

abate – to lessen or reduce in degree or intensity
aberration – something that deviates from the norm or expected
abhor – to hate deeply; to regard with disgust
abstain – to choose not to do something; refrain
accost – to approach and speak to aggressively
acrimony – bitterness or ill will in speech or behavior
adamant – refusing to be persuaded; firm in opinion
adept – highly skilled or proficient
adhere – to stick firmly to a surface or belief
admonish – to warn or reprimand firmly
adverse – harmful, unfavorable, or opposed
advocate – one who publicly supports a cause; to support
aesthetic – concerned with beauty or artistic expression
affluent – wealthy, having abundant resources
aggrandize – to increase in power, status, or wealth
alacrity – cheerful readiness or willingness
alias – a false or assumed identity
allude – to make an indirect reference
aloof – emotionally distant or detached
ambiguous – unclear or open to multiple meanings
ambivalent – having mixed or conflicting feelings
amiable – friendly and pleasant
amicable – showing goodwill; peaceable
anecdote – a short, interesting story about an incident
animosity – strong hostility or hatred
annex – to add territory or attach as a part
antediluvian – extremely old-fashioned or outdated
antithesis – direct opposite or contrast
apathetic – lacking interest, enthusiasm, or concern
apex – the highest point; peak

apprehensive – anxious or fearful about the future
arbitrary – based on random choice, not reason
arcane – understood by only a few; mysterious
arduous – difficult and tiring
articulate – able to express ideas clearly; fluent
ascertain – to find out with certainty
aspire – to strive toward a goal or ambition
astute – clever, perceptive, sharp-witted
atrophy – wasting away due to lack of use
audacious – bold, daring, sometimes reckless
auspicious – favorable, promising success
austere – severe or strict in manner; plain
avarice – extreme greed for wealth
avid – very eager or enthusiastic
banal – boring, lacking originality
bane – a source of great harm or ruin
bashful – shy or easily embarrassed
beguile – to charm or deceive
belligerent – hostile, aggressive, ready to fight
benevolent – kind, charitable, well-meaning
benign – harmless, gentle
bequeath – to leave something by will (after death)
berate – to scold or criticize harshly
bereft – deprived of something; lonely
boisterous – noisy, energetic, cheerful
bolster – to support or strengthen
brazen – bold and shameless
brevity – shortness, concise use of words
brusque – abrupt or blunt in manner
cajole – to persuade with flattery or promises

callous – emotionally insensitive or unfeeling
candor – honesty, frankness
capitulate – to surrender or give in
catalyst – something that speeds up change
caustic – harsh, critical, or corrosive
censure – to criticize severely
chastise – to punish or criticize
chronic – lasting for a long time; constant
clandestine – secret, hidden, stealthy
coerce – to force someone to act
coherent – logical, consistent, and clear
colloquial – informal, conversational language
complacent – self-satisfied and unconcerned
compliant – willing to obey or agree
concede – to admit as true or valid
concise – brief but complete and clear
condone – to overlook or accept without protest
conformist – one who follows accepted rules and norms
conjecture – an educated guess or speculation
conspicuous – obvious, easily seen or noticed
construe – to interpret or explain
contend – to argue, claim, or compete
contrite – deeply remorseful and sorry
conundrum – a confusing or difficult problem
convoluted – extremely complicated and hard to follow
copious – abundant, in large amounts
cordial – warm, friendly, polite
corroborate – to confirm or support with evidence
credibility – trustworthiness or believability
credulous – too ready to believe things; gullible

culmination – the highest point of achievement
cynical – distrustful of human sincerity or motives
daunting – intimidating, discouraging
debilitate – to weaken or make feeble
debunk – to expose as false or exaggerated
decadent – overly self-indulgent or luxurious
decorum – proper behavior and manners
decry – to publicly criticize
defame – to damage someone's reputation
deferential – showing respect or submission
defunct – no longer existing or functioning
deleterious – harmful, damaging
delineate – to describe or outline precisely
deluge – a flood; overwhelming amount
demure – modest, shy, reserved
denounce – to publicly condemn
depict – to represent or show in art or words
deplete – to use up resources or supplies
deride – to mock or ridicule
derivative – unoriginal, based on something else
desecrate – to treat a sacred place with disrespect
desolate – deserted, lonely, bleak
destitute – extremely poor, lacking necessities
deter – to discourage from action
detrimental – harmful, damaging
devious – dishonest, deceitful
didactic – intended to teach, often moralizing
digress – to stray from the main topic
diligent – hardworking and careful
diminish – to lessen or reduce

