencing a mentally disturbed condition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Fixated individuals" — mentally ill people with a **pathological** focus on someone, often a stranger
— make up the first group.
— [Time \(Apr 26, 2011\)](#)

696. **libretto**

the words of an opera or musical play

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In many great operas, composers have had to whittle down an epic literary work into a suitable **libretto**.
— [New York Times \(Mar 6, 2010\)](#)

697. **flail**

move like a flail; thresh about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Exercise is prescribed, but when she joins an aqua aerobics class, she **flails** embarrassingly.
— [New York Times \(Apr 12, 2012\)](#)

698. **bandy**

discuss lightly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hillary Clinton's name has been **bandied** about, but she's made it clear she's not interested.
— [Time \(Mar 20, 2012\)](#)

699. **gratis**

costing nothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Would you admit them **gratis**?" asked Mr. Castlemaine with a smile, "or would they have to pay, like ordinary residents in an hotel?"
— [Hocking, Joseph](#)

700. **upshot**

a phenomenon that follows and is caused by some previous phenomenon

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The inevitable **upshot** of their growing social power was that brands wanted an expanded visual presence.
— [The Guardian \(Jul 27, 2010\)](#)

701. **aphorism**

a short pithy instructive saying

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

General Sherman's famous **aphorism** that "War is Hell," has become classic.

— [Fletcher, Samuel H.](#)

702. **redoubtable**



worthy of respect or honor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Captain Miles Standish was a **redoubtable** soldier, small in person, but of great activity and courage.*

— [Mann, Henry](#)

703. **corpulent**



excessively fat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Obesity is very common, but chiefly among the women, who while still quite young often become enormously **corpulent**.*

— [D'Anvers, N.](#)

704. **benighted**



lacking enlightenment or knowledge or culture

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I alone was magnificently and absurdly aware—everyone else was **benightedly** out of it.*

— [James, Henry](#)

705. **sententious**



abounding in or given to pompous or aphoristic moralizing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He is the village wise man; very **sententious**; and full of profound remarks on shallow subjects.*

— [Irving, Washington](#)

706. **paraphernalia**



equipment consisting of miscellaneous articles needed for a particular operation or sport etc.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It's outfitted with cricket bats and other antique sports **paraphernalia**.*

— [Seattle Times \(Sep 27, 2011\)](#)

707. **vitiate**



make imperfect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His talent in writing is **vitiated** by his affectation and other faults.*

— [Blair, Emma Helen](#)

708. **adulation**



servile flattery; exaggerated and hypocritical praise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And celebrities get all this **adulation** for something that is not about character, it's about talent.
— [Salon \(Jan 10, 2011\)](#)

709. **quaff**

to swallow hurriedly or greedily or in one draught

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Meanwhile the officers under the tree had got served, and, cups in hand, were **quaffing** joyously.
— [Reid, Mayne](#)

710. **unassuming**

not arrogant or presuming

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Par's conduct after his most heroic actions was thoroughly modest and **unassuming**.
— [Greely, Adolphus W.](#)

711. **libertine**

a dissolute person; usually a man who is morally unrestrained

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Still, Mr. Awlaki was neither among the most conservative Muslim students nor among the **libertines** who tossed aside religious restrictions on drinking and sex.
— [New York Times \(May 8, 2010\)](#)

712. **maul**

injure badly by beating

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hundreds of concert goers were **mauled** as they left by what The New York Times called "bands of roving youths."
— [New York Times \(Aug 17, 2011\)](#)

713. **adage**

a condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

So he focuses on the fans and embraces the **adage**, "Living well is the best revenge."
— [New York Times \(Mar 25, 2011\)](#)

714. **expostulation**

the act of expressing earnest opposition or protest

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He even believed he saw visions with his own bodily eyes, and no **expostulations** of his friends could drive this belief out of his head.
— [Hoffmann, E. T. A. \(Ernst Theodor Amadeus\)](#)

715. **tawdry**

tastelessly showy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was a **tawdry** affair, all Cupids and cornucopias, like a third-rate wedding cake.*

— [Wilde, Oscar](#)

716. **trite**

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The subject—a deathbed scene—might seem at first sight to be a **trite** and common one.*

— [Lancey, Magdalene de](#)

717. **hireling**

a person who works only for money

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Why should I?—a mere police detective, who had been hired to do a service and paid for it like any other **hireling**.*

— [Hanshew, Thomas W.](#)

718. **ensconce**

fix firmly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Though she is firmly **ensconced** in a writing career, Ms. Freud, 48, said that in the early days she missed acting terribly.*

— [New York Times \(Oct 30, 2011\)](#)

719. **egregious**

conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"These offenses are very serious, even **egregious**," the judge said.*

— [Washington Post \(Sep 12, 2011\)](#)

720. **cogent**

powerfully persuasive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His thesis was too **cogent**, and appealed too powerfully to all classes of the Upper Canada community, to be anything but irresistible.*

— [Morison, J. L. \(John Lyle\)](#)

721. **incisive**

having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A half-hour of informed and **incisive** questioning by Mr. Russert would have demolished Mr. Trump.*

— [New York Times \(May 1, 2011\)](#)

722. **errant** 

straying from the right course or from accepted standards

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As the crowd voiced its displeasure, the referees made sure Wisconsin got the ball, but pass was **errant** and rolled out of bounds at midcourt.*

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 28, 2012\)](#)

723. **sedulous** 

marked by care and persistent effort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

***Sedulous** attention and painstaking industry always mark the true worker.*

— [Calhoun, Major A.R.](#)

724. **incandescent** 

characterized by ardent emotion or intensity or brilliance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Kirkwood's anger cooled apace; at worst it had been a flare of passion— **incandescent**.*

— [Vance, Louis Joseph](#)

725. **derelict** 

in deplorable condition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Others are clustered under a tin awning by a **derelict** railway station or in similarly run-down school buildings.*

— [Time \(Jan 5, 2011\)](#)

726. **entomology** 

the branch of zoology that studies insects

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From the department of **entomology** you expect to learn something about the troublesome insects, which are so universal an annoyance.*

— [Latham, A. W.](#)

727. **execrable** 

unequivocally detestable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But minds were so overexcited at the time that the parties mutually accused each other, on all occasions, of the most **execrable** crimes.*

— [Imbert de Saint-Amand, Arthur Léon, baron](#)

728. **sluice** 

pour as if from a sluice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

At 4:15 p.m., as the rain was **sluicing** off roofs in sheets, the firemen moved the trucks to higher ground.

— [New York Times \(Aug 31, 2011\)](#)

729. **moot**



of no legal significance (as having been previously decided)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The statement from Hermitage said even in the Soviet period no defendant had been tried after death, when charges were generally considered **moot**.

— [New York Times \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)

730. **evanescent**



tending to vanish like vapor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Time seems stopped but it is moving on, and every glimmer of light is **evanescent**, flitting.

— [The Guardian \(Apr 15, 2010\)](#)

731. **vat**



a large open vessel for holding or storing liquids

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The cream remains in the large **vat** about twenty-four hours before it is churned.

— [Chamberlain, James Franklin](#)

732. **dapper**



marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Thoroughly **dapper**, he took off his black-and-white pinstriped suit jacket — with its pocket-square flair — and weaved in and out among them, his voice ever rising.

— [New York Times \(Jan 22, 2011\)](#)

733. **asperity**



harshness of manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

All this proceeds from the old man, whose proper character it is to be angry and bitter, and to exhibit rancor and **asperity**.

— [Arndt, Johann](#)

734. **flair**



a natural talent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In fact, while Lamarr qualified as an inventive genius for her artistic **flair**, she fell somewhat short on her scientific acumen.

