

# vocabulary

## Pattern of Questions

There are 40 purely vocabulary based questions out of 120 questions in CDS English exam. It means a huge weightage is given to this section. A strong vocabulary also helps in reading comprehension section as well. So, success in this exam is directly proportional to your knowledge of words. CDS exam does not check superficial knowledge of the words but it is about understanding the nuances of word – its true meaning in a context and without of a context.

Options given are very close and a lot of effort is done to confuse the students with at least 2-3 very similar looking options. If you do not have proper understanding of word then you can mark wrong answer even after knowing the word. Days of a difficult word with four wide ranging options are gone. Now, the trend in 2011 & 2012 exam is to give medium level of word or even simple daily use word with extremely close options to confuse the exam takers.

### Pattern 1

#### Synonyms & Antonyms

- **Synonyms** A word is given and out of four options, one has to mark the most similar in meaning to word in question as his answer choice. 20 questions of this type are given.
- **Antonyms** A word is given and out of four options, one has to mark the most dissimilar in meaning to word in question as his answer choice. 20 questions of this type are given.

### Pattern 2

#### Word used in a sentence

- A word is used in a particular context in a single sentence.
- 20 questions are asked to judge the most similar word from the answer choices.
- 20 questions are asked to judge the most dissimilar word from the answer choices.
- This pattern is new to CDS exam and is used in 2012-I.

### Pattern 3

- **Cloze test** A passage is given with some of the missing words in it. Question asks students to fill the right word from the given options in context of passage.

#### Some points to developed strong vocabulary.

- There is no shortcut to building a word power. It is a long term perspiring procedure. Although a number of words can be collated or suffused in memory of mind, most efficient key to build strong working vocabulary can be summed up in one word **READ**.
- Make a hot list of words frequently appearing in exam taking clue from last 10 years exam papers.
- **Learn through Roots** Learn as many roots as you can as there are several words on the same roots and it makes the process of learning and remembering words easy and detailed. Learning 10 roots can be equivalent to learning 100 words.

#### Divide the words in different categories

- Words with positive sense.
- Words with Negative Sense.
- Words with Neutral Sense.



### Divide words on basis of different expression of emotions

- Words representing sadness
- Words representing enmity
- Words for praising
- Words representing humor
- Words representing anger
- Words representing happiness
- Words representing friendship

### Divide words on basis of different professions

- Words from Medical field
- Words from Armed forces
- Words from Technological field
- Words from law field

### Divide words on basis of other specific categories

- Foreign Language Words
- Idioms and Phrases
- Homonyms

### Special List for CDS Exam

Make list of all words and then make a table like this to master the words.

Word	Word most similar	Word second most similar	Word most dissimilar in meaning	Word second most dissimilar in meaning	Sentence on the word
Abolish	Cancel	Postpone	Approve	Start	Principal refused to abolish the mid-term exam

**Use of Flash Cards** Use flash cards to memorize the frequently appearing words by writing word on one side and synonym and antonym on the other. Keep these in your pocket wherever you go. See them, read them, and use them on regular basis among your friends, parents or teachers.

#### Flash Card No. 1

Side 1	Side 2
1. Abrupt (CDS 2008)	1. Synonym - Sudden, Bizarre, Unusual, Instant, Momentous, Insensible, Irrational Antonym- Planned, Continuous, well-thought-out, Sensible, Rational
2. Abstain (CDS 2006)	2. Synonym- Refrain, Restrict, Limit, Celibacy, Constrained Antonym- Delimit, Unconstrained, Allow, Accept, Inspire.
3. Insolvent (CDS 2010)	3. Synonym- Bankrupt/cash crunch/No liquidity Antonym- Cash-rich/ Liquidity/Debtor

This section of book covers all the aspects given above in detail. Exercises are given to check your progress. At the last questions from the previous year exam papers are given with explanatory answers.

**Aback (adv)**: taken by surprise

**Abandon (v)**: to leave forever or to stop doing something before you have finished it

**Abase (v)**: to humiliate; degrade another person or oneself

**Abashed (adj)**: embarrassed

**Abate (v)**: to make or become less strong

**Abbreviate (v)**: to shorten; to abridge

**Abdicate (v)**: to give up or renounce the throne or power

**Abduct (v)**: to take away illegally by force or deception: kidnap

**Abecedarian (adj)**: arranged alphabetically

**Aberrant (adj)**: abnormal or deviant

**Abet (v)**: to encourage or aid a crime or criminal, an offence or offender

**Abeyance (n)**: a state of not being used at present

**Abhor (v)**: to feel an intense hatred or dislike; to loathe

**Abide (v)**: to accept or act in accordance with

**Abject (adj)**: miserable; wretched; deserving pity

**Abjure (v)**: to renounce (reject) upon oath

**Ablaze (adj)**: burning fiercely

**Ablution (n)**: the act of washing oneself; bathing

**Abnegate (v)**: to give-up; renunciation

**Abominable (adj)**: detestable; loathsome

**Aboriginal (adj/n)**: original people of a particular place

**Abort (v)**: to cause something to stop or fail before it begins or completes

**Abound (v)**: to exist in large numbers or amounts

**Abrasive (adj)**: rubbing away; tending to grind down; unpleasant

**Abreast (adv)**: up-to-date with the latest news, ideas or information

**Abridge (v)**: to make shorter; to curtail

**Abrogate (v)**: to abolish; to rescind

**Abscess (n)**: a collection of pus in a cavity

**Abscond (v)**: to go away suddenly and hide somewhere, especially unlawfully or to avoid arrest

**Absolve (v)**: to declare someone free from guilt, obligation or punishment



**Abstain** (v): to hold or refrain  
**Abstemious** (adj): moderate or sparing in eating and drinking; temperate  
**Abstruse** (adj): obscure; profound; difficult to understand  
**Absurd** (adj): 1. ridiculous or unreasonable  
 2. foolish in an amusing way  
**Abut** (v): to border upon; adjoin; lie next to  
**Abysmal** (adj): 1. bottomless; unfathomable  
 2. extremely bad; appalling  
**Accede** (v): to agree  
**Accent** (n): a distinctive way of pronouncing a language especially one associated with a particular country, area or social class.  
**Accentuate** (v): to emphasize something or make it more noticeable  
**Accessible** (adj): easy to approach; obtainable  
**Accessory** (n/adj): 1. additional object  
 2. someone who helps another person to commit a crime but doesn't take a part in it  
**Acclaim** (v): public approval and praise  
**Acclivity** (n): an upward slope  
**Accolade** (n): strong praise or honour  
**Accomplice** (n): someone who helps another person in crime  
**Accord** (n/v): agreement  
**Accost** (v): approach and address boldly or aggressively  
**Accoutrements** (n): the equipment needed for a particular activity  
**Accretion** (n): gradual increase or growth by the addition of new layers or parts  
**Accrue** (v): 1. to increase in number or amount over a period of time  
 2. to collect; accumulate  
**Acerbity** (n): someone's way of talking in a sharp and bitter manner  
**Acidulous** (adj): sour in taste or manner (often used in connection with tone or voice)  
**Acknowledge** (v): to accept, admit or recognize  
**Acme** (n): highest point of perfection or achievements  
**Acoustic** (adj): relating to sound or hearing this quality makes the room or a hall easy to hear in  
**Acquiesce** (v): to accept or agree to something, often unwillingly  
**Acquit** (n): 1. to free (someone) from criminal charge by a verdict of not guilty  
 2. conduct oneself or perform in a specified way  
**Acrid** (adj): sharp; bitterly pungent  
**Acrimonious** (adj): a pronounceable word formed from initial letters of words  
 NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization.  
 AIDS - Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome

**Actuate** (v): to make something work or to motivate a person  
**Acumen** (n): skill in taking correct decisions and judgements in a particular subject  
**Acute** (adj): 1. extreme; severe or intense in degree  
 2. highly developed  
**Adage** (n): a wise saying or proverb; an axiom  
**Adamant** (adj): impossible to persuade; unwilling to change  
**Adapt** (v): to adjust, make suitable for a purpose  
**Addendum** (n): something added as additional matter to book or speech; an appendix  
**Addle** (v): to confuse; make one's brain unable to think  
**Adduce** (v): to give proof; present evidence  
**Adept** (n): skilful; expert  
**Adhere** (v): to stick firmly  
**Adieu** (n): goodbye  
**Adjacent** (adj): very near; next to  
**Adjourn** (v): to break off (a meeting, legal case) with the intention of resuming it later  
**Adjudicate** (v): to act as judge in a court, tribunal  
**Adjunct** (n): a thing joined or added, but subordinate and not essentially a part  
**Adjure** (v): to urge or request someone solemnly  
**Adjutant** (n): an officer who assists superior officers  
**Ad-lib** (adj): speak or perform without formal preparation (same as extempore)  
**Admonish** (v): to warn; scold; reprove  
**Adonis** (n): a very beautiful or sexually attractive young man  
**Adore** (v): to worship; to love very much  
**Adorn** (v): to decorate; to embellish  
**Adroit** (adj): very skilful  
**Adulation** (n): flattery; excessive praise  
**Adulterate** (v): to make impure by adding inferior or tainted substances; spurious  
**Advent** (n): arrival  
**Adventitious** (adj): accidental; not expected or planned  
**Adversary** (n): an opponent; enemy  
**Adverse** (adj): unfavourable; hostile; contrary  
**Adversity** (n): hardship; misfortune; poverty  
**Ageis** (n): protection; something done with support of someone  
**Aeon** (n): a vast age or indefinite period; eternity  
**Aesthetic** (adj): science of beauty; dealing with or capable of appreciating the beautiful  
**Affable** (adj): 1. Friendly or pleasant, courteous  
 2. easy to talk to  
**Affect** (v): 1. to influence  
 2. to pretend  
**Affectation** (n): ways of speaking and behaving that are not natural and only designed to impress others



**Affidavit (n):** a written declaration or oath  
**Affiliate (v/n):** to be officially connected with a larger organization or group  
**Affinity (n):** attraction; liking; proclivity  
**Affirmation (n):** positive assertion; confirmation; assurance  
**Affix :** to attach or add one thing to another  
**Afflict (v):** affect adversely  
**Affluence (n):** having a lot of money possessions  
**Affray (n):** a brawl or a fight in a public place  
**Affront (n):** open insult  
**Agape (adj):** with the mouth wide open in surprise  
**Agglomeration (n):** collected or formed into a mass  
**Agglutinate (v):** firmly stick or be stuck together to form a mass  
**Aggrandize (v):** to increase power, rank, honour or wealth, which is not deserved or reasonable  
**Aggravate (v):** to make a problem, injury or offence worse  
**Aghast (adv):** suddenly filled with horror or shock  
**Agile (adj):** able to move about quickly or easily  
**Agnostic (n):** cynic; a septic, believing that it is impossible to know whether the god exists or not  
**Agog (adj):** excited; eager  
**Agrarian (adj):** relating to farming or farmers  
**Akimbo (adj):** with hands on hips and elbows turned outwards  
**Akin (adj):** very similar to something  
**Alacrity (n):** briskness; eagerness  
**Alchemy (n):** medieval chemistry seeking to turn base metal into gold or silver  
**Alienate (v):** to make hostile; separate  
**Alimentary (adj):** nutritive; pertaining to nourishment  
**Alimony (n):** payment made to an ex-spouse after divorce  
**Allay (v):** to calm, pacify  
**Allege (v):** to state or declare without proof  
**Allegory (n):** story, play, etc in which the characters and events are related to some moral or political meaning  
**Alleviate (v):** to make pain, problems less severe; to mitigate  
**Allocate (v):** to give something to someone as his share of a total amount; to assign  
**Alloy (v/n):** 1. a metal that is made by mixing two or more metals  
 2. to spoil or reduce in value  
**Allude (v):** to refer in a brief or indirect way  
**Allure (n):** attraction; charm; excitement  
**Allusion (n):** indirect reference  
**Alluvial (adj):** pertaining to soil deposits left by running water  
**Aloft (adv):** in the air or in a higher position  
**Allof (adj):** unfriendly and refusing to take part; reserved  
**Altercation (n):** loud argument; heated dispute  
**Altruism (n):** benevolence; humanitarianism concern for others

**Amalgamate (v):** to combine or unite to form a larger organization or group; merge  
**Amateur (n/adj):** someone who does something because he enjoys it instead of taking it as a job  
**Amazon (n):** a female warrior; a strong, vigorous or aggressive woman  
**Ambidextrous (adj):** able to use one's either hand with equal skill  
**Ambience (n):** the character and atmosphere of a place  
**Ambiguous (adj):** unclear or doubtful in meaning; confusing  
**Ambivalence (n):** having two opposing feelings at the same time  
**Amble (n):** to walk in a slow and relaxed way  
**Ameliorate (v):** to make a situation better or less bad  
**Amenable (adj):** open and responsive to suggestions; easily persuaded  
**Amenities (n):** something that makes it comfortable or enjoyable to live or work somewhere  
**Amiable (adj):** good natured; lovable; friendly  
**Amicable (adj):** person having a pleasant and friendly behaviour despite a difficult situation; agreement, decision achieved without argument  
**Amity :** friendship; good relationship  
**Amnesia (n):** loss of memory  
**Amnesty (n):** a general pardon  
**Amok / Amuck (adv):** to be out of control and act in a wild or dangerous manner  
**Amorous (adj):** relating to or involving sexual love  
**Amorphous (adj):** shapeless, undefined  
**Amphibian (adj):** able to live both on land and in water  
**Ample (adj):** abundant; plentiful  
**Amplify (v):** to increase in size, effect, detail etc.  
**Amputate (v):** to cut off, especially a part of body; prune  
**Amulet (n):** an object worn because it is believed to protect against evil, disease, unhappiness; talisman  
**Anachronism (n):** an error in assigning a thing to an earlier or to a later age than it belongs to  
**Analgesic (adj):** a drug that reduces pain; a painkiller  
**Analogy (n):** a resemblance of relations; similarity  
**Anarchy (n):** a state of disorder due to absence of controlling systems  
**Anathema (n):** something that is greatly disliked or disapproved of; abhorrence; abomination  
**Ancillary (adj):** serving as an aid or accessory; auxiliary  
**Animadversion (adj):** criticism; censure  
**Animosity (n):** strong dislike; enmity  
**Annals (n):** a record of events year by year; yearbook  
**Annihilate (v):** to destroy; to reduce to nothing  
**Annotate (v):** to make explanatory notes  
**Annul (v):** cancel; abolish; invalidate; to make null







**Atrocity** (n): heinous act; extremely cruel or wicked act  
**Atrophy** (n): to be reduced in size and therefore strength; to become weak  
**Attenuate** (adj): to make something smaller, thinner, weaker  
**Attire** (n): clothes especially of a particular formal type  
**Attribute** (n/v): 1. a quality of feature  
 2. to ascribe or assign  
**Attrition** (n): the gradual weakening and destroying of something by attacking repeatedly  
**Attuned to** (adj): able to understand or being very familiar with  
**Atypical** (adj): not normal, different from all the others of its type  
**Audacious** (adj): brave or fearless; having a willingness to take risks  
**Au fait** (adj): familiar with or informed about  
**Augment** (v): to be a sign that something will be successful or unsuccessful  
**August** (adj): venerable; important; majestic  
**Aura** (n): a feeling or a character that a person or place seems to have  
**Auspices** (n): if something is done under the auspices of a particular person or organizations, it is done with its support and approval  
**Auspicious** (adj): suggesting a positive and successful future; a good omen

**Babble** (v): to talk foolishly or like a child or in a confused way; to murmur  
**Babel** (n): a state of confusion caused by many people talking at same time or using different languages  
**Badger** (v): to try to make someone do something by asking them many times  
**Badinage** (n): conversation that involves a lot of humour  
**Baffle** (n): confuse; perplex  
**Bagatelle** (n): a sum of money that is small and unimportant  
**Bait** (n/v): 1. a food used for attracting and catching fish, birds or animal  
 2. (as verb) to use something as bait means to use it to trick or persuade someone to do something  
 3. (as verb) to harass, tease  
**Balderdash** (n): nonsense; senseless talk or writing  
**Baleful** (adj): full of evil intentions menacing  
**Balk (or Bulk)** (n): to be unwilling  
**Ballsy** (adj): energetic and brave  
**Ballyhoo** (n): extravagant publicity or fuss  
**Balmy** (adj): mild and fragrant; soothing  
**Bamboozle** (v): to trick or deceive someone  
**Banal** (adj): trite; something boring; ordinary and not original  
**Banana Republic** (n): small, poor countries that are often politically unstable

**Austere** (adj): morally strict; severely simple without luxury  
**Autocracy** (n): an absolute government by one person, depotism  
**Autopsy** (n): examination of a dead body, post-mortem  
**Auxiliary** (n/adj): offering or providing help; additional or subsidiary  
**Avant-garde** (adj): avant-garde art, music, theatre or literature is very modern and experimental  
**Avarice** (n): extreme greed for wealth, covetousness  
**Aver** (v): to affirm; to declare to be true  
**Averse** (adj): having a strong dislike of or opposition to something  
**Avert** (v): 1. to prevent something unpleasant from happening  
 2. to turn away one's eyes or thoughts  
**Avid** (adj): showing a keen interest; eagerly desirous  
**Avocation** (n): a hobby or minor occupation  
**Avow** (v): to declare openly; to affirm  
**Avuncular** (adj): friendly, helpful behaviour towards someone younger  
**Awash** (adj): covered or flooded  
**Awe** (n): feeling of great respect and admiration usually mixed with fear or surprise  
**Awry** (adv): distorted untidy; not in the intended manner  
**Axiom** (n): a universally received principle  
**Azure** (adj): used to describe things that are bright blue

## B

**Bandy** (v): to discuss lightly; to argue  
**Bane** (n): something that annoys someone very much, pernicious  
**Banish** (v): 1. to send away from a country or place as an official punishment  
 2. to get rid of  
**Banter** (n): playful teasing  
**Barb** (n): an insulting remark  
**Barbaric** (n): violent, cruel  
**Bard** (n): a poet  
**Barmecide** (adj): lavish or plentiful in imagination only  
**Baron** (n): an important businessman or other powerful influential person  
**Barrack** (v): 1. to jeer loudly in order to interrupt  
 2. (barrack for) to give support and encouragement to  
**Barrage** (n): 1. an attack during which an army continuously fires guns, drops bombs etc.  
 2. lot of criticism, complaints or questions  
**Bashful** (adj): tending to feel uncomfortable with other people and be embarrassed easily; shy  
**Bask** (v): 1. to relax and enjoy by lying in the sun  
 2. if you bask in someone's approval or admiration, you greatly enjoy their positive reaction towards you



**Bastion** (n): an organization, community or system that supports and defends a particular way of life, tradition or belief

**Bated** (adj): wait anxiously

**Batty** (adj): silly and foolish with confused behaviour

**Bawdy** (adj): containing humorous remarks about sex

**Bawl** (v): to shout or cry noisily and unrestrainedly

**Beacon** (n): 1. a fire or light usually on a hill or a tower or from a prominent place that acts as a warning or signal

