

1. consider

deem to be

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

✓

2. minute

infinitely or immeasurably small

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

3. accord

concurrence of opinion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



4. **evident**

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Jan 15, 2012\)](#)



5. **practice**

a customary way of operation or behavior

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BBC \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



6. **intend**

have in mind as a purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



7. **concern**

something that interests you because it is important or affects you

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



8. **commit**

perform an act, usually with a negative connotation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



9. **issue**

some situation or event that is thought about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Time \(Feb 16, 2012\)*](#)



10. **approach**

move towards

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Spain's jobless rate for people ages 16 to 24 is **approaching** 50 percent.*

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



11. **establish**

set up or found

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BBC \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

✓

12. **utter**

without qualification; used informally as (often pejorative) intensifiers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)

✓

13. **conduct**

direct the course of; manage or control

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

✓

14. **engage**

consume all of one's attention or time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

15. **obtain**

come into possession of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 11, 2012\)](#)

✓

16. **scarce**

deficient in quantity or number compared with the demand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jan 21, 2012\)](#)



17. **policy**

a plan of action adopted by an individual or social group

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)



18. **straight**

successive (without a break)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)



19. **stock**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words, Apple's **stock** is cheap, and you should buy it.*
—[Forbes \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

✓

20. **apparent**

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

21. **property**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Owing to these magic **properties**, it was often planted near dwellings to keep away evil spirits.*
—[Parsons, Mary Elizabeth](#)

✓

22. **fancy**

imagine; conceive of; see in one's mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

23. **concept**

an abstract or general idea inferred or derived from specific instances

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

24. **court**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



25. **appoint**

assign a duty, responsibility or obligation to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Various*](#)



26. **passage**

a section of text; particularly a section of medium length

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Sheets, Emily Churchill Thompson*](#)



27. **vain**

unproductive of success

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

28. **instance**

an occurrence of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Clarke, Helen Archibald](#)

✓

29. **coast**

the shore of a sea or ocean

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Wingfield, Lewis](#)

✓

30. **project**

a planned undertaking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*BusinessWeek \(Feb 17, 2012\)*](#)



31. **commission**

a special group delegated to consider some matter

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



32. **constant**

a quantity that does not vary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Nature \(Nov 15, 2011\)](#)

✓

33. **circumstances**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

34. **constitute**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)

✓

35. **level**

a relative position or degree of value in a graded group

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

36. **affect**

have an effect upon

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

37. **institute**

set up or lay the groundwork for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



38. **render**

give an interpretation or rendition of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



39. **appeal**

be attractive to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



40. **generate**

bring into existence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



41. **theory**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



42. **range**

a variety of different things or activities

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



43. **campaign**

a race between candidates for elective office

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)



44. **league**

an association of sports teams that organizes matches for its members

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)



45. **labor**

any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Hoskin, Arthur J.](#)

✓

46. **confer**

have a conference in order to talk something over

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jan 4, 2012\)](#)

✓

47. **grant**

allow to have

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

✓

48. **dwell**

think moodily or anxiously about something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



49. **entertain**

provide entertainment for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



50. **contract**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



51. **earnest**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



52. **yield**

give or supply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



53. **wander**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

54. **insist**

be emphatic or resolute and refuse to budge

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

55. **knight**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

56. **convince**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

57. **inspire**

serve as the inciting cause of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

58. **convention**

a large formal assembly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Last year, the industry's main trade **convention**, the Inside Self-Storage World Expo, organized workshops in Las Vegas focusing on lien laws and auction sales.*
—[New York Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

✓

59. **skill**

an ability that has been acquired by training

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

60. **harry**

annoy continually or chronically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 9, 2012\)](#)

✓

61. **financial**

involving financial matters

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 20, 2012\)](#)

✓

62. **reflect**

show an image of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Time \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

✓

63. **novel**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



64. **furnish**

provide or equip with furniture

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Instead, according to court documents, the money went toward **furnishing** mansions, flying in private jets, and retaining a \$120,000-a-year personal hairstylist.*
—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)



65. **compel**

force somebody to do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



66. **venture**

proceed somewhere despite the risk of possible dangers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



67. **territory**

the geographical area under the jurisdiction of a sovereign state

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



68. **temper**

a characteristic (habitual or relatively temporary) state of feeling

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Anonymous](#)



69. **bent**

fixed in your purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)



70. **intimate**

marked by close acquaintance, association, or familiarity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



71. **undertake**

enter upon an activity or enterprise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)



72. **majority**

(elections) more than half of the votes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Feb 7, 2012\)](#)



73. **assert**

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

74. **crew**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Several pilots and **crew** members would have to escape at once, while safety divers watched, ready to rescue anyone who became stuck.*

—[New York Times \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)

✓

75. **chamber**

a natural or artificial enclosed space

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Carlyle, Thomas](#)

✓

76. **humble**

marked by meekness or modesty; not arrogant or prideful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

77. **scheme**

an elaborate and systematic plan of action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some companies in the Globe District of Arizona have started extensive underground **schemes** for mining large tonnages very cheaply by "caving" methods.*

—[Hoskin, Arthur J.](#)

✓

78. **keen**

having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

79. **liberal**

having political or social views favoring reform and progress

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

80. **despair**

a state in which all hope is lost or absent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

81. **tide**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

82. **attitude**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

83. **justify**

show to be reasonable or provide adequate ground for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Anonymous](#)



84. **flag**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)



85. **merit**

any admirable quality or attribute

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Ayres, Harry Morgan](#)



86. **manifest**

reveal its presence or make an appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Vay, P?ter](#)

✓

87. **notion**

a general inclusive concept

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Jan 13, 2012\)](#)

✓

88. **scale**

relative magnitude

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

✓

89. **formal**

characteristic of or befitting a person in authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jan 31, 2012\)](#)

✓

90. **resource**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

✓

91. **persist**

continue to exist

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)



92. **contempt**

lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Time \(Dec 20, 2011\)](#)



93. **tour**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)

✓

94. **plead**

enter a plea, as in courts of law

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)

✓

95. **weigh**

to be oppressive or burdensome

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 11, 2012\)](#)

✓

96. **mode**

how something is done or how it happens

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

97. **distinction**

a discrimination between things as different and distinct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Anonymous](#)

✓

98. **inclined**

at an angle to the horizontal or vertical position

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Hoskin, Arthur J.](#)



99. **attribute**

an abstraction belonging to or characteristic of an entity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



100. **exert**

make a great effort at a mental or physical task

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Forbes \(Jan 23, 2012\)](#)



101. **oppress**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Jan 18, 2012\)](#)



102. **contend**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Strang, Herbert](#)



103. **stake**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Andrews, William](#)



104. **toil**

work hard

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Adler, Felix](#)



105. **perish**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BBC \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)



106. **disposition**

your usual mood

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

107. **rail**

complain bitterly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

108. **cardinal**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

109. **boast**

show off

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



110. **advocate**

a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Well, safety **advocates**, consumers and the government dragged the automobile industry toward including seat belts, air bags, more visible taillights and other safety features.*

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



111. **bestow**

present

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

112. **allege**

report or maintain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

113. **notwithstanding**

despite anything to the contrary (usually following a concession)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

114. **lofty**

of imposing height; especially standing out above others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente](#)

✓

115. **multitude**

a large indefinite number

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

116. **steep**

having a sharp inclination

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

117. **heed**

pay close attention to; give heed to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But Cain was already too far gone to **heed** the warning voice.*
—[Adler, Felix](#)

✓

118. **modest**

not large but sufficient in size or amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A healthy person living in an unfashionable city with no student loans to pay off can get by on a fairly **modest** income.*
—[Slate \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)

✓

119. **partial**

being or affecting only a part; not total

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Generalizations of this sweeping order are apt to contain only **partial** truth.*
—[Clarke, Helen Archibald](#)



120. **apt**

(usually followed by `to') naturally disposed toward

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jan 9, 2012\)](#)



121. **esteem**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Feb 10, 2012\)](#)



122. **credible**

appearing to merit belief or acceptance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



123. **provoke**

provide the needed stimulus for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*The Guardian \(Feb 10, 2012\)*](#)



124. **tread**

a step in walking or running

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Woolson, Constance Fenimore*](#)



125. **ascertain**

learn or discover with certainty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Forbes \(Feb 13, 2012\)*](#)



126. **fare**

proceed or get along

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



127. **cede**

relinquish possession or control over

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Jan 3, 2012\)](#)

✓

128. **perpetual**

continuing forever or indefinitely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Waddington, Mary King](#)

✓

129. **decree**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)

✓

130. **contrive**

make or work out a plan for; devise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Thornbury, Walter](#)



131. **derived**

formed or developed from something else; not original

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Slate \(Feb 21, 2012\)](#)



132. **elaborate**

marked by complexity and richness of detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

133. **substantial**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*BBC \(Feb 23, 2012\)*](#)

✓

134. **frontier**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

135. **facile**

arrived at without due care or effort; lacking depth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



136. **cite**

make reference to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



137. **warrant**

show to be reasonable or provide adequate ground for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[US News \(Jan 17, 2012\)](#)

✓

138. **sob**

weep convulsively

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Weyman, Stanley J.](#)

✓

139. **rider**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Time \(Jan 5, 2012\)](#)

✓

140. **dense**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)

✓

141. **afflict**

cause physical pain or suffering in

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Dec 16, 2011\)](#)

✓

142. **flourish**

grow vigorously

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Petherick, Horace William](#)

✓

143. **ordain**

invest with ministerial or priestly authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

144. **pious**

having or showing or expressing reverence for a deity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

145. **vex**

cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Forbes \(Oct 21, 2011\)](#)

✓

146. **gravity**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

147. **suspended**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Frustrating enough at ground level, but can you imagine the agony about a stranded, ever-soggier Oreo being **suspended** 11 feet above the ground?*
—[Washington Post \(Feb 21, 2012\)](#)

✓

148. **conspicuous**

obvious to the eye or mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Its bright scarlet fruits are **conspicuous** in late autumn.*
—[Anonymous](#)

✓

149. **retort**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Having put him in ill humour with this **retort**, she fled away rejoicing.*
—[Coster, Charles Theodore Henri de](#)

✓

150. **jet**

an airplane powered by one or more jet engines

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 20, 2012\)](#)

✓

151. **bolt**

run away; usually includes taking something or somebody along

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Strang, Herbert](#)

✓

152. **assent**

to agree or express agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Keightley, Thomas](#)



153. **purse**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Shorter, Clement K.](#)



154. **plus**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Dec 29, 2011\)](#)



155. **sanction**

give authority or permission to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 19, 2012\)](#)

✓

156. **proceeding**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Jan 30, 2012\)](#)

✓

157. **exalt**

praise, glorify, or honor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jan 26, 2012\)](#)

✓

158. **siege**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Nicholson, Reynold](#)



159. **malice**

feeling a need to see others suffer

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Lyman, Olin L.](#)



160. **extravagant**

recklessly wasteful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

161. **wax**

increase in phase

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

162. **throng**

press tightly together or cram

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

163. **venerate**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

164. **assail**

attack someone physically or emotionally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His campaign even issued a press release **assailing** other rivals for, in Mr. Paul's view, taking Mr. Romney's quote about firing people out of context.*
—[New York Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

✓

165. **sublime**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)



166. **exploit**

draw from; make good use of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



167. **exertion**

use of physical or mental energy; hard work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)



168. **kindle**

catch fire

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Warner, Susan](#)

✓

169. **endow**

furnish with an endowment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

170. **imposed**

set forth authoritatively as obligatory

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)



171. **humiliate**

cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BBC \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)



172. **suffrage**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Ingersoll, Robert Green](#)



173. **ensue**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An uproar **ensued** months after the approval, when opponents realized the online gambling measure had been slipped in.*
—[New York Times \(Feb 16, 2012\)](#)

✓

174. **brook**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He walked across the little bridge over the **brook** and at once his mood changed.*
—[Mason, A. E. W. \(Alfred Edward Woodley\)](#)

✓

175. **gale**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **gale** was accompanied, as usual, by incessant rain and thick weather, and a heavy confused sea kept our decks always flooded.*
—[Fitzroy, Robert](#)



176. **muse**

reflect deeply on a subject

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Time \(Jan 24, 2012\)](#)



177. **satire**

witty language used to convey insults or scorn

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

There's plenty of humor on Russian television, though not much political **satire**; Mr. Putin put a stop to that long ago.

—[New York Times \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)



178. **intrigue**

cause to be interested or curious

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

179. **indication**

something that serves to indicate or suggest

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

✓

180. **dispatch**

send away towards a designated goal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

181. **cower**

crouch or curl up

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

182. **wont**

an established custom

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

183. **tract**

a system of body parts that together serve some particular purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Jan 10, 2012\)](#)

✓

184. **canon**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Jan 10, 2011\)](#)

✓

185. **impel**

cause to move forward with force

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Blasco Ib??ez, Vicente](#)

✓

186. **latitude**

freedom from normal restraints in conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Inc \(Feb 21, 2012\)](#)



187. **vacate**

leave behind empty; move out of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



188. **undertaking**

any piece of work that is undertaken or attempted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Let my epitaph be, Here lies Joseph, who was unsuccessful in all his **undertakings**."
—[Marvin, Frederic Rowland](#)

✓

189. **slay**

kill intentionally and with premeditation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"It were shame," said Lancelot, "for an armed to **slay** an unarmed man."
—[Unknown](#)

✓

190. **predecessor**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Heller fills in the blanks about Taft, overshadowed by colorful **predecessor** Teddy Roosevelt.
—[Seattle Times \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)

✓

191. **delicacy**

the quality of being beautiful and delicate in appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Drake, Samuel Adams](#)

✓

192. **forsake**

leave someone who needs or counts on you; leave in the lurch

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Hay, Ian](#)

✓

193. **beseech**

ask for or request earnestly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Frank, Ulrich](#)



194. **philosophical**

of or relating to philosophy or philosophers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His arguments, like Einstein's, were qualitative, verging on highly **philosophical**.*
—[Scientific American \(Jan 30, 2012\)](#)



195. **grove**

a small growth of trees without underbrush

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Soon after we came to Pasadena, father bought an orange **grove** of twenty-five acres.*
—[Chamberlain, James Franklin](#)



196. **frustrate**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

✓

197. **illustrious**

widely known and esteemed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BBC \(Feb 24, 2012\)](#)

✓

198. **device**

an instrumentality invented for a particular purpose

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Forbes \(Feb 26, 2012\)](#)

✓

199. **pomp**

cheap or pretentious or vain display

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Feb 21, 2011\)](#)

✓

200. **entreat**

ask for or request earnestly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Hope, Anthony](#)

✓

201. **impart**

transmit (knowledge or skills)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Preston, Thomas](#)

✓

202. **propriety**

correct or appropriate behavior

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Sutphen, Van Tassel](#)

✓

203. **consecrate**

render holy by means of religious rites

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Faris, John T. \(John Thomson\)](#)

✓

204. **proceeds**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His own share in the **proceeds** was about a hundred thousand dollars.*
—[Stark, James H.](#)

✓

205. **fathom**

come to understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

206. **objective**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The **objective** was to mobilize students from 18 high schools across the city to provide community services and inspire others.

—[New York Times \(Feb 5, 2012\)](#)

✓

207. **clad**

wearing or provided with clothing; sometimes used in combination

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A few of the villagers came behind, **clad** in mourning robes, and bearing lighted tapers.*

—[Various](#)

✓

208. **partisan**

devoted to a cause or party

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But given the bitter **partisan** divide in an election year, Democrats said they would never be able to get such legislation passed.*

—[Chicago Tribune \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)

✓

209. **faction**

a dissenting clique

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*One **faction** declared it would begin an armed struggle against the government of the United States.*

—[Slate \(Feb 29, 2012\)](#)

✓

210. **contrived**

artificially formal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In lesser hands the story about a young man who discovers life among the dead could be impossibly cute and **contrived**.*

—[New York Times \(Mar 25, 2012\)](#)

✓

211. **venerable**

impressive by reason of age

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Faris, John T. \(John Thomson\)](#)

✓

212. **restrained**

not showy or obtrusive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Oct 6, 2011\)](#)

✓

213. **besiege**

harass, as with questions or requests

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Mar 18, 2012\)](#)

✓

214. **manifestation**

a clear appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

215. **rebuke**

an act or expression of criticism and censure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

216. **insurgent**

in opposition to a civil authority or government

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Nov 20, 2011\)](#)

✓

217. **rhetoric**

using language effectively to please or persuade

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Jan 5, 2012\)](#)

✓

218. **scrupulous**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Jun 4, 2010\)](#)

✓

219. **ratify**

approve and express assent, responsibility, or obligation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

220. **stump**

cause to be perplexed or confounded

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

221. **discreet**

marked by prudence or modesty and wise self-restraint

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)

✓

222. **imposing**

impressive in appearance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

223. **wistful**

showing pensive sadness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

224. **mortify**

cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Various*](#)



225. **ripple**

stir up (water) so as to form ripples

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That could precipitate higher interest rates that would **ripple** across the economy.*

—[*Washington Post \(Jul 27, 2011\)*](#)



226. **premise**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Success, real success, comes to the jack of all trades, a major **premise** handed down from pioneer days.