— [Slate \(Nov 28, 2011\)](#)

735. **mote** ✓

(nontechnical usage) a tiny piece of anything

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He took his discharge out of his pocket, brushed every **mote** of dust from the table, and spread the document before their eyes.*

— [Auerbach, Berthold](#)

736. **circumspect** ✓

heedful of potential consequences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Obama administration officials argue that new regulations are forcing insurers to be more **circumspect** about raising rates.*

— [New York Times \(Sep 27, 2011\)](#)

737. **inimical** ✓

not friendly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Hindu idea is that so long as justice and equity characterise a king's rule, even beasts naturally **inimical** are disposed to live in friendship.*

— [Kingscote, Mrs. Howard](#)

738. **apropos** ✓

of an appropriate or pertinent nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I found myself thinking vaguely about things that were not at all **apropos** to the situation.*

— [Stockley, Cynthia](#)

739. **gruel** ✓

a thin porridge (usually oatmeal or cornmeal)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He says, keep them on just two pints of Indian-meal **gruel**—by which he appears to mean thin hasty pudding—a day, and no more.*

— [Alcott, William A. \(William Andrus\)](#)

740. **gentility** ✓

elegance by virtue of fineness of manner and expression

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This was no rough bully of the seas; Carew's bearing and dandified apparel bespoke **gentility**.*

— [Springer, Norman](#)

741. **disapprobation** ✓

an expression of strong disapproval; pronouncing as wrong or morally culpable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Mr Ruthven snook his neea and deciared that ne regaraea the conduct of ner persecutors with grave moral **disapprobation**.

— [Wheeler, E.J.](#)

742. **cameo**



engraving or carving in low relief on a stone (as in a brooch or ring)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The trinket was a small round **cameo** cut out of mother-of-pearl and set in gold; it represented St. George and the dragon.

— [J?kai, M?r](#)

743. **gouge**



obtain by coercion or intimidation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Shortages also have raised concerns about higher prices and **gouging** by wholesale drug companies that obtain supplies of hard-to-get drugs and jack up the costs.

— [Seattle Times \(Jan 20, 2012\)](#)

744. **oratorio**



a musical composition for voices and orchestra based on a religious text

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Mendelssohn had no sooner completed his first **oratorio**, "St. Paul," than he began to think about setting another Bible story to music.

— [Edwards, Frederick George](#)

745. **inclement**



(of weather or climate) severe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Be prepared for **inclement** weather and possible ice and snow on park roads.

— [Seattle Times \(Oct 16, 2011\)](#)

746. **scintilla**



a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Gardner "never expressed one **scintilla** of remorse for his attack upon the victim" despite overwhelming evidence, prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memo.

— [Salon \(Mar 3, 2010\)](#)

747. **confluence**



a flowing together

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And indeed, before the 13th century, there was an extraordinary **confluence** of genius and innovation, particularly around Baghdad.

— [New York Times \(Dec 28, 2010\)](#)

748. **squalor**

sordid dirtiness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*What can be expected of human beings, crowded in such miserable habitations, living in filth and **squalor**, and often pinched with hunger?*

— [Field, Henry M. \(Henry Martyn\)](#)

749. **stricture**

severe criticism

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While gratefully accepting the generous praises of our friends, we must briefly reply to some **strictures** by our critics.*

— [Stanton, Elizabeth Cady](#)

750. **emblazon**

decorate with heraldic arms

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His coat of arms was **emblazoned** on the cover.*

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

751. **augury**

an event that is experienced as indicating important things to come

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This is always an encouraging sign, and an **augury** of success.*

— [Alger, Horatio](#)

752. **abut**

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It depicts a mountain landscape near Kingston, a historic town **abutting** the Hudson River.*

— [New York Times \(Jan 8, 2010\)](#)

753. **banal**

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Highly dramatic incidents are juxtaposed with comparatively **banal** ones; particular attention is given to tales of doomed love affairs.*

— [New York Times \(Dec 4, 2011\)](#)

754. **congeal**

become gelatinous

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Boil down the syrup to half its original quantity, but take care that it does not boil long enough to **congeal** or become thick.*

— [Baru?, Sulpice](#)

755. **pilfer**

make off with belongings of others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Many young people scavenge for reusable garbage, living on proceeds from **pilfered** construction material and other recyclables.

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)

756. **sublimate**

direct energy or urges into useful activities

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

They might instead have passionate friendships, or **sublimate** their urges into other pursuits.

— [New York Times \(Jun 4, 2010\)](#)

757. **malcontent**

a person who is discontented or disgusted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Now, unfortunately, some **malcontents** among the hands here have spread their ideas, and a strike has been called.

— [Maitland, Robert](#)

758. **eugenic**

pertaining to or causing improvement in the offspring produced

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Eugenics was aimed at creating a better society by filtering out people considered undesirable, ranging from criminals to those imprecisely designated as “feeble-minded.”

— [Washington Post \(Aug 1, 2011\)](#)

759. **lineament**

the characteristic parts of a person's face: eyes and nose and mouth and chin

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The tears stood in Muriel's eyes, and her face was very pale, but serenity marked every **lineament**.

— [Davidson, John](#)

760. **firebrand**

someone who deliberately foments trouble

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But Hassan is not some teenage **firebrand** hurling rocks; he's a slight, graying scholar committed to peace.

— [New York Times \(Jun 9, 2011\)](#)

761. **fiasco**

a sudden and violent collapse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Stuttgart protests became a national **fiasco** in late September, when protesters clashed with police wielding batons and water cannons.*

— [Newsweek \(Dec 14, 2010\)](#)

762. **foolhardy**



marked by defiant disregard for danger or consequences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many mistakes—extravagant purchases, **foolhardy** investments—are made in the first months after a windfall.*

— [Wall Street Journal \(Feb 24, 2012\)](#)

763. **retrench**



tighten one's belt; use resources carefully

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But there was only one way open to me at present—and that was to **retrench** my expenses.*

— [Caine, Hall, Sir](#)

764. **ulterior**



lying beyond what is openly revealed or avowed (especially being kept in the background or deliberately concealed)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shop window displays may help prettify shopping thoroughfares, but any savvy retailer has the **ulterior** motive of self promotion.*

— [BBC \(Feb 3, 2010\)](#)

765. **equable**



not varying

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His must have been that calm, **equable** temperament not easily ruffled, which goes with the self-respecting nature.*

— [Hurl, Estelle M. \(Estelle May\)](#)

766. **inured**



made tough by habitual exposure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But he had become **inured** to the rush and whirr of missiles, and now paid no heed whatever to them.*

— [Mitford, Bertram](#)

767. **invidious**



containing or implying a slight or showing prejudice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"After an old-fashioned, all-round team performance ... it might seem **invidious** to single out one player," admits the paper before singling out one player.*

— [The Guardian \(Jun 24, 2010\)](#)

768. **unmitigated**

not diminished or moderated in intensity or severity; sometimes used as an intensifier

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In order to be well directed, sympathy must consider all men, and not the individual alone; only then is it an **unmitigated** good.*

— [Williams, C. M.](#)

769. **concomitant**

an event or situation that happens at the same time as or in connection with another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The conclusion must be drawn that every epidemic of bubonic plague is caused by the **concomitant** rat plague.*

— [Scientific American \(Jan 21, 2011\)](#)

770. **cozen**

cheat or trick

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Dicing-houses, where cheaters meet, and **cozen** young men out of their money.*

— [Various](#)

771. **phlegmatic**

showing little emotion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Humanity, when surfeited with emotion, becomes calm, almost **phlegmatic**.*

— [Tracy, Louis](#)

772. **dormer**

a gabled extension built out from a sloping roof to accommodate a vertical window

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Other features, such as the front French doors and two roof **dormers** with curved-top windows and operable shutters, give this home a pleasing, well-balanced presence.*

— [Southern Living \(Apr 14, 2010\)](#)

773. **disport**

occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Straightway the glade in which they sat was filled with knights, ladies, maidens, and esquires, who danced and **disported** themselves right joyously.*

— [Spence, Lewis](#)

774. **pontifical**

denoting or governed by or relating to a bishop or bishops

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The high priest made no resistance, but went forth in his **pontifical** robes, followed by the people in white garments, to meet the mighty warrior.