2. if someone acts as a beacon to other people, they inspire or encourage them

**Beady** (adj): 1. beady eyes are small, round and bright  
2. to watch carefully and suspiciously

**Beatific** (adj): blissful; heavenly expressing happiness and calmness, especially in a holy way

**Beckon** (v): if one beckons to someone one signals to him to come to home

**Bedazzled** (adj): very impressed and slightly confused by something

**Bedizen** (v): to dress gaudily

**Bedlam** (n): chaos

**Beef** (v): 1. to make a complaint  
2. Beef up something means to strengthen it

**Beefy** (adj): muscular or robust

**Befuddle** (adj): very confused and unable to think clearly; baffle

**Beguile** (v): to charm or attract in order to deceive

**Behemoth** (n): huge or gigantic animal

**Behest** (n): an order or request

**Beholden** (adj): bound in gratitude; obligated

**Beholden** (adj): used for saying that someone should do something because it is the right thing to do

**Belabour** (v): 1. to explain something more than necessary  
2. to hit someone or something hard and repeatedly

**Beleaguer** (adj): having a lot of problem or criticism to deal with

**Belie** (v): to give a false impression

**Bellicose** (adj): wishing to fight; quarrel some

**Belligerent** (adj): hostile and aggressive

**Bellow** (v): to shout in a loud voice

**Benediction** (n): a prayer asking god for help and protection

**Benediction** (n): someone who helps a person or organization by giving them money

**Benevolent** (adj): kind; humane; helpful

**Benighted** (adj): intellectually or morally ignorant

**Benign** (adj): 1. kind and nice  
2. a medical condition which is not serious enough to cause death

**Bequeath** (v): to give someone money or property after you die by making a document called 'will'

**Berate** (v): to scold severely

**Bereavement** (n): the situation you are in when a close friend or a family member has just died

**Bereft** (adj): completely without any hope

**Berk** (n): a stupid person

**Berserk** (adj): to become violent and uncontrolled

**Beseech** (v): to ask someone for something in an urgent and sincere way; to beg

**Besiege** (v): to surround with the intention of capturing

**Besmirch** (v): to harm the good reputation of someone or something

**Besotted** (adj): obsessed; strongly infatuated

**Bestial** (adj): barbaric; unrefined like an animal

**Bestow** (v): to give or confer or honour someone

**Bete noire** (n): a person or thing that one especially dislikes or fears

**Betroth** (v): to promise formally to marry someone

**Bevy** (n): a large group of similar thing

**Bicker** (v): to argue about unimportant matters

**Bigotry** (n): intolerance towards those who hold different opinion from oneself

**Bigwig** (n): a person who has an important or powerful position

**Bijou** (adj): a small but attractive and fashionable building

**Bilge** (n): worthless talk; nonsense

**Bilk** (v): to elude; to cheat; swindle

**Binge** (n): an occasion when an activity is done in an extreme way, especially eating, drinking or spending money

**Bizarre** (adj): strange and difficult to explain

**Blab** (v): reveal secrets by indiscreet talks

**Blabber** (v): talk foolishly

**Bland** (adj): dull and unexciting

**Blandishments** (n): flattering; pleasant word or action meant to persuade.

**Blare** (n): an unpleasantly loud noise

**Blarney** (v): flattery; over praise

**Blase** (adj): not excited; bored; unconcerned

**Blasphemous** (adj): impious; offensive to god for someone's religious beliefs

**Blatant** (adj): done openly and unashamedly

**Blather** (v): to chatter foolishly

**Blazon** (v/n): to make public; to display ostentatiously

**Bleak** (adj): cold and not welcoming; hopeless

**Bleary** (adj): looking or feeling dull and unfocused from sleep or having too much alcohol

**Bleat** (v): 1. complaining about something in an annoying way  
2. speak in a weak high voice

**Blench** (v): to feel great fear and disgust at the thought of doing something.

**Blighter** (n): a man or child, especially an annoying one

**Bliss** (n): perfect happiness

**Blithe** (adj): 1. to indicate that something is done casually without careful thought  
2. happy and without worry



**Blitz (n/v):** 1. to make a great effort to do something that needs to be done  
2. an advertising or publicity blitz is a major effort to make the public aware of something  
3. a fast, violent attack on a town usually with aircrafts

**Blizzard (n):** a large or overwhelming number of things arriving suddenly

**Bloated (adj):** if an organization is described as bloated it is unnecessarily large and less efficient

**Blooper (n):** an amusing mistake made by an actor during the making of a film which is cut out of the end product

**Bludgeon (n/v):** 1. to hit someone hard and repeatedly with a heavy weapon  
2. to force someone to do something by repeated arguments or threats

**Bob (v):** 1. to move something up and down  
2. to appear or disappear suddenly  
3. moving of the head up and down

**Bode (v):** to be a sign of good or bad things in the future

**Bogey (n):** a particular fear, especially one not based on reason

**Boggle (v):** to have difficulty imagining or understanding something

**Bohemian (n/adj):** a socially unconventional person, especially an artist or a writer

**Boisterous (adj):** wild, noisy and exuberant

**Bolster (v):** to support; encourage

**Bombastic (adj):** pompous; flamboyant; using high sounding and insincere words with little meaning

**Boner (n):** a mistake which causes embarrassment to the person who makes it

**Bonhomie (n):** a friendly feeling; geniality

**Bonkers (adj):** silly or stupid

**Booby trap (n):** something such as a bomb which is hidden or disguised and which causes death and injury when it is touched

**Boomerang (v):** if something boomerangs, it brings a harmful result instead of the intended good one

**Boor (n):** a person who is rude and doesn't consider other people's feelings

**Booze (v):** to drink alcohol

**Bosh (n):** nonsense

**Botch (v):** carry out badly or carelessly

**Bounder (n):** an unkind and immoral man

**Bountiful (adj):** abundant; plentiful; giving money, love, etc generously

**Bourgeois (n):** a person belonging to middle class, working class

**Bovine (adj):** connected with cows or like a cow because slow and stupid

**Blowver (n):** violent or threatening behaviour

**Bowlerize (v):** to remove the parts of book, film or play that are likely to offend people, with the result that it is not as good

**Bozo (n):** a stupid person

**Brackish (adj):** saline, salty

**Brag (v):** to boast

**Brainchild (n):** a person's own idea

**Brain storming (v):** to hold a group discussion to produce ideas

**Brandish (v):** to wave something in the air in a threatening or exciting way

**Brash (adj):** showing too much confidence and too little respect

**Brat (n):** a child, especially one who behaves badly

**Bravado (n):** a show of bravery to impress people

**Brawl (n):** a noisy, rough, uncontrolled fight

**Brawn (n):** physical strength

**Bray (v):** to make a loud, unpleasant noise-like a donkey

**Brazen (adj):** shameless; bold; impudent; arrogant

**Breach (n):** an act of breaking a law, promise, agreement or relationship

**Breadline (n):** the level of income someone has when they are extremely poor

**Brevity (n):** briefness; shortness; conciseness

**Brickbat (n):** a spoken attack, an insult

**Bridle (v):** to show anger

**Brigand (v):** an armed thief

**Brill (adj):** short for brilliant

**Brinkmanship (n):** a method of behaviour, especially in politics, in which you deliberately get into dangerous situation which could result in disaster but which could also bring success

**Broach (v):** to begin a discussion of something difficult

**Brood (v):** to think about something sad

**Brook (v/n):** 1. a small stream  
2. tolerate; endure

**Brouhaha (n):** a lot of noise or angry complaining

**Browbeat (v):** to intimidate

**Browse (v):** to look around

**Bruit (v):** to tell everyone

**Brusque (adj):** quick and rude in manner or speech.

**Bubbly (adj):** full of enthusiasm

**Bucolic (adj):** related to the countryside; rural

**Budge (v):** to move or change a little

**Buffoon (n):** clown

**Bugaboo (n):** an object of terror

**Bulwark (n):** something that protects one from unpleasant situations

**Bumble (v):** to speak or move in a confused way

**Bumpkin (n):** uneducated and stupid

**Bumptious (adj):** unpleasantly confident; arrogant

**Bungle (n/v):** to do something badly or unsuccessfully

**Buoyant (n/v):** cheerful

**Bureaucracy (n):** a system of government or administration by officials responsible only to their departmental chiefs

**Burgeon (v):** to grow or develop quickly

**Burlesque (n/v):** mockery; a ludicrous imitation

**Burly (adj):** a large and strong person

**Burnout (n):** extreme tiredness

**Busk (v):** to play music or sing in a public place for voluntary donations

**Bustling (adj):** full of activities

**Buttress (n/v):** a structure that supports

**Buxom (adj):** (of a woman) healthy looking attractive with large breasts



## C

**Cabal** (n): a group of people who secretly work together to get power for themselves  
**Caboodle** (n): a lot or group; everything  
**Cache** (n/v): a hidden store of provision, weapons, treasure; to hide weapons or other things  
**Cachet** (n): the state of being respected or admired; prestige  
**Cacophony** (n): a harsh discordant mixture of sounds  
**Cadaverous** (adj): looking pale and thin like a person who is about to die  
**Cadence** (n): a modulation or inflection of the voice; rhythm  
**Cadge** (v): to get something without paying  
**Cajole** (v): to persuade to do something by coaxing or flattery  
**Cakewalk** (n): easy to achieve  
**Calamity** (n): catastrophe; a disaster  
**Calligraphy** (n): art of producing beautiful handwriting  
**Calisthenics** (n): gymnastic exercises  
**Callous** (adj): cold-hearted; insensitive; unsympathetic  
**Calorific** (adj): causing heat  
**Calumny** (n): a false accusation; defamation; unsympathetic  
**Calorific** (adj): causing heat  
**Calumny** (n): a false accusation; defamation; slander  
**Camaraderie** (n): the intimacy of comradeship; good fellowship  
**Camouflage** (n/v): to distinguish  
**Canaille** (n): the common people; the masses  
**Canard** (n): a false, especially malicious report as story  
**Candor** (n): honestly, even when the truth is not pleasant  
**Canine** (adj): relating to or similar to a dog  
**Canker** (n): disease like situation causing destruction.  
**Cannon** (n/v): 1. a large powerful gun (usually mounted on wheels)  
 2. to knock or hit against  
**Canny** (adj): thinking quickly and cleverly; witty  
**Canon** (n): a rule, principle or law  
**Canopy** (n): a cover or a type of roof  
**Cant** (n): special words used by a particular group of people such as thieves, lawyers, etc.; slang  
**Cantankerous** (adj): bad tempered; stubborn  
**Cantata** (n): a piece of religious music performed by singers  
**Canter** (v): slow gallop  
**Canto** (n): section of a long poem  
**Canvass** (n): to campaign  
**Capacious** (adj): having a lot of space  
**Caprice** (n): an unpredictable change of mind; a whim  
**Captious** (adj): tending to find fault or raise petty objections  
**Carcass** (n): the body of a dead animal; frame of an object  
**Carcinogen** (n): a substance that can cause cancer  
**Cardinal** (adj): important/basic  
**Carreen** (v): to go forward quickly while moving from side to side  
**Caricature** (n): an exaggerated imitation of a person  
**Carnage** (n): massacre; extensive slaughtering

**Carnal** (adj): relating to sex; physical desires or the body  
**Carouse** (v): to drink a lot, be noisy and have fun  
**Carp** (v): to keep complaining about unimportant matters  
**Carrion** (n): decaying flesh of a dead body  
**Carte blanche** (n): unlimited freedom  
**Cartel** (n): an association of business firms to establish monopoly  
**Cartography** (n): the science of drawing maps  
**Cascade** (n): something that hangs down in large quantities like a waterfall  
**Castigate** (v): to criticize severely  
**Casuistry** (n): the use of clever but often false arguments to answer moral or legal questions  
**Cataclysm** (n): a great destructive event or sudden violent change  
**Catalyst** (n): stimulus; a person who causes change by his presence  
**Catapult** (n/v): to suddenly put someone into an important position; to propel  
**Catastrophe** (n): a great disaster; calamity; tragedy  
**Categorical** (adj): without exception; absolute; certain  
**Catholic** (n): including a wide variety of things  
**Catnap** (n): a short sleeping especially during a day  
**Catty** (adj): unkind because intended to hurt someone  
**Caucus** (n): a small group of people in a political party who have a lot of influence; conference  
**Caustic** (adj): sarcastically biting; intentionally unkind  
**Cauterize** (v): to close a cut by using a hot instrument in order to prevent infection or to stop blood flowing out  
**Cavalcade** (n): a procession  
**Cavalier** (adj): not caring about other people's feelings; off hand  
**Cavil** (v): to object unnecessarily  
**Cede** (v): surrender; yield; relinquish  
**Celerity** (n): speed or quickness; alacrity  
**Celestial** (adj): heavenly; divine  
**Celibacy** (adj): living as a single person abstaining from sexual relation  
**Censure** (n): strong disapproval criticize  
**Centrifugal** (adj): tending away from the center  
**Centripetal** (adj): tending towards the center  
**Cerebral** (adj): pertaining to the brain; intellectual  
**Ceremonious** (adj): formal and polite behaviour  
**Cessation** (n): stopping or ending  
**Certitude** (n): certainty or confidence  
**Chafe** (v): 1. warm by rubbing  
 2. to be annoyed  
**Chaff** (n): worthless things; rubbish  
**Chagrin** (n): humiliation; shame; embarrassment  
**Champ** (v): chew noisily



**Champion (n):** a person who vigorously supports or defends a particular cause

**Chaotic (adj):** disorganized; complete disorder

**Charismatic (adj):** possessing spiritual grace; inspiring

**Charlatan (n):** someone who pretends to have special knowledge or ability; an impostor

**Chary (adj):** cautious; not taking chances

**Chasm (n):** large difference

**Chaste (adj):** modest; pure

**Chasten (v):** punish in order to correct; to purify

**Chattel (n):** a personal possession

**Chauvinism (n):** the strong and unreasonable belief that our country, sex, or race is the best or the most important

**Cherubic (adj):** innocent; like a child; angelic

**Chic (n/adj):** stylish and fashionable

**Chicanery (n):** clever, dishonest talk or behaviour which is used to deceive people

**Chide (n):** the mother chided the son for his bad manners

**Chimerical (adj):** fantastic highly imaginative

**Chisel (v):** to use very clever or dishonest methods to achieve something

**Chivalrous (adj):** courteous; courageous; very polite

**Choleric (adj):** bad tempered or irritable

**Choreography (n):** sequence of steps and movements in a dance

**Chronic (adj):** severe

**Chronicle (n):** report or record in written

**Churlish (adj):** rude; ungracious

**Chutzpah (n):** extreme self-confidence or audacity; nerve

**Cinch (n):** something which is very easy and is therefore a certainty

**Cinderella (n):** someone or something that has good qualities but is treated badly

**Cipher/Cypher (n):** 1. secret language  
2. worthless person or entity

**Circumlocution (n):** an indirect way of saying something (especially unpleasant things)

**Circumspect (adj):** careful and attentive

**Circumvent (v):** outwit; baffle

**Citadel (n):** fortress

**Cairvoyant (adj):** a person who claims to have power to see the future

**Clamber (v):** to climb with difficulty

**Clamor (n):** to make a loud complaint or demand; noise

**Clandestine (adj):** secret or hidden

**Clanger (n):** an embarrassing mistake, especially while you are talking

**Clangor (n):** a loud ringing noise made by striking metal

**Clarion call (n):** strong or persuasive encouragement

**Clatter (v):** to make continuous loud noises by hitting hard objects against each other

**Claustrophobia (n):** an extreme fear of being in enclosed spaces

**Cleave (n):** split

**Cleave to (v/prep):** to stick to

**Clemency (n):** forgiveness and less severe punishment for a crime

**Cliche (n):** a phrase that has dulled in meaning by repetition

**Clientele (n):** all the customers of a business

**Cliffhanger (n):** a story or a situation which exciting because its ending or result is uncertain until it happens

**Climactic (adj):** pertaining to the most important or exciting point; climax

**Clinch (v):** confirm or settle a contract

**Clinical (adj):** very efficient and without feeling; emotionless

**Clique (n):** a small close-knit group of people who do not readily allow others to join them

**Cloak (n):** something serving to hide or disguise something

**Clobber (v/n):** to hit hard and repeatedly; to defeat completely

**Clodhopper (n):** an awkward or clumsy person

**Clog (v):** to block something or become blocked

**Closet (v):** to put one in an enclosed space

**Clout (n/v):** 1. power and influence  
2. to hit someone or something hard

**Cloying (adj):** excessive sweet and therefore unpleasant

**Clumsy (adj):** awkward in movement and manner

**Clutter (n):** a state of untidiness

**Coalesce (v):** to grow together or unite into one; to fuse

**Coarse (adj):** rough; loud and offensive

**Coax (v):** to persuade gently

**Cobble (v):** to put something together in a hurry

**Cockeyed (adj):** 1. ridiculous; unlikely to be successful  
2. not straight; sloping to one side

**Cocky (adj):** annoyingly confident; a bit rude

**Coddle (v):** to pamper

**Codicil (n):** a supplement to a will

**Coerce (n):** to persuade forcefully

**Coeval (n):** same age or existing at the same time; contemporary

**Cogent (adj):** clearly expressed and persuasive

**Cogitate (v):** ponder; meditate; contemplate

**Cognate (adj):** connected with thinking or conscious mental processes

**Cognizance (n):** knowledge; perception; awareness

**Cognomen (n):** surname, last name

**Cohere (v):** to stick together; to be consistent

**Cohesion (n):** the act of sticking together logically

**Cohort (n):** a group of people with a shared characteristic

**Coiffure (n):** hair style

**Coin (v):** to invent a new word or expression

**Collage (n):** a work of art prepared from assembled fragments

**Collate (v):** to compare and analyze

**Collateral (n/adj):** 1. security towards a loan  
2. additional but subordinate; secondary

**Collation (n):** a light meal



**Colloquial** (*adj*): language used in ordinary or familiar conversation  
**Colloquy** (*n*): a conversation  
**Collusion** (*n*): conspiracy; plot  
**Colossal** (*adj*): massive; huge  
**Comatose** (*adj*): affected with coma; extremely lethargic or sleepy  
**Combustible** (*adj*): liable to catch fire and burn  
**Comely** (*adj*): pleasing; attractive  
**Comestible** (*n*): an item of food  
**Comeuppance** (*n*): a punishment or fate that someone deserves  
**Comity** (*n*): courtesy; civility  
**Commander** (*v*): to take possession of, especially for military purposes  
**Commemorate** (*adj*): to recall and show respect; to mark or celebrate an occasion  
**Commensurate** (*adj*): equal in measure or extent; in due proportion with  
**Commiserate** (*v*): to express sympathy  
**Commodious** (*adj*): spacious; comfortable  
**Commotion** (*n*): a state of confused and noisy disturbance  
**Communique** (*n*): an official announcement  
**Commute** (*v*): 1. to travel regularly a distance between work and home  
                   2. to change  
**Compatible** (*adj*): able to exist together without problem  
**Compatriot** (*n*): a fellow countryman  
**Compendium** (*n*): a brief summary; abridgement  
**Compensatory** (*adj*): in lieu of  
**Compere** (*n*): a person who introduces the performers or contestants in a show; host  
**Compilation** (*n*): putting together or collecting  
**Complacent** (*adj/adv*): showing uncritical satisfaction  
**Complaisant** (*adj*): obliging; tending to comply with the wishes of others  
**Complement** (*n/v*): to make a good combination with someone or something  
**Compliance** (*n*): the action of complying with the wish of others  
**Comport** (*v*): to cause yourself to behave in a particular way  
**Composure** (*n*): mental calmness  
**Comprehend** (*v*): to understand something completely  
**Comprehensive** (*adj*): complete and including everything  
**Compunction** (*n*): remorse  
**Comrade** (*n*): a colleague or a fellow member of an organization  
**Concede** (*v*): to admit, often unwillingly; to give up  
**Conceited** (*adj*): excessively proud of oneself  
**Conception** (*n*): 1. the forming or devising of a plan or idea  
                   2. the action of conceiving a child or of one being conceived  
**Concerted** (*adj*): jointly arranged or carried out with determination

**Conciliate** (*v*): stop being angry or discontented; placate.  
**Concoct** (*v*): to create or devise; to make (a dish or meal) by combining various ingredients  
**Concomitant** (*adj*): naturally accompanying or associated  
**Concord** (*n*): agreement or harmony between people or groups  
**Concourse** (*n*): 1. an open area forming part of a public building  
                   2. a crowd or assembly of people  
**Concur** (*v*): 1. to agree; to be of the same opinion  
                   2. to happen at the same time; coincide  
**Concussion** (*n*): temporary unconsciousness or confusion caused by a blow on the head  
**Condescend** (*v*): to show that one feels superior; patronize  
**Condiment** (*n*): a substance such as salt or pickle that is used to add flavour to the food  
**Condole** (*v*): to express sympathy; grieve with  
**Condone** (*v*): to forgive or overlook an offence  
**Conducive** (*adj*): providing the right condition for something good to happen  
**Confab** (*n*): an informal private conversation or discussion  
**Confederacy** (*n*): a league or alliance of states or people for a political or trade purpose  
**Confidant** (*v*): a person with whom one shares feeling and secret  
**Confine** (*v*): to limit; restrict  
**Confiscate** (*v*): to take or seize someone's property with authority  
**Conflagration** (*n*): an extensive fire or a sudden violent event, such as a war, involving a lot of people  
**Confound** (*v*): 1. to make one feel surprised or confused especially by not behaving in the way one expect  
                   2. to mix up something with something else  
**Congel** (*v*): to become semi solid, especially on cooling  
**Congenial** (*adj*): affable; cordial; pleasant  
**Congenital** (*adj*): an abnormality present since birth  
**Congeries** (*n*): a disorderly collection; a jumble  
**Conglomeration** (*n*): a group of different things gathered together  
**Congruent** (*adj*): in agreement or harmony  
**Conjecture** (*v*): to form an opinion about something on the basis of incomplete information  
**Conjugal** (*adj*): pertaining to marriage or the relation between husband and wife  
**Conjunction** (*n*): a combination or happening together of events or conditions.  
**Conjure** (*v*): to make something appear by magic  
**Connoisseur** (*n*): an expert judge in matters of taste  
**Connotation** (*n*): an idea or feeling which a word invokes for a person in addition to its literal or primary meaning  
**Connubial** (*adj*): relating to marriage or the matrimonial state  
**Conscientious** (*v*): working hard; tending to take great care or show diligence  
**Consecrate** (*v*): to officially make (something) holy; dedicate formally to religious purpose