—[Gilbert, Clinton W. \(Clinton Wallace\)](#)

✓

227. **subside**

wear off or die down

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Affliction is allayed, grief **subsides**, sorrow is soothed, distress is mitigated.*

—[Webster, Noah](#)

✓

228. **adverse**

contrary to your interests or welfare

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*High doses can have **adverse** effects and even cause death.*

—[Seattle Times \(Mar 26, 2012\)](#)

✓

229. **caprice**

a sudden desire

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

230. **muster**

gather or bring together

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

231. **comprehensive**

broad in scope

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

232. **accede**

yield to another's wish or opinion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Therefore he made up his mind to **accede** to his uncle's desire.*
—[Streckfuss, Adolph](#)

✓

233. **fervent**

characterized by intense emotion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But, to **fervent** applause and scattered fist pumps from two sets of worshipers, he pledged to legally challenge the claims against him.*
—[New York Times \(Sep 26, 2010\)](#)

✓

234. **cohere**

cause to form a united, orderly, and aesthetically consistent whole

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Two antagonistic values may **cohere** in the same object.*
—[Anderson, Benjamin M. \(Benjamin McAlester\)](#)



235. **tribunal**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



236. **austere**

severely simple

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Anonymous](#)



237. **recovering**

returning to health after illness or debility

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"The **recovering** economy is bringing more people back into the market.
—[Washington Post \(Mar 22, 2012\)](#)*

✓

238. **stratum**

people having the same social, economic, or educational status

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

239. **conscientious**

characterized by extreme care and great effort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

240. **arbitrary**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

241. **exasperate**

exasperate or irritate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

242. **conjure**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Vacation homes typically **conjure** up dreams of blue skies, pristine sand and crystalline waters.

—[Wall Street Journal \(Feb 28, 2012\)](#)

✓

243. **ominous**

threatening or foreshadowing evil or tragic developments

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Count's words were so **ominous**, so full of sinister meaning that for the moment he felt like crying out with fear.*

—[Hocking, Joseph](#)

✓

244. **edifice**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are here erecting a fine stone **edifice** for an Episcopal Church.*

—[Clark, John A.](#)

✓

245. **elude**

escape, either physically or mentally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

246. **pervade**

spread or diffuse through

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

247. **foster**

promote the growth of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



248. **admonish**

take to task

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Children, children, stop quarrelling, right here in public!" **admonished** Mrs. Dering, in a low, shocked tone.*

—[Perry, Nora](#)



249. **repeal**

cancel officially

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If Republicans **repeal** the law, Ms. Schakowsky said, they would be "taking away benefits that seniors are already getting."*

—[New York Times \(Mar 19, 2012\)](#)



250. **retiring**

not arrogant or presuming

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



251. **incidental**

not of prime or central importance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The models themselves are **incidental** on “Scouted,” merely empty planets around which revolve some fascinating characters and plenty more dull ones.*
—[New York Times \(Nov 27, 2011\)](#)



252. **acquiesce**

to agree or express agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*American officials initially tried to resist President Karzai’s moves but eventually **acquiesced**.*
—[New York Times \(Mar 9, 2012\)](#)



253. **slew**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In fact, intense focus may be one reason why so-called savants become so extraordinary at performing extensive calculations or remembering a **slew** of facts.*
—[Scientific American \(Mar 3, 2012\)](#)

✓

254. **usurp**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*More than anything, though, officials expressed concern about reigniting longstanding Mexican concerns about the United States' **usurping** Mexico's authority.*
—[New York Times \(Mar 15, 2011\)](#)

✓

255. **sentinel**

a person employed to keep watch for some anticipated event

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Drake, Samuel Adams](#)



256. **precision**

the quality of being reproducible in amount or performance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Douglas, Charles L.](#)



257. **depose**

force to leave (an office).

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)



258. **wanton**

occurring without motivation or provocation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I am not a sentimentalist by any means, yet I abominate **wanton** cruelty.*
—[Stables, Gordon](#)

✓

259. **odium**

state of disgrace resulting from detestable behavior

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This was one of the men who bring **odium** on the whole class of prisoners, and prejudice society against them.*
—[Henderson, Frank](#)

✓

260. **precept**

rule of personal conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The law of nature has but one **precept**, "Be strong."*
—[Williams, C. M.](#)



261. **deference**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Faris, John T. \(John Thomson\)](#)



262. **fray**

a noisy fight

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Jan 27, 2012\)](#)



263. **candid**

openly straightforward and direct without reserve or secretiveness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 17, 2012\)](#)



264. **enduring**

unceasing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Slate \(Mar 26, 2012\)](#)



265. **impertinent**

improperly forward or bold

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Watkins, Shirley](#)



266. **bland**

lacking stimulating characteristics; uninteresting

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many critics were less than enamored with the kind of "easy listening" Mr. Williams embodied, deriding his approach as **bland** and unchallenging.*
—[New York Times \(Oct 9, 2011\)](#)

✓

267. **insinuate**

give to understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Good heavens, do you mean to **insinuate** that I did anything crooked?" said Bojo loudly, yet at the bottom ill at ease.*
—[Johnson, Owen](#)

✓

268. **nominal**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He sought **nominal** damages of one dollar from each defendant.
—[Reuters \(Jan 23, 2012\)](#)

✓

269. **suppliant**

humbly entreating

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The colonists asked for nothing but what was clearly right and asked in the most respectful and even **suppliant** manner.*
—[Judson, L. Carroll](#)

✓

270. **languid**

lacking spirit or liveliness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many viewers, bored by the **languid** pace of the show, tuned out early.*
—[New York Times \(Dec 30, 2011\)](#)

✓

271. **rave**

praise enthusiastically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I have heard lots of women simply **rave** about him.*

—[Kauffman, Reginald Wright](#)

✓

272. **monetary**

relating to or involving money

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Mar 29, 2012\)](#)

✓

273. **headlong**

in a hasty and foolhardy manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“They may not be wishing to rush **headlong** back into the same sort of risks just yet.”*

—[BusinessWeek \(Dec 24, 2010\)](#)

✓

274. **infallible**

incapable of failure or error

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But conductors are no more **infallible** than other people, and once in a blue moon in going through a train they miss a passenger.*

—[Lynde, Francis](#)



275. **coax**

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He used his most enticing manner and did his best to **coax** the little animal out again.*

—[Kay, Ross](#)



276. **explicate**

elaborate, as of theories and hypotheses

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He urged judges to resist the rigid guidelines and to write opinions **explicating** their reasons for doing so.

—[New York Times \(Jan 22, 2010\)](#)

✓

277. **gaunt**

very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Gaunt, starved, and ragged, the men marched northwards, leaving the Touat country upon their left hand.

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

✓

278. **morbid**

suggesting the horror of death and decay

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Aug 16, 2010\)](#)

✓

279. **ranging**

wandering freely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His detective work is fascinating and wide **ranging**.*
—[Seattle Times \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)

✓

280. **pacify**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How they **pacified** him I don't know, but at the end of two hours he had cooled off enough to let us go aboard.*
—[Quincy, Samuel M.](#)

✓

281. **pastoral**

(used with regard to idealized country life) idyllically rustic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He made a considerable reputation as an accomplished painter of quiet **pastoral** subjects and carefully elaborated landscapes with cattle.*
—[Various](#)



282. **dogged**

stubbornly unyielding

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some analysts expect Mr. Falcone, who is known for his **dogged** determination, to just continue to limp along while slashing costs.*
—[New York Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)



283. **ebb**

fall away or decline

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Although Gardner's competitive appetite **ebbed** after 2004, other cravings did not.*
—[New York Times \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)



284. **aide**

someone who acts as assistant

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She later found work as a teacher's **aide** in a Head Start program in Harlem.*
—[New York Times \(Jan 12, 2012\)](#)

✓

285. **appease**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

286. **stipulate**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The mayor has an executive order in place **stipulating** that all top officials, except those granted a waiver, live in the city.

—[New York Times \(Sep 22, 2011\)](#)

✓

287. **recourse**

something or someone turned to for assistance or security

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bargain hunters and holiday shoppers are bad guys' favorite targets and have little or no **recourse** when shoddy or fake merchandise arrives.*

—[Forbes \(Nov 22, 2011\)](#)

✓

288. **constrained**

lacking spontaneity; not natural

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All his goodness, however, will be of a forced, **constrained**, artificial, and at bottom unreal character.*

—[Hyde, William De Witt](#)

✓

289. **bate**

moderate or restrain; lessen the force of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“You called her ‘an interfering, disagreeable old woman!’” whispered Bertha with **bated** breath, glancing half fearfully at the door as she spoke.*

—[Vaizey, George de Horne, Mrs.](#)

✓

290. **aversion**

a feeling of intense dislike

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Already my passive dislike had grown into an active **aversion**.*

—[Oppenheim, E. Phillips \(Edward Phillips\)](#)

✓

291. **conceit**

an artistic device or effect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

An urban panorama is viewed from a high vantage point, a **conceit** used in topographic art to render vast perspectives.

—[New York Times \(Sep 30, 2011\)](#)

✓

292. **loath**

(usually followed by `to') strongly opposed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Aug 14, 2011\)](#)

✓

293. **rampart**

an embankment built around a space for defensive purposes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Sienkiewicz, Henryk](#)

✓

294. **extort**

obtain by coercion or intimidation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jan 27, 2012\)](#)

✓

295. **tarry**

leave slowly and hesitantly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Ford, Paul Leicester](#)

✓

296. **perpetrate**

perform an act, usually with a negative connotation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Forbes \(Dec 11, 2011\)](#)



297. **decorum**

propriety in manners and conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Sudermann, Hermann](#)



298. **luxuriant**

produced or growing in extreme abundance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Her **luxuriant** curly hair, restrained by no net, but held together simply by a flowering spray, waved over her shoulders in all its rich abundance.*

—[Elisabeth Burstenbinder \(AKA E. Werner\)](#)



299. **cant**

insincere talk about religion or morals

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was the familiar **cant** of the man rich enough to affect disdain for money, and Wade was not impressed.*

—[Day, Holman](#)



300. **enjoin**

give instructions to or direct somebody to do something with authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He turned to beckon the others forward with one hand, while laying the other over his mouth in a gesture **enjoining** silence.*

—[Breckenridge, Gerald](#)



301. **avarice**

extreme greed for material wealth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The old man's fears were assailed with threats, and his **avarice** was approached by bribes, and he very soon capitulated.*

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



302. **edict**

a formal or authoritative proclamation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

An **edict** was issued by him forbidding any Christian to give instruction in Greek literature under any circumstances.

—[Lightfoot, J. B.](#)



303. **disconcert**

cause to lose one's composure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Perplexed and **disconcerted**, I found no words to answer such an amazing sally.

—[Chambers, Robert W. \(Robert William\)](#)



304. **symmetry**

balance among the parts of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Even the staging displays **symmetry**, with actors lined up on either side in formal precision.

—[New York Times \(Jan 24, 2011\)](#)

✓

305. **capitulate**

surrender under agreed conditions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

306. **arbitrate**

act between parties with a view to reconciling differences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

307. **cleave**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BBC \(Aug 7, 2011\)](#)

✓

308. **append**

add to the very end

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

309. **visage**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

An honest, quiet laugh often mantled his pale earnest visage.
—[Turnbull, Robert](#)

✓

310. **horde**

a moving crowd

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hordes of puzzled tourists, many with rolling suitcases attached, poured down the staircases.
—[New York Times \(Jan 1, 2012\)](#)

✓

311. **parable**

a short moral story (often with animal characters)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

312. **chastise**

censure severely

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Jan 14, 2011\)](#)

✓

313. **foil**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Time \(Mar 8, 2012\)](#)

✓

314. **veritable**

often used as intensifiers

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



315. **grapple**

come to terms with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But, he said, all coastal communities will have to **grapple** with rising seas.*
—[New York Times \(Mar 24, 2012\)](#)



316. **gentry**

the most powerful members of a society

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The mode of travel of the **gentry** was riding horses, but most people traveled by walking.*
—[Reilly, S. A.](#)



317. **pall**

a sudden numbing dread

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Residents who fled in recent days spoke of the smell of death and piles of garbage drifting like snowbanks, casting a **pall** over the city.*
—[New York Times \(Mar 7, 2012\)](#)

✓

318. **maxim**

a saying that is widely accepted on its own merits

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **maxim** "All is fair in love and war" was applied literally.*
—[Thomson, Basil](#)

✓

319. **projection**

a prediction made by extrapolating from past observations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

320. **prowess**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While our engineering **prowess** has advanced a great deal over the past sixty years, the principles of innovation largely have not.*

—[Time \(Mar 21, 2012\)](#)



321. **dingy**

thickly covered with ingrained dirt or soot

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Though composed amid the unromantic surroundings of a **dingy**, dusty, and neglected back room, the speech has become a memorable document.*

—[Herndon, William H.](#)



322. **semblance**

an outward or token appearance or form that is deliberately misleading

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He was perceptibly older, in the way in which people look older all at once after having long kept the semblance of youth.

—[King, Basil](#)

✓

323. **tout**

advertize in strongly positive terms

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Testing is being **touted** as the means of making the U.S. education system competitive, even world-class.*

—[Washington Post \(Mar 23, 2012\)](#)

✓

324. **fortitude**

strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity with courage

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Leigh Hunt bore himself in his captivity with cheerful **fortitude**, suffering severely in health but flagging little in spirits or industry.*

—[Colvin, Sidney](#)

✓

325. **asunder**

into parts or pieces

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

326. **rout**

an overwhelming defeat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

327. **staid**

characterized by dignity and propriety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



328. **beguile**

influence by slyness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



329. **purport**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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



330. **deprave**

corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The people who make up this typical Gorky offering are drunkards, thieves, **depraved** creatures of every kind.

—[Kilmer, Joyce](#)



331. **bequeath**

leave or give by will after one's death

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Wells, Carolyn](#)



332. **enigma**

something that baffles understanding and cannot be explained

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



333. **assiduous**

marked by care and persistent effort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Jul 17, 2010\)](#)



334. **vassal**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Freytag, Gustav](#)



335. **quail**

draw back, as with fear or pain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He **quailed** before me, and forgetting his new part in old habits, muttered an apology.
—[Weyman, Stanley John](#)

✓

336. **outskirts**

outlying areas (as of a city or town)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ms. Waters talked about how she had spent the day at an organic farm on the **outskirts** of Beijing looking at vegetables for the dinner.*
—[New York Times \(Nov 14, 2011\)](#)

✓

337. **bulwark**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

338. **swerve**

an erratic deflection from an intended course

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

339. **gird**

prepare oneself for a military confrontation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

340. **betrothed**

pledged to be married

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

We are not **betrothed**'—her eyes filled with tears,—'he can never marry me; and he and my father have quarrelled.

—[Fleming, George](#)

✓

341. **prospective**

of or concerned with or related to the future

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Most **prospective** homesteaders make the same mistake I did in buying horses, unless they are experienced.

—[Micheaux, Oscar](#)

✓

342. **advert**

make reference to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In the family circle it was rarely **adverted** to, and never except when some allusion to the approaching separation had to be made.

—[Werner, E. T. C. \(Edward Theodore Chalmers\)](#)

✓

343. **peremptory**

not allowing contradiction or refusal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This time it was not a request but a **peremptory** order to go at once to Cuba and undertake the work.*

—[Johnson, Willis Fletcher](#)

✓

344. **rudiment**

the elementary stages of any subject (usually plural)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Anonymous](#)

✓

345. **deduce**

reason by deduction; establish by deduction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Economist \(Jan 6, 2011\)](#)

✓

346. **halting**

fragmentary or halting from emotional strain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 22, 2012\)](#)

✓

347. **ignominy**

a state of dishonor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Time \(Jun 7, 2011\)](#)

✓

348. **ideology**

an orientation that characterizes the thinking of a group or nation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Slate \(Jan 19, 2012\)](#)

✓

349. **pallid**

lacking in vitality or interest or effectiveness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Apr 25, 2010\)](#)

✓

350. **chagrin**

strong feelings of embarrassment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[White, Fred M. \(Fred Merrick\)](#)



351. **obtrude**

thrust oneself in as if by force

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She had no right to **obtrude** herself into his life and to disturb it.*
—[Packard, Frank L. \(Frank Lucius\)](#)



352. **audacious**

disposed to venture or take risks

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In an **audacious** operation that unfolded like a Hollywood thriller, the Navy Seals executed a daring raid deep into Pakistan to kill Osama bin Laden.*
—[New York Times \(Sep 4, 2011\)](#)



353. **construe**

make sense of; assign a meaning to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But nothing that was said Tuesday can be **construed** as good news.*
—[Washington Post \(Sep 14, 2011\)](#)

✓

354. **ford**

cross a river where it's shallow

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Sometimes they drive their teams through unsettled country, without roads, swimming and **for**ding streams, clearing away obstructions, and camping where night overtakes them.*
—[Folsom, William Henry Carman](#)

✓

355. **repast**

the food served and eaten at one time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Fragrant coffee, light rolls, fresh butter, ham and eggs, fried crocuses and soft crabs, formed the **rep**ast.*
—[Reid, Mayne](#)

✓

356. **stint**

an unbroken period of time during which you do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Mar 21, 2012\)](#)



357. **fresco**

a mural done with watercolors on wet plaster

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The little church has an ancient **fresco** of St. Christopher, placed, as usual, opposite the entrance.*

—[Conybeare, Edward](#)



358. **dutiful**

willingly obedient out of a sense of duty and respect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Perhaps he thinks an engaged young lady should be demure and **dutiful**, having no eyes or ears for any one except her betrothed.