— [Lord, John](#)

775. **apologist** 

a person who argues to defend or justify some policy or institution

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Tories, and **apologists** for Great Britain, have written much about a justification for this action, but there is no real justification.

— [Barce, Elmore](#)

776. **abeyance** 

temporary cessation or suspension

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

My feelings of home-sickness had returned with redoubled strength after being long in **abeyance**.

— [Boldrewood, Rolf](#)

777. **enclave** 

an enclosed territory that is culturally distinct from the foreign territory that surrounds it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And its suburban schools, rather than being exclusive **enclaves**, include children whose parents can't afford a house in the neighborhood.

— [Washington Post \(Jan 11, 2011\)](#)

778. **improvident** 

not provident; not providing for the future

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He was industrious but **improvident**; he made money and he lost it.

— [Hubbard, Elbert](#)

779. **disquisition** 

an elaborate analytical or explanatory essay or discussion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Cumulatively, what emerges from *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a thoughtful **disquisition** that encompasses – and goes beyond – the question of racial bias at its worst.

— [The Guardian \(Jul 9, 2010\)](#)

780. **categorical** 

not modified or restricted by reservations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"European leaders were united, **categorical** and crystal clear: Gaddafi must go," British Prime Minister David Cameron said.

— [Time \(Mar 12, 2011\)](#)

781. **redolent** 

serving to bring to mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Here, however, are congregated a vast number of curious and interesting objects, while the place is **redolent** of vivid historical associations.*

— [Ballou, Maturin Murray](#)

782. **felicitous** 

exhibiting an agreeably appropriate manner or style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The first book is the finest, sparkling with **felicitous** expressions and rising frequently to true poetry.*

— [Dennis, John](#)

783. **gusty** 

blowing in puffs or short intermittent blasts

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Winds could get **gusty**, occasionally blowing at more than 30 miles per hour.*

— [Reuters \(Mar 29, 2011\)](#)

784. **natty** 

marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He wore a checked suit, very **natty**, and was more than usually tall and fine-looking.*

— [Green, Anna Katharine](#)

785. **pacifist** 

opposed to war

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was, furthermore, a real **pacifist**, believing that war is debasing morally and disastrous economically.*

— [Seymour, Charles](#)

786. **buxom** 

(of a female body) healthily plump and vigorous

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mrs. Connelly—a round, rosy, **buxom** Irishwoman, with a mellow voice, laughing eye, and artist-red hair—was very much taken with their plan.*

— [Douglas, Amanda Minnie](#)

787. **heyday** 

the period of greatest prosperity or productivity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Playboy's most popular years are well behind it - the magazine enjoyed its **heyday** in the 1970s.*

— [Washington Post \(Jan 10, 2011\)](#)

788. **herculean** ✓

displaying superhuman strength or power

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He made **herculean** efforts to get on terms with his examination subjects, and worked harder than he had ever done in his life before.*

— [Marshall, Archibald](#)

789. **burgeon** ✓

grow and flourish

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Brooklyn's **burgeoning** dining scene has even developed a following among Manhattan food lovers.*

— [Reuters \(Oct 4, 2011\)](#)

790. **crone** ✓

an ugly evil-looking old woman

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The aged **crone** wrinkled her forehead and lifted her grizzled eyebrows, still without looking at him.*

— [Myrick, Frank](#)

791. **prognosticate** ✓

make a prediction about; tell in advance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How strange it is that our dreams often **prognosticate** coming events!*

— [Huth, Alexander](#)

792. **lout** ✓

an awkward stupid person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But this question was beyond the poor **lout's** intelligence; he could only blubber and fend off possible chastisement.*

— [Williams, J. Scott \(John Scott\)](#)

793. **simper** ✓

smile affectedly or derisively

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mrs. Barnett's mouth **simpered** at the implied flattery; but her eyes, always looking calculatingly for substantial results, were studying Reedy Jenkins.*

— [Hamby, William H. \(William Henry\)](#)

794. **iniquitous** ✓

characterized by iniquity; wicked because it is believed to be a sin

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This was some piece of wickedness concocted by the venomous brain of the **iniquitous** Vicar, more abominable than all his other wickednesses.*

— [Trollope, Anthony](#)

795. **rile**



cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The prospect of seeing Ms. Palin tour Alaska's wild habitats may **rile** some people who oppose her opinions about climate change.*

— [New York Times \(Mar 25, 2010\)](#)

796. **sentient**



endowed with feeling and unstructured consciousness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The money fluttered from his hand to the floor, where it lay like a **sentient** thing, staring back as if mocking him.*

— [Hitchcock, Lucius W.](#)

797. **garish**



tastelessly showy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With its opulently **garish** sets and knee-jerk realism, the production dwarfed the cast, no matter what stars were singing.*

— [New York Times \(Jan 2, 2011\)](#)

798. **readjustment**



the act of adjusting again (to changed circumstances)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While earpieces are not uncomfortable, they do sometimes come loose, requiring **readjustment**.*

— [Slate \(Apr 17, 2012\)](#)

799. **erstwhile**



belonging to some prior time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Sony, whose **erstwhile** dominance in consumer electronics has been eroded by the likes of Samsung, could beat rivals to a potentially new generation of devices.*

— [Reuters \(May 20, 2010\)](#)

800. **aquiline**



curved down like an eagle's beak

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The nose slightly **aquiline**, curving at the nostril; while luxuriant hair, in broad plaits, fell far below her waist.*

— [Various](#)

801. **bilious** ✓

irritable as if suffering from indigestion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But his sleep had not refreshed him; he waked up **bilious**, irritable, ill-tempered, and looked with hatred at his room.*

— [Garnett, Constance](#)

802. **vilify** ✓

spread negative information about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The trial was televised and the victim's identity became known, resulting in her being **vilified** by almost the entire town.*

— [The Guardian \(Jan 19, 2011\)](#)

803. **nuance** ✓

a subtle difference in meaning or opinion or attitude

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*By working so hard to simplify things, we lose any **nuance** or ability to deal with folks' individual circumstances.*

— [Washington Post \(Oct 3, 2011\)](#)

804. **gawk** ✓

look with amazement; look stupidly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He speaks mainly of his humiliation at lying on the sidewalk as hipsters **gawked**.*

— [New York Times \(Apr 9, 2012\)](#)

805. **refectory** ✓

a communal dining-hall (usually in a monastery)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Meanwhile, the soup was getting cold in the **refectory**, so that the assembled brotherhood at last fell to, without waiting any longer for the Abbot.*

— [Scheffel, Joseph Victor von](#)

806. **palatial** ✓

suitable for or like a palace

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The house was very large; its rooms almost **palatial** in size, had been finished in richly carved hardwood panels and wainscoting, mostly polished mahogany.*

— [Hitchcock, Frederick L. \(Frederick Lyman\)](#)

807. **mincing** ✓

affectedly dainty or refined

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She went, carrying her little head very high indeed, and taking dainty, **mincing** steps.*

— [Banks, Nancy Huston](#)

808. **trenchant**



having keenness and forcefulness and penetration in thought, expression, or intellect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are written in a serio-comic tone, and for sparkling wit, **trenchant** sarcasm, and dramatic dialectics surpass anything ever penned by Lessing.*

— [Lessing, Gotthold Ephraim](#)

809. **emboss**



raise in a relief

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Requests may also be made of the stationer to use an **embossed** plate so that the letters stand out in relief.*

— [Eichler, Lillian](#)

810. **proletarian**



a member of the working class (not necessarily employed)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As yet, the true **proletarian** wage-earner, uprooted from his native village and broken away from the organization of Indian society, is but insignificant.*