- Conscience (n):** a person's moral sense of right or wrong
- Consensus (n):** general agreement; unanimity
- Consequential (adj):** 1. happening as a result or effect  
2. important; significant
- Consign (v):** to put someone in an unpleasant situation
- Consistency (n):** absence of contradiction; dependability
- Console (v):** to comfort at the time of grief or disappointment
- Consonance (n):** to state of agreement or accord; harmony
- Consort (n/v):** to spend time with someone that other do not approve of
- Conspicuous (adj):** clearly visible
- Conspiracy (n):** a secret plan to do something unlawful
- Constellation (n):** stars which form a group as seen from the earth
- Consternation (n):** a feeling of anxiety, shock or confusion
- Constraint (n):** a limitation or restriction
- Construe (v):** to interpret; to analyze
- Consummate (adj):** showing great skill and flair
- Contagious (adj):** a disease which spreads from one person to another by direct or indirect contact.
- Contaminate (v):** to spoil the purity of something; to pollute
- Contemplate (v):** to spend time considering something or to think about something for a long time in a serious way
- Contemporary (n):** living or occurring at the same time
- Contempt (n):** a strong feeling of combined dislike and lack of respect.
- Contend (v):** 1. adjust to a difficult situation or try to solve a problem  
2. to state as the truth; claim
- Contentious (adj):** causing or likely to cause disagreement
- Context (n):** the circumstances that form the setting for an event or idea and in terms of which it can be easily understood
- Contiguous (adj):** sharing a common border; adjoining
- Continence (n):** self-control, restraint, sexual chastity
- Contingency (n):** a provision for a possible event or circumstance; emergency
- Contingent (n/adj):** 1. a group of people representing an organization or country or a part of military force  
2. depending on something that may happen in future
- Contort (v):** to twist or bend out of normal shape
- Contraband (n):** goods that have been imported or exported illegally
- Contravene (v):** to do something that is not permitted; violation
- Contrite (adj):** feeling or expressing remorse at the recognition that one has done wrong
- Contrive (v):** to invent or make something in a clever or unusual way
- Controvert (v):** to oppose; to argue against
- Contumacy (n):** stubborn refusal to obey, especially disobedience to a court order
- Contusion (n):** a bruise; the state of being bruised
- Conundrum (n):** a confusing and difficult question or problem
- Conurbation (n):** an extended urban area, typically consisting of several towns merging with the suburbs of a central city
- Convalesce (v):** to recover one's health and strength gradually after an illness or mishapening
- Covene (v):** to assemble; gather together
- Convention (n):** 1. social or moral custom; established practice  
2. a formal agreement between states covering particular matters  
3. a large meeting or congerence
- Conventional (adj):** ordinary; typical; customary
- Converge (v):** to approach; tending to meet at one point; come together
- Coversant (adv):** familiar with or having knowledge about something
- Convict (v):** to officially decide in a court of law that some one is guilty of a particular crime
- Conviction (n):** a firmly held belief or opinion
- Convivial (adj):** jovial; cheerful; friendly; pleasant situation
- Convocation (n):** a large formal assembly of people
- Convuluted (adj):** difficult to understand; coiled around ; intricate
- Convulse (v):** to shake violently with sudden uncontrolled movements
- Copious (adj):** plentiful; abundant; generous
- Coquette (n):** flirtatious woman
- Cordon (n):** a line or circle of guards preventing access to or from an area
- Cornucopia (n):** an abundant supply of good things of a specified kind
- Corny (adj):** silly and repeated too often to be funny or interesting; trite; banal
- Corollary (n):** something that results from something else
- Corporal (adj):** physical and not spiritual; of the body
- Corpulent (adj):** a fatty persons; stout
- Correlation (n):** mutual relationship or connection between two or more things
- Corroborate (v):** to add proof or certainty to something
- Corrode (v):** to destroy by chemical action; to make something weaker gradually
- Corrugated (adj):** wrinkled, drawn into folds
- Cortege (n):** a slowly moving line of people or cars at a funeral
- Coruscating (adj):** flashing brightly; lively and impressive
- Cosmic (adj):** pertaining to the universe; vast
- Cosmopolitan (adj):** familiar with and at ease in many different countries and cultures
- Cosset (v):** care for and protect in an overindulgent way
- Coterie (n):** a small group of people with shared interests who often do not want other people to join them
- Coterminous (adj):** having or meeting at a shared border; having the same pattern or features
- Council (n):** an advisory, deliberate, or administrative body of people formally constituted and meeting regularly
- Counsel (v/n):** 1. to give advice, especially on social or personal problems  
2. a barrister or other legal adviser conducting a case



**Countenance (adj)**: 1. a person's face or facial expression  
2. to approve of or give support to; sanction

**Counterfeit (v)**: made in imitation; not genuine

**Countermand (v)**: to revoke or to cancel and order

**Counterpart (n)**: a person or thing which has the same purpose as another one in a different place or organization

**Countervailing (adj)**: having equal force but an opposite effect

**Coup (n)**: a sudden violent and illegal seizure of power from a government

**Courteous (adj)**: polite and respectful; and well-mannered

**Courtly (adj)**: polite and graceful in behaviour

**Couth (adj)**: cultured, refined, and well-mannered

**Couture (n)**: the designing, making and selling of expensive fashionable clothing

**Covenant (n)**: a formal written legal agreement

**Couert (adj)**: concealed; hidden

**Covet (adj)**: yearn to possess something, especially, belonging to someone else

**Cower (v)**: to crouch down in fear

**Coy (adj)**: 1. being or pretending to be shy (especially of a women)  
2. intentionally secretive

**Cozen (v)**: to cheat; to deceive

**Crabbed (adj)**: small and untidy writing which is difficult to read

**Crabby (adj)**: bad-tempered and complainig

**Cradle (n)**: 1. a place or process in which something originates or flourishes  
2. a small bed for a baby  
3. to hold something gently

**Crafty (adj)**: clever, especially in a dishonest or secretive way

**Crane (v)**: to stretch in order to look at something

**Crank (n)**: 1. a person who has strange or unusual ideas and beliefs  
2. a bad tempered person; irritable

**Crap (n)**: worthless; useless; nonsense or of bad quality

**Crass (adj)**: showing no intelligence or sensitivity

**Craven (adj)**: cowardly; spiritless

**Craving (n)**: a strong or uncontrollable desire

**Credence (n)**: belief in or acceptance of something as true

**Credentials (n)**: qualification, achievements or experiences of a person's background especially when used to indicate their suitability for something

**Credible (adj)**: able to be believed; convincing

**Credulous (adj)**: too willing to believe what one is told; easily deceived; gullible

**Creed (n)**: a system of religious belief; a faith

**Crepuscular (adj)**: the time of day just before the sun goes up or just after it goes down; twilight

**Crescendo (n)**: a progressive increase in intensity

**Crescent (n)**: a thing which has a shape of a single curve that is broad at the centre and tapers to point at each end

**Crest fallen (adj)**: sad and disappointed

**Cretin (n)**: a stupid person

**Crevice (n)**: a small narrow crack or space

**Crib (v)**: to copy another person's work illicitly and without acknowledgement

**Cringe (n)**: bend one's head and body in fear or apprehension

**Crone (n)**: an unfriendly or ugly old woman

**Crook (n)**: very dishonest person; a criminal

**Crooked (adj)**: bent or twisted

**Croon (v)**: to sing or talk in a sweet, low voice in a sentimental manner

**Crop (up) (v)**: to happen or appear unexpectedly

**Crotchety (adj)**: short-tempered and easily annoyed; whimsical eccentric

**Crucible (n)**: a situation of severe trial or in which different elements interact, leading to the creation of something new

**Crud (n)**: something unpleasant and worthless

**Crumb (n)**: a very small amount of something

**Crumpet (n)**: sexually attractive woman

**Crusade (n)**: a long and determined attempt to achieve something which one believes in strongly

**Crux (n)**: crucial point; essence; gist

**Cryptic (adj)**: mysterious and difficult to understand

**Cuddle (v)**: hold close in one's arms as a way of showing love or affection

**Cue (n)**: a thing said or done that acts as a signal for action

**Cuff (v)**: to hit someone with your hand in a light, joking way

**Cuisine (n)**: a style or method of cooking; food

**Cul-de-sac (n)**: a short road which is blocked off at one end; trap

**Culinary (adj)**: connected with cooking or kitchens

**Cull (v)**: 1. reduce the population by selective slaughter  
2. to choose or collect from various places

**Culmination (n)**: attainment of the highest point; completion

**Culpable (adj/adv)**: guilty; blame worthy

**Culvert (n)**: a tunnel carrying a stream or open drain under a road or railway

**Cumbersome (adj)**: large or heavy and therefore difficult to carry or use

**Cupidity (n)**: strong desire for wealth; covetousness; avarice

**Curator (n)**: keeper or custodian of a place

**Curmudgeon (n)**: a bad-tempered old person

**Curry (v)**: seek favour

**Cursive (adj)**: written with the characters joined

**Cursory (adj)**: hasty and therefore not thorough and detailed

**Curtail (v)**: to abridge; to cut short; to stop something before it is finished

**Curtain raiser (n)**: an entertainment or other event happening just before a longer or more important one

**Cushy (adj)**: very easy; undemanding

**Custodian (n)**: a person with responsibility for the care, protection or maintenance of something

**Cynic (n)**: someone who does not trust or respect the goodness of other people and their actions, believing that people are interested only in themselves

**Cynosure (n)**: a person or thing that is the centre of attention or admiration

**Cyst (n)**: a lump containing liquid in the body that sometimes needs to be removed.



**Dabble (v)**: 1. take part in an activity in a casual or superficial way  
2. to immerse one's hand or feet partially in water and move them around gently

**Daft (adj)**: silly; insane

**Dainty (adj)**: small and graceful

**Dais (n)**: raised platform (usually for speakers)

**Dalliance (n)**: a casual, romantic or sexual relationship; involvement in an activity which only last for a very short period

**Dally (v)**: to waste time or do something very slowly

**Damsel (n)**: a young unmarried woman

**Dandy (n)**: 1. a man unduly concerned with having a stylish and fashionable appearance  
2. an excellent thing of its kind (as both noun and adjective)

**Dank (adj)**: unpleasantly moist and cold

**Dapper (adj)**: neat and trim in dress and appearance.

**Dappled (adj)**: marked with spots of colour that is lighter or darker than the main colour; spotted

**Dastardly (adv)**: intentionally harmful in a cowardly way

**Daub (v)**: carelessly coat or smear a surface with a sticky substance

**Daunt (v/adj)**: to frighten; to discourage

**Dauntless (adj)**: resolute; bold

**Dawdled (v)**: to waste time; to loiter; to act slowly

**Don't dawdle**: we are already late.

**Daze (v)**: to be unable to think or react properly to unexpected news

**Dazzle (v)**: 1. unable to see for a moment due to very bright light  
2. to impress with one's beauty, intelligence or skill

**D-day (n)**: a day on which something important is planned

**Deadlock (n)**: a situation involving opposing parties, in which no progress can be made; stalemate

**Deadpan (n)**: an expressionless face

**Dearth (n)**: scarcity; want; lack; shortage

**Debate (n)**: a complete failure; a crushing defeat; debacle to its strategy.

**Debase (v)**: to adulterate, to make poor in quality or of less value

**Debauch (v)**: to destroy or debase the moral purity; to corrupt

**Debilitate (v)**: to make weak

**Debonair (adj)**: (of a man) dashing; elegant; charming

**Debris (n)**: rubble; wreckage; ruins

**Debut (n)**: a beginning or first attempt

**Debunk (v)**: to expose the falseness or hollowness of a belief

**Decadence (n)**: a state of low standards in social and moral behaviour

**Decant (v)**: 1. to pour off in order to separate out sediments  
2. to move a person or thing from one place to another

**Decapitate (v)**: to behead

## D

**Decelerate (v)**: reduce or cause to reduce speed

**Deciduous (adj)**: shedding of leaves annually (of a tree)

**Decimate (v)**: to kill a large number of (something) or to reduce very heavily

**Decipher (v)**: decode; interpret; to unveil

**Declivity (n)**: a downward slope

**Decorous (adj)**: not wild or excited; behaving well

**Decoy (v)**: to allure into a trap

**Decrepit (adj)**: worn out or ruined because of age or neglect

**Decry (v)**: publicly denounce; to condemn

**Deduce (v)**: arrive at a fact by reasoning

**De facto (adj/adv)**: existing in fact, although not necessarily intended, legal or accepted

**Defalcate (v)**: to steal or misuse funds entrusted to one

**Defamation (n)**: harming a person's reputation, slander

**Default (n)**: 1. failure to fulfil an obligation, especially to repay a loan or appear in law court

2. if something happens by default, it happens because one didn't do anything to change it

**Defection (n)**: to abandon one's country or cause in favour of an opposing one

**Defer (v)**: 1. to postpone to put off

2. to agree or accept someone's opinion or decision because one has respect for the person

**Deference (n)**: polite submission and respect

**Deferential (adj)**: very respectful

**Defiance (n)**: open resistance; bold disobedience

**Defile (v)**: to defoul; to spoil; to pollute or corrupt

**Definitive (adj)**: conclusive; final; unquestionable

**Deflate (v)**: 1. to let air or gas out of something

2. to make someone feel less important or less confident

3. to bring about a general reduction of price levels in an economy

**Deflect (v)**: to turn aside; to deviate from a correct line or proper course

**Defray (v)**: to pay; settle

**Deft (adj)**: dexterous; skilful; clever or quick

**Defunct (adj)**: no longer existing or functioning

**Degenerate (n/v/adj)**: become worse in quality; having low standards

**Degrade (v)**: 1. treat or disregard someone with contempt  
2. break down or deteriorate chemically

**Deify (v)**: to worship like a God

**Deign (v)**: to do something that one considers to be beneath one's dignity

**Deja vu (n)**: a feeling of having already experienced the present situation

**Dejure (adj/adv)**: having legal existence; rightful

**Delectable (adj)**: extremely attractive

**Delegate (v)**: to give a particular job or duty to another person

**Deleterious (adj/dv)**: harmful or destructive; poisonous

**Deliberate (v)**: 1. intentional or planned  
2. ponder over something; think about carefully

**Delineate (v)**: to describe or portray something precisely



**Delinquent** (*adv*): (of a youngster) tending to commit minor crime

**Delirium** (*n*): a temporary mental disturbance as during a fever marked by confused speech and hallucination

**Deliverance** (*n*): the process of being saved from danger or harm; liberation

**Delude** (*v*): to deceive; to mislead

**Deluge** (*n/v*): 1. great overflow of water

2. to inundate with a great quantity of something

**Delusion** (*n*): a false belief; to deceive

**Delve** (*v*): investigate; to search specially by digging, exploring; examine

**Demagogue** (*n*): a false belief; to deceive

**Demean** (*v*): to degrade; to humiliate

**Demeanour** (*n*): conduct; outward behaviour

**Demented** (*adj*): mentally ill; out of one's mind; insane

**Demise** (*n*): death

**Demographic** (*adj*): pertaining to population

**Demolition** (*n*): the act of pulling down; destruction

**Demur** (*v*): to hesitate about; to disagree

**Demure** (*adj*): (of a woman) modest; shy; reserved

**Denigrate** (*v*): criticize unfairly; malign

**Denotation** (*n*): the action of indicating or referring to something by means of a word, symbol, etc.

**Denouement** (*n*): the exciting last part of a story, play or match

**Denounce** (*v*): 1. to criticize strongly and publicly

2. to accuse publicly; to give information against

**Depict** (*v*): to portray; to describe

**Depilate** (*v*): to remove the hair from

**Deplete** (*v*): to reduce; to exhaust; to use up

**Deplore** (*v*): to feel or express strong condemnation; criticize

**Deploy** (*v*): 1. to move troops into position for military action  
2. to use something for a specific purpose, especially ideas, argument etc.

**Deportment** (*n*): the way a person stands and walks, particularly as an element of etiquette

**Depose** (*v*): to remove from office suddenly and forcefully; dethrone

**Deposition** (*n*): declaration; testimony under oath

**Depravity** (*n*): moral corruption

**Deprecate** (*v*): to regret deeply; to express disapproval of

**Depreciate** (*v*): to diminish in value over a period of time

**Depredation** (*n*): an act of attacking or plundering

**Deprive** (*v*): to prevent someone or something from having or using something

**Depute** (*v/n*): to appoint or instruct someone to perform a task for which one is responsible

**Deranged** (*adj*): insane; causing something to act irregularly

**Derelict** (*adj/n*): 1. in a very poor condition as a result of disuse and neglect

2. shamefully negligent of one's duties and obligations

**Deride** (*v*): to laugh at; to mock; to ridicule

**De rigueur** (*adj*): required by etiquette or current fashion

**Dermatologist** (*n*): a doctor who studies and treats skin diseases

**Derogatory** (*adj*): insulting or adversely critical; contemptuous

**Derring-do** (*n*): action displaying heroic courage

**Descant** (*v*): to discover by looking; catch sight of

**Descry** (*v*): to discover by looking; catch sight of

**Desecrate** (*v*): to damage or show a lack of respect toward something especially holy

**Desiccate** (*v*): to preserve by drying; to dry out completely

**Desideratum** (*n*): something desired or much wanted

**Desist** (*v*): to stop doing something; cease or abstain

**Desolate** (*v*): 1. to make a place bleakly empty

2. make someone feel extremely wretched and unhappy

**Desperado** (*n*): a desperate or reckless person, especially criminal

**Despicable** (*adj*): deserving hatred and contempt

**Despise** (*v*): abhor; hate; to look down upon with contempt

**Despoil** (*v*): loot; rob; plunder

**Despondency** (*n*): lack of hope; dejection

**Despot** (*n*): an absolute ruler

**Destitute** (*n*): without money, food, home, very poor

**Desuetude** (*n*): a state of disuse

**Desultory** (*adj*): lacking a plan, purpose or enthusiasm

**Detain** (*v*): to force someone officially to stay in a place; to delay someone for a short length of time

**Deter** (*v*): to discourage someone from doing something by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences

**Detest** (*v*): dislike intensely

**Detonate** (*n*): explode or cause to explode

**Detract** (*v*): diminish the worth or value of

**Detrimental** (*adj*): tending to cause harm

**Detritus** (*n*): waste or debris of any kind

**De trop** (*adj*): not wanted; unwelcome

**Deuced** (*adj*): used for emphasis, especially to express disapproval or frustration

**Deviate** (*v*): to depart from an established course

**Devious** (*adj*): deceitful; not honest; insincere

**Devoid** (*adj*): entirely lacking or free from

**Devolve** (*v*): 1. transfer or power to a lower level

2. pass into a worse state; degenerate

**Devour** (*v*): 1. eat food or prey hungrily or quickly

2. read quickly and eagerly

3. to be totally absorbed by a powerful feeling

**Devout** (*adj*): pious; faithful; religious

**Dexterous** (*adj*): showing or having skill, especially with the hands

**Diabolic** (*adj*): extremely bad; wicked; satanic; devilish

**Dialectic** (*n*): the art of investigating or discussing the truth of opinions

**Diaphanous** (*adj*): light, delicate or translucent, especially a fabric

**Diaspora** (*n*): people who have moved out of their homeland

**Diatribes** (*n*): a bitter verbal criticism



**Dichotomy** (*n*): the difference between two things or ideas that are completely opposite

**Dicker** (*v*): to engage in petty arguments or bargaining

**Dictum** (*n*): a short statement that expresses a general truth or principle

**Didactic** (*adj*): morally instructive; educational; preachy

**Diddle** (*v*): 1. to cheat or trick someone

2. to pass time aimless or unproductively

**Diehard** (*n*): a person who strongly opposes change or who continues to support something in spite of opposition

**Diffident** (*adj*): modest or shy because of a lack of self-confidence

**Diffuse** (*verb*): 1. spread out in many directions

2. lacking clarity or conciseness

**Digressive** (*adj*): departing from the main subject

**Dilapidated** (*adj*): objects in poor condition because of age and lack of care

**Dilate** (*v*): make wider or further open; to enlarge, to expand

**Dilatory** (*adj*): slow to act

**Dilemma** (*n*): confusion, a situation in which one has to take a difficult decision

**Dilettante** (*n*): a person who seems to be interested in a subject but whose understanding of it is not very deep

**Diligent** (*adj*): careful and using a lot of effort

**Diminution** (*n*): a reduction in size, extent or importance of something

**Dimwit** (*n*): a stupid person

**Dinky** (*adj*): (of an object or place) attractively small and neat

**Diplomat** (*n*): an official representing a country abroad; someone who is good at dealing with people in a sensitive way