—[Harland, Marion](#)



359. **hew**

make or shape as with an axe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They bought a log chain, and lumber for a door; the window frames were **hewed** from logs.*

—[Daughters of the American Revolution. Nebraska](#)



360. **parity**

functional equality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How many of the world's problems would be solved, or at least greatly reduced, if women had true **parity** with men?*

—[New York Times \(Dec 15, 2011\)](#)



361. **affable**

diffusing warmth and friendliness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was well liked and respected in these islands, for his **affable** manners had obtained for him much popularity.*

—*Various*



362. **interminable**

tiresomely long; seemingly without end

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All was going well, but slowly, the time taken for the last few feet seeming to be **interminable**.*

—*Cumberland, Barlow*



363. **pillage**

steal goods; take as spoils

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In addition great material losses were inflicted: seven hundred houses were destroyed, six hundred stores **pillaged**, and thousands of families utterly ruined.*

—[Straus, Oscar S.](#)

✓

364. **foreboding**

a feeling of evil to come

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Marsh, Richard](#)

✓

365. **rend**

tear or be torn violently

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Tracy, Louis](#)

✓

366. **livelihood**

the financial means whereby one lives

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BBC \(Apr 15, 2011\)](#)

✓

367. **deign**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Foster, William Z.](#)

✓

368. **capricious**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Schubin, Ossip](#)

✓

369. **stupendous**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

370. **chaff**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Starr, Frederick](#)

✓

371. **innate**

not established by conditioning or learning

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Time \(Dec 9, 2011\)](#)



372. **reverie**

an abstracted state of absorption

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



373. **wrangle**

to quarrel noisily, angrily or disruptively

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Raymond, Evelyn](#)

✓

374. **crevice**

a long narrow opening

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

375. **ostensible**

appearing as such but not necessarily so

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jun 6, 2010\)](#)

✓

376. **craven**

lacking even the rudiments of courage; abjectly fearful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Was it for them to follow the **craven** footsteps of a cowardly generation?*
—[Robinson, Victor](#)



377. **vestige**

an indication that something has been present

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Now, there was no **vestige** of vegetation; no living thing.*
—[Hopkins, William John](#)



378. **plumb**

examine thoroughly and in great depth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tellingly, Ms. Liao said she had great difficulty finding three actors willing to **plumb** their own personalities.*
—[New York Times \(Jun 1, 2011\)](#)



379. **reticent**

temperamentally disinclined to talk

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Maclean, John](#)



380. **propensity**

an inclination to do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)



381. **chide**

censure severely or angrily

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Nov 8, 2011\)](#)



382. **espouse**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(May 2, 2011\)](#)



383. **raiment**

especially fine or decorative clothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



384. **intrepid**

invulnerable to fear or intimidation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Salon \(Apr 5, 2010\)](#)

✓

385. **seemly**

according with custom or propriety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Hoffmann, Ernst Theodor Wilhelm](#)

✓

386. **allay**

lessen the intensity of or calm

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Our boy was scared and confused; we tried to **allay** his fears.
—[New York Times \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)

✓

387. **fitful**

occurring in spells and often abruptly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She had lost her composure, her breath came in **fitful**, uneven gasps, and as she sat there she pressed one hand over her heart.
—[Davis, Owen](#)

✓

388. **erode**

become ground down or deteriorate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Another report today showed home prices fell more than forecast in November, **eroding** the wealth of families as they seek to rebuild savings.
—[BusinessWeek \(Jan 31, 2012\)](#)

✓

389. **unaffected**

free of artificiality; sincere and genuine

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Conway, Moncure Daniel](#)



390. **canto**

a major division of a long poem

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)



391. **docile**

easily handled or managed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

392. **patronize**

treat condescendingly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 6, 2012\)](#)

✓

393. **teem**

be teeming, be abuzz

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Mahaffy, J. P.](#)

✓

394. **estrangle**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*An atmosphere of distrust, suspicion and fear can cause workers to feel **estranged** from one another, Dr. Wright has written.*
—[New York Times \(Jan 28, 2012\)](#)



395. **spat**

a quarrel about petty points

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Public **spats** are rare in the asset-management industry, where companies typically resolve disputes behind closed doors.*
—[BusinessWeek \(Sep 16, 2011\)](#)



396. **warble**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Meadow larks, as you have undoubtedly noticed, **warble** many different songs.
—[Barrett, R. E.](#)

✓

397. **mien**

dignified manner or conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Nevertheless, before going to meet Samuel, she assumed a calm and dignified **mien**.
—[Kraszewski, Jo?zef Ignacy](#)

✓

398. **sate**

fill to satisfaction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His appetite was not **sated** by any means, but he knew the danger of overloading his stomach, so he stopped.
—[Dewey, Edward Hooker](#)

✓

399. **constituency**

the body of voters who elect a representative for their area

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Each posited that the blue-collar Democratic **constituency** rooted in the New Deal had grown increasingly conservative, alienated from “big government.”*
—[New York Times \(Jan 14, 2012\)](#)

✓

400. **patrician**

belonging to or characteristic of the nobility or aristocracy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Respectable ladies, long resident, wearing black poke bonnets and camel’s-hair shawls, lifted their **patrician** eyebrows with disapproval.*
—[Brooks, Charles Stephen](#)

✓

401. **parry**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The boys asked a few guarded questions, but gained no information whatever, their questions being **parried** in every instance.*
—[Mears, James R.](#)

✓



402. **practitioner**

someone who practices a learned profession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Nature \(Dec 21, 2011\)](#)



403. **ravel**

disentangle

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Ontario. Ministry of Education](#)



404. **infest**

occupy in large numbers or live on a host

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jul 28, 2011\)](#)



405. **actuate**

give an incentive for action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Blease, Walter Lyon](#)



406. **surly**

inclined to anger or bad feelings with overtones of menace

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



407. **convalesce**

get over an illness or shock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Jahns, Lewis E.](#)

✓

408. **demoralize**

lower someone's spirits; make downhearted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Washington Post \(Nov 1, 2011\)](#)

✓

409. **devoive**

grow worse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

As the rhetoric heated up inside, the violence outside **devolved** into chaos.
—[Time \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

✓

410. **alacrity**

liveliness and eagerness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Every one exerted himself not only without murmuring and discontent, but even with an **alacrity** which almost approached to cheerfulness.
—[Kippis, Andrew](#)

✓

411. **waive**

do without or cease to hold or adhere to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Low rates have also led retail brokerages to **waive** fees on money market funds to avoid negative returns for their clients.
—[Reuters \(Jan 13, 2012\)](#)

✓

412. **unwonted**

out of the ordinary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Speed, Nell](#)



413. **seethe**

be in an agitated emotional state

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Douglas, Hudson](#)



414. **scrutinize**

to look at critically or searchingly, or in minute detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Mar 5, 2012\)](#)

✓

415. **diffident**

lacking self-confidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

416. **execrate**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Hubbard, Elbert](#)

✓

417. **implacable**

incapable of being placated

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This man was a savage in his **implacable** desire for revenge.*
—[Kelly, Florence Finch](#)

✓

418. **pique**

a sudden outburst of anger

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A talented youngster who smashes his guitar in a fit of **pique** finds it magically reassembled just in time for a crucial concert.*
—[The Guardian \(May 31, 2010\)](#)

✓

419. **mite**

a slight but appreciable amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I never saw anybody so pleased with monkeys as she is, and not one **mite** afraid.*
—[Raymond, Evelyn](#)



420. **encumber**

hold back

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



421. **uncouth**

lacking refinement or cultivation or taste

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



422. **petulant**

easily irritated or annoyed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Fleming, May Agnes](#)



423. **expiate**

make amends for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Clifton, A. B.](#)



424. **cavalier**

given to haughty disregard of others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jun 18, 2011\)](#)



425. **banter**

light teasing repartee

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Our easy **banter** had suddenly been replaced by strained and awkward interaction.*
—[Slate \(Feb 15, 2012\)](#)

✓

426. **bluster**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Slade, despite his swaggers and **blustering**, was at heart a coward.*
—[Landon, Herman](#)

✓

427. **debase**

corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Long oppression had not, on the whole, either blunted their intellects or **debased** their morals.*
—[Adler, Felix](#)



428. **retainer**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This faithful and trusted **retainer** is greatly valued by his employers.*
—[Black, Helen C.](#)



429. **subjugate**

make subservient; force to submit or subdue

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Confederacy was led by thoroughgoing racists who wanted to keep blacks **subjugated** for all time because of the color of their skin.*
—[Slate \(Apr 7, 2010\)](#)



430. **extol**

praise, glorify, or honor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How I praised the duck at that first dinner, and **extolled** Madame's skill in cookery!*
—[Warren, Arthur](#)

✓

431. **fraught**

filled with or attended with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the ocean remains an unpredictable place, **fraught** with hazards.*
—[Scientific American \(Apr 5, 2012\)](#)

✓

432. **august**

profoundly honored

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*At all times reserved in his manner and his bearing full of dignity, never before had she realized the majesty of General Washington's **august** presence.*
—[Madison, Lucy Foster](#)

✓

433. **fissure**

a long narrow depression in a surface

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Step, Edward](#)



434. **knoll**

a small natural hill

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(May 7, 2010\)](#)



435. **callous**

emotionally hardened

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Wingfield, Lewis](#)

✓

436. **inculcate**

teach and impress by frequent repetitions or admonitions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

437. **nettle**

cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Lincoln began these remarks by good-humored but **nettling** chaffing of his opponent.*

—[Various](#)

✓

438. **blanch**

turn pale, as if in fear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He is silent, as if struck dumb, his face showing **blanched** and bloodless, while she utters a shriek, half terrified, half in frenzied anger.*

—[Reid, Mayne](#)

✓

439. **inscrutable**

of an obscure nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The fashion industry is notoriously opaque and often **inscrutable** for outsiders, even ones as well connected as him.*

—[Seattle Times \(Oct 1, 2011\)](#)

✓

440. **tenacious**

stubbornly unyielding

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She was a **tenacious** woman, one who would even hold fast a thing which she no longer valued, simply because it belonged to her.

—[Morris, Clara](#)

✓

441. **thrall**

the state of being under the control of another person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Then Kiss commenced in earnest, and quickly held his audience in **thrall**.*

—[Farjeon, Benjamin Leopold](#)

✓

442. **exigency**

a pressing or urgent situation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **exigency** of the situation roused Mr. Popkiss' sluggish faculties into prompt action.*

—[Magnay, William](#)

✓

443. **disconsolate**

sad beyond comforting; incapable of being consoled

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Was there a bereaved mother or **disconsolate** sister weeping over their dead?*
—[Steward, T. G. \(Theophilus Gould\)](#)

✓

444. **impetus**

a force that moves something along

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Critics say it has known mixed success at best, although supporters hope the U.S. drawdown could provide just the **impetus** it needs to thrive.*
—[Reuters \(Jan 10, 2012\)](#)

✓

445. **imposition**

an uncalled-for burden

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On that far-away day he had considered the little, lost girl a nuisance and an **imposition**.*
—[Chisholm, A. M. \(Arthur Murray\)](#)

✓

446. **auspices**

kindly endorsement and guidance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*New York Times \(Nov 9, 2011\)*](#)

✓

447. **sonorous**

full and loud and deep

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Bedford-Jones, H.*](#)

✓

448. **exploitation**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BBC \(Apr 4, 2011\)](#)

✓

449. **bane**

something causing misery or death

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Jun 7, 2010\)](#)

✓

450. **dint**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If only certain puzzles could be solved by **dint** of sheer hard thinking!*

—[Marsh, Richard](#)

451. **ignominious**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The great Ottawa chief saw his partially accomplished scheme withering into **ignominious** failure.*

—[Rudd, John](#)



452. **amicable**

characterized by friendship and good will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After a short colloquy the two men evidently came to an **amicable** understanding, for they shook hands.*

—[Kraszewski, Józef Ignacy](#)



453. **onset**

the beginning or early stages

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thousands of families are living in makeshift camps as temperatures fall to freezing with the **onset** of winter.*

—[New York Times \(Nov 10, 2011\)](#)



454. **conservatory**

a schoolhouse with special facilities for fine arts

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

455. **zenith**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

456. **voluble**

marked by a ready flow of speech

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

457. **yeoman**

in former times was free and cultivated his own land

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

458. **levity**

a manner lacking seriousness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

459. **rapt**

feeling great rapture or delight

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She was watching the development of the investigation with **rapt**, eager attention.*

—[Mitford, Bertram](#)

✓

460. **sultry**

characterized by oppressive heat and humidity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*New guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics arrive just as school sports ramp up **insultry** August temperatures.*

—[Washington Post \(Aug 9, 2011\)](#)

✓

461. **pinion**

bind the arms of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The prisoners having dismounted, were placed in a line on the ground facing the guillotine, their arms **pinioned**.*

—[Various](#)

✓

462. **axiom**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The fundamental **axiom** of scientific thought is that there is not, never has been, and never will be, any disorder in nature.*

—[Huxley, Thomas H.](#)



463. **descry**

catch sight of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Drake, Samuel Adams](#)



464. **retinue**

the group following and attending to some important person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Salon \(Apr 9, 2010\)](#)

✓

465. **functionary**

a worker who holds or is invested with an office

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reilly, S. A.](#)

✓

466. **imbibe**

take in liquids

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Douglas, Hudson](#)

✓

467. **diversified**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



468. **maraud**

raid and rove in search of booty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BBC \(Apr 8, 2011\)](#)



469. **grudging**

petty or reluctant in giving or spending

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Expect delays, scattered outages and surly, **grudging** customer service in the interim.
—[Time \(Aug 30, 2011\)](#)

✓

470. **partiality**

a predisposition to like something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She still showed a **partiality** for bright colors, by her gown of deep crimson.*
—[Sage, William](#)

✓

471. **philology**

the humanistic study of language and literature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I had determined to study **philology**, chiefly Greek and Latin, but the fare spread out by the professors was much too tempting.*
—[Müller, F. Max \(Friedrich Max\)](#)

✓

472. **wry**

humorously sarcastic or mocking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She also has a very understated but very **wry** sense of humour; watch out for it.*
—[The Guardian \(Oct 13, 2010\)](#)

✓

473. **caucus**

meet to select a candidate or promote a policy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Representative Ron Paul of Texas isn't campaigning in Florida, instead focusing on Maine, which will **caucus** in late February.*
—[BusinessWeek \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)

✓

474. **permeate**

spread or diffuse through

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Florida's summertime heat **permeates** almost every scene, becoming something like a character.*
—[New York Times \(Mar 13, 2012\)](#)

✓

475. **propitious**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With the Athens stock market down nearly 30 percent so far this year, it would not seem **apropitious** time for initial public offerings.*
—[New York Times \(Jun 2, 2010\)](#)

✓

476. **salient**

having a quality that thrusts itself into attention

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bullying has become an increasingly **salient** problem for school-age children, and in rare cases has ended tragically with victims committing suicide.*
—[Reuters \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)

✓

477. **propitiate**

make peace with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Frith, William Powell](#)

✓

478. **excise**

remove by cutting

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Apr 8, 2011\)](#)

✓

479. **betoken**

be a signal for or a symptom of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Young, F.E. Mills](#)

✓

480. **palatable**

acceptable to the taste or mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If nicely cooked in this way, cabbage is as **palatable** and as digestible as cauliflower.*
—[Ronald, Mary](#)



481. **upbraid**

express criticism towards

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*When Kahn warned of a serious economic "depression", he was **upbraided** by the White House for using such language.*
—[The Guardian \(Jan 12, 2011\)](#)



482. **renegade**

someone who rebels and becomes an outlaw

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Robinson, Doane](#)



483. **hoary**

ancient

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Mar 8, 2012\)](#)



484. **pedantic**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Hay, Ian](#)



485. **coy**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was funny watching such a solid person, based in faith and education, grow a trifle **coy** about the year of his birth.*
—[New York Times \(Jul 11, 2010\)](#)

✓

486. **troth**

a solemn pledge of fidelity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She had pledged to him her **troth**, and she would not attempt to go back from her pledge at the first appearance of a difficulty.*
—[Trollope, Anthony](#)

✓

487. **encroachment**

entry to another's property without right or permission

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[BusinessWeek \(Jan 8, 2010\)](#)

✓

488. **belie**

be in contradiction with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Weyman, Stanley John](#)

✓

489. **armada**

a large fleet

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Douglas, Frances](#)

✓

490. **succor**

assistance in time of difficulty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(May 5, 2010\)](#)



491. **imperturbable**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



492. **irresolute**

uncertain how to act or proceed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Waugh, Joseph Laing](#)

✓

493. **knack**

a special way of doing something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Price, Lucien](#)

✓

494. **unseemly**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Jan 1, 2011\)](#)

✓

495. **accentuate**

to stress, single out as important

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This sparkling marvel lies modestly nestled among the law courts, whose plainer modern buildings serve but to **accentuate** its wonderful beauty.*

—[Sherrill, Charles Hitchcock](#)



496. **divulge**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Seattle Times \(Nov 15, 2011\)](#)



497. **brawn**

possessing muscular strength

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Jul 9, 2010\)](#)

✓

498. **burnish**

polish and make shiny

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Whymper, Frederick](#)

✓

499. **palpitate**

beat rapidly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Isaacson, Lauren Ann](#)

✓

500. **promiscuous**

not selective of a single class or person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Whitney, Orson F.](#)



501. **dissemble**

make believe with the intent to deceive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Dec 4, 2010\)](#)



502. **flotilla**

a fleet of small craft

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Aug 11, 2011\)](#)

✓

503. **invective**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

504. **hermitage**

the abode of a hermit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

505. **despoil**

destroy and strip of its possession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Campbell, Charles](#)

✓

506. **sully**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Forbes \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

✓

507. **malevolent**

having or exerting a malignant influence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

So you don't believe in evil, as an actual **malevolent** force?
—[New York Times \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)

✓

508. **irksome**

so lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Webster, Frank V.](#)

✓

509. **prattle**

speak (about unimportant matters) rapidly and incessantly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Clark, Joan](#)

✓

510. **subaltern**

inferior in rank or status

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Cassery, Gordon](#)



511. **welt**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[US News \(Nov 23, 2010\)](#)



512. **wreak**

cause to happen or to occur as a consequence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Washington Post \(Apr 1, 2012\)](#)

✓

513. **tenable**

based on sound reasoning or evidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(Feb 18, 2011\)](#)

✓

514. **inimitable**

defying imitation; matchless

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Sep 26, 2010\)](#)

✓

515. **depredation**

(usually plural) a destructive action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Various*](#)

✓

516. **amalgamate**

to bring or combine together or with something else

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Engels, Friedrich*](#)

✓

517. **immutable**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[The Guardian \(May 27, 2010\)](#)

✓

518. **proxy**

a person authorized to act for another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Jan 17, 2011\)](#)

✓

519. **dote**

shower with love; show excessive affection for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

520. **reactionary**

extremely conservative

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Old people are often accused of being too conservative, and even **reactionary**.*
—[Chinard, Gilbert](#)

✓

521. **rationalism**

the doctrine that reason is the right basis for regulating conduct

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Offering a religious rationale for policy goals threatens what for many has become the cherished principle of secular **rationalism** in public life.*
—[Salon \(Apr 24, 2011\)](#)

✓

522. **endue**

give qualities or abilities to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

To say the least of it, he was **endued** with sufficient intelligence to acquire an ordinary knowledge of such matters.