— [Stoddard, Lothrop](#)

811. **careen**



pitching dangerously to one side

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I turned the steering wheel all the way to one side, and found myself **careening** backward in a violent arc.*

— [Vogel, Nancy](#)

812. **debacle**



a sound defeat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Broncos are coming off their worst season in franchise history, a 4-12 **debacle** that included issues on and off the field.*

— [Newsweek \(Jan 9, 2011\)](#)

813. **sycophant**



a person who tries to please someone in order to gain a personal advantage

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The people around the king are **sycophants** who are looking after their own personal advantage.*

— [Coffin, Charles Carleton](#)

814. **crabbed**

annoyed and irritable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He grew **crabbed** and soured, his temper flashing out on small provocation.*

— [Weyman, Stanley J.](#)

815. **archetype**

something that serves as a model or a basis for making copies

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Newport, R.I., looks like a perfect **archetype** of a small, seaside New England town.*

— [Forbes \(Nov 3, 2010\)](#)

816. **cryptic**

of an obscure nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The authorities, beyond some **cryptic** language about the death being sudden but not suspicious, have released no details.*

— [New York Times \(Aug 24, 2011\)](#)

817. **penchant**

a strong liking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But sometimes, old Wall Street habits — including a **penchant** for expensive luxuries — are hard to break.*

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

818. **bauble**

cheap showy jewelry or ornament on clothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But men were buying Valentine's **baubles** for their honeys long before the first Zales ever opened its doors in a suburban shopping mall.*

— [Slate \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)

819. **mountebank**

a flamboyant deceiver; one who attracts customers with tricks or jokes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are singularly clever, these Indian **mountebanks**, especially in sleight of hand tricks.*

— [Ballou, Maturin Murray](#)

820. **fawning**

attempting to win favor by flattery

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"As any cult leader, he was extremely good at milking the rich, at flattering and **fawning**," Ms. Gordon said.*

— [New York Times \(Apr 10, 2010\)](#)

821. hummock



a small natural hill

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Captain Bill leaned back on a **hummock** of earth, his arms folded behind his head.

— [Grayson, J. J.](#)

822. apotheosis



model of excellence or perfection of a kind; one having no equal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Contrary to popular belief, however, she said Ms. Deen's fat-laden cooking does not in fact represent the **apotheosis** of Southern cuisine.

— [New York Times \(Jan 17, 2012\)](#)

823. discretionary



(especially of funds) not earmarked; available for use as needed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Steeper prices for basic necessities have forced many to cut back on more **discretionary** purchases.

— [Washington Post \(Oct 19, 2011\)](#)

824. pithy



concise and full of meaning

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

As Moore isolated finer points of the passing game, Keller in neat penmanship jotted down **pithy** phrases and punchy quotes, basic ideas and specific concepts.

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

825. comport



behave in a certain manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Ironically, the one man on stage who did **comport** himself with dignity, John Huntsman, is now being dismissed as having not made an impact.

— [Time \(Sep 8, 2011\)](#)

826. checkered



marked by changeable fortune

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Both restaurants have **checkered** histories with the health department; they were temporarily shut down for sanitary violations that included evidence of rodents.

— [New York Times \(Aug 22, 2010\)](#)

827. **ambrosia** 

(classical mythology) the food and drink of the gods; mortals who ate it became immortal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Frieda represents the lovely goddess, Hebe, who served nectar and **ambrosia** to the high gods on Mount Olympus," she explained.

— [Vandercook, Margaret](#)

828. **factious** 

dissenting (especially dissenting with the majority opinion)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Will it be answered that we are **factious**, discontented spirits, striving to disturb the public order, and tear up the old fastnesses of society?

— [Stanton, Elizabeth Cady](#)

829. **disgorge** 

cause or allow (a solid substance) to flow or run out or over

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

There are telephone poles and cinder blocks and living room chairs and large trash bins, overturned and **disgorging** their soggy contents.

— [New York Times \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)

830. **filch** 

make off with belongings of others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Then, in place of the real site, it displays a fake site created to **filch** account numbers, login names and passwords.

— [New York Times \(Jul 13, 2010\)](#)

831. **wraith** 

a mental representation of some haunting experience

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Whichever way he turns there loom past **wraiths**, restless as ghosts of unburied Grecian slain.

— [Lee, Carson Jay](#)

832. **demonstrable** 

capable of being demonstrated or proved

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The linkage between deposits and trade is definite, causal, positive, statistically **demonstrable**.

— [Anderson, Benjamin M.](#)

833. **pertinacious** 

stubbornly unyielding

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His temper, though yielding and easy in appearance, was in reality most obstinate and

perunacious.
— [Kavanagh, Julia](#)

834. **emend** ✓

make improvements or corrections to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The following were identified as spelling or typographic errors and have been **emended** as noted.*
— [Hopper, James](#)

835. **laggard** ✓

someone who takes more time than necessary; someone who lags behind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Corporate data centers are the slowpoke **laggards** of information technology.*
— [New York Times \(Apr 10, 2012\)](#)

836. **loquacious** ✓

full of trivial conversation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Pan soon found it needful to make conversation, in order to keep the **loquacious** old stage driver from talking too much.*
— [Grey, Zane](#)

837. **waffle** ✓

pause or hold back in uncertainty or unwillingness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A few days of **waffling** back and forth and I ended up going out to a mediocre bistro with my parents.*
— [Scientific American \(Feb 8, 2011\)](#)

838. **venial** ✓

easily excused or forgiven

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The confidence of ignorance, however **venial** in youth, is not altogether so excusable, in full grown men.*
— [School, A Sexton of the Old](#)

839. **peon** ✓

a laborer who is obliged to do menial work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For the most part, the men were wiry **peons**, some toiling half naked, but there were a number who looked like prosperous citizens.*
— [Bindloss, Harold](#)

840. **effulgence** 

the quality of being bright and sending out rays of light

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Then, all at once, in a way that seemed to frighten her, the sunshine had burst the clouds, and dazzled her with its **effulgence**.*

— [Fenn, George Manville](#)

841. **lode** 

a deposit of valuable ore occurring within definite boundaries separating it from surrounding rocks

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Such local perturbations are regularly used in Sweden for tracing out the position of underground **lodes** of iron ore.*

— [Gilbert, William](#)

842. **fanfare** 

a gaudy outward display

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It opened a month ago to considerable **fanfare**, with television cameras trailing government officials meandering proudly around the bright new stores filled with imported goods.*

— [New York Times \(Aug 22, 2010\)](#)

843. **dilettante** 

showing frivolous or superficial interest; amateurish

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They dabbled in politics and art in the same **dilettante** fashion.*

— [Cannan, Gilbert](#)

844. **pusillanimous** 

lacking in courage and manly strength and resolution; contemptibly fearful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was described by his friends as **pusillanimous** to an incredible extent, timid from excess of riches, afraid of his own shadow.*

— [Motley, John Lothrop](#)

845. **ingrained** 

(used especially of ideas or principles) deeply rooted; firmly fixed or held

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The narrow prejudices of his country were **ingrained** too deeply in his character to be disturbed by any change of surroundings.*

— [Fuller, Robert H.](#)

846. **quagmire** 

a soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The heavy rain had reduced this low-lying ground to a veritable **quagmire**, making progress very difficult even for one as unburdened as he was.*

— [Putnam Weale, B. L. \(Bertram Lenox\)](#)

847. **reprobation**



severe disapproval

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Conway denounced this scheme as "utterly and flagrantly unconstitutional, as radically revolutionary in character and deserving the **reprobation** of every loyal citizen."*

— [Blaine, James Gillespie](#)

848. **mannered**



having unnatural mannerisms

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nothing was **mannered** or pretentious; the texts came through with utter naturalness.*

— [New York Times \(May 29, 2011\)](#)

849. **squeamish**



excessively fastidious and easily disgusted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But please note that this gunfire-fueled film is for mature audiences; given its content, young and/or **squeamish** viewers should avoid this one.*

— [Washington Post \(Aug 6, 2010\)](#)

850. **proclivity**



a natural inclination

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She received, under her father's supervision, a very careful education, and developed her **proclivities** for literary composition at an early age.*

— [Adams, W. H. Davenport](#)

851. **miserly**



(used of persons or behavior) characterized by or indicative of lack of generosity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Now, my uncle seemed so **miserly** that I was struck dumb by this sudden generosity, and could find no words in which to thank him.*

— [Stevenson, Robert Louis](#)

852. **vapid**



lacking significance or liveliness or spirit or zest

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How **vapid** was the talk of my remaining fellow-passengers; how slow of understanding, and how preoccupied with petty things they seemed!*

— [Dawson, A. J. \(Alec John\)](#)

853. **mercurial** 

liable to sudden unpredictable change

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Wind energy is notoriously **mercurial**, with patterns shifting drastically over the course of years, days, even minutes.