**Dipsomaniac** (*n*): a person who has an uncontrollable desire for alcohol

**Dire** (*adj*): 1. very serious or urgent

2. of a very poor quality

**Disabuse** (*v*): to make someone realize that they were wrong in believing something

**Disapprobation** (*n*): strong disapproval, typically on moral grounds

**Disarray** (*n*): a state of disorganization or untidiness

**Disavow** (*v*): deny any responsibility or support to

**Disband** (*v*): to break-up (a group, unit etc.)

**Disburse** (*v*): to pay out

**Discard** (*v*): to get rid of someone or something as no longer useful or desirable

**Discern** (*v*): to see, recognize or understand (something that is not clear)

**Discerning** (*adj*): having or showing good judgement

**Disclaim** (*v*): to refuse to acknowledge or be responsible for

**Disclose** (*v*): reveal; open publicly

**Discomfit** (*v*): to make someone feel uneasy or embarrassed

**Disconcert** (*v*): to throw into confusion; unsettle

**Disconsolate** (*adj*): extremely sad or disappointed

**Discontent** (*n*): dissatisfaction with one's circumstances

**Discordant** (*adj*): 1. not harmonious; contradictory  
2. (of sounds) harsh and jarring because of a lack of harmony

**Discourse** (*n*): communication in speech or writing

**Discredit** (*v*): to harm the good reputation of, disprove

**Discreet** (*adj*): careful and prudent in one's speech or action to keep something confidential or to avoid embarrassing

**Discrepancy** (*n*): difference between two things that should be the same

**Discrete** (*adj*): individually separate and distinct

**Discretion** (*n*): 1. the ability and right to decide exactly what should be done in a particular situation

2. the quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offence or revealing confidential information

**Discriminate** (*v*): to treat a person or group differently from another in an unfair way

**Discursive** (*adj*): discussing many different ideas, facts, etc. without always having a clear purpose

**Disdain** (*n/v*): dislike something or someone as it is thought that it is not important or good enough

**Disembark** (*v*): to leave a ship or plane after a journey

**Disenchant** (*v*): to cause someone to be disappointed

**Disgruntled** (*adj*): angry or dissatisfied

**Disguise** (*v/n*): to present a different appearance in order to conceal one's identity

**Disheartened** (*adj/adv*): depressed, demoralized

**Dismantle** (*v*): to undo the structure

**Disparage** (*v*): to dishonour by comparison with something inferior

**Disparate** (*adj/adv*): unlike; dissimilar

**Disparity** (*n*): inequality; contrast

**Dispense** (*n*): 1. to provide money or a service to a group of people

2. manage without or get rid of

**Disperse** (*v*): to scatter

**Disport** (*v*): to enjoy oneself unrestrainedly, frolic

**Dispose of** (*v*): to get rid of

**Disquisition** (*n*): a long and detailed explanation of a particular subject

**Dissemble** (*n*): conceal or disguise one's true feelings or beliefs

**Disseminate** (*n*): to spread out information widely

**Dissension** (*n*): disagreement that leads to discord

**Dissertation** (*n*): a long piece of writing on a particular subject

**Disservice** (*n*): a harmful action

**Disident** (*n*): a person who opposes official politics

**Dissipate** (*n*): to disappear; to squander

**Dissuade** (*n*): to persuade someone not to do something

**Distort** (*n*): to change something from its usual, original, natural or intended meaning, condition or shape

**Distracted** (*adj*): nervous, anxious or confused because one is worried about something

**Distraught** (*adj*): extremely worried, anxious or upset

**Distress** (*n*): extreme anxiety, sorrow or pain



- Defer** (v/n): to be uncertain or unable to make a decision  
**Diurnal** (adj): belonging to the day time; relating to day time  
**Diverge** (v): to follow a different direction or to be different  
**Divest** (v): to take something off or away from someone  
**Divine** (adj/v): 1. God-like; splendid  
 2. to guess something  
**Divisive** (adj): tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people  
**Divulge** (v): to reveal; to disclose  
**Docile** (adj): ready to accept control or instruction; submissive  
**Doctrine** (n): a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a particular group  
**Doddle** (n): something that is very easy to do  
**Doff** (v): remove (especially one's hat) usually to show respect  
**Dogged** (adj): very determined to do something, even if it is very difficult  
**Dogmatic** (adj): to be certain that one is right and everyone else is wrong  
**Dolours** (n): a state or period of stagnation or depression  
**Dole** (n): the money that the government gives to people who are unemployed  
**Doleful** (adj): very sad; sorrowful  
**Dolt** (n): a stupid person  
**Domain** (n): an area of interest or an area over which a person has control  
**Domicile** (n): the place where someone lives  
**Domination** (n): sovereignty or control  
**Doodah** (n): anything whose details one can not remember or do not know  
**Doomsday** (n): the end of the world or a time when something very bad will happen  
**Dormant** (adj): not active or growing but having the ability to become active at later time  
**Dorsal** (adj): relating to the upper side or back of an animal; part of organ  
**Doss** (v): 1. to sleep in rough accommodation or on an improvised bed  
 2. spend time idly  
**Dossier** (n): a collection of documents about a particular person or subject  
**Dotage** (n): the period of life when a person is old and weak  
**Dot on/upon** (v): be extremely and uncritically fond of  
**Dotty** (adj): eccentric or slightly mad about something

- Double jeopardy** (n): the prosecution or punishment of a person for the same crime more than once  
**Double whammy** (n): a situation when two unpleasant things happen at almost the same time  
**Doughty** (adj): sullen; stubborn; grim; unfriendly  
**Douse** (v): make wet; extinguish a fire or light  
**Dowdy** (adj): unfashionable and unstylish in appearance  
**Downright** (adj): extreme; complete (used for emphasis)  
**Downtrodden** (adj): oppressed or treated badly  
**Doyen** (n): the most respected or prominent person in a particular field  
**Drab** (adj): lacking brightness or interest; dull  
**Draconian** (adj): (of law and their applications) excessively harsh and severe  
**Dragoon into** (v/prep): to force or persuade someone to do something  
**Drape** (v): arrange a cloth or clothing loosely or casually on or around something  
**Dreary** (adj): depressingly dull and bleak or repetitive  
**Dredge** (v): 1. to clear the bed of a river, etc. by scooping out things  
 2. to bring something unwelcome and forgotten to people's attention  
**Dribble** (v): (of a liquid) fall slowly in drops or a thin stream  
**Drivel** (n): nonsense; don't talk such drivel  
**Droll** (adj): amusing, especially in an unusual way  
**Drone** (v): to make a continuous low humming sound  
**DRone** (v): to make an excessive and obvious show of pleasure or desire  
**Droop** (v): bend or hang down wards limply; used to show weariness  
**Drubbing** (n): (in sports competition) a beating; a thrashing  
**Drudgery** (n): hard, menial or dull work  
**Dubious** (adj): hesitating; not to be relied upon  
**Ductility** (n): flexibility; malleability  
**Dudgeon** (n): a feeling of offence or deep resentment  
**Dulcet** (adj): soft and pleasant sound  
**Dumbfounded** (adj): so shocked and surprised that one cannot speak  
**Dunce** (n): a person who is slow at learning; a stupid person  
**Dungeon** (n): an underground prison, especially in a castle  
**Dupe** (v): to deceive someone  
**Duress** (n): threats to force a person to do something  
**Dwindle** (v): diminish gradually in size, amount or strength  
**Dynamic** (adj): having a lot of ideas and enthusiasm; energetic

## E

- Eagle-eyed** (n): a keen or close watch  
**Embarras** (n): a lengthy and reproachful speech  
**Embodiment** (n): a prolonged and angry reprimand  
**Emancipate** (v): designate funds or resources for a particular purpose  
**Emancipate** (v): 1. very serious and sincere  
 2. when something begins in earnest, it has already started but is now being done in a serious and completely way

- Earthly** (adj): 1. relating to the earth or human life  
 2. used for emphasis  
**Eavesdrop** (v): to listen to other people's conversation secretly  
**Ebb** (n/v): 1. the movement of the tide out to sea  
 2. (of an emotion or quality) gradually decrease  
**Ebullient** (adj): very happy and enthusiastic; exuberant  
**Eccentric** (adj): unconventional and slightly strange behaviour  
**Echelon** (n): a level or rank in an organization; a profession, or society



- Eclat** (n): brilliant display or effect
- Eclectic** (adj): selecting from a diverse range of sources, choosing the best out of every thing
- Eclipse** (n/v): an over shadowing to surpass
- Ecstasy** (n): an overwhelming feeling of great happiness and pleasure
- Edgy** (adj): 1. tense, nervous or irritable  
2. aware of the newest ideas and styles and therefore considered very fashionable
- Edifice** (n): a large impressive building, a system that has been established for a long time
- Edify** (v): to instruct or improve someone morally or intellectually
- Eerie** (adj): strange and mysterious and sometimes frightening
- Eface** (v): 1. to remove intentionally  
2. to behave in a quiet way so that people do not notice
- Effectual** (adj): successful in producing the desired effect
- Effeminate** (adj): womanish, feminine
- Effervesce** (v): to boil up, to bubble and hiss, to believe or talk vivaciously
- Effervescence** (n): enthusiasm, vigor, lively, exuberant
- Efete** (adj): weak and powerless
- Efficacious** (adj): successful in producing a desired or intended result, effective
- Effigy** (n): a sculpture or model of a person
- Efflorescence** (n): the period when flowers start appearing on the plant or the production of a lot of high quality art
- Effluent** (n): liquid waste from factories
- Effusive** (adj): expressing welcome, approval or pleasure in a way that shows very strong feeling
- Egalitarian** (adj): a person believing that all people are equally important and should have the same rights and opportunities in life
- Egotism** (n): the fact of being excessively concerned or absorbed in oneself
- Egregious** (adj): extremely and noticeably bad
- Eke out** (v/adv): make an amount or supply of something last longer by using or consuming it frugally
- Elan** (n): energy, style or enthusiasm
- Elate** (v): (of time) to go past
- Elated** (adj): extremely happy and excited
- Eleemosynary** (adj): having to do with or supported by charity
- Elicit** (v): to evoke or draw out (a reaction, answer, or fact) from someone
- Elite** (n): the richest, powerful, educated group in a society
- Elixir** (n): a substance, usually a liquid, with a magical power to cure, improve or preserve
- It's another health product claiming to be the elixir of life
- Ellipsis** (n): omission of words from a text
- Elocution** (n): the art of careful and expressive public speaking
- Elope** (v): to leave home secretly in order to get married without parental agreement
- Eloquence** (n): expressiveness
- Elucidate** (n): to make something clear
- Elope** (v): 1. to escape from, especially by a clever trick

2. to do something cleverly (the same task, to find a solution)

3. to find an answer to a problem (study, case etc) cannot remember or solve it

**Elusive** (adj): an elusive person or animal is difficult to impossible to find or catch

**Elysium** (n): a state of great happiness

**Emaciated** (adj): very thin and weak, usually because of illness or extreme hunger

**Emanate** (v): to a feeling, quality or sensation (power) spread out from a source

**Emanipated** (adj): not limited socially or politically, to give freedom and rights to one

**Emasculate** (v): 1. to weaken the power or effectiveness of something  
2. to deprive a male of his maleness

**Embargo** (n): an official ban on trade or other commercial activities with a particular country

**Embark** (v): 1. to go on board a ship or aircraft  
2. to start something new

**Embattled** (adj): facing a lot of problems or difficulties

**Embed** (v): to fix firmly and deeply, if ideas, attitudes, or feelings are embedded one believes in them very strongly

**Embellish** (v): 1. to decorate, to make graceful  
2. to make a story more interesting by adding extra details that are often untrue

**Embezzle** (v): to secretly take money that is in one's care or that belongs to an organization one works for

**Emblazon** (v): conspicuously mark or display a design on

**Embodiment** (n): a tangible or visible form of an idea, quality or feeling

**Emboss** (v): to carve or mould a design on a surface so that it stands out in relief

**Embrace** (v/n): 1. hold someone closely in one's arms, especially as a sign of affection  
2. to accept a belief or change willingly or enthusiastically  
3. to include something as part of a subject (deceased, etc)

**Embroid** (v): to involve in an argument or a difficult situation

**Emend** (v): to make alterations in a text with a view to improving it

**Emeritus** (adj): no longer having a position, especially in a college or university, but keeping the title of the position

**Emetic** (n/adj): a medicine that causes vomiting

**Emigrate** (v): to leave a country permanently and go to live in another one

**Emigre** (n): someone who has to leave his country permanently, usually for political reason

**Eminent** (adj): distinguished; respected

**Emissary** (n): a person sent as a diplomatic representative on a special mission

**Emollient** (n): 1. having the quality of softening or soothing the skin  
2. attempting to avoid confrontation or anger

**Emolument** (n): profit arising from employment, such as salary or fees



**Embrace** (v): to clearly show emotions especially when smiling  
**Embrace** (v): embracing or able to embrace someone  
**Embrace** (v): the ability to understand and share the feelings of others  
**Emphatic** (adj): expressing something strongly and with confidence  
**Empirical** (adj): based on scientific testing or observation  
**Empower** (v): to give someone the authority or power to do something  
**Emulate** (v): to try to equal or surpass  
**Enact** (v): to make a bill a law  
**Enamored** (adj): in love with keenly  
**En bloc** (adj): all together or all at the same time  
**Enclave** (n): a piece of territory completely enclosed within another territory; an enclosure  
**Encompass** (v): 1 to include a wide range of ideas, subjects, etc.  
 2 to completely cover or surround something  
**Encroach** (v): to intrude on a person's territory, rights, or personal life  
**Encrusted** (adj): covered with something hard or decorative  
**Encrypt** (v): to convert information or data into a code especially to prevent unauthorized access  
**Encumber** (v): to impede to make it difficult for someone to do something  
**Endearment** (n): actions or words that express love and care for someone  
**Endeavour** (v): try earnestly to do something  
**Endemic** (adj): (especially of a disease or a problem) occurring in a particular group or in a particular area  
**Endorse** (v): 1 to approve formally  
 2 if a famous person endorses a product or service, he starts advertising it  
**Endow** (v): 1 to give or bequeath an income or property to someone  
 2 to naturally have a good feature or quality  
**Endure** (v): 1 bear something painful or unpleasant calmly for a long time  
 2 to continue to exist for a long time  
**Enervate** (v): to weaken; to tire  
**Enfant terrible** (n): a person who behaves in an unconventional or controversial way  
**Enfold** (v): to hold closely or cover completely  
**Engender** (v): to cause to happen  
**Engrave** (v): to cut words, pictures or patterns into a surface  
**Engrossed** (adj): giving all attention to something absorbed  
**Enshroud** (v): 1 to surround and cover completely  
 2 powerfully affect someone; overwhelm  
**Enigma** (n): a person or situation which is mysterious or difficult to understand  
**Enjoin** (v): to instruct or urge someone to do something  
**En masse** (adv): in a group  
**Enmity** (n): a feeling of hate  
**Ennui** (n): a feeling of weariness or dissatisfaction arising from a lack of occupation or excitement

**Entail** (v): to require as inevitable; to hide safely  
**Ensemble** (n): a group of things or people taken as a whole  
**Entente** (n): a friendly understanding or informal alliance between states or nations  
**Enterprising** (adj): having the ability to think of new activities or ideas and make them work  
**Enthrall** (v): to mesmerize; to keep someone completely fascinated  
**Entice** (v): to tempt by offering pleasure or advantage  
**Entity** (n): something that exists independently  
**Entomology** (n): the scientific study of insects  
**Entourage** (n): a group of people attending or surrounding an important person  
**Entrance** (v): to fill someone with wonder and delight; holding their attention  
**Entreat** (v): to ask earnestly; plead or beg for  
**Entree** (n): admittance; freedom of access  
**Entrench** (v): to establish an attitude, habit or belief so firmly that change is difficult or impossible  
**Entrepreneur** (n): a person who sets up a business, taking on financial risks in the hope of profit  
**Entropy** (n): lack of order or predictability; gradual decline into disorder  
**Entwine** (v): 1 to wind or twist together  
 2 to be closely connected with something in a complicated way  
**Enumerate** (v): mention a number of things one by one  
**Enunciate** (v): speak distinctly; to state formally  
**Envisage** (v): 1 to think that something is likely to happen in the future  
 2 to form a mental picture of something not known  
**Envoy** (n): a messenger or representative, especially one on a diplomatic mission  
**Envy** (v): desire to have a quality, possession or other desirable thing belonging to someone else  
**Eon** (n): an extremely long indefinite period of time  
**Ephemeral** (adj): existing only for a short time  
**Epic** (n): 1 an epic poem, book or film tells a long story about brave actions or exciting events  
 2 an exceptionally long and arduous task or activity  
**Epicenter** (n): 1 the point on the earth's surface vertically above the point of origin of the earthquake  
 2 the place where the most important things happen and important decisions are made  
**Epicure** (n): one who enjoys and has a discriminating taste for fine food and drink  
**Epidemic** (n): the appearance of a particular disease in a large number of people in the same period of time; a sudden, widespread occurrence of an undesirable phenomenon  
**Epigram** (n): a concise and pointed expression; an adage  
**Epilogue** (n): a section or speech at the end of a book or play that serves as a comment on or a conclusion to what has happened  
**Epistle** (n): a letter; a message



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**Epithet** (n) an adjective or adjectival phrase expressing some quality of the person

**Epitome** (n) 1. a person or thing that is a perfect example of a particular quality or type  
2. a summary of a written work, an abstract

**Epoch** (n) a long period of time, especially one in which there are great advances and great changes

**Equable** (adj) 1. one who remains calm and happy and doesn't often get annoyed  
2. without wide variations or extremes

**Equanimity** (n) calmness and composure, especially in a difficult situation

**Equestrian** (adj) connected with the riding of horses

**Equine** (n/adj) connected with horses or appearing similar to a horse

**Equitable** (adj) fair and impartial

**Equity** (n) fairness, impartiality, justice

**Equivocal** (adj) of doubtful meaning, ambiguous, capable of meaning two or more things

**Ergonomics** (n) the study of people's efficiency in their working environment

**Erode** (v) to wear away or eat away

**Erotic** (adj) related to sexual desire and pleasure

**Errand** (n/adj) a short journey either to take a message or to deliver or collect something

**Errant** (n/adj) wanderer, a deviant person

**Erratic** (adj) irregular, uncertain or inconsistent

**Ersatz** (n/adj) artificial, substitute or synthetic and inferior

**Erstwhile** (adj) former, previous

**Erudite** (adj) learned, intellectual

**Escalate** (v) increase rapidly

**Escapade** (n) an act or incident involving excitement, daring or adventure

**Escapism** (n) the tendency to seek distraction and relief from unpleasant realities, especially by seeking entertainment or engaging in fantasy

**Eschew** (v) to avoid something intentionally

**Escrow** (n) an agreement between two people or organization in which money or property is kept by a third person or organization until a particular condition is completed

**Esoteric** (adj) understood or liked by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge

**Espionage** (n) the practice of spying or of using spies, typically by governments to obtain political and military information

**Espouse** (v) adopt or support a cause, belief or way of life

**Esprit** (n) the quality of being lively, vivacious and witty

**Esteem** (n/v) high regard, respect, good opinion

**Estranged** (adj) disaffected, to turn from an affectionate attitude to an indifferent or unfriendly one

**Ethereal** (adj) extremely delicate and light in a way that seems not to be of this world

**Ethical** (adj) morally correct

**Ethnic** (adj) concerning nations or races, racial

**Ethos** (n) the set of ideas and moral attitudes that are typical of a particular group

**Etiquette** (n) the manners conventionally acceptable in a society, profession etc.

**Etymology** (n) study of the origin and development of words

**Eugenics** (adj) pertaining to genetic improvement of a race by judicious mating and helping the better stock to prevail