—[Various](#)

✓

523. **discriminating**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jobs' Apple specializes in delighting the most **discriminating**, hard-to-please customers.*

—[Forbes \(Oct 12, 2011\)](#)

✓

524. **brooch**

a decorative pin worn by women

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Upon her breast she wore a **brooch** of gold set with many precious stones.*

—[Butler, Pierce](#)

✓

525. **pert**

characterized by a lightly pert and exuberant quality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

526. **disembark**

go ashore

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

✓

527. **aria**

an elaborate song for solo voice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Ms. Netrebko sang an elegantly sad **aria** with lustrous warmth, aching vulnerability and floating high notes.

—[New York Times \(Sep 27, 2011\)](#)

✓

528. **trappings**

(usually plural) accessory wearing apparel

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Roy, Lillian Elizabeth](#)

✓

529. **abet**

assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Mar 9, 2011\)](#)

✓

530. **clandestine**

conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For Jordan, this is a **clandestine** relationship it would much prefer to have kept secret.*
—[BBC \(Jan 5, 2010\)](#)

✓

531. **distend**

swell from or as if from internal pressure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Some kids said LaNiyah's **distended** abdomen looked like she was carrying a baby.*
—[Seattle Times \(Apr 7, 2011\)](#)

✓

532. **glib**

having only superficial plausibility

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The other sort of engineer understands that **glib** comparisons between computers and humans don't do justice to the complexities of either.*
—[Forbes \(Jul 22, 2010\)](#)



533. **pucker**

to gather something into small wrinkles or folds

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



534. **rejoinder**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Various*](#)



535. **spangle**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[O'Shea, John Augustus](#)



536. **blighted**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 4, 2012\)](#)



537. **nicety**

conformity with some esthetic standard of correctness or propriety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



538. **aggrieve**

infringe on the rights of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[New York Times \(Feb 20, 2012\)](#)

✓

539. **vestment**

gown (especially ceremonial garments) worn by the clergy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Glinski, A. J.](#)

✓

540. **urbane**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Judson, L. Carroll](#)

✓

541. **defray**

bear the expenses of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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

✓

542. **spectral**

resembling or characteristic of a phantom

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hawthorne's figures are somewhat **spectral**; they lack flesh and blood.

—[Merwin, Henry Childs](#)

✓

543. **munificent**

very generous

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They have shown themselves very loving and generous lately, in making a quite **munificent** provision for his traveling.*

—[Carlyle, Thomas](#)



544. **dictum**

an authoritative declaration

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In other words, they seemed fully subscribed to Andy Warhol's **dictum** that business art is the best art.*

—[New York Times \(Dec 10, 2011\)](#)



545. **fad**

an interest followed with exaggerated zeal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

According to Chinese media, the hottest new **fad** in China involves selling small live-animal key chains.

—[Time \(Apr 5, 2011\)](#)

✓

546. **scabbard**

a sheath for a sword or dagger or bayonet

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Drawing his own sabre from its **scabbard**, he pointed to a stain on it, saying, "This is the blood of an Englishman."*

—[Reed, Helen Leah](#)

✓

547. **adulterate**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shady dealers along the supply chain frequently **adulterate** olive oil with low-grade vegetable oils and add artificial coloring.*

—[New York Times \(Dec 7, 2011\)](#)

✓

548. **beleaguer**

annoy persistently

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*The Guardian \(Dec 30, 2010\)*](#)

✓

549. **gripe**

complain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[*Economist \(Jan 20, 2011\)*](#)

✓

550. **remission**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Various](#)

✓

551. **exorbitant**

greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Slate \(Oct 10, 2011\)](#)

✓

552. **invocation**

the act of appealing for help

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Roosevelt, Theodore](#)

✓

553. **cajole**

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Hamilton, however, was not to be **cajoled** into friendliness by superficial compliment.*
—[Fisher, Harrison](#)

✓

554. **inclusive**

including much or everything; and especially including stated limits

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We are going to adhere to our basic programing strategy of nonpartisan information **inclusive** of all different points of view.*
—[Reuters \(Sep 27, 2010\)](#)

✓

555. **interdict**

command against

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Worley, George](#)

✓

556. **abase**

cause to feel shame; hurt the pride of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Caine, Hall, Sir](#)

✓

557. **obviate**

do away with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Ballou, Maturin Murray](#)

✓

558. **hurtle**

move with or as if with a rushing sound

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Reuters \(Aug 27, 2011\)](#)



559. **unanimity**

everyone being of one mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Smith, William, Sir](#)



560. **mettle**

the courage to carry on

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The deployment will also test the emotional **mettle** of soldiers and their families.*
—[New York Times \(Jun 26, 2010\)](#)



561. **interpolate**

insert words into texts, often falsifying it thereby

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Most scholars agree that these lines are **interpolated**, since they do not fit in with the rest of the poem.*
—[Various](#)

562. **surreptitious**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He noticed that the peddler was eying the bag Scotty had picked up, and was trying to be **surreptitious** about it.*
—[Goodwin, Harold L. \(Harold Leland\)](#)



563. **dissimulate**

hide (feelings) from other people

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From infancy these people have been schooled to **dissimulate** and hide emotion, and ordinarily their faces are as opaque as those of veteran poker players.*
—[Kephart, Horace](#)

✓

564. **ruse**

a deceptive maneuver (especially to avoid capture)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Overseas criminals use elaborate **ruses**, including phony websites, to trick job-seekers into helping transfer stolen funds.*
—[BusinessWeek \(Aug 4, 2011\)](#)

✓

565. **specious**

plausible but false

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*You might be tempted to think of the biggest airline as the one with the most aircraft, but capacity differences make this reasoning **specious**.*
—[Salon \(May 6, 2010\)](#)



566. **revulsion**

intense aversion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Livingston, Arthur](#)



567. **hale**

exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Adams, Abigail](#)



568. **palliate**

lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or extent of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Divisions and inequalities persist, but government can **palliate** their effects with hard cash.*

—[The Guardian \(Aug 14, 2010\)](#)

✓

569. **obtuse**

lacking in insight or discernment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The affair had been mentioned so plainly that it was impossible for the most dense and **obtuse** person not to have understood the allusion.*

—[Brazil, Angela](#)

✓

570. **querulous**

habitually complaining

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was, at times, as **querulous** as a complaining old man.*

—[Williams, Ben Ames](#)

✓

571. **vagary**

an unexpected and inexplicable change in something (in a situation or a person's behavior, etc.)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Today such acquisitions are more likely to stay put, destined to survive both market fluctuations and the **vagaries** of style.*

—[New York Times \(Sep 29, 2010\)](#)



572. **incipient**

only partly in existence; imperfectly formed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Above all, medical teams will need to establish quick surveillance to identify health needs and pinpoint **incipient** outbreaks before they explode.*

—[Time \(Jan 13, 2010\)](#)



573. **obdurate**

stubbornly persistent in wrongdoing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Several appeared deeply affected, with tears of repentance standing in their eyes, others sullen and **obdurate**.

—[Huth, Alexander](#)

✓

574. **grovel**

show submission or fear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The two young men who drove them had fallen flat and were **grovelling** and wailing for mercy.*

—[Mitford, Bertram](#)

✓

575. **refractory**

stubbornly resistant to authority or control

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Beyond them the gardener struggled with a **refractory** horse that refused to draw his load of brush and dead leaves.*

—[Bacon, Josephine Dodge Daskam](#)

✓

576. **dregs**

sediment that has settled at the bottom of a liquid

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Right got to go," Ali says, draining the **dregs** of his beer.
—[BBC \(Feb 25, 2012\)](#)

✓

577. **ascendancy**

the state that exists when one person or group has power over another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But in a few days he had secured an almost incredible **ascendancy** over the sullen, starved, half-clothed army.*
—[Various](#)

✓

578. **supercilious**

having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

A **supercilious**, patronizing person—son of a wretched country parson—used to loll against the wall of your salon—with his nose in the air.
—[Pinero, Arthur Wing, Sir](#)

✓

579. **pundit**

someone who has been admitted to membership in a scholarly field

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Pundits of agricultural science explore the sheds, I believe, the barns, stables, machine-rooms, and so forth, before inspecting the crops.
—[Boyle, Frederick](#)

✓

580. **commiserate**

to feel or express sympathy or compassion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

We had spent countless hours together drinking wine and **commiserating** about child-rearing, long Wisconsin winters and interrupted sleep.
—[New York Times \(Mar 24, 2011\)](#)

✓

581. **alcove**

a small recess opening off a larger room

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They showed him where he would sleep, in a little closet-like **alcove** screened from the big room by a gay curtain.*

—[Wilson, Harry Leon](#)

✓

582. **assay**

make an effort or attempt

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He decided to **assay** one last project before giving up.*

—[New York Times \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)

✓

583. **parochial**

narrowly restricted in outlook or scope

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But Republicans in Pennsylvania also have narrower and more **parochial** things to worry about.

—[New York Times \(Sep 17, 2011\)](#)

✓

584. **conjugal**

of or relating to marriage or to the relationship between a wife and husband

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They even had **conjugal** visits for prisoners — five hours in a private room every three months with your wife.*

—[New York Times \(Nov 23, 2010\)](#)

✓

585. **abjure**

formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief, usually under pressure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The caste abstain from liquor, and some of them have **abjured** all flesh food while others partake of it.*

—[Russell, R. V. \(Robert Vane\)](#)

✓

586. **frieze**

an architectural ornament consisting of a horizontal sculptured band between the architrave and the cornice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All the doorways mentioned above have cornices, and in those at Palmyra and Baalbec richly carved **friezes** with side corbels.*

—[Various](#)



587. **ornate**

marked by complexity and richness of detail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Unlike his literary icon, Herman Melville, he doesn't adorn his writing with **ornate** flourishes or complicated scaffolding.*

—[Scientific American \(Dec 20, 2011\)](#)



588. **inflammatory**

arousing to action or rebellion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

We don't know whether **inflammatory** language or images can incite the mentally ill to commit acts of violence.

—[Time \(Jan 13, 2011\)](#)

✓

589. **machination**

a crafty and involved plot to achieve your (usually sinister) ends

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was continued a member of Congress until 1777 when his enemies succeeded in their long nursed **machinations** against him.*

—[Judson, L. Carroll](#)

✓

590. **mendicant**

a pauper who lives by begging

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In others are the broken-down **mendicants** who live on soup-kitchens and begging.*

—[Ritchie, J. Ewing \(James Ewing\)](#)

✓

591. **meander**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They paused beside one of the low stone walls that **meandered** in a meaningless fashion this way and that over the uplands.*

—[Vance, Louis Joseph](#)



592. **bullion**

gold or silver in bars or ingots

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In times of economic turmoil, more people tend to invest in **bullion** gold.*

—[Washington Post \(Mar 30, 2012\)](#)



593. **diffidence**

lack of self-confidence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His grave **diffidence** and continued hesitation in offering an opinion confirmed me in my own.

—[Froude, James Anthony](#)

✓

594. **makeshift**

done or made using whatever is available

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The house was still under construction, so he climbed up a ladder being used as a **makeshift** stairway, fell and injured his leg.*

—[New York Times \(Apr 12, 2012\)](#)

✓

595. **husbandry**

the practice of cultivating the land or raising stock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The U.S. can take a lesson from Denmark, which has efficiently raised livestock without hurting farmers, by using better animal **husbandry** practices.*

—[Scientific American \(Mar 22, 2011\)](#)

✓

596. **podium**

a platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Leyva beamed as he stood atop the **podium**, nodding as the American flag was raised and “The Star-Spangled Banner” played in his honor.*
—[New York Times \(Oct 22, 2011\)](#)

✓

597. **dearth**

an insufficient quantity or number

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A continuing **dearth** of snow in many U.S. spots usually buried by this time of year has turned life upside down.*
—[Washington Post \(Jan 5, 2012\)](#)

✓

598. **granary**

a storehouse for threshed grain or animal feed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Here is where he does his husking, and the "clear corn" produced is stored away in some underground **granary** till it is needed.

—[Seton, Ernest Thompson](#)

✓

599. **whet**

make keen or more acute

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

While he described the fishing as "pretty good," the silver salmon running in the creek only **whetted** his appetite to return to Alaska.

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

✓

600. **imposture**

pretending to be another person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He got somebody to prosecute him for false pretences and **imposture**, on the ground that Madame was a man.

—[Leland, Charles Godfrey](#)

✓

601. **diadem**

an ornamental jeweled headdress signifying sovereignty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I dethrone monarchs and the people rejoicing crown me instead, showering **diadems** upon my head.*

—[Tilney, Frederick Colin](#)



602. **fallow**

undeveloped but potentially useful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Several new prostate cancer drugs have been approved in the last couple of years, after a long **fallow** period, and others are in advanced development.*

—[New York Times \(Nov 3, 2011\)](#)



603. **hubbub**

loud confused noise from many sources

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

There was some good-humoured pushing and thrusting, the drum beating and the church bells jangling bravely above the hubbub.

—[Weyman, Stanley J.](#)

✓

604. **dispassionate**

unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The commission sitting by, judicial, **dispassionate**, presided with cold dignity over the sacrifice, and pronounced it good.*

—[Candee, Helen Churchill Hungerford, Mrs.](#)

✓

605. **harrowing**

extremely painful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Belgium found itself in turmoil as hundreds of people came forward to offer **harrowing** accounts of abuse over several decades.*

—[New York Times \(Jan 16, 2012\)](#)

✓

606. **askance**

with suspicion or disapproval

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A secret marriage in these days would be looked upon **askance** by most people.*
—[Wood, Mrs. Henry](#)



607. **lancet**

a surgical knife with a pointed double-edged blade; used for punctures and small incisions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His left arm was held by the second physician, while the chief surgeon bent over it, **lancet** in hand.*
—[Hay, Marie, Hon. \(Agnes Blanche Marie\)](#)



608. **rankle**

gnaw into; make resentful or angry

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was feeling more like himself now, though the memory of the bully's sneering words **rankled**.*

—[Chadwick, Lester](#)

✓

609. **ramify**

have or develop complicating consequences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Cometary science has **ramified** in unexpected ways during the last hundred years.*

—[Various](#)

✓

610. **gainsay**

take exception to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That Whitman entertained a genuine affection for men and women is, of course, too obvious to be **gainsaid**.*

—[Rickett, Arthur](#)

✓

611. **polity**

a politically organized unit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*China needs a **polity** that can address its increasingly sophisticated society, and to achieve that there must be political reform, Mr. Sun said.*

—[New York Times \(Mar 21, 2012\)](#)

✓

612. **credence**

the mental attitude that something is believable and should be accepted as true

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Well-known brand names that promote new products receive more **credence** than newcomers that people don't know about."*

—[US News \(Oct 6, 2010\)](#)

✓

613. **indemnify**

make amends for; pay compensation for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She put her affairs in order and left instructions that those whom she had unwittingly wronged should be **indemnified** out of her private fortune.

—[Butler, Pierce](#)

✓

614. **ingratiate**

gain favor with somebody by deliberate efforts

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He became kindly and coaxing, leaning across the table with an **ingratiating** smile.

—[King, Basil](#)

✓

615. **declivity**

a downward slope or bend

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In this frightful condition, the hunter grappled with the raging beast, and, struggling for life, they rolled together down a steep **declivity**.

—[Goodrich, Samuel G. \(Samuel Griswold\)](#)

✓

616. **importunate**

expressing earnest entreaty

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The young man was then passionately **importunate** in the protestations of his love.*
—[Barr, Amelia Edith Huddleston](#)

✓

617. **passe**

out of fashion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*My friend is very keen on the new crowd; everything else he declares is "**passe**."*
—[Holliday, Robert Cortes](#)

✓

618. **whittle**

cut small bits or pare shavings from

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tad followed, **whittling** on a stick with his knife and kicking at the shavings as they fell.*
—[Kjelgaard, James Arthur](#)



619. **repine**

express discontent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Those poor fellows above, accustomed to the wild freshness and freedom of the sea, how they must mourn and **repine!***

—[O'Shea, John Augustus](#)



620. **flay**

strip the skin off

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Once at the moose and hastily **flaying** the hide from the steaming meat my attention became centered on the task.*

—[Sinclair, Bertrand W.](#)



621. **larder**

a small storeroom for storing foods or wines

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Goncalves's **larder** holds staples like beefsteak, salt cod, sardines, olives, artichokes, hot and sweet peppers and plenty of garlic.*
—[New York Times \(Feb 18, 2011\)](#)

✓

622. **threadbare**

having the nap worn away so that the threads show through

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were all poor folk, wrapped in **threadbare** cloaks or tattered leather.*
—[Brackett, Leigh Douglass](#)

✓

623. **grisly**

shockingly repellent; inspiring horror

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Television video showed a heavily damaged building and a **grisly** scene inside, with clothing and prayer mats scattered across a blood-splattered floor.*
—[New York Times \(Aug 19, 2011\)](#)

✓

624. **untoward**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Responding to criticism that cash payments are a classic means of tax evasion, he said he had done nothing **untoward**.*

—[New York Times \(Aug 2, 2011\)](#)



625. **idiosyncrasy**

a behavioral attribute that is distinctive and peculiar to an individual

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*One of his well-known **idiosyncrasies** was that he would never allow himself to be photographed.*

—[Le Queux, William](#)



626. **quip**

make jokes or quips

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"I could have joined the FBI in a shorter period of time and with less documentation than it took to get that mortgage," she **quipped**.