— [Scientific American \(Jan 4, 2012\)](#)

854. **perspicuous** 

(of language) transparently clear; easily understandable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The statements are plain and simple, a perfect model of **perspicuous** narrative.

— [Smith, Uriah](#)

855. **nonplus** 

be a mystery or bewildering to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

I shook my head and rushed from his presence, completely **nonplussed**, bewildered, frantic.

— [Cole, E. W. \(Edward William\)](#)

856. **enamor** 

attract; cause to be enamored

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Young Indian audiences are so **enamored** with reality television that they will not watch the soap operas and dramas that their parents or grandparents watch.

— [New York Times \(Jan 9, 2011\)](#)

857. **hackneyed** 

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Many speakers become so addicted to certain **hackneyed** phrases that those used to hearing them speak can see them coming sentences away.

— [Lewis, Arthur M. \(Arthur Morrow\)](#)

858. **spate** 

(often followed by `of') a large number or amount or extent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

French authorities are already reporting a rising **spate** of calls to emergency services by homeowners whose once-frozen water mains have now burst.

— [Time \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

859. **pedagogue** 

someone who educates young people

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His old **pedagogue**, Mr. Brownell, had been unable to teach him mathematics.

— [Pierce, H. Winthrop](#)

860. **acme**

the highest level or degree attainable; the highest stage of development

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Scientifically speaking, it is the **acme** of absurdity to talk of a man defying the law of gravitation when he lifts his arm.*

— [Huxley, Thomas H.](#)

861. **masticate**

chew (food); to bite and grind with the teeth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Food should be **masticated** quietly, and with the lips closed.*

— [Cooke, Maud C.](#)

862. **sinecure**

an office that involves minimal duties

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He would have repudiated the notion that he was looking for a **sinecure**, but no doubt considered that the duties would be easy and light.*

— [Trollope, Anthony](#)

863. **indite**

produce a literary work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She **indited** religious poems which were the admiration of the age.*

— [Brittain, Alfred](#)

864. **emetic**

a medicine that induces nausea and vomiting

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The juice of this herb, taken in ale, is esteemed a gentle and very good **emetic**, bringing on vomiting without any great irritation or pain.*

— [Smith, John Thomas](#)

865. **temporize**

draw out a discussion or process in order to gain time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*So he **temporized** and beat about the bush, and did not touch first on that which was nearest his heart.*

— [Erskine, Payne](#)

866. **unimpeachable**

beyond doubt or reproach

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Whether we agree with the conclusions of these writers or not, the method of critical investigation which they adopt is **unimpeachable**.

— [Huxley, Thomas H.](#)

867. **genesis**

a coming into being

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He found himself speculating on the **genesis** of the moral sense, how it developed in difficulties rather than in ease.

— [Miller, Alice Duer](#)

868. **mordant**

harshly ironic or sinister

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Even Morgan himself, intrepid as he was, shrank from the awful menace of the **mordant** words.

— [Crawford, Will](#)

869. **smattering**

a small number or amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Only a **smattering** of fans remained for all four ghastly quarters.

— [Washington Post \(Sep 24, 2011\)](#)

870. **suavity**

the quality of being bland and gracious or ingratiating in manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His combativeness was harnessed to his **suavity**, and he could be forcible and at the same time persuasive.

— [Windsor, William](#)

871. **stentorian**

used of the voice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

If a hundred voices shouted in opposition, his **stentorian** tones still made themselves heard above the uproar.

— [J?kai. M?](#)

872. **junket**

a trip taken by an official at public expense

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Mr. Abramoff arranged for **junkets**, including foreign golfing destinations, for the members of Congress he was trying to influence.

— [New York Times \(Feb 26, 2010\)](#)

873. **appurtenance**

a supplementary component that improves capability

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the center of this space stood a large frame building whose courtyard, stables, and other **appurtenances** proclaimed it an inn.*

— [Madison, Lucy Foster](#)

874. **nostrum**

patent medicine whose efficacy is questionable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Just here a native "medicine man" dispenses **nostrums** of doubtful efficacy, and in front a quantity of red Moorish pottery is exposed for sale.*

— [Meakin, Budgett](#)

875. **immure**

lock up or confine, in or as in a jail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Political prisoners, numbering as many as three or four hundred at a time, have been **immured** within its massive walls.*

— [Boyd, Mary Stuart](#)

876. **astrigent**

sour or bitter in taste

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There was something sharply **astrigent** about her then, like biting inadvertently into a green banana.*

— [McFee, William](#)

877. **unfaltering**

marked by firm determination or resolution; not shakable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Still **unfaltering**, the procession commenced to trudge back, the littlest boy and girl bearing themselves bravely, with lips tight pressed.*

— [Sabin, Edwin L. \(Edwin Legrand\)](#)

878. **tutelage**

attention and management implying responsibility for safety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It will do so under German leadership that grows less hesitant with each crisis, and without the American **tutelage** it enjoyed for so many decades.*

— [Newsweek \(Jan 23, 2011\)](#)

879. **testator**

a person who makes a will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

This will was drawn up by me some years since at the request of the testator, who was in good health, mentally and bodily.

— [Henty, G. A. \(George Alfred\)](#)

880. elysian



being of such surpassing excellence as to suggest inspiration by the gods

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Life seemed an **elysian** dream, from which care and sorrow must be for ever banished.*

— [Hentz, Caroline Lee](#)

881. fulminate



criticize severely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But with people looking for almost any excuse to **fulminate** against airlines these days, there's a certain risk of embellishment.*

— [Salon \(Jun 25, 2010\)](#)

882. fractious



easily irritated or annoyed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was a **fractious** invalid, and spared his wife neither time nor trouble in attending to his wants.*

— [Brazil, Angela](#)

883. pummel



strike, usually with the fist

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Another, with rubber bands wrapped tightly around his face, is **pummelled** by a plastic boxing kangaroo.*

— [The Guardian \(Jan 22, 2011\)](#)

884. manumit



free from slavery or servitude

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Moreover, **manumitted** slaves enjoyed the same rights, privileges and immunities that were enjoyed by those born free.*

— [Various](#)

885. unexceptionable



completely acceptable; not open to exception or reproach

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All cowboys are from necessity good cooks, and the fluffy, golden brown biscuits and fragrant coffee of Red's making were **unexceptionable**.*

— [Mayer, Frank](#)

886. **triumvirate** 

a group of three men responsible for public administration or civil authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This **triumvirate** approach has real benefits in terms of shared wisdom, and we will continue to discuss the big decisions among the three of us.*

— [Salon \(Jan 20, 2011\)](#)

887. **sybarite** 

a person addicted to luxury and pleasures of the senses

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was not used to travelling on omnibuses, being something of a **sybarite** who spared nothing to ensure his own comfort.*

— [Wallace, Edgar](#)

888. **jibe** 

be compatible, similar or consistent; coincide in their characteristics

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Contemporary art has never quite **jibed** with mainstream media.*

— [Salon \(Jul 6, 2010\)](#)

889. **magisterial** 

offensively self-assured or given to exercising usually unwarranted power

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Now look here," he said, making believe to take down my words and shaking his pencil at me in a **magisterial** way.*

— [Fenn, George Manville](#)

890. **roseate** 

of something having a dusty purplish pink color

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Behind the trees rough, lichened rock and stony slopes ran up to a bare ridge, silhouetted against the **roseate** glow of the morning sky.*

— [Bindloss, Harold](#)

891. **obloquy** 

a false accusation of an offense or a malicious misrepresentation of someone's words or actions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This is the real history of a transaction which, by frequent misrepresentation, has brought undeserved **obloquy** upon a generous man.*

— [Purchas, H. T. \(Henry Thomas\)](#)

892. **hoodwink** 

influence by slyness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

the stories of the saints he regarded as preposterous fables invented to hoodwink a glib and illiterate populace.