**Eulogy** (n) a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly, especially a tribute to someone who has just died

**Euphemism** (n) the use of a less direct word or phrase to an unpleasant one

**Euphonious** (adj) pleasant sounding

**Euphoria** (n) extreme happiness

**Eureka (exclamation)** (n) a cry of joy or satisfaction when one finds or discovers something

**Euthanasia** (n) the act of putting someone painlessly to death, especially in cases of incurable suffering, mercy killing

**Evacuate** (n) to remove people from a dangerous place

**Evanescent** (adj) lasting for only a short time, then disappearing quickly and quickly forgotten

**Evangelical** (adj) very eager to persuade people to accept one's ideas or beliefs

**Evasive** (adj) 1. not willing to answer questions directly  
2. move or do something quickly to avoid someone being hurt

**Evince** (v) to make obvious or show clearly

**Eviscerate** (v) to remove the internal organs of a body

**Evoke** (v) bring or recall a memory to the conscious mind

**Evolve** (v) to develop gradually

**Exacerbate** (v) to make a bad situation worse

**Exacting** (adj) making great demands on one's skill, attention or other resources

**Exalt** (v) to praise, glorify, raise in rank

**Exasperate** (v) to irritate intensely, infuriate

**Excerpt** (n) a passage or extract from a book, film or piece of music

**Exchequer** (n) the department of treasury which receives and gives out public money

**Excruciating** (adj) intensely painful

**Exculpate** (v) prove guiltless

**Excursion** (n) a short journey or trip, especially one taken as a leisure activity

**Execrable** (adj) extremely bad or unpleasant

**Exemplary** (adj) 1. serving as a desirable model; very good  
2. (of a punishment) serving as a warning or a deterrent

**Exfoliate** (v) to remove dead skin

**Exgratia** (adj) (with references to payment) done from a sense of moral obligation rather than because of any legal requirement

**Exhilaration** (n) a feeling of being happy, excited and full of energy

**Exhort** (v) to try very hard to persuade someone to do something

**Exhume** (v) to remove (a dead body) from the ground after it has been buried



- Emergency** (n): an urgent need or demand  
**Erignous** (adj): very small in amount or size  
**Exodus** (n): a mass departure of people  
**Ex-officio** (adj): by virtue of one's position or status  
**Exonerate** (v): to declare or prove guiltless; to acquit  
**Exorbitant** (adj): (of a price or amount) charged) unreasonable high  
**Exorcise** (v): drive out or attempt to drive out a supposed evil spirit from a person or place  
**Exotic** (adj): attractive and striking because out of ordinary  
**Expansive** (adj): 1. covering a wide area in terms of space or scope  
 2. very friendly and willing to talk a lot  
 3. including a lot of information and using a lot of words  
**Expatiate** (v): speak or write in detail  
**Expatriate** (n): someone who lives in a foreign country  
**Expedient** (n/adj): (of an action) convenient or practical although possibly improper or immoral  
**Expedite** (v): to dispatch with speed and efficiency; speed up  
**Expeditionously** (adv): in a quick and effective way; efficiently  
**Expendable** (adj): 1. of relatively little significance and therefore able to be abandoned or destroyed  
 2. It's a very sad feeling to be realized by your boss that you are expendable.  
**Expertise** (n): expert skill or knowledge in a particular field  
**Expiate** (v): to make amends for wrong behaviour and accepting punishment for it  
**Expletive** (n): a swear word used to express anger or pain  
**Explicable** (adj): able to be accounted for or understood  
**Explicate** (v): analyze and develop an idea or principle in detail  
**Explicit** (adj): stated clearly and in detail, leaving no room for confusion or doubt  
**Exploitation** (n): 1. the action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from his work  
 2. the action of making use of or benefiting from resources  
 3. India's exploitation of its natural gas reserves began only recently  
**Exponent** (n): 1. a person who favours or promotes an idea  
 2. an exponent of a particular skill, idea or activity is someone who is good at it  
 3. Pt Ravi Shankar is a famous exponent of sitar  
**Exponential** (adj): 1. an increase which becomes more rapid  
 2. after 1921, India has seen an exponential increase in its population.  
**Exposition** (n): 1. a clear and detailed explanation  
 2. the president's opening address gave a clear exposition of the government's policies  
**Expostulate** (v): 1. to express strong disapproval or disagreement  
 2. he expostulated with the waiter about the size of the bill

- Expound** (v): 1. to give a detailed explanation  
 2. the old man's always expounding on what's wrong with this world  
**Expressive** (adj): 1. effectively conveying thought or feeling  
 2. a great actor needs to have an expressive voice also  
**Expropriate** (v): the government expropriated a lot of property at the time of emergency  
**Expunge** (v): obliterate or remove something unwanted or unpleasant completely  
**Expurgate** (v): to remove matter thought to be objectionable or unsuitable from a text or account  
**Exquisite** (adj): 1. extremely beautiful and delicate  
 2. (of pleasure or pain) sharply felt  
**Extant** (adv): still in existence; surviving  
**Extempore** (adj/adv): spoken or done without preparation; impromptu  
**Extensive** (adj): 1. covering or affecting a large area, amount, or scale  
 2. fire has caused extensive damage to the forests  
**Extenuate** (v): to cause (a wrong act) to be judged less seriously by giving reasons for it  
**Exterminate** (v): 1. to kill large numbers of people or animals of a particular type so that they no longer exist  
 2. people use poison to exterminate mouse from their house  
**Extirpate** (v): 1. to remove or destroy something completely  
 2. the military rulers tried their level best to extirpate democratic forces  
**Extol** (v): to praise highly; to lift up  
**Extort** (n): 1. to obtain something by force, threats or other unfair means  
 2. these organisations are running their show by extorting money from the hapless people  
**Extradite** (v): 1. to hand over for trial or punishment from one government to another  
 2. the hijackers were extradited to the home country  
**Extraneous** (adj): 1. not directly connected; unrelated  
 2. such details are extraneous to the matter in hand  
**Extrapolate** (v): 1. to guess or think about what might happen from the information that is already known  
 2. it is possible to extrapolate future developments from the current trends  
**Extravagant** (adj): lacking restraint in spending money or using resources  
**Extricate** (v): to set free



- Extrinsic (adj):** 1. coming from outside or not directly related to something  
2. The rising inflation is a combination of intrinsic and extrinsic factors
- Extrovert (adj):** 1. an outgoing, socially confident person  
2. his extrovert nature has made him famous in a short span of time
- Extrude (v):** to force or push out

**Fable (n):** a short story which tells a general truth; a fairy tale

**Fabricate (v):** to invent or produce (something false) in order to deceive

- Fabulous (adj):** 1. very good; excellent  
2. having no basis in reality; mythical

- Facade (n):** 1. front of the building  
2. false appearance

**Facelift (n):** work or repairs that make a building or place newer or better

**Face-off (n):** a fight or argument

**Face-saving (adj):** an action which prevents one from losing other people's respect

**Facet (n):** any of a number of sides or aspect, as of a personality

**Facetious (adj):** joking, especially at an inappropriate time; sarcastic

- Facile (adj):** 1. ignoring the true complexities of an issue; superficial  
2. a success which is easily achieved

**Facilitate (v):** to make something easy or easier

**Facility (n):** a natural ability to do or learn something well and easily

**Faction (n/adj):** a group within a larger group, which has slightly different ideas from the main groups

**Facitious (adj):** false or artificial

**Factotum (n):** a person employed to do all types of jobs

**Fad (n):** a style or interest which is very popular for a short time; a craze

**Faddy (adj):** having a tendency to like particular things especially food for no good reason

**Faff about/ around (v/adj):** to waste time doing unnecessary things

- Fag (n):** 1. cigarette  
2. tiring and boring task

**Fag end (n):** the last part of something especially when regarded as less important or interesting

**Fait accompli (n):** a thing already done or already happened and cannot be changed

**Fallacious (adj):** based on a mistaken belief; misleading

**Fallible (adj):** capable of making mistakes; liable to error

- Fallow (adj):** 1. a land left unploughed or unsowed for some time  
2. fallow period is a time when nothing is done or achieved

**Falter (v):** to lose strength or purpose

- Exuberant (adj):** 1. full of energy, excitement  
2. the baton of responsibility should now be passed to the young and exuberant

**Exude (v):** to discharge through pores; to ooze out; to exhibit

**Exult (v):** to express great pleasure or happiness

- Eyewash (n):** 1. nonsense or something which isn't true  
2. all he said about him was an eyewash

## F

**Famish (v):** reduce someone to extreme hunger

**Fanatic (n):** a person filled with excessive and often misguided enthusiasm for something

**Fanfare (n):** to introduce the arrival of someone important or a special event with elaborate ceremony

**Farce (n):** a ridiculous or meaningless situation or action

**Farrago (n):** a confused mixture

**Fastidious (adj):** very attentive and concerned about accuracy and details; very concerned about matters of cleanliness; meticulous

**Fatalism (n):** the belief that all events are determined by fate and hence inevitable

**Fathom (v):** to discover the meaning of

**Fatuous (adj):** stupid and pointless

**Fauna (n):** all forms of animal life of a region or period

**Faux (adj):** made in imitation; artificial

**Faux pas (n):** an embarrassing mistake in a social situation

**Fawn (v):** to give a servile display of exaggerated flattery or affection, typically in order to gain favour

**Faze (v):** to surprise and worry someone; dismay

- Fearful (adj):** 1. feeling or showing fear or anxiety  
2. extremely bad; awful  
3. very frightening

**Fearless (adj):** showing a lack of fear

**Fearsome (adj):** causing fear; frightening

**Feasible (adj):** practical, possible or reasonable

- Febrile (adj):** 1. full of nervous excitement or activity  
2. showing symptoms of fever

**Feckless (adj):** lacking initiative or strength of character; irresponsible

**Fecund (adj):** prolific; fertile; fruitful; productive

**Feeble (n):** weak; without energy, strength or power

**Feign (v):** to pretend; to imitate

**Feint (n):** a deceptive movement in fencing, boxing etc. a false show

**Feisty (adj):** having or showing exuberance, strong determination and lack of fear

**Felicitate (v):** to congratulate; to express joy or pleasure to

- Felicity (n):** 1. intense happiness  
2. the ability to find appropriate expressions for one's thoughts

**Feline (adj):** belonging to cat family appearing or behaving like a cat

**Felony (n):** a very serious crime

**Feral (adj):** wild beast; not domestic



**Ferment** (v): 1. to search for some thing that is lost or hidden  
2. to succeed in finding a piece of information, that is difficult to find

**Fervent** (adj): having passionate intensity

**Fervid** (adj): intensely enthusiastic or passionate, especially to an excessive degree

**Fester** (v): deteriorate

**Fete** (n): an event to praise or to welcome someone publicly

**Fetid** (adj): smelling extremely bad

**Fetish** (n): 1. an object which is worshipped as it is believed to have magical powers  
2. an excessive and irrational devotion or commitment to a particular thing

**Fetter** (v): to keep someone within with in limits, to confine

**Fertile** (n): condition

**Fetor** (n): a prolonged and bitter quarrel or dispute

**Fiasco** (n): a complete failure, especially a humiliating one

**Fiat** (n): an order given by a person in authority, a decree

**Fib** (v): to tell an unimportant and harmless lie, sometimes playfully

**Fickle** (adj): changing frequently especially as regards one's loyalties or affections

**Fictitious** (adj): false, not genuine, unreal

**Fidelity** (n): honest or lasting support, loyalty, faithfulness

**Fidget** (v): make small movements, especially of the hands and feet through nervousness or impatience

**Fiduciary** (n): involving trust, especially with regard to the relationship between a trustee and a beneficiary

**Fief** (n): a person's sphere of operation or control

**Fiend** (n): 1. cruel inhuman

2. an enthusiastic or devotee of a particular thing

**Figment** (n): imaginary thing

**Figurative** (adj): departing from a literal use of words

**Filch** (v): to steal (an item of small value) in a casual way, to pilfer

**Filial** (adj): in the relation of a child; pertaining to a son or daughter

**Filibuster** (v): to make a long speech in order to delay or prevent a new law being made

**Filip** (n): something which acts as a stimulus or boost to an activity

**Filthy** (adj): disgustingly dirty; obscene; offensive

**Finale** (n): the last and exciting part of something

**Finery** (n): expensive and stylish clothing and jewellery worn on a special occasion

**Finesse** (n): skill or style or expertise; to ability to handle delicate situation diplomatically

**Finessy** (adj): particular about unimportant matters; fussy

**Firebrand** (n): a person who causes political or social trouble by opposing authority

**Firmament** (n): the heavens or sky

**Fiscal** (adj): relating to money taxes, debts, etc that are owned and managed by the government

**Fishy** (adj): swimming dishonest or false; suspicious

**Fissure** (n): 1. a crack or opening in a structure  
2. a state of incompatibility or disagreement

**Fitful** (adj): active or occurring spasmodically or intermittently

**Fixated** (adj): unable to stop thinking about something

**Fizz** (n/v): exuberance and liveliness

**Fizzle out** (v/adv): to end in a disappointing and weak way

**Flabby** (adj): 1. having soft loose flesh rather than strong muscles flaccid  
2. lacking strength vitality or effectiveness, flaccid

**Flack** (or **flak**) (n): strong criticism or opposition

**Flag** (v): 1. to put mark for attention

2. to become tired or weak

**Flagellate** (v): to whip (someone), especially as a religious act

**Flagrant** (adj): (of a bad action, person, situation) very offensive

**Flagship** (n): the best or most important thing owned or produced by a particular organization

**Flail** (v): 1. to wave arms or legs wildly

2. to beat someone or something violently, usually with a stick

**Flair** (n): natural ability to do something well; a natural talent

**Flake** (n): 1. a small thin piece of something typically which has come out from a layered surface

2. a person whose behaviour is not usual or expected

**Flamboyant** (adj): showy; gorgeously coloured or decorated; extravagant

**Flank** (n/v): to be at the side of someone or something

**Flatulent** (adj): pompous, exaggerated

**Flaunt** (v): to display ostentatiously; to show off

**Flaw** (n): a mistake, mark or weakness that makes something imperfect; defect

**Flay** (v): 1. to criticize very severely

2. to remove the skin from a dead

**Fleck** (n/v): a small mark, especially of a different colour

**Fledgling** (n): new and inexperienced; infant

**Flee** (v): run away from a place or situation of danger

**Fleece** (v): to charge someone too much money for something

**Fleeting** (adj): lasting for a very short time

**Flesh out** (v/adv): to add more details or information

**Flex** (v): 1. to bend a part of body in order to exercise

2. to show one's ability with skill or power

**Flick** (n/v): 1. make or cause to make a sudden quick movement

2. a movie

**Flimflam** (n): nonsensical or insincere talk

**Flimsy** (adj): 1. light and thin clothing

2. weak and unconvincing argument or excuse

3. easily broken or destroyed

**Flinch** (v): 1. to make a sudden small movement because of pain or fear

2. avoid doing or becoming involved in something because of fear and anxiety

**Flinty** (adj): not showing any emotion; hard

**Flip-flop** (v): to make an abrupt reversal of policy

**Flippant** (adj): not showing a serious or respectful attitude

**Flipside** (n): the bad effects of something that also has good effects



**Flirt (v):** 1. to behave as though sexually attracted to someone, but do not really want to enter in a relation  
2. to consider doing something, but not very serious about it  
3. to deliberately expose oneself to danger or difficult

**Flit (v):** to move quickly and lightly

**Flog (v):** 1. to beat a person or animal with a whip or stick  
2. to promote or talk about something repetitively or at excessive length  
3. to sell something especially at cheap rates

**Floodgate (n):** a last restraint holding back an outpouring of something powerful or substantial

**Flora (adj):** plants

**Florid (adj):** 1. having a red or flushed complexion  
2. florid language, music or art has a lot of extra unnecessary detail

**Flotilla (n):** a small fleet of ships or boats

**Flounce (v):** go or move in an exaggeratedly impatient or angry manner

**Flounder (v):** 1. do not know what to say or do because one is confused or upset  
2. to have a lot of problems and be likely to fail completely  
3. struggle or stagger clumsily in mud or water

**Flourish (v):** to grow vigorously; thrive

**Flout (n):** openly disregard a rule or law

**Flummox (n):** to bewilder; to confuse

**Flunk (v):** to fail (an exam or course of study)

**Flurry (n):** a sudden short period of activity or excitement

**Fluster (v):** to make someone agitated or confused

**Flux (n):** a state of flow or continuous change

**Fob off (v/adv):** to persuade someone to accept something that is of low quality or different to what one really wanted

**Foe (n):** an enemy

**Fogey (or Foggy) (n):** someone who is old fashioned and doesn't like change

**Foible (n):** a minor weakness in someone's character

**Foil (n/v):** 1. to prevent (someone or something) from being successful  
2. someone or something that makes another's good or bad qualities all the more noticeable

**Foist (v):** to force one to accept or have to deal with something that one does not want

**Foliage (n):** the leaves of a plant or tree

**Folklore (n):** the traditional beliefs, customs and stories of a community

**Folly (n):** lack of good sense; foolishness

**Foment (v):** to stir up (trouble); to provoke; to incite

**Foolhardy (adj):** taking stupid and unnecessary risks

**Footage (n):** part of a film, recording particular event

**Foothold (n):** a position from which one can start making progress

**Footing (n):** the conditions or arrangements on which something is based

**Fooltloose (adj):** free to do what one likes and go where one likes because one has no responsibility

**Fop (n):** a man who is extremely interested in his appearance and clothes

**Forage (v):** to go around searching, especially for food

**Foray (n):** 1. a short sudden attack by a group of soldiers, especially in order to get food or supplies; raid

2. a brief involvement in an activity which is different from and outside the range of a usual set of activities

3. a short trip, with a known purpose

**Forbear (v):** politely or patiently restrain an impulse to do something; refrain

**Forbearers (v):** an ancestor, forefather

**Foreboding (n):** a feeling that something bad will happen; fearful apprehension

**Forensic (adj):** relating to or denoting the application of scientific methods and techniques to the investigation of crime

**Foresight (n):** the ability to predict what will happen or be needed in the future

**Forestall (v):** to prevent something from happening by acting first

**Foretaste (n):** a sample or suggestion of something that lies

**Forfeit (n/v):** lose or be deprived of a right or privilege as a penalty for wrongdoing

**Forgo (v):** to stop having or not do something

**Fork out (v/adv):** to pay, especially unwillingly

**Forlorn (adj):** alone and unhappy; left alone and not cared for

**Formidable (adj):** inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large or powerful

**Forsake (v):** to abandon or leave; to renounce or give up

**Forte (n):** a strong ability of someone

**Forthright (adj):** direct, honest and frank in behaviour

**Forthwith (adv):** immediately

**Fortitude (n):** courage in pain or adversity

**Fortuitous (adj):** happening by chance rather than intention

**Forum (n):** a meeting or medium where ideas and view on a particular issue can be exchanged

**Foster (n/adj):** 1. to bring up a child that is not one's own by birth  
2. to encourage; to promote

**Founding (n):** an infant that has been abandoned by its parent and is discovered and cared for by others

**Fount (n):** a source of a desirable quality or commodity

**Fountainhead (n):** an original source of something

**Four-letter word (n):** a short swear that is considered to be extremely rude or offensive

**Fox (v/adj):** 1. to deceive someone  
2. to confuse or be too difficult to be understood

**Fracas (n):** a noisy argument or fight

**Fractious (adj):** easily irritated; bad-tempered

**Fragile (adj):** easily damaged, broken or harmed



- Frail** (adj): weak and delicate; easily damaged or broken
- Franchise** (n): 1. a right to sell a company's products/services in a particular area using the company's name  
2. the legal right to vote in elections
- Frantic** (adj): 1. almost out of control because of extreme emotion such as anxiety  
2. done or arranged in a hurry
- Fraternal** (adj): brotherly; friendly
- Fraternity** (n): 1. a group of people who have the same job or interest  
2. friendship and mutual support within a group
- Fratricide** (n): the killing of one's brother or sister
- Fraudulent** (adj): based on or using fraud
- Fraught** (adj): full of anxiety or worry
- Fray** (v): 1. to become annoyed  
2. a situation of intense competitive activity
- Frazzled** (adj): 1. extremely tired after a lot of mental or physical work  
2. burned or dried out after being in the sun or cooking for too long
- Freak** (n): 1. a very unusual or unexpected event or situation  
2. someone who is considered to be very strange because of the way he looks, behaves or thinks  
3. a person who is obsessed with a particular activity or interest  
4. a sudden arbitrary change of mind
- Freelance** (adj): self-employed and hired to work for different companies on particular assignments
- Frenetic** (adj): fast and energetic in a rather wild and uncontrolled way
- French leave** (n): absence from work or duty without permission
- Frenzied** (adj): madly excited or uncontrolled
- Fresco** (n): painting on wet plaster or on a wall or ceiling
- Fret** (v): to worry or be unhappy
- Frigate** (n): a small fast military ship
- Frigid** (adj): very formal or unfriendly; physically cold
- Fringe benefit** (n): an extra benefit supplementing an employee money, wage or salary