—[Reuters \(Oct 13, 2010\)](#)

✓

627. **blatant**

without any attempt at concealment; completely obvious

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There was no **blatant** display of wealth, and every article of furniture bore signs of long though careful use.*

—[Bull, Charles Livingston](#)

✓

628. **stanch**

stop the flow of a liquid

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She did not attempt to **stanch** her tears, but sat looking at him with a smiling mouth, while the heavy drops fell down her cheeks.*

—[Stockley, Cynthia](#)

✓

629. **incongruity**

the quality of disagreeing; being unsuitable and inappropriate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Hanging out wet clothes and an American flag at the North Pole seemed an amusing **incongruity**.*

—[Cook, Frederick A.](#)



630. **perfidious**

tending to betray; especially having a treacherous character as attributed to the Carthaginians by the Romans

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **perfidious** Italian at length confessed that it was his intention to murder his master, and then rob the house.*

—[Billingham, Percy J.](#)



631. **platitude**

a trite or obvious remark

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But details are fuzzy and rebel leaders often resort to **platitudes** when dismissing suggestions of discord, saying simply that "Libya is one tribe."
—[Wall Street Journal \(Jun 20, 2011\)](#)

✓

632. **revelry**

unrestrained merrymaking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But all this **revelry** — dancing, drinks, exuberant youth — can be hard to manage.
—[New York Times \(Jun 3, 2010\)](#)

✓

633. **delve**

turn up, loosen, or remove earth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

So she did what any reporter would do: she **delved** into the scientific literature and talked to investigators.
—[New York Times \(Dec 27, 2010\)](#)

✓

634. **extenuate**

lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or extent of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Prosecutors often spend time weighing mitigating and **extenuating** circumstances before deciding to seek the death penalty.*

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

✓

635. **polemic**

a controversy (especially over a belief or dogma)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Would it be a **polemic** that denounced Western imperialism for using cinema to undermine emerging nations like Kazakhstan?*

—[New York Times \(Oct 4, 2010\)](#)

✓

636. **enrapture**

hold spellbound

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

I was delighted, enraptured, beside myself--the world had disappeared in an instant.
—[Spielhagen, Friedrich](#)

✓

637. **virtuoso**

someone who is dazzlingly skilled in any field

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Each of the seven instrumentalists was a **virtuoso** in his own right and had ample opportunity to prove it, often in long, soulful solos.*
—[New York Times \(May 3, 2010\)](#)

✓

638. **glower**

look angry or sullen, wrinkle one's forehead, as if to signal disapproval

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A moment later he would collapse, sit **glowering** in his chair, looking angrily at the carpet.*
—[Hecht, Ben](#)

✓

639. **mundane**

found in the ordinary course of events

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Now, it would seem, that the Chinese are getting back to their everyday concerns, paying attention to events more **mundane** and less cataclysmic.*

—[New York Times \(Mar 20, 2012\)](#)



640. **fatuous**

devoid of intelligence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They're too stupid, for one thing; they go on burning houses and breaking windows in their old **fatuous** way.*

—[McKenna, Stephen](#)



641. **incorrigible**

impervious to correction by punishment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She scolded and lectured her sister in vain; Cynthia was **incorrigible**.
—[Various](#)

✓

642. **postulate**

maintain or assert

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In fact, when Einstein formulated his cosmological vision, based on his theory of gravitation, he **postulated** that the universe was finite.*
—[Scientific American \(Jul 26, 2011\)](#)

✓

643. **gist**

the central meaning or theme of a speech or literary work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The syntax was a little off, even comical at times, but I got the **gist** of what was going on.*
—[Time \(May 6, 2010\)](#)

✓

644. **vociferous**

conspicuously and offensively loud; given to vehement outcry

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The complaints grew so loud and **vociferous** that even President Obama was forced to address the backlash from Lisbon on Saturday.*

—[New York Times \(Nov 23, 2010\)](#)

✓

645. **purvey**

supply with provisions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And we will agree also to **purvey** food for these horses and people during nine months.*

—[Villehardouin, Geoffroi de](#)

✓

646. **baleful**

deadly or sinister

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“But he is dead,” put in Fanning, wondering at the **baleful** expression of hatred that had come into the man’s face.*

—[Burnham, Margaret](#)

✓

647. **gibe**

laugh at with contempt and derision

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*So much did their taunts prey upon him that he ran away from school to escape their **gibes**.*

—[Hubbard, Elbert](#)

✓

648. **dyspeptic**

irritable as if suffering from indigestion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*One may begin with heroic renunciations and end in undignified envy and **dyspeptic** comments outside the door one has slammed on one’s self.*

—[Wells, H. G. \(Herbert George\)](#)

✓

649. **prude**

a person excessively concerned about propriety and decorum

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Criticising high-profile programmes about teenage sex education often means risking being written off as a **prude**.*

—[The Guardian \(Feb 11, 2011\)](#)

✓

650. **luminary**

a celebrity who is an inspiration to others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Founded in 1947, the group's members have included such **luminaries** as Walt Disney, Spencer Tracy and another American president, Ronald Reagan.*

—[Seattle Times \(Apr 11, 2011\)](#)

✓

651. **amenable**

disposed or willing to comply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He, Jean Boulot, being so **amenable** to sensible argument, would at once fall in with his views.

—[Wingfield, Lewis](#)

✓

652. **willful**

habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I crossed my arms like a **willful** child.*

—[New York Times \(Aug 18, 2011\)](#)

✓

653. **overbearing**

having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"True; but——" "Just so," interrupted Mr. Fauntleroy, in his decisive and rather **overbearing** manner.*

—[Wood, Mrs. Henry](#)

✓

654. **dais**

a platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The throne was elevated on a **dais** of silver steps.*
—[Tracy, Louis](#)

✓

655. **automate**

make automatic or control or operate automatically

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And because leap seconds are needed irregularly their insertion cannot be **automated**, which means that fallible humans must insert them by hand.*
—[Economist \(Jan 12, 2012\)](#)

✓

656. **enervate**

weaken mentally or morally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The reviewers have **enervated** men's minds, and made them indolent; few think for themselves.

—[Rossetti, William Michael](#)

✓

657. **wheedle**

influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*On one level, I expected incessant flattery in attempts to **wheedle** equipment or even money from American forces.*

—[New York Times \(Aug 16, 2010\)](#)

✓

658. **gusto**

vigorous and enthusiastic enjoyment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The audience, surprisingly large given the inclement weather, responded with **gusto**, applauding each song, including those within the Shostakovich cycle.*

—[New York Times \(Mar 2, 2010\)](#)

✓

659. **bouillon**

a clear seasoned broth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The meat soups are called broths, **bouillon**, or consommé, according to their richness.*
—[Ronald, Mary](#)

✓

660. **omniscient**

infinitely wise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Robbe-Grillet responds that his work is in fact far less objective than the godlike, **omniscient** narrator who presides over so many traditional novels.*
—[The Guardian \(May 13, 2010\)](#)

✓

661. **apostate**

not faithful to religion or party or cause

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are atheist conservatives — Mr. Khan an **apostate** to his family's Islamic faith, Ms. Mac Donald to her left-wing education.*
—[New York Times \(Feb 18, 2011\)](#)

✓

662. **carrion**

the dead and rotting body of an animal; unfit for human food

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Habitually his diet is not carnivorous, but he will eat at times either **carrion** or living flesh.*
—[Reid, Mayne](#)

✓

663. **emolument**

compensation received by virtue of holding an office or having employment (usually in the form of wages or fees)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As the TUC has pointed out, those incomes – except for senior executives, whose **emoluments** seem to know few bounds – are rising more slowly than prices.*
—[The Guardian \(Jan 8, 2011\)](#)

✓

664. **ungainly**

lacking grace in movement or posture

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thomas looked up furtively and saw that an **ungainly** human figure with crooked legs was being led into the church.*

—[Gogol, Nikolai Vasilievich](#)

✓

665. **impiety**

unrighteousness by virtue of lacking respect for a god

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*That, however, is unbelief, extreme **impiety**, and a denial of the most high God.*

—[Bente, F. \(Friedrich\)](#)

✓

666. **decadence**

the state of being degenerate in mental or moral qualities

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But there are people who really do not want to import what they regard as Western **decadence**, especially public drunkenness.*

—[BBC \(Jun 11, 2011\)](#)

✓

667. **homily**

a sermon on a moral or religious topic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In his New Year's **homily**, the pope said "words were not enough" to bring about peace, particularly in the Middle East.*

—[Reuters \(Jan 2, 2011\)](#)

✓

668. **avocation**

an auxiliary activity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Unlike many retired doctors, whom he says often have no life outside their profession, he always knew sailing would become his **avocation**.*

—[Newsweek \(Nov 17, 2010\)](#)

✓

669. **circumvent**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Bloomberg said he would take several steps to **circumvent** obstacles to his proposals posed by city labor unions.*
—[New York Times \(Jan 12, 2012\)](#)



670. **syllogism**

deductive reasoning in which a conclusion is derived from two premises

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The conclusions arrived at by means of **syllogisms** are irresistible, provided the form be correct and the premises be true.*
—[Webster, W. F. \(William Franklin\)](#)



671. **collation**

assembling in proper numerical or logical sequence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the case of early printed books or manuscripts, which are often not paged, special knowledge is needed for their **collation**.*

—[Rooke, Noel](#)



672. **haggle**

wrangle (over a price, terms of an agreement, etc.)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Obama said while officials can **haggle** over the makeup of spending cuts, the policy issues have no place in the measure.*

—[BusinessWeek \(Apr 6, 2011\)](#)



673. **waylay**

wait in hiding to attack

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Sir Samuel Clithering was not, of course, a member of it; but he lurked about outside and **waylaid** us as we went in.*

—[Birmingham, George A.](#)



674. **savant**

someone who has been admitted to membership in a scholarly field

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Frank had studied something of almost everything and imagined himself a **savant**.*
—[Roussel, John](#)

✓

675. **cohort**

a group of people having approximately the same age

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The current **cohort** of college students is, as many have pointed out, the first truly digital generation.*
—[Washington Post \(Dec 1, 2011\)](#)

✓

676. **unction**

excessive but superficial compliments given with affected charm

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"You couldn't ask too much of me," he returned, with no **unction** of flattery, but the cheerfully frank expression of an ingenuous heart.

—[Ogden, George W. \(George Washington\)](#)

✓

677. **adjure**

command solemnly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"I **adjure** thee," she said, "swear to me that you will never go near those Christians again or read their books."

—[Pennell, T. L. \(Theodore Leighton\)](#)

✓

678. **acrimony**

a rough and bitter manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Relations with India have been slowly improving, although talks ended in **acrimony** last July with the two sides indulging in a public spat over Kashmir.

—[BBC \(Feb 10, 2011\)](#)

✓

679. **clarion**

loud and clear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“He has been the single, **clarion** voice for commuter rail in central Florida for 20 years,”*
said Mayor Ken Bradley of Winter Park.

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

✓

680. **turbid**

(of liquids) clouded as with sediment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The thick **turbid** sea rolled in, casting up mire and dirt from its depths.*

—[*Reynolds, Mrs. Baillie*](#)

✓

681. **cupidity**

extreme greed for material wealth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Well educated, but very corrupt at heart, he found in his insatiable **cupidity** many ways of gaining money.

—[Kraszewski, Jozef Ignacy](#)

✓

682. **disaffected**

discontented as toward authority

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The financial crisis, largely caused by banker incompetence, has created legions of **disaffected** customers.*

—[Forbes \(Sep 15, 2011\)](#)

✓

683. **preternatural**

surpassing the ordinary or normal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In fact, they regarded the Spaniards as superior beings endowed with **preternatural** gifts.*

—[Gilson, Jewett Castello](#)

✓

684. **eschew**

avoid and stay away from deliberately; stay clear of

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Morrissey is among those seniors who are **eschewing** nursing homes in favor of independent living.*

—[*Washington Post \(Mar 23, 2012\)*](#)



685. **expatiate**

add details, as to an account or idea; clarify the meaning of and discourse in a learned way, usually in writing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He then **expatiated** on his own miseries, which he detailed at full length.*

—[*Manzoni, Alessandro*](#)



686. **didactic**

instructive (especially excessively)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Let us have a book so full of good illustrations that **didactic** instruction shall not be needed.

—[Various](#)

✓

687. **sinuous**

curved or curving in and out

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In origami parlance, Mr. Joisel was a wet-folder, dampening his paper so that he could coax it into **sinuous** curves.*

—[New York Times \(Oct 20, 2010\)](#)

✓

688. **rancor**

a feeling of deep and bitter anger and ill-will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The current session of Parliament has so far produced only **rancor**, as opposition parties have shut down proceedings with angry, theatrical protests against corruption.*

—[New York Times \(Aug 14, 2011\)](#)

✓

689. **puissant**

powerful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The ship was not fighting now, but yielding—a complacent leviathan held captive by a most **puissant** and ruthless enemy.*

—[Tracy, Louis](#)

✓

690. **homespun**

characteristic of country life

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His rural, **homespun** demeanor ordinarily might elicit snickers from India's urban elite.*

—[New York Times \(Aug 18, 2011\)](#)

✓

691. **embroil**

force into some kind of situation, condition, or course of action

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But Mr. Marbury, often **embroiled** in controversy during his N.B.A. days, seems to have found some measure of peace in China.

—[New York Times \(Apr 1, 2012\)](#)

✓

692. **pathological**

caused by or evidencing a mentally disturbed condition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Fixated individuals" — mentally ill people with a **pathological** focus on someone, often a stranger — make up the first group.

—[Time \(Apr 26, 2011\)](#)

✓

693. **resonant**

characterized by resonance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Barr, Amelia Edith Huddleston](#)

✓

694. **libretto**

the words of an opera or musical play

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In many great operas, composers have had to whittle down an epic literary work into a suitable **libretto**.*

—[New York Times \(Mar 6, 2010\)](#)

✓

695. **flail**

move like a flail; thresh about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Exercise is prescribed, but when she joins an aqua aerobics class, she **flails** embarrassingly.*

—[New York Times \(Apr 12, 2012\)](#)

✓

696. **bandy**

discuss lightly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hillary Clinton's name has been **banded** about, but she's made it clear she's not interested.

—[Time \(Mar 20, 2012\)](#)



697. **gratis**

costing nothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Would you admit them **gratis**?" asked Mr. Castlemaine with a smile, "or would they have to pay, like ordinary residents in an hotel?"

—[Hocking, Joseph](#)



698. **upshot**

a phenomenon that follows and is caused by some previous phenomenon

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The inevitable **upshot** of their growing social power was that brands wanted an expanded visual presence.

—[The Guardian \(Jul 27, 2010\)](#)



699. **aphorism**

a short pithy instructive saying

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

General Sherman's famous **aphorism** that "War is Hell," has become classic.
—[Fletcher, Samuel H.](#)



700. **redoubtable**

worthy of respect or honor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Captain Miles Standish was a **redoubtable** soldier, small in person, but of great activity and courage.
—[Mann, Henry](#)



701. **corpulent**

excessively fat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Obesity is very common, but chiefly among the women, who while still quite young often become enormously **corpulent**.

—[D'Anvers, N.](#)

✓

702. **benighted**

lacking enlightenment or knowledge or culture

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I alone was magnificently and absurdly aware—everyone else was **benightedly** out of it.*

—[James, Henry](#)

✓

703. **sententious**

abounding in or given to pompous or aphoristic moralizing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He is the village wise man; very **sententious**; and full of profound remarks on shallow subjects.*

—[Irving, Washington](#)

✓

704. **cabal**

a clique (often secret) that seeks power usually through intrigue

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Supposedly, see, there's this global **cabal** of scientists conspiring to bring about socialist one-world government.*

—[Salon \(Jul 7, 2010\)](#)



705. **paraphernalia**

equipment consisting of miscellaneous articles needed for a particular operation or sport etc.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It's outfitted with cricket bats and other antique sports **paraphernalia**.*

—[Seattle Times \(Sep 27, 2011\)](#)



706. **vitiate**

make imperfect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His talent in writing is **vitiating** by his affectation and other faults.
—[Blair, Emma Helen](#)

✓

707. **adulation**

servile flattery; exaggerated and hypocritical praise

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And celebrities get all this **adulation** for something that is not about character, it's about talent.
—[Salon \(Jan 10, 2011\)](#)

✓

708. **quaff**

to swallow hurriedly or greedily or in one draught

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Meanwhile the officers under the tree had got served, and, cups in hand, were **quaffing** joyously.
—[Reid, Mayne](#)

✓

709. **unassuming**

not arrogant or presuming

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Parr's conduct after his most heroic actions was thoroughly modest and **unassuming**.*
—[Greely, Adolphus W.](#)



710. **libertine**

a dissolute person; usually a man who is morally unrestrained

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Still, Mr. Awlaki was neither among the most conservative Muslim students nor among the **libertines** who tossed aside religious restrictions on drinking and sex.*
—[New York Times \(May 8, 2010\)](#)



711. **maul**

injure badly by beating

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Hundreds of concert goers were **mauled** as they left by what The New York Times called “bands of roving youths.”

—[New York Times \(Aug 17, 2011\)](#)

✓

712. **adage**

a condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

So he focuses on the fans and embraces the **adage**, “Living well is the best revenge.”

—[New York Times \(Mar 25, 2011\)](#)

✓

713. **expostulation**

the act of expressing earnest opposition or protest

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He even believed he saw visions with his own bodily eyes, and no **expostulations** of his friends could drive this belief out of his head.