— [The Guardian \(Sep 19, 2010\)](#)

893. **striate**



mark with striae or striations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The body is **striated** with clearly defined, often depressed lines, which run longitudinally and sometimes spirally.

— [Calkins, Gary N. \(Gary Nathan\)](#)

894. **arrogate**



seize and take control without authority and possibly with force; take as one's right or possession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Japanese manufacturers were accused of **arrogating** American technologies to churn out low-cost electronics.

— [New York Times \(May 25, 2010\)](#)

895. **rarefied**



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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The debate over climate science has involved very complex physical models and **rarefied** areas of scientific knowledge.

— [New York Times \(Apr 9, 2011\)](#)

896. **chary**



characterized by great caution and wariness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

There was no independent verification of the figure; the authorities have been **chary** of releasing death tolls for fear of inflaming further violence.

— [New York Times \(Apr 24, 2011\)](#)

897. **credo**



any system of principles or beliefs

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She preferred to hang out with everyone but was best friends with no one, holding to the **credo**: "You should be nice to people."

— [New York Times \(Jan 21, 2011\)](#)

898. **superannuated**



too old to be useful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Civil servants are **superannuated** at fifty-five years of age and are sent home on a pension, seldom enjoying life longer than two years afterward.

— [Hunt, Eleonora](#)

899. **impolitic**

not politic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Bill Maher has always been a vocal critic of Islam, even at times making **impolitic** statements about the religion.

— [Salon \(Mar 16, 2011\)](#)

900. **aspersion**

a disparaging remark

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Lord Sanquhar then proceeded to deny the **aspersion** that he was an ill-natured fellow, ever revengeful, and delighting in blood.

— [Thornbury, Walter](#)

901. **abysmal**

resembling an abyss in depth; so deep as to be unmeasurable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

After all, many Americans regard this Congress as dysfunctional, with **abysmal** approval ratings.

— [New York Times \(Dec 28, 2011\)](#)

902. **poignancy**

a quality that arouses emotions (especially pity or sorrow)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

They were curious about the “near loss” experience—specifically the feelings of **poignancy** that occur when what we cherish disappears.

— [Scientific American \(Jan 17, 2011\)](#)

903. **stilted**

artificially formal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But thanks to the **stilted** writing and stiff acting, the characters still feel very much like one-dimensional figures from a dutiful fable.

— [New York Times \(Jul 12, 2011\)](#)

904. **effete**

marked by excessive self-indulgence and moral decay

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

John Bull was an **effete** old plutocrat whose sons and daughters were given up to sport and amusement.

— [Moffett, Cleveland](#)

905. **provender**

food for domestic livestock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*fools: she cried, looking in her magic crystal, he was in the big sycamore under which you stopped to give your horses **provender!**"*
— [Housman, Laurence](#)

906. **endemic** 

of or relating to a disease (or anything resembling a disease) constantly present to greater or lesser extent in a particular locality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mean-spirited chants and songs are also **endemic** in British soccer.*
— [New York Times \(Jan 27, 2012\)](#)

907. **jocund** 

full of or showing high-spirited merriment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Her **jocund** laugh and merry voice, indeed, first attracted my attention.*
— [Lever, Charles James](#)

908. **procedural** 

of or relating to procedure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words, the rejection was a bureaucratic/ **procedural** decision.*
— [Scientific American \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)

909. **rakish** 

marked by a carefree unconventionality or disreputableness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She wore her red cap in a **rakish** manner on the side of her head, its tassel falling down over her forehead between her eyes.*
— [Sage, William](#)

910. **skittish** 

unpredictably excitable (especially of horses)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That combined with his calm and reassuring tone made me think of an animal trainer trying to woo **skittish** wild animals.*
— [Time \(May 20, 2011\)](#)

911. **peroration** 

a flowery and highly rhetorical oration

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He had little hope that Gallagher, once embarked on a **peroration**, would stop until he had used up all the words at his command.*
— [Birmingham, George A.](#)

912. **nonentity**

a person of no influence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Was he such a **nonentity** in every way that she could remain unconcerned as to any fear of danger from him?*

— [Woolson, Constance Fenimore](#)

913. **abstemious**

marked by temperance in indulgence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Raw, boozy, untethered performances are heralded as real; the **abstemious** professional is yawned off the stage.*

— [Salon \(Jul 25, 2011\)](#)

914. **viscid**

having the sticky properties of an adhesive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Roads were quagmires where travellers slipped and laboured through **viscid** mud and over icy fords.*

— [Buck, Charles Neville](#)

915. **doggerel**

a comic verse of irregular measure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He sang, with accompanying action, some dozen verses of **doggerel**, remarkable for obscenity and imbecility.*

— [Ritchie, J. Ewing \(James Ewing\)](#)

916. **sleight**

adroitness in using the hands

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The trick was performed Tuesday by Russell Fitzgerald, an amateur magician known to open meetings with a little **sleight** of hand.*

— [Washington Post \(Sep 29, 2011\)](#)

917. **rubric**

category name

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ms. Moss took issue, not surprisingly, with the notion that grouping the performances under the **rubric** of spirituality was a marketing ploy.*

— [New York Times \(Nov 22, 2010\)](#)

918. **plenitude**

a full supply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Of course at that season, amid the **plenitude** of seeds, nuts, and berries, they were as plump as partridges.

— [Reid, Mayne](#)

919. rebus



a puzzle where you decode a message consisting of pictures representing syllables and words

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

They wrote at times with pictures standing for sounds, as we now write in **rebus** puzzles.

— [Park, Robert Ezra](#)

920. wizened



lean and wrinkled by shrinkage as from age or illness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Kim Jong Il may be increasingly **wizened** and frail, with fingernails white from kidney disease, but his propaganda apparatus is as vigorous as ever.

— [Wall Street Journal \(Mar 26, 2010\)](#)

921. whorl



a round shape formed by a series of concentric circles (as formed by leaves or flower petals)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The flowers are waxy, tubular, fragrant, turning their yellow petals backward in a **whorl**.

— [Rogers, Julia Ellen](#)

922. fracas



noisy quarrel

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Other cops were battling each other, going after the kids and clutching empty air, cursing and screaming unheard orders in the **fracas**.

— [Freas, Kelly](#)

923. iconoclast



someone who attacks cherished ideas or traditional institutions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Jobs is a classic **iconoclast**, one who aggressively seeks out, attacks, and overthrows conventional ideas.

— [BusinessWeek \(Oct 12, 2010\)](#)

924. saturnine



bitter or scornful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Only when Bill Lightfoot spoke did he look up, and then with a set sneer, growing daily more **saturnine**.