- Frisk** (v): 1. to search someone for hidden illegal objects or weapons by feeling his body with one's hands  
2. skip or leap playfully
- Frission** (n): a sudden strong feeling of excitement or fear; a thrill
- Fritter** (v): to waste money; time, etc. on trifling matters
- Frivolous** (adj): behaving in a silly and foolish way
- Frogmarch** (v): force someone to walk forward by holding or pinning his arms from behind
- Frolicsome** (n): to behave in a happy and playful way; gay
- Frowzy** (n): dirty and untidy
- Frugal** (adj): careful when using money or food; economical
- Fruition** (n): the realization or fulfillment of a plan or project
- Fuddle** (v): to confuse someone and make him unable to think clearly
- Fudge** (v): to avoid giving exact details or a clear answer about something
- Fugitive** (n/adj): a person who has escaped from captivity or is in hiding
- Fulminate** (v): to express vehement protest
- Fulsome** (adj): complimentary or flattering to an excessive degree
- Functionary** (n): a person who has to perform official duties
- Funk** (n): very unhappy and without hope
- Funky** (adj): very fashionable
- Furbish** (v): to renovate
- Furore** (n): an outbreak of public anger or excitement
- Furtive** (adj): clandestine; stealthy; secret
- Fusillade** (n): a large number of bullets or questions fired at quick succession
- Fusion** (n): a close union of things
- Fuss** (n/v): 1. a display of unnecessary or excessive excitement activity or interest  
2. give too much attention to small and unimportant matters
- Fussy** (adj): hard to please; showing excessive or anxious concern about details
- Fustian** (adj): pompous or pretentious speech or writing
- Futile** (adj): ineffectual; useless; unsuccessful; silly and without meaning

## G

- Gab** (v): to talk continuously especially about unimportant matters
- Gabble** (v): to speak quickly and unintelligibly
- Gadfly** (n): a person who provokes, irritates or annoys other
- Gaffer** (n): an unintentional act or remark causing embarrassment to its originator; a blunder; faux pas
- Gaffe** (n): 1. a person in charge of others; a boss  
2. the chief electrician in a film or television production unit  
3. an old man

- Gaga** (adj): slightly mad, typically as a result of old age, infatuation, or excessive enthusiasm
- Gaggle** (n): a noisy group of people
- Gaiety** (n): 1. the state or quality of being light-hearted or cheerful  
2. enjoyable events or activities
- Gaily** (adv): 1. in a cheerful and light-hearted way  
2. with a bright or attractive appearance
- Gainsay** (v): to deny or contradict a fact or statement
- Gait** (n): manner of walking



- Gala** (n) a special occasion at which there is a lot of entertainment and performances
- Galaxy** (n) a group of billions of stars in the universe e.g. Milkyway, Andromeda
- Gale** (n) 1. a very strong wind  
2. emotional outburst (laughter, tears)
- Gall** (n) 1. rudeness, bitterness  
2. to make someone feel annoyed or resentful
- Gallant** (adj) 1. brave, heroic  
2. (of a man) polite and kind towards woman
- Gallivant** (v) to go around from one place to another in pursuit of pleasure and entertainment
- Galore** (adj) in abundance
- Galumph** (v) move in a clumsy, ponderous or noisy manner
- Galvanize** (v) to shock or excite someone into taking action
- Gambit** (n) a clever action intended to gain an advantage at the outset
- Gambol** (v) to run and jump happily and playfully
- Gamut** (n) the complete range or scope of something
- Gander** (v) to have a quick look
- Gangling** (adj) (of a person) tall, thin and awkward in movement
- Gangway** (n) a passage between two rows of seats, for example in a cinema or bus
- Gape** (v) 1. to look in great surprise with an open mouth  
2. to be or become wide open
- Garble** (v) confused and giving a false idea of facts
- Gargantuan** (adj) huge, enormous, mammoth
- Garish** (adj) showing, gaudy, unpleasantly bright
- Garner** (v) to collect or gather something especially information or support
- Garnish** (v) to decorate or embellish (especially food)
- Garrote** (v) to kill someone by putting a metal wire or collar around his neck
- Garrulous** (adj) excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters, glib
- Gasconade** (v) to boast extravagantly
- Gash** (n) a long, deep cut or wound
- Gastronome** (n) a lover and connoisseur of good food and wines
- Gastronomy** (n) the art or knowledge involved in preparing and eating good food
- Gauche** (adj) awkward and uncomfortable with other people, especially because young and lacking in experience; clumsy; tactless
- Gate-crash** (v) to enter a party or other gathering without invitation
- Gaudy** (adj, adv) extravagantly bright or showy, typically so as to be tasteless
- Gaunt** (adj, adv) 1. very thin, especially because of illness or hunger  
2. (of a building or place) bare and unattractive
- Gavel** (n) a small hammer used by an official in charge of a meeting for hitting a wooden block or table in order to get people's attention
- Gawk** (v) stare openly and stupidly
- Gawky** (adj) awkward, clumsy
- Gay** (adj) 1. cheerful and excited  
2. homosexual
- Gazebo** (n) a small building, usually in a garden, designed to give a good view of the surrounding countryside
- Gazette** (n) an official publication or newspaper
- Gazillion** (n) a very large number or quantity
- Gee up** (v/adv) to encourage someone to try harder
- Geek** (n) one who is disliked because of one's appearance or behaviour
- Genealogy** (n) the study and tracing of lines of descent of a person/ family
- Generality** (n) a general statement without any details and often also without much meaning
- Generic** (adj) general, applicable to any members of a group or class
- Genesis** (n) the time when something came into existence, beginning or origin
- Genial** (adj) friendly and pleasant
- Genocide** (n) the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group
- Genre** (n) a style or category of art, music or literature
- Gentry** (n) people of high social class
- Genuflect** (v) 1. to bend the knee in worship or respect  
2. to show too much respect toward someone or something
- Geriatric** (adj) relating to old people, especially with regard to their health care
- Germane** (adj) appropriate, relevant
- Germinate** (v) to begin to grow, to cause to sprout
- Gerontology** (n) the scientific study of old age, the process of ageing and the particular problems of old people
- Gerrymander** (n/v) to manipulate the boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favour one party or class
- Gestate** (v) evolve
- Gesticulate** (v) to make gestures, especially to help express something one is trying to communicate
- Ghastly** (adj) unpleasant and shocking
- Ghetto** (n) a part of a city, especially a slum area, occupied by minority groups
- Gibber** (n/v) to speak rapidly and incoherently
- Gibberish** (n) unintelligible or meaningless speech or writing
- Gibe** (v) an insulting remark, to jeer
- Giddy** (adv) dizzy, unsteady
- Gig** (n/v) 1. a performance by musicians especially by playing modern or pop music  
2. a task or assignment
- Gimmick** (n) a trick or device intended to attract attention, publicity or trade
- Gingerly** (adj) in a careful or cautious manner
- Gist** (n) the main point of a matter; core
- Gladiator** (n) a man who fought another man or an animal for public entertainment in ancient Rome
- Glaring** (adj) (of something bad) very obvious, highly conspicuous



- Gleam** (v): 1. the rightness of something that shines  
2. an expression that appear for a moment on someone's face
- Glean** (v): to gather facts bit by bit (gradually)
- Glib** (adj): speaking confidently and persuasively but without sincerity or thought
- Glimmer** (v): 1. a small sign of something such as hope and understanding  
2. to shine weakly or not continuously
- Glitch** (n): 1. a sudden, unusually temporary malfunction or fault of equipment  
2. an unexpected setback
- Glitz** (n): extravagant but superficial display
- Gloaming** (n): twilight; dusk
- Gloat** (v): to show in an annoying way that one is proud of one's own success or happy about someone else's failure
- Globetrotter** (n): someone who travels frequently to lot of different countries
- Glossy** (adj): smooth and shining
- Glower** (v): to look very angry, annoyed or threatening
- Glut** (n/v): an excessively abundant supply of something
- Glutinous** (adj): sticky; gluey
- Glutton** (n): a person who is excessively fond of something
- Gnarled** (adj): rough and twisted, especially with age
- Gnash** (v): grind one's teeth together as a sign of anger
- Gnaw** (v): 1. to bite or chew something repeatedly  
2. cause persistent distress or anxiety
- Gnostic** (adj): difficult to understand because enigmatic or ambiguous
- Goad** (n/v): to incite; to provoke
- Gobble** (v): 1. to eat something hurriedly and noisily  
2. to use a large amount of something very quickly  
3. take-over of a small organization by a large organization
- Gobbledy gook** (n): language that is meaningless or is made unintelligible by excessive use of technical terms
- Gobsmacked** (adj): shocked by surprise
- Godsend** (n): a very helpful or valuable event, person or article
- Go-getter** (n): Someone who is likely to be successful because he is very determined and full of energy
- Goggle** (v): to look with the eyes wide open, often when surprised
- Goliath** (n): a very large and powerful person or organization
- Golly** (exclamation) (n): 1. used to express surprise or delight  
2. the value that a company has because it has a good relationship with its customers
- Goof** (v/n): 1. a silly mistake  
2. a silly or stupid person
- Gordian knot** (n): a difficult problem or situation
- Gore** (n/v): 1. (of an animal) to cause an injury with the horns or tusks  
2. thick dark blood that has flowed for a wound

- Gorge** (v/n): to eat until unable to eat any more
- Gormless** (adj): very stupid
- Gory** (adj): 1. involving or showing violence or bloodshed  
2. the explicit details of something
- Gospel** (n): 1. a set of principle or beliefs  
2. a thing that is absolutely true
- Gouge** (v/n): to remove something from a hole using a sharp pointed object or one's fingers
- Gourmand** (n): a person who enjoys eating large amount of food
- Gourmet** (n): a connoisseur of good food and wine
- Grabby** (adj): 1. having or showing a selfish desire for something greedy  
2. attracting attention; arousing people's interest
- Graduated** (adj): divided into different levels
- Graffiti** (n): a crude inscription or drawing on a wall or other public surface
- Graft** (v/n): 1. to add something very different to something, so that it becomes part of it  
2. to work hard  
3. a piece of living tissue that is transplanted surgically
- Grandeur** (n): a quality of great beauty and size; impressiveness
- Grandiloquent** (adj): pompous or extravagant in language style or manner, especially in a way that is intended to impress
- Grandiose** (adj): extravagantly or pretentiously imposing in appearance or style
- Grapple** (v): 1. to fight with someone; wrestle  
2. to try hard to deal with c understand something difficult
- Gratify** (v): to please; to satisfy; show kindness to
- Grating** (adj): sounding harsh and unpleasant
- Gratis** (adj/adv): free of charge; without payment
- Gratitude** (n): the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness
- Gratuitous** (adj): 1. done without good reason; uncalled for  
2. given or done free of charge
- Graven** (adj): fixed forever
- Gravitas** (n): dignity seriousness or solemnity of manner
- Gravity** (n): extreme importance; solemnity; seriousness
- Gregarious** (adj): living in groups; sociable
- Grievous** (adj): having very serious effects or causing great pain
- Grill** (v): to ask someone a lot of question for a long time
- Grimace** (n/v): to make an expression of pain, strong dislike, etc in which the face twists in an ugly way
- Grisly** (adj): terrifying; ghastly; extremely unpleasant
- Grist** (n): something that is useful in particular situation
- Gritty** (adj): showing courage and resolve
- Grizzle** (v): 1. (of a child) to cry fretfully  
2. to complain all the time
- Groggy** (adj): weak and unable to move well or think clearly because one is ill or very tired



**Grotesque** (*adj*): ridiculous; extremely ugly; distorted in appearance  
**Grotty** (*adj*): unpleasant and of poor quality  
**Grouch** (*v/n*): to complain in a bad-tempered way  
**Grouse** (*v*): to complain about something trivial  
**Grubby** (*adj*): quite dirty  
**Grudge** (*n*): a persistent feeling of ill will or resentment resulting from a past insult or injury  
**Gruelling** (*adj*): extremely tiring and demanding  
**Gruesome** (*adj*): extremely unpleasant or shocking  
**Gruff** (*adj*): (person's voice) low and unfriendly  
**Grumpy** (*adj*): bad tempered; peevish  
**Gruntled** (*adj*): happy and satisfied  
**Guffaw** (*v*): to laugh loudly, especially at something stupid that someone has said or done  
**Gubbins** (*n*): miscellaneous items; paraphernalia  
**Guile** (*n*): sly or cunning intelligence

**Habiliment**: clothing

**Habitable** (*adj*): suitable or good enough to live in

**Habituated** (*adj*): used to something, especially something unpleasant

**Hacked off** (*adj*): extremely annoyed; fed up

**Hanckneyed** (*adj*): used or said so often that it has become meaningless or boring; trite

**Haematology**: study of blood and its diseases

**Haggard** (*adj*): looking exhausted or unwell, especially from fatigue, worry or suffering

**Haggle** (*v*): dispute or bargain persistently

**Hagiology**: literature dealing with the lives and legends of saints

**Halcyon days**: a period in the past which was completely happy and free of worry or trouble

**Hale** (*adj/v*): 1. (of an old person) strong and healthy  
 2. (as verb) drag or drawn forcibly

**Halitosis**: bad breath

**Hallmark**: a typical characteristic of a person or a thing

**Hallowed** (*adj*): very respected and honoured because of great age or importance

**Hallucinate** (*v*): to seem to see, hear, feel or smell something which doesn't exist

**Halo** (*adj*): a circle of light shown around the head of a saint or holy person to represent their holiness

**Halting** (*adj*): slow and hesitant, especially through lack of confidence; faltering

**Hamlet**: a small village

**Hammer out** (*v/vj*): laboriously work out the details of a plan or agreement

**Hamper** (*v*): hinder or impede the movement or progress of

**Hanger on**: a person who tries to be friendly and spends time with rich and important people, especially to get advantage

**Hanker (after)**: to feel a strong desire for or to do something

**Hanky-panky**: behaviour, in particular sexual or legally dubious one considered improper but not seriously so

**Guise** (*n*): the appearance of someone or something, especially when intended to deceive

**Gullible** (*adj*): (of a person) easily deceived; one who believes others easily

**Gumption** (*n*): the ability and determination to decide; one who believes others easily

**Gumption** (*n*): the ability and determination to decide what need to be done and to do it

**Gung-ho** (*adj*): unthinkable enthusiastic and eager, especially about taking part in fighting or warfare

**Gustatory** (*adj*): of the sense of taste

**Gusto** (*n*): great enthusiasm and enjoyment in doing something

**Gusty** (*adj*): windy

**Gutsy** (*adj*): having or showing courage, determination or spirit

**Gutted** (*adj*): 1. seriously damaged or completely destroyed  
 2. very shocked and disappointed

**Guzzle** (*v*): to eat or drink greedily

**Gyrate** (*v*): to move in a circular or spiral path

## H

**Hapless** (*adj*): unlucky and usually unhappy

**Hara-kiri**: destroying or killing oneself

**Harangue**: a lengthy and aggressive speech

**Harbinger**: a sign that something is going to happen soon

**Hard-liner**: people who are unwilling to change their opinions

**Hardy** (*adj*): strong; able to bear extreme conditions; able to work hard for a long time

**Hare** (*v*): to run or go very quickly, unusually in an uncontrolled way

**Hark (back)** (*v*): to mention or remember something from the past

**Harness** (*v/n*): 1. to control and use the natural force or power of something  
 2. in the routine of daily work

**Harp** (*v*): to talk or complaint about something many times

**Harridan**: a strict, bossy or belligerent old woman

**Harrowing** (*adj*): extremely upsetting; shocking

**Harry** (*v*): 1. to harass persistently  
 2. to keep attacking on enemy

**Harum scarum** (*adv*): uncontrolled; in all directions; without a plan

**Hash** (*v*): 1. to do something very badly  
 2. (to hash something out) come to agreement on something after lengthy and vigorous discussion

**Hatch** (*v*): to make a plan in secret

**Hatchet man** (*v*): someone who is employed to make unpopular changes in an organization

**Haughty** (*adj*): behaving in a proud unfriendly way

**Haute couture**: the designing and making of high quality fashionable clothes by leading fashion houses

**Hauteur** (*n*): a proud, very unfriendly manner

**Have nots**: the poor people in a country or society

**Havoc**: confusion and lack of order, causing damage or trouble

**Hawk** (*v*): a person who advocate an aggressive or war like policy



**Haywire (adj)**: not working correctly; confused  
**Hazy (adj)**: faint; unclear  
**Headlong (adj/adv)**: hasty; rash  
**Headstrong (adj)**: very determined to do what one wants without listening to others  
**Heady (adj)**: intoxicating  
**Hearten (v)**: to encourage and make confident and happy  
**Hearty (adj)**: 1. enthusiastic energetic and often loudly expressed  
 2. large amount of food  
**Heave ho**: to dismiss someone from a job  
**Heavenly (adj)**: extremely pleasant, enjoyable or beautiful  
**Heavy-duty (adj)**: 1. material that can withstand the stress of demanding use  
 2. intense, important or abundant  
**Heavy-footed (adj)**: slow and laborious in movement  
**Heavy-handed (adj)**: clumsy, insensitive or overly forceful  
**Heavy hitter/heavy weight**: an important or powerful person  
**Hebdomadal (adj)**: weekly  
**Heckle (v)**: to interrupt a public figure with derisive or aggressive comments or abuse  
**Hector (v)**: talk to someone in a bullying way  
**Hedonism (v)**: a belief that pleasure is the most important thing in life  
**Heebie-jeebies**: strong feelings of fear or anxiety  
**Heedless (adj)**: showing a reckless lack of care or attention  
**Hefty (adj)**: large in amount, size, force etc  
**Hegemony**: a situation in which one state or country controls others  
**Heinous (adj)**: outrageously evil  
**Heist (n)**: a robbery  
**Helm**: in charge of something  
**Helter-skelter (adj & adv/n)**: in disorderly haste or confusion  
**Hem in (v/adv)**: to surround someone or something closely  
**Henchman**: a person who works for someone in position of authority or for a criminal, obeying their orders without questioning  
**Herald (v)**: to be a sign of something that is going to come or happen soon  
**Herculean (adj)**: needing great strength and determination  
**Heresy (v)**: belief or opinion contrary to official or popular opinion or to orthodox religious doctrine  
**Hermaphrodite (adj)**: a plant, animal or person with male and female sex organs  
**Hermetic (adj)**: insulated or protected from outside influence  
**Heterodox (adj)**: not conforming with accepted or orthodox standards or beliefs  
**Heterogeneous (adj)**: diverse in character or content  
**Heuristic (adj)**: enabling a person to discover or learn something for themselves  
**Hew (v)**: to chop or cut wood, etc  
**Hex**: a magic spell; a curse  
**Heyday**: the most successful or popular period of someone or something