—[Hoffmann, E. T. A. \(Ernst Theodor Amadeus\)](#)

✓

714. **tawdry**

tastelessly showy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was a **tawdry** affair, all Cupids and cornucopias, like a third-rate wedding cake.*
—[Wilde, Oscar](#)

✓

715. **trite**

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The subject—a deathbed scene—might seem at first sight to be a **trite** and common one.*
—[Lancey, Magdalene de](#)

✓

716. **hireling**

a person who works only for money

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Why should I?—a mere police detective, who had been hired to do a service and paid for it like any other **hireling**.

—[Hanshew, Thomas W.](#)

✓

717. **ensconce**

fix firmly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Though she is firmly **ensconced** in a writing career, Ms. Freud, 48, said that in the early days she missed acting terribly.*

—[New York Times \(Oct 30, 2011\)](#)

✓

718. **egregious**

conspicuously and outrageously bad or reprehensible

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“These offenses are very serious, even **egregious**,” the judge said.*

—[Washington Post \(Sep 12, 2011\)](#)

✓

719. **cogent**

powerfully persuasive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His thesis was too **cogent**, and appealed too powerfully to all classes of the Upper Canada community, to be anything but irresistible.*

—[Morison, J. L. \(John Lyle\)](#)

✓

720. **incisive**

having or demonstrating ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A half-hour of informed and **incisive** questioning by Mr. Russert would have demolished Mr. Trump.*

—[New York Times \(May 1, 2011\)](#)

✓

721. **errant**

straying from the right course or from accepted standards

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

As the crowd voiced its displeasure, the referees made sure Wisconsin got the ball, but pass was errant and rolled out of bounds at midcourt.

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 28, 2012\)](#)

✓

722. **sedulous**

marked by care and persistent effort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Sedulous attention and painstaking industry always mark the true worker.

—[Calhoun, Major A.R.](#)

✓

723. **incandescent**

characterized by ardent emotion or intensity or brilliance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Kirkwood's anger cooled apace; at worst it had been a flare of passion—incandescent.

—[Vance, Louis Joseph](#)

✓

724. **derelict**

in deplorable condition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Others are clustered under a tin awning by a **derelict** railway station or in similarly run-down school buildings.*
—[Time \(Jan 5, 2011\)](#)

✓

725. **entomology**

the branch of zoology that studies insects

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From the department of **entomology** you expect to learn something about the troublesome insects, which are so universal an annoyance.*
—[Latham, A. W.](#)

✓

726. **execrable**

unequivocally detestable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But minds were so overexcited at the time that the parties mutually accused each other, on all occasions, of the most **execrable** crimes.*
—[Imbert de Saint-Amand, Arthur Léon, baron](#)



727. **sluice**

pour as if from a sluice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*At 4:15 p.m., as the rain was **sluicing** off roofs in sheets, the firemen moved the trucks to higher ground.*

—[*New York Times \(Aug 31, 2011\)*](#)



728. **moot**

of no legal significance (as having been previously decided)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The statement from Hermitage said even in the Soviet period no defendant had been tried after death, when charges were generally considered **moot**.*

—[*New York Times \(Feb 7, 2012\)*](#)



729. **evanescent**

tending to vanish like vapor

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Time seems stopped but it is moving on, and every glimmer of light is **evanescent**, flitting.*

—[The Guardian \(Apr 15, 2010\)](#)

✓

730. **vat**

a large open vessel for holding or storing liquids

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The cream remains in the large **vat** about twenty-four hours before it is churned.*

—[Chamberlain, James Franklin](#)

✓

731. **dapper**

marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thoroughly **dapper**, he took off his black-and-white pinstriped suit jacket — with its pocket-square flair — and weaved in and out among them, his voice ever rising.*

—[New York Times \(Jan 22, 2011\)](#)

✓

732. **asperity**

harshness of manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All this proceeds from the old man, whose proper character it is to be angry and bitter, and to exhibit rancor and **asperity**.*

—[Arndt, Johann](#)



733. **flair**

a natural talent

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In fact, while Lamarr qualified as an inventive genius for her artistic **flair**, she fell somewhat short on her scientific acumen.*

—[Slate \(Nov 28, 2011\)](#)



734. **mote**

(nontechnical usage) a tiny piece of anything

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He took his discharge out of his pocket, brushed every **mote** of dust from the table, and spread the document before their eyes.

—[Auerbach, Berthold](#)



735. **circumspect**

heedful of potential consequences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Obama administration officials argue that new regulations are forcing insurers to be more **circumspect** about raising rates.

—[New York Times \(Sep 27, 2011\)](#)



736. **inimical**

not friendly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The Hindu idea is that so long as justice and equity characterise a king's rule, even beasts naturally **inimical** are disposed to live in friendship.

—[Kingscote, Mrs. Howard](#)



737. **apropos**

of an appropriate or pertinent nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I found myself thinking vaguely about things that were not at all **apropos** to the situation.*

—[Stockley, Cynthia](#)



738. **gruel**

a thin porridge (usually oatmeal or cornmeal)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He says, keep them on just two pints of Indian-meal **gruel**—by which he appears to mean thin hasty pudding—a day, and no more.*

—[Alcott, William A. \(William Andrus\)](#)



739. **gentility**

elegance by virtue of fineness of manner and expression

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This was no rough bully of the seas; Carew's bearing and dandified apparel bespoke **gentility**.*

—[Springer, Norman](#)



740. **disapprobation**

an expression of strong disapproval; pronouncing as wrong or morally culpable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr Ruthven shook his head and declared that he regarded the conduct of her persecutors with grave moral **disapprobation**.*

—[Wheeler, E.J.](#)



741. **cameo**

engraving or carving in low relief on a stone (as in a brooch or ring)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The trinket was a small round **cameo** cut out of mother-of-pearl and set in gold; it represented St. George and the dragon.*

—[J?kai, M?r](#)



742. **gouge**

obtain by coercion or intimidation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shortages also have raised concerns about higher prices and **gouging** by wholesale drug companies that obtain supplies of hard-to-get drugs and jack up the costs.*
—[Seattle Times \(Jan 20, 2012\)](#)

✓

743. **oratorio**

a musical composition for voices and orchestra based on a religious text

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mendelssohn had no sooner completed his first **oratorio**, "St. Paul," than he began to think about setting another Bible story to music.*
—[Edwards, Frederick George](#)

✓

744. **inclement**

(of weather or climate) severe

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Be prepared for **inclement** weather and possible ice and snow on park roads.
—[Seattle Times \(Oct 16, 2011\)](#)

✓

745. **scintilla**

a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Gardner "never expressed one **scintilla** of remorse for his attack upon the victim" despite overwhelming evidence, prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memo.
—[Salon \(Mar 3, 2010\)](#)

✓

746. **confluence**

a flowing together

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And indeed, before the 13th century, there was an extraordinary **confluence** of genius and innovation, particularly around Baghdad.
—[New York Times \(Dec 28, 2010\)](#)

✓

747. **squalor**

sordid dirtiness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*What can be expected of human beings, crowded in such miserable habitations, living in filth and **squalor**, and often pinched with hunger?*

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



748. **stricture**

severe criticism

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While gratefully accepting the generous praises of our friends, we must briefly reply to some **strictures** by our critics.*

—[Stanton, Elizabeth Cady](#)



749. **emblazon**

decorate with heraldic arms

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His coat of arms was **emblazoned** on the cover.
—[Mason, A. E. W. \(Alfred Edward Woodley\)](#)

✓

750. **augury**

an event that is experienced as indicating important things to come

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This is always an encouraging sign, and an **augury** of success.*
—[Alger, Horatio](#)

✓

751. **abut**

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It depicts a mountain landscape near Kingston, a historic town **abutting** the Hudson River.*
—[New York Times \(Jan 8, 2010\)](#)

✓

752. **banal**

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Highly dramatic incidents are juxtaposed with comparatively **banal** ones; particular attention is given to tales of doomed love affairs.*

—[New York Times \(Dec 4, 2011\)](#)

✓

753. **congeal**

become gelatinous

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Boil down the syrup to half its original quantity, but take care that it does not boil long enough to **congeal** or become thick.*

—[Baru?, Sulpice](#)

✓

754. **pilfer**

make off with belongings of others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many young people scavenge for reusable garbage, living on proceeds from **pilfered** construction material and other recyclables.*

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 8, 2012\)](#)



755. **malcontent**

a person who is discontented or disgusted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Now, unfortunately, some **malcontents** among the hands here have spread their ideas, and a strike has been called.*

—[Maitland, Robert](#)



756. **sublimate**

direct energy or urges into useful activities

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They might instead have passionate friendships, or **sublimate** their urges into other pursuits.*

—[New York Times \(Jun 4, 2010\)](#)



757. **eugenic**

pertaining to or causing improvement in the offspring produced

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Eugenics was aimed at creating a better society by filtering out people considered undesirable, ranging from criminals to those imprecisely designated as “feeble-minded.”
—[Washington Post \(Aug 1, 2011\)](#)



758. **lineament**

the characteristic parts of a person's face: eyes and nose and mouth and chin

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The tears stood in Muriel's eyes, and her face was very pale, but serenity marked every **lineament**.*
—[Davidson, John](#)



759. **firebrand**

someone who deliberately foments trouble

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But Hassan is not some teenage **firebrand** hurling rocks; he's a slight, graying scholar committed to peace.*
—[New York Times \(Jun 9, 2011\)](#)



760. **fiasco**

a sudden and violent collapse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Stuttgart protests became a national **fiasco** in late September, when protesters clashed with police wielding batons and water cannons.*

—[Newsweek \(Dec 14, 2010\)](#)



761. **foolhardy**

marked by defiant disregard for danger or consequences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many mistakes—extravagant purchases, **foolhardy** investments—are made in the first months after a windfall.*

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



762. **retrench**

tighten one's belt; use resources carefully

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But there was only one way open to me at present—and that was to **retrench** my expenses.*

—[Caine, Hall, Sir](#)

✓

763. **ulterior**

lying beyond what is openly revealed or avowed (especially being kept in the background or deliberately concealed)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Shop window displays may help prettify shopping thoroughfares, but any savvy retailer has the **ulterior** motive of self promotion.*

—[BBC \(Feb 3, 2010\)](#)

✓

764. **equable**

not varying

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His must have been that calm, **equable** temperament not easily ruffled, which goes with the self-respecting nature.*

—[Hurll, Estelle M. \(Estelle May\)](#)

✓

765. **inured**

made tough by habitual exposure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But he had become **inured** to the rush and whirr of missiles, and now paid no heed whatever to them.*

—[Mitford, Bertram](#)



766. **invidious**

containing or implying a slight or showing prejudice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"After an old-fashioned, all-round team performance ... it might seem **invidious** to single out one player," admits the paper before singling out one player.*

—[The Guardian \(Jun 24, 2010\)](#)



767. **unmitigated**

not diminished or moderated in intensity or severity; sometimes used as an intensifier

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In order to be well directed, sympathy must consider all men, and not the individual alone; only then is it an **unmitigated** good.*

—[Williams, C. M.](#)



768. **concomitant**

an event or situation that happens at the same time as or in connection with another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The conclusion must be drawn that every epidemic of bubonic plague is caused by the **concomitant** rat plague.*

—[Scientific American \(Jan 21, 2011\)](#)



769. **cozen**

cheat or trick

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Dicing-houses, where cheaters meet, and **cozen** young men out of their money.*

—[Various](#)



770. **phlegmatic**

showing little emotion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Humanity, when surfeited with emotion, becomes calm, almost **phlegmatic**.*
—[Tracy, Louis](#)



771. **dormer**

a gabled extension built out from a sloping roof to accommodate a vertical window

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Other features, such as the front French doors and two roof **dormers** with curved-top windows and operable shutters, give this home a pleasing, well-balanced presence.*
—[Southern Living \(Apr 14, 2010\)](#)



772. **pontifical**

denoting or governed by or relating to a bishop or bishops

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The high priest made no resistance, but went forth in his **pontifical** robes, followed by the people in white garments, to meet the mighty warrior.

—[Lord, John](#)



773. **disport**

occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Straightway the glade in which they sat was filled with knights, ladies, maidens, and esquires, who danced and **disported** themselves right joyously.*

—[Spence, Lewis](#)



774. **apologist**

a person who argues to defend or justify some policy or institution

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Tories, and **apologists** for Great Britain, have written much about a justification for this action, but there is no real justification.*

—[Barce, Elmore](#)



775. **abeyance**

temporary cessation or suspension

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*My feelings of home-sickness had returned with redoubled strength after being long in **abeyance**.*

—[Boldrewood, Rolf](#)



776. **enclave**

an enclosed territory that is culturally distinct from the foreign territory that surrounds it

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And its suburban schools, rather than being exclusive **enclaves**, include children whose parents can't afford a house in the neighborhood.*

—[Washington Post \(Jan 11, 2011\)](#)



777. **improvident**

not provident; not providing for the future

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He was industrious but **improvident**; he made money and he lost it.
—[Hubbard, Elbert](#)



778. **disquisition**

an elaborate analytical or explanatory essay or discussion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Cumulatively, what emerges from *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a thoughtful **disquisition** that encompasses – and goes beyond – the question of racial bias at its worst.*
—[The Guardian \(Jul 9, 2010\)](#)



779. **categorical**

not modified or restricted by reservations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"European leaders were united, **categorical** and crystal clear: Gaddafi must go," British Prime Minister David Cameron said.*
—[Time \(Mar 12, 2011\)](#)



780. **placate**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

—[Smith, A. D.](#)



781. **redolent**

serving to bring to mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Here, however, are congregated a vast number of curious and interesting objects, while the place is **redolent** of vivid historical associations.*

—[Ballou, Maturin Murray](#)



782. **felicitous**

exhibiting an agreeably appropriate manner or style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The first book is the finest, sparkling with **felicitous** expressions and rising frequently to true poetry.

—[Dennis, John](#)

✓

783. **gusty**

blowing in puffs or short intermittent blasts

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Winds could get **gusty**, occasionally blowing at more than 30 miles per hour.

—[Reuters \(Mar 29, 2011\)](#)

✓

784. **natty**

marked by up-to-dateness in dress and manners

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He wore a checked suit, very **natty**, and was more than usually tall and fine-looking.

—[Green, Anna Katharine](#)

✓

785. **pacifist**

opposed to war

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was, furthermore, a real **pacifist**, believing that war is debasing morally and disastrous economically.*

—[Seymour, Charles](#)

✓

786. **buxom**

(of a female body) healthily plump and vigorous

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mrs. Connelly—a round, rosy, **buxom** Irishwoman, with a mellow voice, laughing eye, and artist-red hair—was very much taken with their plan.*

—[Douglas, Amanda Minnie](#)

✓

787. **heyday**

the period of greatest prosperity or productivity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Playboy's most popular years are well behind it - the magazine enjoyed its **heyday** in the 1970s.*

—[Washington Post \(Jan 10, 2011\)](#)



788. **herculean**

displaying superhuman strength or power

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He made **herculean** efforts to get on terms with his examination subjects, and worked harder than he had ever done in his life before.*

—[Marshall, Archibald](#)



789. **burgeon**

grow and flourish

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Brooklyn's **burgeoning** dining scene has even developed a following among Manhattan food lovers.*

—[Reuters \(Oct 4, 2011\)](#)



790. **crone**

an ugly evil-looking old woman

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The aged **crone** wrinkled her forehead and lifted her grizzled eyebrows, still without looking at him.*

—[Myrick, Frank](#)

✓

791. **prognosticate**

make a prediction about; tell in advance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*How strange it is that our dreams often **prognosticate** coming events!*

—[Huth, Alexander](#)

✓

792. **lout**

an awkward stupid person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But this question was beyond the poor **lout**'s intelligence; he could only blubber and fend off possible chastisement.*

—[Williams, J. Scott \(John Scott\)](#)

✓

793. **simper**

smile affectedly or derisively

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mrs. Barnett's mouth **simpered** at the implied flattery; but her eyes, always looking calculatingly for substantial results, were studying Reedy Jenkins.*

—[Hamby, William H. \(William Henry\)](#)



794. **iniquitous**

characterized by iniquity; wicked because it is believed to be a sin

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This was some piece of wickedness concocted by the venomous brain of the **iniquitous** Vicar, more abominable than all his other wickednesses.*

—[Trollope, Anthony](#)



795. **rile**

cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The prospect of seeing Ms. Palin tour Alaska's wild habitats may **rile** some people who oppose her opinions about climate change.

—[New York Times \(Mar 25, 2010\)](#)

✓

796. **sentient**

endowed with feeling and unstructured consciousness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The money fluttered from his hand to the floor, where it lay like a **sentient** thing, staring back as if mocking him.*

—[Hitchcock, Lucius W.](#)

✓

797. **garish**

tastelessly showy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*With its opulently **garish** sets and knee-jerk realism, the production dwarfed the cast, no matter what stars were singing.*

—[New York Times \(Jan 2, 2011\)](#)

✓

798. **readjustment**

the act of adjusting again (to changed circumstances)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*While earpieces are not uncomfortable, they do sometimes come loose, requiring **readjustment**.*

—[Slate \(Apr 17, 2012\)](#)



799. **erstwhile**

belonging to some prior time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Sony, whose **erstwhile** dominance in consumer electronics has been eroded by the likes of Samsung, could beat rivals to a potentially new generation of devices.*

—[Reuters \(May 20, 2010\)](#)



800. **aquiline**

curved down like an eagle's beak

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The nose slightly **aquiline**, curving at the nostril; while luxuriant hair, in broad plaits, fell far below her waist.

—[Various](#)



801. **bilious**

irritable as if suffering from indigestion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But his sleep had not refreshed him; he waked up **bilious**, irritable, ill-tempered, and looked with hatred at his room.*

—[Garnett, Constance](#)



802. **vilify**

spread negative information about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The trial was televised and the victim's identity became known, resulting in her being **vilified** by almost the entire town.*

—[The Guardian \(Jan 19, 2011\)](#)



803. **nuance**

a subtle difference in meaning or opinion or attitude

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*By working so hard to simplify things, we lose any **nuance** or ability to deal with folks' individual circumstances.*

—[Washington Post \(Oct 3, 2011\)](#)



804. **gawk**

look with amazement; look stupidly

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He speaks mainly of his humiliation at lying on the sidewalk as hipsters **gawked**.*

—[New York Times \(Apr 9, 2012\)](#)



805. **refectory**

a communal dining-hall (usually in a monastery)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Meanwhile, the soup was getting cold in the **refectory**, so that the assembled brotherhood at last fell to, without waiting any longer for the Abbot.