— [Dixon, Maynard](#)

925. **madrigal** 

an unaccompanied partsong for 2 or 3 voices; follows a strict poetic form

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nevertheless we learn from Malvezzi's publication that the pieces were all written in the **madrigal** style, frequently in numerous voice parts.*

— [Henderson, W. J. \(William James\)](#)

926. **discursive** 

(of e.g. speech and writing) tending to depart from the main point or cover a wide range of subjects

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Tabloid," like his previous films, consists largely of long, **discursive** conversations — in effect monologues directed at an unseen, mostly unheard interlocutor.*

— [New York Times \(Jul 22, 2011\)](#)

927. **zealot** 

a fervent and even militant proponent of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"The public is going to just think of us as these **zealots** who want to ban smoking everywhere," he said.*

— [Seattle Times \(Feb 20, 2011\)](#)

928. **modicum** 

a small or moderate or token amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He volunteered a **modicum** of advice, limited in quantity, but valuable.*

— [Bolderwood, Rolf](#)

929. **moribund** 

not growing or changing; without force or vitality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The entertainment sector there is booming, while Pakistan's is **moribund**.*

— [Seattle Times \(Dec 3, 2011\)](#)

930. **connotation** 

an idea that is implied or suggested

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In Arabic, the word "bayt" translates literally as house, but its **connotations** resonate beyond rooms and walls, summoning longings gathered about family and home.*

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

931. **adventitious** 

associated by chance and not an integral part

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The derivation of the word thus appears to be merely accidental and **adventitious**.*

— [Stage, W. L. \(Vocabulary Reference\)](#)

932. **recondite**

difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The mystery of verse is like other abstruse and **recondite** mysteries—it strikes the ordinary fleshly man as absurd.*

— [Gosse, Edmund](#)

933. **zephyr**

a slight wind (usually refreshing)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The dwellings and public buildings throughout Cuba are planned to give free passage to every **zephyr** that wafts relief from the oppressive heat.*

— [Various](#)

934. **countermand**

cancel officially

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the midst of executing this order, he got another order **countermanding** it, and proceeding directly from his direct superior.*

— [Belloc, Hilaire](#)

935. **captious**

tending to find and call attention to faults

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Miss Burton had been very irritable and **captious** in class, more so even than usual, and most of her anger was vented upon Gerry.*

— [Chaundler, Christine](#)

936. **cognate**

having the same ancestral language

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The synonyms are also given in the **cognate** dialects of Welsh, Armoric, Irish, Gaelic, and Manx, showing at one view the connection between them.*

— [Jenner, Henry](#)

937. **forebear**

a person from whom you are descended

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His **forebears** were Greek immigrants who opened a small sandwich shop in Brooklyn, then moved, one after another, to Providence, to sell distinct, delectable wieners.*

— [New York Times \(Sep 24, 2010\)](#)

938. **cadaverous**

very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He looked gaunt and **cadaverous**, and much of his old reckless joyousness had left him, though he brightened up wonderfully on seeing an old friend.*

— [Doyle, A. Conan](#)

939. **foist**

to force onto another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Knoll added that the 3-D "Star Wars" movies are not "going to be **foisted** on anybody against their will."*

— [New York Times \(Sep 29, 2010\)](#)

940. **dotage**

mental infirmity as a consequence of old age; sometimes shown by foolish infatuations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He is, as you say, a senile old man in his **dotage**.*

— [Wilcox, Ella Wheeler](#)

941. **nexus**

a connected series or group

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Numerous innovators are also worrying away at this **nexus** of problems.*

— [Economist \(Apr 28, 2011\)](#)

942. **choleric**

characterized by anger

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jonathan, **choleric** with indignation, stood by his desk, clenching his hands.*

— [Mills, Weymer Jay](#)

943. **garble**

make false by mutilation or addition; as of a message or story

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the fact remains that the contradictory and inconsistent things said do reach the public, and usually in **garbled** and distorted form.*

— [Unknown](#)

944. **bucolic**

(used with regard to idealized country life) idyllically rustic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Forty-four years ago, Bill Sievers moved into his neo-Colonial house in Douglaston, Queens, on **bucolic** Poplar Street, lined with stately trees and equally stately homes.*

— [NEW YORK TIMES \(Mar 20, 2014\)](#)

945. **denouement**



the outcome of a complex sequence of events

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Suppose the truly apocalyptic **denouement** happens – no deal is reached, and taxes rise for everyone.

— [Salon \(Nov 30, 2010\)](#)

946. **animus**



a feeling of ill will arousing active hostility

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The youthful savages had each an armful of snowballs, and they were pelting the child with more **animus** than seemed befitting.

— [Murray, David Christie](#)

947. **overweening**



unrestrained, especially with regard to feelings

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He had **overweening** ambitions even then, along with a highly developed sense of his own importance.

— [New York Times \(Apr 19, 2010\)](#)

948. **preen**



dress or groom with elaborate care

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He **preened** on fight nights in a tuxedo, a bow tie and no shirt, and he favored showy rings and bracelets.

— [New York Times \(Jul 24, 2011\)](#)

949. **largesse**



liberality in bestowing gifts; extremely liberal and generous of spirit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

After being saved by government **largesse**, they say, big banks then moved to thwart reforms aimed at preventing future meltdowns caused by excessive risk-taking.

— [New York Times \(Jul 14, 2011\)](#)

950. **tyro**



someone new to a field or activity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

As yet he was merely a **tyro**, gaining practical experience under a veteran Zeppelin commander.

— [Westerman, Percy F. \(Percy Francis\)](#)

951. **retentive**

good at remembering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The child was very sharp, and her memory was extremely **retentive**.*

— [Rowlands, Effie Adelaide](#)

952. **unconscionable**

greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For generations in the New York City public schools, this has become the norm with devastating consequences rooted in **unconscionable** levels of student failure.*

— [New York Times \(Nov 4, 2011\)](#)

953. **badinage**

frivolous banter

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was preposterous to talk to her of serious things, and nothing but an airy **badinage** seemed possible in her company.*

— [Maugham, W. Somerset \(William Somerset\)](#)

954. **insensate**

devoid of feeling and consciousness and animation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Men also are those brutal soldiers, alike stupidly ready, at the word of command, to drive the nail through quivering flesh or **insensate** wood.*

— [Stowe, Harriet Beecher](#)

955. **sherbet**

a frozen dessert made primarily of fruit juice and sugar, but also containing milk or egg-white or gelatin

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"One person said it looks like a big lime **sherbet** ice cream cone!"*

— [Southern Living \(Apr 28, 2010\)](#)

956. **beatific**

marked by utter benignity; resembling or befitting an angel or saint

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She dozed at last, her face serene and **beatific**.*

— [Beach, Rex Ellingwood](#)

957. **bemuse**

cause to be confused emotionally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were marching in the middle of the street, chanting and singing and disrupting traffic while countless New Yorkers looked on, some **bemused**, others applauding.*

— [TIME \(Oct 29, 2011\)](#)

958. **microcosm**

a miniature model of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The building, he said, is "a **microcosm** of what Shanghai was all about."*

— [Wall Street Journal \(Apr 30, 2010\)](#)

959. **factitious**

not produced by natural forces

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Indeed, the Chinese make a **factitious** cheese out of peas, which it is difficult to discriminate from the article of animal origin.*

— [Cameron, Charles Alexander, Sir](#)

960. **gestate**

have the idea for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Lucas's most recent project, still **gestating**, is a collaboration with Cuban musicians.*

— [New York Times \(May 9, 2011\)](#)

961. **traduce**

speak unfavorably about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For Grover Cleveland there were no longer enemies to **traduce** and vilify.*

— [Straus, Oscar S.](#)

962. **sextant**

a measuring instrument for measuring the angular distance between celestial objects; resembles an octant

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For example, a **sextant** could be used to sight the sun at high noon in order to determine one's latitude.*

— [Scientific American \(Mar 8, 2012\)](#)