**Hiatus**: a pause or break in continuity; in a sequence or activity  
**Hick**: a person from a countryside who does not like or suit life in a city  
**Hidebound (adj)**: unwilling or unable to change because of tradition or convention  
**Hideous (adj)**: extremely ugly or unpleasant  
**Hierarchy**: a system in which members are ranked according to relative status or authority  
**Hieroglyphic**: a picture or symbol representing a word, sound, etc  
**Highfalutin (adj)**: (especially of speech, writing or ideas) pompous or pretentious  
**High-flyer**: a person who is or has the potential to be very successful, especially academically or in business  
**High-handed (adj)**: using power or authority without considering the feeling of others  
**Hilarious (adj)**: extremely amusing  
**Hilt**: completely  
**Hindsight**: understanding of a situation or event only after it has happened or developed  
**Hinge on (v/prep)**: depend entirely on  
**Hinky (adj)**: a dishonest person or a suspect  
**Hinterland**: the area around or beyond a major town or port  
**Hipster**: a person who follows the latest trends or fashion  
**Hireling**: a person employed to undertake menial work, especially on a casual basis  
**Hirsute (adj)**: hairy  
**Hissy fit**: an angry outburst; a temper tantrum  
**Histrionic (adj)**: excessively theatrical or dramatic in character or style  
**Hitch**: a temporary difficulty or problem  
**Hitherto (adv)**: until now or until the point in time under discussion  
**Hit list**: a list of people to be killed for criminal or political reasons  
**Hit man**: a person who is paid to kill someone  
**Hive off (v/adv)**: separate something from a larger group or organization  
**Hord (v)**: stock up on; accumulate  
**Hoary (adj)**: 1. a joke, remark etc which is so well known that people no longer find it amusing or interesting  
 2. very old white haired person  
**Hoax**: a humorous or malicious deception; a prank  
**Hobble (v)**: 1. to walk with difficulty because of injury  
 2. to deliberately make sure that a plan, system, etc doesn't work successfully  
**Hobnob (v)**: to spend time being friendly with someone who is important or famous  
**Hobson's choice**: a situation in which there seems to be different things or actions to choose between but in fact there is none  
**Hock**: in debt



**Hogwash**: stupid or untrue talk; nonsense; rubbish

**Hoi polloi**: the common people

**Hoity toity** (*adj*): behaving as if one is better or more important than other people

**Honkey** (*adj*): too emotional or artificial and not believe

**Holler** (*v*): give a loud shout or cry

**Holocaust**: destruction or slaughter on a mass scale, especially by fire or nuclear war

**Homage**: tribute

**Homeostasis**: tendency of a system to maintain relative stability

**Homespun** (*adj*): simple and ordinary

**Homicide**: an act of murder

**Homily**: a tedious moral lecture

**Homo sapiens**: human beings

**Hone** (*v*): to sharpen

**Honorary** (*adj*): 1. a title, rank or degree given to someone as an honour

2. an honorary position in an organization is one for which no payment is made

**Hoodlum**: a violent person who is a member of a group of criminals; gangster

**Hoodwink** (*v*): to deceive or trick

**Hoopla**: exciting noise and activity in celebration of an event

**Horrendous** (*adj*): shocking; horrible

**Horrid** (*adj*): unpleasant or unkind; nasty

**Horse-trading**: unofficial discussion intended to reach an agreement

**Hotbed**: an environment promoting the growth of something especially something unwelcome

**Hound** (*v*): harass, persecute or pursue relentlessly

**Hovel**: a small home, which is dirty or in bad condition

**Hover** (*v*): 1. to float in the air

2. remain at or near a particular level

**Howler** (*adj*): a foolish mistake

**Howling** (*adj*): extreme or great

**Hoyden**: a bold, boisterous girl

**Hubbub**: 1. a loud noise, especially caused by a lot of people talking at the same time

2. a situation in which there is a lot of activity, excitement or argument

**Ichthyology** (*n*): study of fish

**Icon** (*n*): a person or thing considered as a representative symbol; idol

**Iconoclast** (*n*): a person who criticizes generally accepted beliefs and traditions

**Ideology** (*n*): ideas and deals of a particular group of people

**Idiomatic** (*adj*): idiomatic language is completely natural and correct in grammar and style

**Idiosyncrasy** (*n*): unusual habits and characteristics

**Idolatry** (*n*): 1. the practice of worshipping idols

2. extreme admiration, love or reverence for someone or something

**Hubris**: arrogance caused by pride

**Huddle** (*v*): to crowd together; nestle closely

**Hue**: a colour or shade

**Hue and cry**: a loud clamour or public outcry

**Huffy** (*adj*): annoyed or irritated and quick to take offence at petty things

**Hullabaloo**: a loud noise made by people who are angry or annoyed

**Humane** (*adj*): kind; benevolent

**Humbug**: deceptive or false talk or behaviour

**Humdinger**: a remarkable or outstanding person or thing of its kind

**Humdrum** (*adj*): lacking excitement or variety; boringly monotonous

**Humility**: modesty

**Hummock**: a small hill

**Hump** (*v*): to carry a heavy object with difficulty

**Hunch**: an idea which is based on feeling and for which there is no proof

**Hunk**: a strong attractive man

**Hunky dory** (*adj*): very satisfactory; going well

**Hurly burly**: noisy activity

**Hurtle** (*v*): to move very fast typically in an uncontrolled manner

**Hushed** (*adj*): a very quiet and still place

**Hush-hush** (*adj*): a highly secret and confidential plan

**Hush money**: money paid to someone to prevent him from disclosing embarrassing or discreditable information

**Hustle** (*v/n*): 1. push roughly; jostle

2. to pressurize someone into doing something

3. a lot of noise and activity

**Hype**: extravagant or intensive publicity or promotion

**Hyped up** (*adj*): emotional excited, nervous or anxious

**Hypocrite**: someone who pretends to have certain beliefs or opinions that they do not really have

**Hypothetical** (*adj*): based on a situation that is not real, but that might happen

**Hysteria**: uncontrolled excitement, fear or anger

**Idyll** (*n*): a very happy, peaceful and simple situation or period of time

**Idyllic** (*adj*): charmingly carefree; simple

**Iffy** (*adj*): uncertain; doubtful

**Ignoble** (*adj*): 1. something to be ashamed of; not noble

2. of humble origin or social status

**Ignominious** (*adj*): disgraceful, embarrassing

**Ignoramus** (*n*): an ignorant or stupid person

**Ilk** (*n*): a type of person or thing similar to one already referred to

**Illicit** (*adj*): illegal

**Illusion** (*n*): a false idea, belief or appearance



**Illustrious (adj):** well known, respected and admired for past achievements  
**Illwill (n):** animosity or bitterness  
**Imbecile (n/dj):** a person who behaves in a stupid way  
**Imbibe (v):** 1. to drink, especially alcohol  
 2. to receive and accept ideas  
**Imbroglio (n):** a complicated situation  
**Imbue (v):** inspire or permeate with a feeling or quality  
**Immaculate (adj):** 1. extremely clean, tidy or neat  
 2. free from flaws and mistakes; perfect  
**Immanent (adj):** existing or operating within; inherent  
**Immigrant (n):** a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country  
**Imminent (n):** about to happen, especially something unpleasant  
**Immiseration (n):** economic impoverishment  
**Immitigable (adj):** unable to be made less severe or serious  
**Immolate (v):** to offer as a sacrifice especially by burning  
**Immortal (adj):** lasting forever  
**Immune (adj):** 1. protection against disease  
 2. unable to be influenced by something  
**Immured (adj):** to imprison  
**Immutable (adj):** unchangeable  
**Impale (v):** pierce  
**Impalpable (adj):** difficult to feel or understand; imperceptible  
**Impasse (n):** a situation in which no progress is possible, especially because of disagreement  
**Impassioned (adj):** filled with or showing great emotion  
**Impassive (adj):** not feeling or showing emotion  
**Impeach (v):** to charge a public official with treason or another crime against the state  
**Impeccable (adj):** perfect; faultless  
**Impecunious (adj):** having little or no money  
**Impede (v):** to delay or prevent by obstructing  
**Impediment (n):** 1. obstruction  
 2. a disability which makes speaking difficult  
**Impel (v):** to force someone to do something  
**Impending (adj):** (something unpleasant) about to happen  
**Impenitent (adj):** not sorry or ashamed  
**Imperative (adj):** 1. extremely important or urgent  
 2. giving an authoritative command  
**Imperial (adj):** referring to an empire  
**Imperil (v):** to put in danger  
**Imperious (adj):** unpleasantly proud  
**Impersonate (v):** to imitate  
**Impertinent (adj):** 1. rude  
 2. irrelevant  
**Impervious (adj):** unable to be influenced  
**Impetuous (adj):** likely to act quickly without thinking  
**Impulsive**  
**Impetus (n):** driving force  
**Impinge (on/upon) (v):** to have an effect, especially a negative one

**Implacable (adj):** unable to be changed, especially of opinions and feelings  
**Implausible (adj):** difficult to believe; not reasonable  
**Implode (v):** to fall inward with force  
**Implore (v):** to ask in a forceful, emotional way  
**Impolitic (adj):** unwise  
**Imponderable (adj):** unable to be assessed  
**Importunate (adj):** persistent, especially to the point of annoyance  
**Imposter (n):** assuming a false identity  
**Impotent (adj):** powerless; helpless  
**Impound (v):** to take possession by legal right  
**Imprecate (v):** to utter a curse or invoke evil against someone or something  
**Impregnable (adj):** that can't be won  
**Impresario (n):** a person arranges public entertainment events  
**Imprimatur (n):** official permission  
**Impromptu (adj):** action without previous preparation  
**Impropriety (n):** improper behaviour  
**Improvident (adj):** not giving thought to the future  
**Imprudent (adj):** 1. unwise  
 2. rude and not respectful  
**Impugn (v):** dispute the truth, validity or honesty of someone's character or qualities; call into question  
**Impunity (n):** exemption from punishment  
**Imputation (v):** charge  
**Inadvertently (adv):** accidentally; unintentionally  
**Inalienable (adj):** that which cannot be changed or taken away  
**Inane (adj):** senseless; silly  
**Inanimate (adj):** lifeless  
**Inarticulate (adj):** unable to express clearly  
**Inauspicious (adj):** not conducive to success; unpromising  
**Incandescent (adj):** 1. emitting light as a result of being heated  
 2. very lively and impressive  
 3. extremely angry  
**Incantation (n):** a series of words spoken as a magic spell  
**Incapacitate (v):** prevent from functioning in a normal way  
**Incarcerate (v):** to imprison  
**Incarnation (n):** to take human form  
**Incendiary (adj/n):** 1. designed to cause fire  
 2. tending to stir up conflict  
**Incense (v):** to enrage; make very angry  
**Inception (n):** starting point of an institution or an activity  
**Incessant (adj):** (something unpleasant) continuing without pause or interruption  
**Incidental (adj):** 1. happening as a minor accomplishment to something else  
 2. (incidental to) happening as a result of an activity  
**Incinerate (v):** to destroy waste material by burning  
**Incipient (adj):** just beginning  
**Incisive (adj):** showing intelligence and a clear understanding of something



- Incite** (v): to encourage, especially violent or unlawful behaviour
- Inclement** (adj): (of weather) unpleasant
- Incognito** (adj/adv): under false name
- Incognizant** (adj): lacking knowledge or awareness
- Incoherence** (n): lack of clarity
- Incommodious** (adj): causing inconvenience; not spacious
- Incompatible** (adj): so different in nature as to be incapable of coexisting
- Incompetent** (adj): not having or showing the necessary skills to do something successfully
- Incongruous** (adj): unusual or different
- Inconsequential** (adj): not important; not significant
- Inconspicuous** (adj): not attracting attention
- Incontestable (or incontrovertible)** (adj): impossible to question because obviously true
- Incorporate** (v): to include something in something larger
- Incorporeal** (adj): not composed of matter; having no material existence
- Incorrigible** (adj): beyond correction
- Incredulous** (adj): disbelieving
- Incriminate** (v): to make someone appear guilty of a crime or wrong to doing
- Inculcate** (v): fix (ideas or believe) in someone's mind especially by repeating them often
- Inculpate** (v): accuse of blame
- Incumbent** (adj): office bearer
- Incur** (n): to experience something unpleasant as a result of actions taken
- Incursion** (n): sudden entrance, especially across a border
- Indebted** (adj): grateful
- Indelible** (adj): impossible to remove
- Indemnity** (v): protection/payment against possible loss
- Indent** (v): 1. to make a space  
2. an official order or requisition for goods'
- Indenture** (n): a legal agreement, contract or document
- Indict** (v): to accuse someone officially of a crime
- Indigenous** (adj): native
- Indigent** (adj): poor; needy
- Indignant** (adj): angry because of something that isn't fair
- Indignity** (n): offensive treatment
- Indiscernible** (adj): impossible to clearly see or understand
- Indiscriminate** (adj): not involving careful thought
- Indispensable** (adj): absolutely necessary
- Indisposed** (adj): 1. slightly unwell  
2. averse; unwilling
- Indolent** (adj): without real interest or effort
- Indomitable** (adj): impossible to subdue or defeat
- Indulgent** (adj): lenient
- Industrious** (adj): hardworking; diligent
- Inebriated** (adj): having drunk too much
- Ineffable** (adj): too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words
- Inept** (adj): not skilled or effective; clumsy
- Inertia** (n): a tendency to do nothing or to remain unchange
- Inevitable** (adj): certain to happen; unavoidable
- Inexorable** (adj): relentless; impossible to stop or prevent
- Inexpedient** (adj): not practical, suitable or advisable
- Infallible** (adj): never wrong
- Infamous** (adj): well known for some wrong quality or deed; notorious
- Infatuated** (adj): having a strong but not a lasting feeling of love and attraction
- Infelicitious** (adj): unfortunate; not suitable
- Infernal** (adj): 1. hellish; very bad or unpleasant  
2. very strong feelings that are very difficult to control
- Infidelity** (n): unfaithfulness
- Infiltrate** (v): to pass into
- Infinitesimal** (adj): extremely small
- Infirmity** (n): physical or mental weakness
- Inflammatory** (adj): (of speech and writing) arousing or intended to arouse angry or violent feeling
- Inflation** (n): 1. a general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing power of money  
2. the action of filling something with air or gas
- Inflict** (v): cause something painful to be suffered by someone or something
- Influx** (n): arrival of large number of people or thing
- Infotainment** (n): the reporting of news and facts in an entertaining way
- Infraction** (n): violation or infringement of a law
- Infrangible** (adj): unbreakable; inviolable
- Infringe** (v): 1. to break a law  
2. (infringe on/upon) act so as to limit or undermine something; encroach upon
- Infuriate** (v): to make someone extremely angry and impatient
- Infuse** (v): to fill; pervade
- Ingenious** (adj): 1. (of a person) clever, original and inventive  
2. (of a thing or idea) cleverly and originally devised
- Ingenuous** (adj): innocent, honest and trusting
- Inglorious** (adj): (of an action or situation) causing shame
- Ingrained** (adj): (of a habit or belief) firmly fixed; deeply established
- Ingratiate (oneself)** (v): to bring oneself into favour with someone by flattering or trying to please him
- Inherent** (adj): existing as a natural or basic part of something
- Inimical** (adj): tending to obstruct or harm; unfriendly
- Inimitable** (adj): too good or skilful for anyone to copy with the same high standard; unique
- Iniquitous** (adj): wrong; grossly unfair
- Injunction** (n): an official order to stop someone from doing something
- Inkling** (n): hint
- Innate** (adj): inborn; natural
- Innocuous** (adj): completely harmless
- Innuendo** (n): indirect reference to something rude or unpleasant
- Inoculate** (v): to inject a weak form of a disease into body as a way of protecting against the disease
- Inopportune** (adj): occurring at an inconvenient or inappropriate time



**Inordinate** : 1. excessive  
2. (of a person) unrestrained in feelings or behaviour

**Inquisitive (adj)**: eager to know

**Inroads (n)**: to start to have a direct and noticeable effect

**Insalubrious (adj)**: (of a place) dirty; likely to cause disease

**Ins and outs (n)**: all the exact details of a complicated situation problem, system etc

**Insatiable (adj)**: (of an appetite) too great to be satisfied

**Inscrutable (adj)**: impossible to understand or interpret

**Inset (n)**: something positioned within a large object

**Insidious (adj)**: gradually and secretly causing harm

**Insignia (n)**: a design or symbol which shows that a person or object belong to a particular organization or country

**Insinuate (v)**: 1. to suggest indirectly about something unpleasant

2. to gradually gain someone's love, trust etc by pretending to friendly and sincere

**Inspid (adj)**: dull; lacking in energy; tasteless

**In situ (adj)**: in the original place

**Insolent (adj)**: insulting

**Insouciant (n)**: carefree; indifferent

**Instill (or instil) (v)**: to put or something gradually into someone's mind

**Insularity (n)**: narrow mindedness

**Insuperable (adj)**: (of a difficulty or obstacle) impossible to overcome

**Insurgent (n)**: rebellious

**Insurmountable (adj)**: too great to be overcome

**Insurrection (n)**: uprising

**Intangible (adj)**: 1. imperceptible

2. unable to be touched; not having physical presence

**Intelligentsia (n)**: intellectuals

**Inter (v)**: to bury

**Inter alia (adv)**: among other things

**Intercede (v)**: intervene on behalf of another

**Intercede (v)**: intervene on behalf of another

**Intercept (v)**: to catch / stop in between

**Interface (n)**: a situation/area in which two things interact

**Interim (adj)**: temporary

**Interject (v)**: to interrupt

**Interlocuter (n)**: someone who is involved in a conversation

**Interloper (n)**: an intruder

**Interlude (n)**: a brief different of period; an interval

**Interminable (adj)**: unending

**Intermittent (adj)**: periodic; not continuous or steady

**Internecine (adj)**: mutually destructive

**Interplay (n)**: the effect that two or more things have out on each other

**Interpolate (v)**: to insert or introduce something

**Interpose (v)**: place or insert between one thing and another

**Interregnum (n)**: a period when a country or organization lacks a government/ leader

**Interperse (v)**: to mix one thing with another in an irregular way

**Intestate (adj)**: not having made a will before one dies

**Intimidate (v)**: to frighten

**Intonation (n)**: the rise and fall of the voice in speaking

**In toto (v)**: as a whole

**Intractable (adj)**: very difficult to control or solve

**Intransigent (adj)**: refusing to be persuaded

**Intransigent (n)**: a manager within a company who promote innovative product development and marketing

**Intrepid (adj)**: fearless

**Intricate (adj)**: very complicated; difficult to understand

**Intrigue (v/n)**: 1. to get interested in something strange

2. to make secret plans to harm people

**Intriguing (adj)**: something very interesting because it is strange mysterious or unexpected

**Intrinsic (adj)**: basic characteristics of a person or thing

**Introspection (n)**: considering your own thoughts

**Intrusion (n)**: to come as unwanted

**Intrusive (adj)**: causing disruption or annoyance through being unwelcome or uninvited

**Intuition (n)**: instinct

**Inundate (v)**: 1. to receive so much work that it cannot be dealt with

2. to flood with water

**Inure (v)**: to become use to

**Invariable (adj)**: never changing

**Invective (n)**: insulting abusive or highly critical language

**Inveigle (v)**: criticize strongly

**Inveigle (v)**: to persuade

**Inveterate (adj)**: firmly established; habituated

**Invidious (adj)**: likely to cause unhappiness or be unpleasant because unfair

**Invigorate (v)**: to make fresher and stronger

**Inviolable (adj)**: which cannot be broken or doubted

**In vitro (adj)**: happening outside the body in artificial conditions often in a test tube

**Invoke (v)**: 1. to invoke a law means to follow that

2. to invoke a memory means to remember something

3. to invoke God means asking the God for help and forgiveness

**Invulnerable (adj)**: invincible

**Lota (n)**: extremely small amount

**Ipso-facto (adv)**: if something is ipso-facto true, it must be true because of a fact that has been mentioned

**Irascible (adj)**: irritable

**Irate (adj)**: very angry

**Iridescent (adj)**: showing many bright colours which seem to change when seen from different angles

**Irksome (adj)**: annoying

**Ironical (adj)**: contrasting

**Irreconcilable (adj)**: (of ideas or statements) so different from each other that they can not be made compatible

**Irreproachable (adj)**: beyond criticism; faultless

**Irrupt (v)**: enter somewhere forcibly or suddenly

**Isthmus (n)**: a narrow piece of land which joins two larger areas of land

**Itinerary (n)**: a planned route or journey



## J

- Jab** (v): 1. to push or hit something hard and quickly  
2. sudden critical remark  
3. (as a noun) sudden sharp punch
- Jabber** (v): talk in a rapid, excited and often incomprehensible way
- Jaded** (adj): worn-out; boring
- Jamboree** (n): a party celebration or other gathering where there is a large number of people and a lot of excitement and noise
- Jammy** (adj): 1. unfairly lucky  
2. very easy
- Jangle** (v): 1. to make a noise like metal hitting metal  
2. to cause unpleasant worried feelings
- Jargon** (n): special words and phrases used by particular groups
- Jaundiced** (adj): prejudiced
- Jaunt** (n): a short journey for pleasure
- Jaunty** (adj): happy and confident
- Jazzy** (adj): very bright and colourful
- Jeer** (v): make rude and mocking remarks, typically in a loud voice
- Jeune** (adj): 1. very simple and childish  
2. dull and boring
- Jeopardy** (n): in great danger
- Jest** (v/n): a joke
- Jettison** (v): 1. to deliberately reject an idea or plan  
2. to throw away and get rid of
- Jibe** (n): an insulting remark that is intended to make someone look stupid
- Jiffy** (n): a very short time