—[Scheffel, Joseph Victor von](#)

✓

806. **palatial**

suitable for or like a palace

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The house was very large; its rooms almost **palatial** in size, had been finished in richly carved hardwood panels and wainscoting, mostly polished mahogany.*

—[Hitchcock, Frederick L. \(Frederick Lyman\)](#)

✓

807. **mincing**

affectedly dainty or refined

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She went, carrying her little head very high indeed, and taking dainty, **mincing** steps.*

—[Banks, Nancy Huston](#)

✓

808. **trenchant**

having keenness and forcefulness and penetration in thought, expression, or intellect

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are written in a serio-comic tone, and for sparkling wit, **trenchant** sarcasm, and dramatic dialectics surpass anything ever penned by Lessing.*
—[Lessing, Gotthold Ephraim](#)



809. **emboss**

raise in a relief

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Requests may also be made of the stationer to use an **embossed** plate so that the letters stand out in relief.*
—[Eichler, Lillian](#)



810. **proletarian**

a member of the working class (not necessarily employed)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

As yet, the true **proletarian** wage-earner, uprooted from his native village and broken away from the organization of Indian society, is but insignificant.

—[Stoddard, Lothrop](#)

✓

811. **careen**

pitching dangerously to one side

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I turned the steering wheel all the way to one side, and found myself **careening** backward in a violent arc.*

—[Vogel, Nancy](#)

✓

812. **debacle**

a sound defeat

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Broncos are coming off their worst season in franchise history, a 4-12 **debacle** that included issues on and off the field.*

—[Newsweek \(Jan 9, 2011\)](#)

✓

813. **sycophant**

a person who tries to please someone in order to gain a personal advantage

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The people around the king are **sycophants** who are looking after their own personal advantage.*

—[Coffin, Charles Carleton](#)



814. **crabbed**

annoyed and irritable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He grew **crabbed** and soured, his temper flashing out on small provocation.*

—[Weyman, Stanley J.](#)



815. **archetype**

something that serves as a model or a basis for making copies

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Newport, R.I., looks like a perfect **archetype** of a small, seaside New England town.
—[Forbes \(Nov 3, 2010\)](#)



816. **cryptic**

of an obscure nature

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The authorities, beyond some **cryptic** language about the death being sudden but not suspicious, have released no details.*
—[New York Times \(Aug 24, 2011\)](#)



817. **penchant**

a strong liking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But sometimes, old Wall Street habits — including a **penchant** for expensive luxuries — are hard to break.*
—[New York Times \(Mar 31, 2012\)](#)



818. **bauble**

cheap showy jewelry or ornament on clothing

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But men were buying Valentine's **baubles** for their honeys long before the first Zales ever opened its doors in a suburban shopping mall.*

—[Slate \(Feb 14, 2012\)](#)



819. **mountebank**

a flamboyant deceiver; one who attracts customers with tricks or jokes

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They are singularly clever, these Indian **mountebanks**, especially in sleight of hand tricks.*

—[Ballou, Maturin Murray](#)



820. **fawning**

attempting to win favor by flattery

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“As any cult leader, he was extremely good at milking the rich, at flattering and **fawning**,” Ms. Gordon said.
—[New York Times \(Apr 16, 2010\)](#)*

✓

821. **hummock**

a small natural hill

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Captain Bill leaned back on a **hummock** of earth, his arms folded behind his head.
—[Grayson, J. J.](#)*

✓

822. **apotheosis**

model of excellence or perfection of a kind; one having no equal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Contrary to popular belief, however, she said Ms. Deen’s fat-laden cooking does not in fact represent the **apotheosis** of Southern cuisine.
—[New York Times \(Jan 17, 2012\)](#)*

✓

823. **discretionary**

(especially of funds) not earmarked; available for use as needed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Steeper prices for basic necessities have forced many to cut back on more **discretionary** purchases.*

—[Washington Post \(Oct 19, 2011\)](#)

✓

824. **pithy**

concise and full of meaning

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As Moore isolated finer points of the passing game, Keller in neat penmanship jotted down **pithy** phrases and punchy quotes, basic ideas and specific concepts.*

—[New York Times \(Dec 10, 2011\)](#)

✓

825. **comport**

behave in a certain manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ironically, the one man on stage who did **comport** himself with dignity, John Huntsman, is now being dismissed as having not made an impact.*
—[Time \(Sep 8, 2011\)](#)

✓

826. **checked**

marked by changeable fortune

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Both restaurants have **checked** histories with the health department; they were temporarily shut down for sanitary violations that included evidence of rodents.*
—[New York Times \(Aug 22, 2010\)](#)

✓

827. **ambrosia**

(classical mythology) the food and drink of the gods; mortals who ate it became immortal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Frieda represents the lovely goddess, Hebe, who served nectar and **ambrosia** to the high gods on Mount Olympus," she explained.*
—[Vandercook, Margaret](#)

✓

828. **factious**

dissenting (especially dissenting with the majority opinion)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Will it be answered that we are **factious**, discontented spirits, striving to disturb the public order, and tear up the old fastnesses of society?*

—[Stanton, Elizabeth Cady](#)



829. **disgorge**

cause or allow (a solid substance) to flow or run out or over

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There are telephone poles and cinder blocks and living room chairs and large trash bins, overturned and **disgorging** their soggy contents.*

—[New York Times \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)



830. **filch**

make off with belongings of others

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Then, in place of the real site, it displays a fake site created to **filch** account numbers, login names and passwords.

—[New York Times \(Jul 13, 2010\)](#)



831. **wraith**

a mental representation of some haunting experience

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Whichever way he turns there loom past **wraiths**, restless as ghosts of unburied Grecian slain.*

—[Lee, Carson Jay](#)



832. **demonstrable**

capable of being demonstrated or proved

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The linkage between deposits and trade is definite, causal, positive, statistically **demonstrable**.*

—[Anderson, Benjamin M.](#)



833. **pertinacious**

stubbornly unyielding

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His temper, though yielding and easy in appearance, was in reality most obstinate and **pertinacious**.*

—[Kavanagh, Julia](#)



834. **emend**

make improvements or corrections to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The following were identified as spelling or typographic errors and have been **emended** as noted.*

—[Hopper, James](#)



835. **laggard**

someone who takes more time than necessary; someone who lags behind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Corporate data centers are the slowpoke **laggards** of information technology.
—[New York Times \(Apr 10, 2012\)](#)



836. **waffle**

pause or hold back in uncertainty or unwillingness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A few days of **waffling** back and forth and I ended up going out to a mediocre bistro with my parents.*
—[Scientific American \(Feb 8, 2011\)](#)



837. **loquacious**

full of trivial conversation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Pan soon found it needful to make conversation, in order to keep the **loquacious** old stage driver from talking too much.*
—[Grey, Zane](#)



838. **venial**

easily excused or forgiven

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The confidence of ignorance, however **venial** in youth, is not altogether so excusable, in full grown men.*

—[*School, A Sexton of the Old*](#)

✓

839. **peon**

a laborer who is obliged to do menial work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For the most part, the men were wiry **peons**, some toiling half naked, but there were a number who looked like prosperous citizens.*

—[*Bindloss, Harold*](#)

✓

840. **effulgence**

the quality of being bright and sending out rays of light

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Then, all at once, in a way that seemed to frighten her, the sunshine had burst the clouds, and dazzled her with its **effulgence**.*

—[Fenn, George Manville](#)



841. **lode**

a deposit of valuable ore occurring within definite boundaries separating it from surrounding rocks

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Such local perturbations are regularly used in Sweden for tracing out the position of underground **lodes** of iron ore.*

—[Gilbert, William](#)

842. **fanfare**

a gaudy outward display

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It opened a month ago to considerable **fanfare**, with television cameras trailing government officials meandering proudly around the bright new stores filled with imported goods.*

—[New York Times \(Aug 22, 2010\)](#)



843. **dilettante**

showing frivolous or superficial interest; amateurish

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They dabbled in politics and art in the same **dilettante** fashion.*
—[Cannan, Gilbert](#)



844. **pusillanimous**

lacking in courage and manly strength and resolution; contemptibly fearful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was described by his friends as **pusillanimous** to an incredible extent, timid from excess of riches, afraid of his own shadow.*
—[Motley, John Lothrop](#)



845. **ingrained**

(used especially of ideas or principles) deeply rooted; firmly fixed or held

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The narrow prejudices of his country were **ingrained** too deeply in his character to be disturbed by any change of surroundings.

—[Fuller, Robert H.](#)



846. **quagmire**

a soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

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

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



847. **reprobation**

severe disapproval

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Mr. Conway denounced this scheme as "utterly and flagrantly unconstitutional, as radically revolutionary in character and deserving the **reprobation** of every loyal citizen."

—[Blaine, James Gillespie](#)



848. **mannered**

having unnatural mannerisms

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Nothing was **mannered** or pretentious; the texts came through with utter naturalness.*
—[New York Times \(May 29, 2011\)](#)



849. **squeamish**

excessively fastidious and easily disgusted

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But please note that this gunfire-fueled film is for mature audiences; given its content, young and/or **squeamish** viewers should avoid this one.*
—[Washington Post \(Aug 6, 2010\)](#)



850. **proclivity**

a natural inclination

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She received, under her father's supervision, a very careful education, and developed her **proclivities** for literary composition at an early age.

—[Adams, W. H. Davenport](#)



851. **miserly**

(used of persons or behavior) characterized by or indicative of lack of generosity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Now, my uncle seemed so **miserly** that I was struck dumb by this sudden generosity, and could find no words in which to thank him.

—[Stevenson, Robert Louis](#)



852. **vapid**

lacking significance or liveliness or spirit or zest

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

How **vapid** was the talk of my remaining fellow-passengers; how slow of understanding, and how preoccupied with petty things they seemed!

—[Dawson, A. J. \(Alec John\)](#)



853. **mercurial**

liable to sudden unpredictable change

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Wind energy is notoriously **mercurial**, with patterns shifting drastically over the course of years, days, even minutes.*

—[Scientific American \(Jan 4, 2012\)](#)



854. **perspicuous**

(of language) transparently clear; easily understandable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The statements are plain and simple, a perfect model of **perspicuous** narrative.*

—[Smith, Uriah](#)



855. **nonplus**

be a mystery or bewildering to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I shook my head and rushed from his presence, completely **nonplussed**, bewildered, frantic.*

—[Cole, E. W. \(Edward William\)](#)

✓

856. **enamor**

attract; cause to be enamored

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Young Indian audiences are so **enamored** with reality television that they will not watch the soap operas and dramas that their parents or grandparents watch.*

—[New York Times \(Jan 9, 2011\)](#)

✓

857. **hackneyed**

repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Many speakers become so addicted to certain **hackneyed** phrases that those used to hearing them speak can see them coming sentences away.*

—[Lewis, Arthur M. \(Arthur Morrow\)](#)

✓

858. **spate**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*French authorities are already reporting a rising **spate** of calls to emergency services by homeowners whose once-frozen water mains have now burst.*

—[Time \(Feb 13, 2012\)](#)

✓

859. **pedagogue**

someone who educates young people

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His old **pedagogue**, Mr. Brownell, had been unable to teach him mathematics.*

—[Pierce, H. Winthrop](#)

✓

860. **acme**

the highest level or degree attainable; the highest stage of development

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Scientifically speaking, it is the **acme** of absurdity to talk of a man defying the law of gravitation when he lifts his arm.

—[Huxley, Thomas H.](#)

✓

861. **masticate**

chew (food); to bite and grind with the teeth

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Food should be **masticated** quietly, and with the lips closed.*

—[Cooke, Maud C.](#)

✓

862. **sinecure**

an office that involves minimal duties

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He would have repudiated the notion that he was looking for a **sinecure**, but no doubt considered that the duties would be easy and light.*

—[Trollope, Anthony](#)

✓

863. **indite**

produce a literary work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She **indited** religious poems which were the admiration of the age.*
—[Brittain, Alfred](#)

✓

864. **emetic**

a medicine that induces nausea and vomiting

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The juice of this herb, taken in ale, is esteemed a gentle and very good **emetic**, bringing on vomiting without any great irritation or pain.*
—[Smith, John Thomas](#)

✓

865. **temporize**

draw out a discussion or process in order to gain time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

So he **temporized** and beat about the bush, and did not touch first on that which was nearest his heart.

—[Erskine, Payne](#)



866. **unimpeachable**

beyond doubt or reproach

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Whether we agree with the conclusions of these writers or not, the method of critical investigation which they adopt is **unimpeachable**.*

—[Huxley, Thomas H.](#)



867. **genesis**

a coming into being

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He found himself speculating on the **genesis** of the moral sense, how it developed in difficulties rather than in ease.*

—[Miller, Alice Duer](#)



868. **mordant**

harshly ironic or sinister

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Even Morgan himself, intrepid as he was, shrank from the awful menace of the **mordant** words.*

—[Crawford, Will](#)



869. **smattering**

a small number or amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Only a **smattering** of fans remained for all four ghastly quarters.*

—[Washington Post \(Sep 24, 2011\)](#)



870. **suavity**

the quality of being bland and gracious or ingratiating in manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His combativeness was harnessed to his **suavity**, and he could be forcible and at the same time persuasive.

—[Windsor, William](#)

✓

871. **stentorian**

used of the voice

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*If a hundred voices shouted in opposition, his **stentorian** tones still made themselves heard above the uproar.*

—[J?kai, M?r](#)

✓

872. **junket**

a trip taken by an official at public expense

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Abramoff arranged for **junkets**, including foreign golfing destinations, for the members of Congress he was trying to influence.*

—[New York Times \(Feb 26, 2010\)](#)

✓

873. **appurtenance**

a supplementary component that improves capability

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In the center of this space stood a large frame building whose courtyard, stables, and other **appurtenances** proclaimed it an inn.*

—*Madison, Lucy Foster*

✓

874. **nostrum**

patent medicine whose efficacy is questionable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Just here a native "medicine man" dispenses **nostrums** of doubtful efficacy, and in front a quantity of red Moorish pottery is exposed for sale.*

—*Meakin, Budgett*

✓

875. **immure**

lock up or confine, in or as in a jail

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Political prisoners, numbering as many as three or four hundred at a time, have been **immured** within its massive walls.*

—[Boyd, Mary Stuart](#)

✓

876. **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 **amagisterial** way.*
—[Fenn, George Manville](#)

✓

890. **roseate**

of something having a dusty purplish pink color

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Behind the trees rough, lichened rock and stony slopes ran up to a bare ridge, silhouetted against the **roseate** glow of the morning sky.*

—[Bindloss, Harold](#)



891. **obloquy**

a false accusation of an offense or a malicious misrepresentation of someone's words or actions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This is the real history of a transaction which, by frequent misrepresentation, has brought undeserved **obloquy** upon a generous man.*

—[Purchas, H. T. \(Henry Thomas\)](#)



892. **hoodwink**

influence by slyness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The stories of the saints he regarded as preposterous fables invented to **hoodwink** a gullible and illiterate populace.*

—[The Guardian \(Sep 19, 2010\)](#)



893. **striate**

mark with striae or striations

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The body is **striated** with clearly defined, often depressed lines, which run longitudinally and sometimes spirally.*

—[Calkins, Gary N. \(Gary Nathan\)](#)



894. **arrogate**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Japanese manufacturers were accused of **arrogating** American technologies to churn out low-cost electronics.*

—[New York Times \(May 25, 2010\)](#)



895. **rarefied**

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

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The debate over climate science has involved very complex physical models and **rarefied** areas of scientific knowledge.

—[New York Times \(Apr 9, 2011\)](#)

✓

896. **chary**

characterized by great caution and wariness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*There was no independent verification of the figure; the authorities have been **chary** of releasing death tolls for fear of inflaming further violence.*

—[New York Times \(Apr 24, 2011\)](#)

✓

897. **credo**

any system of principles or beliefs

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She preferred to hang out with everyone but was best friends with no one, holding to the **credo**: “You should be nice to people.”*

—[New York Times \(Jan 21, 2011\)](#)

✓

898. **superannuated**

too old to be useful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Civil servants are **superannuated** at fifty-five years of age and are sent home on a pension, seldom enjoying life longer than two years afterward.*

—[Hunt, Eleonora](#)

✓

899. **impolitic**

not politic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Bill Maher has always been a vocal critic of Islam, even at times making **impolitic** statements about the religion.*

—[Salon \(Mar 16, 2011\)](#)

✓

900. **aspersion**

a disparaging remark

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Lord Sanquhar then proceeded to deny the **aspersion** that he was an ill-natured fellow, ever revengeful, and delighting in blood.