discern – to recognize or perceive clearly
discrepancy – a difference or inconsistency
disdain – contempt or scorn
disparage – to belittle or criticize
disparate – essentially different or distinct
dispel – to drive away or eliminate
disperse – to scatter in various directions
dissipate – to waste or scatter
dissuade – to persuade not to do something
diverge – to go in different directions
divulge – to reveal or make known
docile – easily taught or managed
dogged – stubborn, persistent
dogmatic – rigidly opinionated, dictatorial
dormant – inactive but capable of awakening
dubious – doubtful, suspicious
duress – threats or force to compel action
earnest – serious and sincere
ebullient – full of enthusiasm and energy
eccentric – unconventional, odd
eclectic – drawn from many sources
elated – extremely happy, joyful
elicit – to draw out or evoke
eloquent – fluent and persuasive in speech
elucidate – to make clear, explain
embellish – to decorate or exaggerate
embezzle – to steal money entrusted to one's care
eminent – famous, distinguished, respected
empathy – understanding another's feelings
empirical – based on observation or experiment

endure – to withstand or tolerate
enervate – to weaken or drain energy
engender – to cause or give rise to
enmity – hostility or hatred
enthrall – to captivate or charm
entrenched – firmly established and difficult to change
enumerate – to list one by one
ephemeral – lasting a very short time
equanimity – calmness, composure
equitable – fair, just, impartial
erratic – unpredictable, inconsistent
erudite – scholarly, learned
eschew – to avoid or shun
esoteric – understood by only a small group
espouse – to support or adopt a cause
ethereal – delicate, heavenly, otherworldly
euphoric – intensely happy or joyful
evade – to escape or avoid
evanescent – quickly fading, short-lived
exacerbate – to make worse
exasperate – to annoy greatly
exemplary – serving as a model or example
exhort – to strongly encourage
exorbitant – unreasonably high (cost or demand)
expedite – to speed up the process
explicit – clearly expressed and detailed
extol – to praise highly
fabricate – to invent or make up
facetious – joking or sarcastic inappropriately
fallacious – based on mistaken belief

fastidious – very attentive to detail
fathom – to understand fully
feasible – possible and practical
fervent – passionate, intense
flabbergasted – shocked or amazed
flagrant – obviously offensive
florid – overly elaborate or flushed complexion
fluctuate – to shift back and forth
forbearance – patience, self-control
fortuitous – happening by chance, lucky
fractious – unruly, troublesome
frugal – thrifty, careful with money
furtive – secretive, sneaky
garish – overly showy or bright
garrulous – overly talkative
genial – friendly and cheerful
gluttony – excessive eating or drinking
gratuitous – unnecessary, uncalled for
gregarious – sociable, outgoing
guile – slyness, cunning
hackneyed – overused, cliché
hallowed – holy, sacred
haughty – arrogant, superior
hedonist – one who seeks pleasure as the highest good
heresy – belief contrary to accepted doctrine
hiatus – a break or pause
hypocrisy – pretending to believe what one does not
iconoclast – one who attacks traditional beliefs
idiosyncratic – peculiar, individualistic
ignominious – shameful, disgraceful

illicit – illegal or forbidden
immaculate – perfectly clean, flawless
immutable – unchanging, permanent
impasse – a situation with no solution
impeccable – flawless, perfect
imperative – absolutely necessary
impervious – not affected by something
implacable – relentless, unstoppable
implicit – implied but not directly stated
impugn – to attack the truth of something
inane – silly, lacking sense
incessant – continuing without interruption
incipient – in an early stage, beginning
incisive – sharp, clear, and direct
inclination – a tendency or preference
incongruous – not fitting, inconsistent
incontrovertible – undeniable, unquestionable
incorrigible – not able to be corrected
indolent – lazy, avoiding effort
ineffable – too great to be expressed in words
inert – inactive, lacking energy
inexorable – unstoppable, unyielding
infer – to conclude from evidence
ingenious – clever, inventive
ingratiate – to gain favor by flattery
inhibit – to restrain or hold back
innate – inborn, natural
innocuous – harmless
innovate – to introduce new ideas
insatiable – impossible to satisfy

insidious – harmful in a subtle way

insipid – dull, lacking flavor

instigate – to provoke or start something

intrepid – fearless, adventurous

inveterate – deeply rooted, habitual

irate – extremely angry

ironic – opposite of what is expected

irreverence – lack of respect