963. **coiffure**

the arrangement of the hair (especially a woman's hair)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They sat down, and Saint-Clair noticed his friend's **coiffure**; a single rose was in her hair.*

— [M?rim?e, Prosper](#)

964. **malleable**

easily influenced

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"The Americans are seen as naïve **malleable** tools in the hands of the Brits."*— [New York Times \(Nov 30, 2011\)](#)965. **rococo**

having excessive asymmetrical ornamentation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The upper part of the case is decorated with elaborately carved and gilt **rococo** motifs.*— [Bedini, Silvio A.](#)966. **fructify**

become productive or fruitful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thence they grow, expand, **fructify**, and the result is Progress.*— [Stanton, Elizabeth Cady](#)967. **nihilist**

someone who rejects all theories of morality or religious belief

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"He's a loner **nihilist** who believes in nothing," Mr. Lu said.*— [New York Times \(Nov 6, 2011\)](#)968. **ellipsis**

omission or suppression of parts of words or sentences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He speaks in **ellipses**, often leaving sentences hanging, and fiddles apologetically with his BlackBerry.*— [The Guardian \(Jun 28, 2010\)](#)969. **accolade**

a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Nobel Prize, considered one of the highest **accolades** in literature, is given only to living writers.*— [Seattle Times \(Oct 6, 2011\)](#)970. **codicil**

a supplement to a will; a testamentary instrument intended to alter an already executed will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **codicil** to her will, which she had spoken of with so much composure, left three hundred pounds to Stella and me.*— [Fothergill, Jessie](#)

971. **roil**

be agitated

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Like thousands of fellow students, he was **roiled** with emotions, struggling to come to grips with an inescapable reality.*

— [New York Times \(Nov 26, 2011\)](#)

972. **grandiloquent**

lofty in style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A large part of his duties will be to strut about on the stage, and mouth more or less unintelligible sentences in a **grandiloquent** tone.*

— [Smith, Arthur H.](#)

973. **inconsequential**

lacking worth or importance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But as the months went by, Mr. Kimura had an unexpected epiphany: His business, which he thought was **inconsequential**, mattered to a lot of people.*

— [Wall Street Journal \(Nov 11, 2011\)](#)

974. **effervescence**

the property of giving off bubbles

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Both were in the very sparkle and **effervescence** of that fanciful glee which bubbles up from the golden, untried fountains of early childhood.*

— [Stowe, Harriet Beecher](#)

975. **stultify**

deprive of strength or efficiency; make useless or worthless

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Far from being engines of economic growth, Egypt's leading cities are **stultified**.*

— [Inc \(Feb 12, 2011\)](#)

976. **tureen**

large deep serving dish with a cover; for serving soups and stews

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Soups are presented in big **tureens** and can be quite good.*

— [New York Times \(Apr 13, 2012\)](#)

977. **pellucid**

(of language) transparently clear; easily understandable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Caribou Island is a scant 300 pages, and written in prose as **pellucid** as the rivers he used to fish*

as a boy.

— [The Guardian \(Jan 1, 2011\)](#)

978. **euphony**



any agreeable (pleasing and harmonious) sounds

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It depends somewhat on usage and on **euphony** or agreeableness of sound.*

— [Hamilton, Frederick W. \(Frederick William\)](#)

979. **apocryphal**



being of questionable authenticity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We're reminded of the story, possibly **apocryphal**, that they used to play the Beach Boys' Smile in psychiatric wards to calm patients.*

— [The Guardian \(Jan 20, 2011\)](#)

980. **pendulous**



having branches or flower heads that bend downward

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And all around, far out of reach, the trees of the forest were swaying restlessly, their long, **pendulous** branches, like tentacles, lashing out hungrily.*

— [Bates, Harry](#)

981. **veracious**



precisely accurate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For proof, we cite the following **veracious** narrative, which bears within it every internal mark of truth, and matter for grave and serious reflection.*

— [Roby, John](#)

982. **exegesis**



an explanation or critical interpretation (especially of the Bible)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Its musical significance has been presented with illuminating **exegesis** by more than one commentator.*

— [Forkel, Johann Nikolaus](#)

983. **effluvium**



a foul-smelling outflow or vapor (especially a gaseous waste)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*However, acting on my best judgment, I struck a downward course, and then suddenly a horrible **effluvium** was wafted to my nostrils.*

— [Mitford, Bertram](#)

984. **apposite**

being of striking appropriateness and pertinence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He was quite capable of meaningful, **apposite** phrases about the game, even though distant sports editors did not encourage them enough.

— [The Guardian \(Aug 18, 2010\)](#)

985. **viscous**

having the sticky properties of an adhesive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Sluggish, blind crawling things like three-foot slugs flowed across their path and among the tree trunks, leaving **viscous** trails of slime behind them.

— [Various](#)

986. **misanthrope**

someone who dislikes people in general

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And shaking his head like a **misanthrope**, disgusted, if not with life, at least with men, Patout led the horse to the stable.

— [Dumas père, Alexandre](#)

987. **vintner**

someone who makes wine

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The question remains, he said, whether established **vintners** will change their winemaking practices or "continue to sell their schlock."

— [New York Times \(Oct 27, 2010\)](#)

988. **halcyon**

idyllically calm and peaceful; suggesting happy tranquillity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He now seemed to have entered on a **halcyon** period of life—congenial society, romantic and interesting surroundings.

— [Kennard, Nina H.](#)

989. **anthropomorphic**

suggesting human characteristics for animals or inanimate things

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The same **anthropomorphic** fallacy that accords human attributes to giant corporations like BP distorts clear thinking about how to limit their political influence.

— [Salon \(Jul 28, 2010\)](#)

990. **turgid**

ostentatiously lofty in style

.....
*His waspish wit can make him entertaining company at a party, but there is little evidence of that in his largely **turgid** prose.*
— [The Guardian \(Jul 17, 2010\)](#)

991. **malaise**

physical discomfort (as mild sickness or depression)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Initially, many doctors discounted sufferers' feelings of generalized **malaise** as nothing more than stress or normal fatigue.*
— [Time \(Dec 22, 2011\)](#)

992. **polemical**

of or involving dispute or controversy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His works include several dogmatic and **polemical** treatises, but the most important are the historical.*
— [Various](#)

993. **gadfly**

a persistently annoying person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Phelps is regarded here as the ultimate example of an irritating local **gadfly**.*
— [New York Times \(Oct 9, 2010\)](#)

994. **atavism**

a reappearance of an earlier characteristic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Criminal **atavism** might be defined as the sporadic reversion to savagery in certain individuals.*
— [Symonds, John Addington](#)

995. **contusion**

an injury that doesn't break the skin but results in some discoloration

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*My falling companion, being a much stouter man than myself did not fare so well, as his right shoulder received a severe **contusion**.*
— [Bevan, A. Beckford](#)

996. **parsimonious**

excessively unwilling to spend

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Pill-splitting is catching on among **parsimonious** prescription-takers who want to lower costs.*
— [Forbes \(Mar 4, 2010\)](#)

997. **dulcet**

pleasing to the ear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ever and anon the **dulcet** murmur of gurgling streams broke gently on the ear.*

— [Madison, Lucy Foster](#)

998. **reprise**

repeat an earlier theme of a composition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The live set **reprises** material from this remarkable group's earlier Aurora CD.*

— [The Guardian \(Jan 6, 2011\)](#)

999. **anodyne**

capable of relieving pain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But philosophy failed, as it will probably fail till some far-off age, to find an **anodyne** for the spiritual distresses of the mass of men.*

— [Dill, Samuel](#)

1000. **bemused**

perplexed by many conflicting situations or statements; filled with bewilderment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were marching in the middle of the street, chanting and singing and disrupting traffic while countless New Yorkers looked on, some **bemused**, others applauding.*

— [Time \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)