—[Thornbury, Walter](#)

✓

901. **abysmal**

resembling an abyss in depth; so deep as to be unmeasurable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After all, many Americans regard this Congress as dysfunctional, with **abysmal** approval ratings.*

—[New York Times \(Dec 28, 2011\)](#)

✓

902. **poignancy**

a quality that arouses emotions (especially pity or sorrow)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were curious about the “near loss” experience—specifically the feelings of **poignancy** that occur when what we cherish disappears.*

—[Scientific American \(Jan 17, 2011\)](#)

✓

903. **stilted**

artificially formal

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But thanks to the **stilted** writing and stiff acting, the characters still feel very much like one-dimensional figures from a dutiful fable.*

—[New York Times \(Jul 12, 2011\)](#)

✓

904. **effete**

marked by excessive self-indulgence and moral decay

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*John Bull was an **effete** old plutocrat whose sons and daughters were given up to sport and amusement.*

—[Moffett, Cleveland](#)

✓

905. **provender**

food for domestic livestock

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Fools!" she cried, looking in her magic crystal, "he was in the big sycamore under which you stopped to give your horses **provender!**"

—[Housman, Laurence](#)

✓

906. **endemic**

of or relating to a disease (or anything resembling a disease) constantly present to greater or lesser extent in a particular locality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mean-spirited chants and songs are also **endemic** in British soccer.*

—[New York Times \(Jan 27, 2012\)](#)

✓

907. **jocund**

full of or showing high-spirited merriment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Her **jocund** laugh and merry voice, indeed, first attracted my attention.*

—[Lever, Charles James](#)

✓

908. **procedural**

of or relating to procedure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

In other words, the rejection was a bureaucratic/procedural decision.
—[Scientific American \(Feb 1, 2012\)](#)



909. **rakish**

marked by a carefree unconventionality or disreputableness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She wore her red cap in a rakish manner on the side of her head, its tassel falling down over her forehead between her eyes.
—[Sage, William](#)



910. **skittish**

unpredictably excitable (especially of horses)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

That combined with his calm and reassuring tone made me think of an animal trainer trying to wooskittish wild animals.

—[Time \(May 20, 2011\)](#)

✓

911. **peroration**

a flowery and highly rhetorical oration

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He had little hope that Gallagher, once embarked on a **peroration**, would stop until he had used up all the words at his command.*

—[Birmingham, George A.](#)

✓

912. **nonentity**

a person of no influence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Was he such a **nonentity** in every way that she could remain unconcerned as to any fear of danger from him?*

—[Woolson, Constance Fenimore](#)

✓

913. **abstemious**

marked by temperance in indulgence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Raw, boozy, untethered performances are heralded as real; the **abstemious** professional is yawned off the stage.*

—[Salon \(Jul 25, 2011\)](#)



914. **viscid**

having the sticky properties of an adhesive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Roads were quagmires where travellers slipped and laboured through **viscid** mud and over icy fords.*

—[Buck, Charles Neville](#)



915. **doggerel**

a comic verse of irregular measure

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He sang, with accompanying action, some dozen verses of **doggerel**, remarkable for obscenity and imbecility.

—[Ritchie, J. Ewing \(James Ewing\)](#)

✓

916. **sleight**

adroitness in using the hands

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The trick was performed Tuesday by Russell Fitzgerald, an amateur magician known to open meetings with a little **sleight** of hand.*

—[Washington Post \(Sep 29, 2011\)](#)

✓

917. **rubric**

category name

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ms. Moss took issue, not surprisingly, with the notion that grouping the performances under the **rubric** of spirituality was a marketing ploy.*

—[New York Times \(Nov 22, 2010\)](#)

✓

918. **plenitude**

a full supply

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Of course at that season, amid the **plenitude** of seeds, nuts, and berries, they were as plump as partridges.*

—[Reid, Mayne](#)



919. **rebus**

a puzzle where you decode a message consisting of pictures representing syllables and words

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They wrote at times with pictures standing for sounds, as we now write in **rebus** puzzles.*

—[Park, Robert Ezra](#)



920. **wizened**

lean and wrinkled by shrinkage as from age or illness

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Kim Jong Il may be increasingly **wizened** and frail, with fingernails white from kidney disease, but his propaganda apparatus is as vigorous as ever.

—[Wall Street Journal \(Mar 26, 2010\)](#)

✓

921. **whorl**

a round shape formed by a series of concentric circles (as formed by leaves or flower petals)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The flowers are waxy, tubular, fragrant, turning their yellow petals backward in a **whorl**.*

—[Rogers, Julia Ellen](#)

✓

922. **fracas**

noisy quarrel

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Other cops were battling each other, going after the kids and clutching empty air, cursing and screaming unheard orders in the **fracas**.*

—[Freas, Kelly](#)

✓

923. **iconoclast**

someone who attacks cherished ideas or traditional institutions

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jobs is a classic **iconoclast**, one who aggressively seeks out, attacks, and overthrows conventional ideas.*

—[BusinessWeek \(Oct 12, 2010\)](#)

✓

924. **saturnine**

bitter or scornful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Only when Bill Lightfoot spoke did he look up, and then with a set sneer, growing daily more **saturnine**.*

—[Dixon, Maynard](#)

✓

925. **madrigal**

an unaccompanied partsong for 2 or 3 voices; follows a strict poetic form

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Nevertheless we learn from Malvezzi's publication that the pieces were all written in the **madrigal** style, frequently in numerous voice parts.

—[Henderson, W. J. \(William James\)](#)



926. **discursive**

(of e.g. speech and writing) tending to depart from the main point or cover a wide range of subjects

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"*Tabloid*," like his previous films, consists largely of long, **discursive** conversations — in effect monologues directed at an unseen, mostly unheard interlocutor.

—[New York Times \(Jul 22, 2011\)](#)



927. **zealot**

a fervent and even militant proponent of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"The public is going to just think of us as these **zealots** who want to ban smoking everywhere," he said.

—[Seattle Times \(Feb 20, 2011\)](#)



928. **moribund**

not growing or changing; without force or vitality

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The entertainment sector there is booming, while Pakistan's is **moribund**.*
—[Seattle Times \(Dec 3, 2011\)](#)

✓

929. **modicum**

a small or moderate or token amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He volunteered a **modicum** of advice, limited in quantity, but valuable.*
—[Bolderwood, Rolf](#)

✓

930. **connotation**

an idea that is implied or suggested

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*In Arabic, the word "bayt" translates literally as house, but its **connotations** resonate beyond rooms and walls, summoning longings gathered about family and home.*
—[New York Times \(Feb 18, 2012\)](#)



931. **adventitious**

associated by chance and not an integral part

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The derivation of the word thus appears to be merely accidental and **adventitious**.*
—[Stace, W. T. \(Walter Terence\)](#)



932. **recondite**

difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The mystery of verse is like other abstruse and **recondite** mysteries—it strikes the ordinary fleshly man as absurd.*
—[Gosse, Edmund](#)



933. **zephyr**

a slight wind (usually refreshing)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The dwellings and public buildings throughout Cuba are planned to give free passage to everyzephyr 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 \(Mar 26, 2012\)](#)



945. **denouement**

the outcome of a complex sequence of events

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Suppose the truly apocalyptic **denouement** happens -- no deal is reached, and taxes rise for everyone.*
—[Salon \(Nov 30, 2010\)](#)



946. **animus**

a feeling of ill will arousing active hostility

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The youthful savages had each an armful of snowballs, and they were pelting the child with more **animus** than seemed befitting.*

—[Murray, David Christie](#)



947. **overweening**

unrestrained, especially with regard to feelings

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He had **overweening** ambitions even then, along with a highly developed sense of his own importance.*

—[New York Times \(Apr 19, 2010\)](#)



948. **tyro**

someone new to a field or activity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*As yet he was merely a **tyro**, gaining practical experience under a veteran Zeppelin commander.*

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



949. **preen**

dress or groom with elaborate care

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He **preened** on fight nights in a tuxedo, a bow tie and no shirt, and he favored showy rings and bracelets.*

—[New York Times \(Jul 24, 2011\)](#)

✓

950. **largesse**

liberality in bestowing gifts; extremely liberal and generous of spirit

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*After being saved by government **largesse**, they say, big banks then moved to thwart reforms aimed at preventing future meltdowns caused by excessive risk-taking.*

—[New York Times \(Jul 14, 2011\)](#)

✓

951. **retentive**

good at remembering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The child was very sharp, and her memory was extremely **retentive**.*
—[Rowlands, Effie Adelaide](#)



952. **unconscionable**

greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For generations in the New York City public schools, this has become the norm with devastating consequences rooted in **unconscionable** levels of student failure.*
—[New York Times \(Nov 4, 2011\)](#)



953. **badinage**

frivolous banter

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It was preposterous to talk to her of serious things, and nothing but an airy **badinage** seemed possible in her company.*
—[Maugham, W. Somerset \(William Somerset\)](#)



954. **insensate**

devoid of feeling and consciousness and animation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Men also are those brutal soldiers, alike stupidly ready, at the word of command, to drive the nail through quivering flesh or **insensate** wood.*

—[Stowe, Harriet Beecher](#)



955. **sherbet**

a frozen dessert made primarily of fruit juice and sugar, but also containing milk or egg-white or gelatin

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"One person said it looks like a big lime **sherbet** ice cream cone!"*

—[Southern Living \(Apr 28, 2010\)](#)



956. **beatific**

marked by utter benignity; resembling or befitting an angel or saint

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She dozed at last, her face serene and **beatific**.
—[Beach, Rex Ellingwood](#)

✓

957. **bemuse**

cause to be confused emotionally

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were marching in the middle of the street, chanting and singing and disrupting traffic while countless New Yorkers looked on, some **bemused**, others applauding.*
—[Time \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)

✓

958. **microcosm**

a miniature model of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The building, he said, is "a **microcosm** of what Shanghai was all about."*
—[Wall Street Journal \(Apr 30, 2010\)](#)

✓

959. **factitious**

not produced by natural forces

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Indeed, the Chinese make a **factitious** cheese out of peas, which it is difficult to discriminate from the article of animal origin.*

—[Cameron, Charles Alexander, Sir](#)

✓

960. **gestate**

have the idea for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Lucas's most recent project, still **gestating**, is a collaboration with Cuban musicians.*

—[New York Times \(May 9, 2011\)](#)

✓

961. **traduce**

speak unfavorably about

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For Grover Cleveland there were no longer enemies to **traduce** and vilify.*

—[Straus, Oscar S.](#)

✓

962. **sextant**

a measuring instrument for measuring the angular distance between celestial objects; resembles an octant

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For example, a **sextant** could be used to sight the sun at high noon in order to determine one's latitude.*

—[*Scientific American* \(Mar 8, 2012\)](#)



963. **coiffure**

the arrangement of the hair (especially a woman's hair)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They sat down, and Saint-Clair noticed his friend's **coiffure**; a single rose was in her hair.*

—[*M?rim?e, Prosper*](#)



964. **malleable**

easily influenced

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

“The Americans are seen as naïve **malleable** tools in the hands of the Brits.”
—[New York Times \(Nov 30, 2011\)](#)

✓

965. **rococo**

having excessive asymmetrical ornamentation

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The upper part of the case is decorated with elaborately carved and gilt **rococo** motifs.*
—[Bedini, Silvio A.](#)

✓

966. **fructify**

become productive or fruitful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Thence they grow, expand, **fructify**, and the result is Progress.*
—[Stanton, Elizabeth Cady](#)

✓

967. **nihilist**

someone who rejects all theories of morality or religious belief

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*“He’s a loner **nihilist** who believes in nothing,” Mr. Lu said.
—[New York Times \(Nov 6, 2011\)](#)*

✓

968. **ellipsis**

omission or suppression of parts of words or sentences

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He speaks in **ellipses**, often leaving sentences hanging, and fiddles apologetically with his BlackBerry.
—[The Guardian \(Jun 28, 2010\)](#)*

✓

969. **accolade**

a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The Nobel Prize, considered one of the highest **accolades** in literature, is given only to living writers.
—[Seattle Times \(Oct 6, 2011\)](#)*

✓

970. **codicil**

a supplement to a will; a testamentary instrument intended to alter an already executed will

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **codicil** to her will, which she had spoken of with so much composure, left three hundred pounds to Stella and me.*

—[*Fothergill, Jessie*](#)



971. **roil**

be agitated

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Like thousands of fellow students, he was **roiled** with emotions, struggling to come to grips with an inescapable reality.*

—[*New York Times \(Nov 26, 2011\)*](#)



972. **grandiloquent**

lofty in style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*A large part of his duties will be to strut about on the stage, and mouth more or less unintelligible sentences in a **grandiloquent** tone.*

—[Smith, Arthur H.](#)

✓

973. **inconsequential**

lacking worth or importance

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But as the months went by, Mr. Kimura had an unexpected epiphany: His business, which he thought was **inconsequential**, mattered to a lot of people.*

—[Wall Street Journal \(Nov 11, 2011\)](#)

✓

974. **effervescence**

the property of giving off bubbles

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Both were in the very sparkle and **effervescence** of that fanciful glee which bubbles up from the golden, untried fountains of early childhood.*

—[Stowe, Harriet Beecher](#)

✓

975. **stultify**

deprive of strength or efficiency; make useless or worthless

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Far from being engines of economic growth, Egypt's leading cities are **stultified**.*
—[Inc \(Feb 12, 2011\)](#)

✓

976. **tureen**

large deep serving dish with a cover; for serving soups and stews

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Soups are presented in big **tureens** and can be quite good.*
—[New York Times \(Apr 13, 2012\)](#)

✓

977. **pellucid**

(of language) transparently clear; easily understandable

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Caribou Island is a scant 300 pages, and written in prose as **pellucid** as the rivers he used to fish as a boy.*
—[The Guardian \(Jan 1, 2011\)](#)



978. **euphony**

any agreeable (pleasing and harmonious) sounds

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It depends somewhat on usage and on **euphony** or agreeableness of sound.*
—[Hamilton, Frederick W. \(Frederick William\)](#)



979. **apocryphal**

being of questionable authenticity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*We're reminded of the story, possibly **apocryphal**, that they used to play the Beach Boys' Smiley Smile in psychiatric wards to calm patients.*
—[The Guardian \(Jan 20, 2011\)](#)



980. **veracious**

precisely accurate

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*For proof, we cite the following **veracious** narrative, which bears within it every internal mark of truth, and matter for grave and serious reflection.*

—[Roby, John](#)



981. **pendulous**

having branches or flower heads that bend downward

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And all around, far out of reach, the trees of the forest were swaying restlessly, their long, **pendulous** branches, like tentacles, lashing out hungrily.*

—[Bates, Harry](#)



982. **exegesis**

an explanation or critical interpretation (especially of the Bible)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Its musical significance has been presented with illuminating **exegesis** by more than one commentator.*

—[Forkel, Johann Nikolaus](#)



983. **effluvium**

a foul-smelling outflow or vapor (especially a gaseous waste)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*However, acting on my best judgment, I struck a downward course, and then suddenly a horrible **effluvium** was wafted to my nostrils.*

—[Mitford, Bertram](#)

✓

984. **apposite**

being of striking appropriateness and pertinence

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was quite capable of meaningful, **apposite** phrases about the game, even though distant sports editors did not encourage them enough.*

—[The Guardian \(Aug 18, 2010\)](#)

✓

985. **viscous**

having the sticky properties of an adhesive

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Sluggish, blind crawling things like three-foot slugs flowed across their path and among the tree trunks, leaving **viscous** trails of slime behind them.*

—[Various](#)



986. **misanthrope**

someone who dislikes people in general

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And shaking his head like a **misanthrope**, disgusted, if not with life, at least with men, Patout led the horse to the stable.*

—[Dumas père, Alexandre](#)



987. **vintner**

someone who makes wine

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The question remains, he said, whether established **vintners** will change their winemaking practices or “continue to sell their schlock.”*

—[New York Times \(Oct 27, 2010\)](#)



988. **halcyon**

idyllically calm and peaceful; suggesting happy tranquillity

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He now seemed to have entered on a **halcyon** period of life—congenial society, romantic and interesting surroundings.*

—[Kennard, Nina H.](#)

✓

989. **anthropomorphic**

suggesting human characteristics for animals or inanimate things

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The same **anthropomorphic** fallacy that accords human attributes to giant corporations like BP distorts clear thinking about how to limit their political influence.*

—[Salon \(Jul 28, 2010\)](#)

✓

990. **turgid**

ostentatiously lofty in style

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His waspish wit can make him entertaining company at a party, but there is little evidence of that in his largely **turgid** prose.*

—[The Guardian \(Jul 17, 2010\)](#)

✓

991. **malaise**

physical discomfort (as mild sickness or depression)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Initially, many doctors discounted sufferers' feelings of generalized **malaise** as nothing more than stress or normal fatigue.*

—[Time \(Dec 22, 2011\)](#)

✓

992. **polemical**

of or involving dispute or controversy

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His works include several dogmatic and **polemical** treatises, but the most important are the historical.*

—[Various](#)

✓

993. **gadfly**

a persistently annoying person

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Mr. Phelps is regarded here as the ultimate example of an irritating local **gadfly**.*
—[New York Times \(Oct 9, 2010\)](#)



994. **atavism**

a reappearance of an earlier characteristic

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Criminal **atavism** might be defined as the sporadic reversion to savagery in certain individuals.*
—[Symonds, John Addington](#)



995. **contusion**

an injury that doesn't break the skin but results in some discoloration

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*My falling companion, being a much stouter man than myself did not fare so well, as his right shoulder received a severe **contusion**.*

—[Bevan, A. Beckford](#)

✓

996. **parsimonious**

excessively unwilling to spend

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Pill-splitting is catching on among **parsimonious** prescription-takers who want to lower costs.*

—[Forbes \(Mar 4, 2010\)](#)

✓

997. **dulcet**

pleasing to the ear

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Ever and anon the **dulcet** murmur of gurgling streams broke gently on the ear.*

—[Madison, Lucy Foster](#)

✓

998. **reprise**

repeat an earlier theme of a composition

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The live set **reprises** material from this remarkable group's earlier Aurora CD.
—[The Guardian \(Jan 6, 2011\)](#)*



999. **anodyne**

capable of relieving pain

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But philosophy failed, as it will probably fail till some far-off age, to find an **anodyne** for the spiritual distresses of the mass of men.
—[Dill, Samuel](#)*



1000. **bemused**

perplexed by many conflicting situations or statements; filled with bewilderment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*They were marching in the middle of the street, chanting and singing and disrupting traffic while countless New Yorkers looked on, some **bemused**, others applauding.*
—[Time \(Oct 28, 2011\)](#)

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