- Kaleidoscopic** (n): quickly from one thing to another
- Kamikaze** (adj): 1. a sudden violent attack on enemy in which the person attacking knows that he will be killed  
2. an action which is likely to harm the person who does it
- Kaput** (adj): broken; not working properly
- Ken** (n): beyond someone's range
- Kernel** (n): central or vital part
- Key note** (n): the most important part
- Kick back** (n): amount of money that is paid or returned to someone who has enabled one to make money
- Killjoy** (n): grouch; spoilsport
- Kindle** (v): start a fire; inspire
- Kingpin** (n): the most important person within a particular organization
- Kink** (n): an unwanted twist or bend in a tube or wire

- Jigger** (v): to change something unfairly; to temper with
- Jiggle** (v): move from side to side or up and down
- Jilt** (v): to finish a close loving relationship suddenly
- Jingoism** (n): extreme patriotism especially in the form of aggressive or war-like foreign policy
- Jinx** (n): bad luck
- Jitters** (n): a feeling of nervousness which is experienced before something big
- Jockey** (v): to attempt to obtain power using any method you can
- Jocular** (adj): amusing, humorous
- Joie de vivre** (n): a feeling of great happiness and enjoyment of life
- Jostle** (n): to push roughly in order to move past
- Jot** (v): to make a quick short note
- Jovial** (adj): friendly, enjoyable
- Judder** (v): to shake violently, especially a vehicle
- Juggernaut** (n): a large powerful force or organization that cannot be stopped
- Go for a jugular** (phrase): if someone went for the jugular, he strongly attacked another person's weakest point
- Juncture** (n): a particular point in time
- Junket** (n): a journey made for pleasure by an official on public expense
- Junta** (n): a military or political group that has taken power by force
- Jurisprudence** (n): study of law
- Juvenile** (n): young and immature
- Juxtapose** (n): to put dissimilar things next to each other

## K

- Kinship** (n): 1. relationship between members of the same family  
2. a feeling of closeness or similarity
- Kip** (v): to sleep, especially in a place which isn't home
- Kitsch** (n): works of art that are ugly and silly
- Kleptomania** (n): a strong impulse to steal (a mental illness)
- Knack** (n): ability to do something easily and well
- Knackered** (adj): extremely tired
- Knave** (n): a dishonest man
- Knead** (v): mix; work dough
- Knell** (n): an event or sound that is regarded as a warning of the end of something
- Knoll** (n): a low hill with a rounded top
- Knotty** (adj): complicated and difficult to solve
- Kowtow** (v): to please someone by showing too much respect
- Kudos** (n): fame and admiration



## L

- Labile** (*adj*): liable to change; easily altered
- Laborious** (*adj*): tedious; needing a lot of time and effort
- Labyrinth** (*n*): complicated series of paths or passage through which it is difficult to find way
- Lacerate** (*v*): to cut or tear
- Lachrymose** (*adj*): tearful; tending to cry often and easily
- Lackadaisical** (*adj*): lacking enthusiasm and determination; lazy; languid
- Lackey** (*n*): a servant
- Lackluster** (*adj*): lacking energy and conviction; uninspiring
- Laconic** (*adj*): using very few words to express what is meant
- Lacuna** (*n*): an unfilled space; a gap
- Laden** (*adj*): carrying or holding a lot of something
- La-di-da** (*adj*): not sincere because the person is pretending to belong to a higher social class
- Laggard** (*n*): slow mover
- Lair** (*n*): a place where a wild animal lives or where a person hides
- Laissez-faire** (*n*): the policy of leaving thing to take their own course without interfering
- Laity** (*n*): ordinary people; laymen
- Lambaste** (*v*): to criticize severely; to thrash verbally or physically
- Lambent** (*adj*): clever and playful wit
- Lame duck** (*n*): ineffectual or unsuccessful
- Lament** (*v*): grieve; express sorrow
- Lampoon** (*v*): to criticize strongly using humorous writing or speech; to satire; ridicule
- Lancet** (*n*): small surgical tool for making incisions
- Languid** (*adj*): lacking energy; lethargic; listless
- Languish** (*v*): 1. lose or lack vitality; grow weak  
2. to be forced to remain in an unpleasant situation often for a long time
- Languor** (*n*): pleasant feeling of being relaxed and not having any energy or interest in anything
- Lanky** (*adj*): tall and thin and tending to move awkwardly as a result
- Larceny** (*n*): robbery
- Largesse** (*n*): generous gift of money or a generous act of kindness
- Lark** (*n*): an activity, especially done for amusement, although perhaps naughty or dangerous
- Lascivious** (*adj*): expressing a desire for sexual activity; lustful
- Lassitude** (*n*): lathargy; languor; weariness
- Latch on** (*v/adv*): to begin to understand
- Latent** (*adj*): present but needing particular conditions to become active; dormant
- Lateral thinking** (*n*): a way of solving a problem by thinking about it imaginatively not using traditional methods
- Latitude** (*n*): freedom from narrow limitations
- Laudable** (*adj*): deserving praise
- Laureate** (*n*): a person who has been given a very high honour because of his ability in a subject of study
- Laurels** (*n*): high praise
- Lavish** (*adj*): extravagant
- Lax** (*adj*): not careful or strict about maintaining high standards
- Lead** (*n*): lacking excitement
- Lecherous** (*adj*): showing interest in people only for sexual reason
- Lectern** (*n*): podium; dais
- Leer** (*v*): to look in an unpleasant and sexually interested way
- Leery** (*adj*): cautious; suspicious; wary
- Leeway** (*n*): 1. freedom to act within particular limits  
2. an additional period of time
- Left** (*n*): political groups believing in socialism
- Legacy** (*n*): 1. money or property left to someone in a will  
2. something that is part of history or which stays from an earlier time
- Legalistic** (*adj*): giving too much attention to rules and details
- Legerdemain** (*n*): sleight of hand
- Legion** (*adj*): very large in number
- Legwork** (*n*): practical work that needs to be done
- Leverage** (*n*): ability to influence people and to get desired results
- Leviathan** (*n*): extremely large and powerful
- Levitate** (*v*): rise or cause to rise and hover in the air
- Levity** (*n*): to treat serious matter in non-serious way; frivolity
- Levy** (*v*): to impose (a fine); to collect (a payment)
- Lewd** (*adj*): lustful
- Lexicographer** (*n*): compiler of a dictionary
- Lexicon** (*n*): a list of all the words used in a particular language subject or a dictionary
- Liaison** (*n*): 1. relationship  
2. secret love affair
- Libel** (*n*): a piece of writing which wrongly accuses someone of something; defamatory statement
- Libertine** (*n*): sexually immoral; debauched person
- Libido** (*n*): a person's sexual energy
- Licentious** (*adj*): sexual in an uncontrolled and socially unacceptable way
- Lien** (*n*): legal claim on a property
- Lilliputain** (*adj*): extremely small
- Limber** (*adj*): flexible; lithe; lissome
- Limbo** (*n*): a state of uncertainty
- Limn** (*v*): drawn; outline; describe
- Limpid** (*adj*): clear
- Lineage** (*n*): descent; ancestry
- Lineaments** (*n*): features, especially of the face
- Linchpin (or lynchpin)** (*n*): most important member of a group or part of a system



**Lingua franca** (n): a language used for communication between people who speak different languages  
**Lionize** (v): to treat as a celebrity; to create hype  
**Liquidate** (v): settle accounts; clear up  
**List** (n/v): to lean over; tilt  
**Listlessness** (n): lacking energy and enthusiasm, lethargy  
**Litany** (n): long list of unpleasant thing, particularly things that are repeated  
**Lithe** (adj): flexible; supple  
**Litigation** (n): lawsuit  
**Livid** (adj): extremely angry  
**Loath or loth** (adj): unwilling; reluctant  
**Loathe** (v): hate, dislike  
**Loggerheads (at loggerheads)** (n): strongly disagreeing  
**Logistics** (n): careful organization of an activity to make it successful  
**Longueurs** (n): a boring part of something  
**Loopy** (adj): foolish; stupid  
**Loquacious** (adj): talkative  
**Lousy** (adj): 1. low in quality and quantity  
 2. to feel ill  
**Lout** (n): a rude, offensive young man  
**Lucid** (adj): clearly expressed and easy to understand  
**Lucre** (n): profit, especially obtained by dishonest means

**Macecabre** (adj): horrible, because concerned with death  
**Mecerate** (v): to soften by putting in liquid  
**Machiavellian** (adj): cunning; unscrupulous  
**Machinations** (n): evil schemes or plots  
**Maculated** (adj): spotted; stained  
**Madcap** (adj): very foolish and not likely to succeed  
**Maelstrom** (n): a very confusing and violent situation  
**Magnanimous** (adj): generous or forgiving  
**Magnate** (n): successful businessman; tycoon  
**Magniloquent** (adj): boastful; pompous  
**Magnum opus** (n): the most important piece of work done by a writer or artist  
**Maiden** (adj): first of its type  
**Maim** (v): to mutilate  
**Mainstay** (n): the most important part of something  
**Makeshift** (adj): temporary  
**Maladroit** (adj): inefficient; clumsy  
**Malady** (n): a problem within a system; a disease  
**Mala fide** (adj/adv): in bad faith; with intent to deceive  
**Malaise** (n): a general feeling of uneasiness  
**Malefactor** (n): a person who does bad or illegal thing  
**Malevolent** (adj): malicious; causing trouble  
**Mafeasance** (n): wrongdoing, especially by public official  
**Malice** (n): the wish to harm other people  
**Malign** (v): speak evil of; defame; slander

**Ludicrous** (adj): laughable; ridiculous; trifling  
**Lugubrious** (adj): sad; serious; mournful  
**Lull** (v): 1. a period of quietness in a longer period of activity  
 2. feeling safe at a time when you are not  
**Lumber** (v): to move slowly and awkwardly  
**Luminary** (n): celebrity; dignitary  
**Luminous** (adj): shining  
**Lumpen** (adj): clumsy; not clever; of low quality  
**Lunatic** (n): extremely foolish and careless  
**Lunge** (v): to move forward suddenly and with force, especially in order to attack someone  
**Lurch** (v): 1. to move in an irregular way  
 2. to move suddenly from one course of action or attitude to another  
 3. if someone leaves you in the lurch he goes away and stops helping you at a difficult time  
**Lure** (n/v): attraction  
**Lurid** (adj): shocking because involving violence sex or immoral activities  
**Lurk** (v): to move in a secret way  
**Luscious** (adj): 1. having a pleasant taste  
 2. extremely attractive and desirable  
**Luster (or lustre)** (n): shine; gloss  
**Lusty** (adj): healthy; energetic

## M

**Malignant** (adj): likely to get uncontrollably worse, especially a tumour  
**Malingere** (n): one who feigns illness to escape duty  
**Malleable** (adj): a substance or a person which/who can be easily changed or influenced  
**Malodorous** (adj): stinking; foul-smelling  
**Manacle** (v): restrain; handcuffed  
**Mandarin** (n): a powerful official  
**Mandate** (n): command; authority  
**Mandatory** (adj): something, which must be done  
**Mangle** (v): crushed or twisted forcefully  
**Mangy** (adj): shabby; wretched  
**Manhandle** (v): to handle someone roughly  
**Maniac** (n): insane  
**Manifest** (adj/v): 1. obvious; easily noticed  
 2. (as verb) to show clearly  
**Manifestation** (n): example  
**Manipulate** (v): 1. influence, often unfairly or dishonestly  
 2. to control; maneuver  
**Mannered** (adj): affected; not natural  
**Manque** (adj): having failed to become what one might have been  
**Mantle** (n): 1. responsibility  
 2. layer  
**Manumit** (v): set free; emancipate



**Marauding (adj):** going about in search of thing to steal or people to attack  
**Maritime (adj):** relating to sea; near the sea  
**Marksman (n):** someone who is good at shooting  
**Marooned (adj):** left in a place from where there is no escape  
**Marred (adj):** damaged; spoiled  
**Marrow (n):** consistent performers, like Rahul Dravid, are the marrow of any team  
**Marshal (adj):** to gather or organize  
**Martial (adj):** relating to soldiers, war  
**Martinet** a strict disciplinarian  
**Masochism (n):** obtaining pleasure from the pain caused by being hurt  
**Masquerade (v):** to pretend  
**Masticate (v):** to chew  
**Matrix (n):** the cultural, social or political environment in which something develops  
**Maudlin (adj):** self-pitying or tearfully sentimental  
**Maul (v):** 1. wound by scratching or tearing  
 2. handle roughly  
**Maven (n):** an expert or connoisseur  
**Maverick (n):** an unorthodox or independent minded person  
**Mawkish (adj):** sentimental in an exaggerated or false way  
**Maxim (n):** a brief statement of a general truth  
**Mayday (n):** a radio signal sent from a ship or an aircraft when it needs help  
**Mayhem (n):** violent or extreme disorder; chaos commotion  
**Mealy-mouthed (adj):** expressing something unpleasant indirectly; hypocritical; evasive  
**Meander (v):** 1. to follow a route which is not straight or direct  
 2. wander at random  
**Mecca (n):** a place which attracts people of a particular interest  
**Meddle (v):** interfere in something that is not one's concern  
**Medicate (v):** intervene in a dispute to bring about an agreement  
**Meditate (v):** focus one's mind for a period of time  
**Medley (n):** a varied mixture of people or things  
**Megalomania (n):** obsession with the exercise of power  
**Melancholy (adj):** to feel deep sadness  
**Melange (n):** a varied mixture  
**Melee (n):** a large noisy uncontrolled crowd, in which people are moving in different directions and sometimes fighting with each other  
**Mellifluous (adj):** pleasingly smooth and musical to hear  
**Mellow (adj):** 1. pleasingly smooth; not too sharp or bright  
 2. relaxed; pleasant; not severe  
**Memoirs (n):** biography  
**Memorabilia (n):** objects kept or collected because of their association with memorable people or events  
**Mendacious (adj):** not truthful; lying  
**Mendicant (adj):** beggar  
**Menial (adj):** boring work, lacking prestige  
**Mentor (n):** an experienced and trusted adviser, counsellor

**Mercantile (adj):** 1. primarily concerned with making money at the expense of ethics  
 2. a professional soldier who fights for any country or group that pays him  
**Merchandise (n/v):** 1. goods that are bought and sold  
 2. promote the sale of goods by their presentation in retail outlets  
**Mercurial (adj):** changing suddenly and often  
**Meretricious (adj):** apparently attractive but having no real value; gaudy  
**Meritorious (adj):** deserving reward or praise  
**Mesmerize (v):** to capture the complete attention; hypnotize  
**Metamorphosis (n):** complete change; change of form  
**Metaphor (n):** implied comparison  
**Mete out (v):** dispense or allot justice; a punishment  
**Meteoric (adj):** rapid development of a person's career  
**Methodical (adj):** systematic or orderly  
**Meticulous (adj):** excessively careful; painstaking; scrupulous  
**Metier (n):** the type of work that one has a natural ability to do well  
**Metropolis (n):** large city  
**Mettle (n):** ability to cope well with difficulties  
**Miasma (n):** very unpleasant general feeling  
**Mien (n):** a person's typical expression on face  
**Miffed (adj):** annoyed  
**Milieu (adj):** a person's social environment  
**Militate (v):** to be a powerful or conclusive factor in preventing something  
**Mimic (v):** imitate someone, especially in order to amuse  
**Minatory (adj):** menacing; threatening  
**Mincing (adj):** walk with short quick steps in an affectedly dainty manner  
**Mingy (adj):** not generous; mean  
**Minion (n):** a follower especially an unimportant one  
**Minnow (n):** an insignificant person or organization  
**Minuscule (adj):** extremely small  
**Minutiae (n):** petty or trivial details of something  
**Mirage (n):** illusion; an unrealistic hope  
**Mire (v):** entangle; stick in swampy ground  
**Mirth (n):** merriment, laughter, amusement  
**Misanthropist (n):** a person who dislikes human kind and avoids human society  
**Misapprehension (n):** error; misunderstanding  
**Misbegotten (adj):** badly conceived or planned  
**Miscellany (n):** a mixture of different things  
**Misconstrue (v):** interpret incorrectly; misjudge  
**Miscreant (n):** someone who behaves badly or does not obey rules  
**Misdemeanor (n):** misconduct, especially a minor one  
**Miserly (adj):** a person who doesn't like spending money  
**Misgiving (n):** a feeling of doubt or apprehension about the outcome of something  
**Mishmash (n):** a badly organized mixture  
**Misnomer (n):** inapplicable designation  
**Misogynist (n):** one who hates women  
**Mitigate (v):** to make something less severe or painful



**Mnemonic (adj):** designed to aid memory

**Modicum (n):** a small amount, especially of something good

**Modish (adj):** fashionable

**Modulate (v):** 1. to change something to make it more suitable  
2. to vary the strength, tone or pitch of one's voice

**Modus operandi (n):** a particular way of doing something

**Mogul (n):** an important or powerful person, especially in film or media industry

**Mollify (v):** pacify; soothe

**Mollycoddle (v):** to pamper

**Momentous (adj):** of great importance

**Monetary (adj):** relating to money or currency

**Monochrome (adj):** using only black and white, or using only one colour

**Monotheism (n):** belief in one god

**Monotonous (adj):** dull, tedious and repetitious

**Monumental (adj):** enormous

**Mooch (v):** to walk slowly and carelessly without purpose

**Moor (n):** wasteland

**Moot (v/adj):** 1. to suggest or introduce an idea for discussion  
2. a moot point is a subject about which different people have different opinions

**Mope (n):** to feel dejected and apathetic

**Moratorium (n):** legal suspension; a temporary prohibition

**Morbid (adj):** abnormally interested in unpleasant subjects, especially death and disease

**Mordant (adj):** criticizing in an amusing way; sarcastic

**Moreish (adj):** so pleasant to eat that one wants more

**Mores (n):** customs that are typical of a particular society

**Moribund (adj):** in a very bad condition; dying

**Moron (n):** a stupid person

**Morose (adj):** unhappy; gloomy; annoyed

**Mortal (adj):** having to die; cannot live forever

**Mortify (v):** cause to feel very embarrassed

**Mosaic (n):** a picture or pattern, produced by arranging together small pieces of stones, tiles, glass etc

**Mosey (v):** to go slowly, especially without any purpose

**Mote (n):** something, especially a bit of dust that is so small it is almost impossible to see

**Motif (n):** a pattern or design

**Motile (n):** able to move by itself

**Motley (adj):** consisting of many different types

**Mottled (adj):** multicoloured

**Moulder (v):** to decay slowly; to rot

**Mountebank (n):** a person who deceives others; a charlatan

**Muddle (n/v):** 1. an untidy and confused state  
2. to make something untidy and lacking in order

**Mugging (n):** attacking and robbing someone

**Muggle (n):** a person with no skill

**Muggy (adj):** unpleasantly warm and humid weather

**Mulct (v):** to defraud a person of something

**Mull over (v/adv):** to think about something deeply and at length

**Multifarious (adj):** many in number and of various types

**Multilingual (adj):** having several languages

**Mumble (v):** to say something unclearly and quietly, making it difficult for others to understand

**Mumbo jumbo (n):** words or activities that are unnecessarily complicated and seem meaningless

**Mundane (adj):** very ordinary; banal; dull

**Munificent (adj):** very generous

**Murky (adj):** 1. dark and gloomy

2. dishonest or morally questionable

**Muff (v):** to spoil an opportunity or do something badly

**Muffled (v/adj):** 1. wrap or cover for warmth  
2. to reduce the loudness of a sound

**Muse (n/v):** 1. to ponder  
2. a source of inspiration for a creative artist

**Muss (v):** to make untidy

**Muster (v):** 1. to produce or encourage  
2. to gather, especially in preparation for fighting

**Musty (adj):** smelling unpleasantly old

**Muted (adj):** not loud or not very enthusiastic

**Mutilate (v):** to damage severely

**Mutter (v):** to say something in a low or barely audible voice, especially in dissatisfaction

**Mouzy (adj):** confused and unable to think clearly

**Myopic (adj):** lacking foresight

**Myriad (n):** in very large number

**Mystify (v):** to confuse (perplex) someone

**Mystique (n):** a quality of being special in a mysterious and attractive way

## N

**Nab (v):** 1. to catch or arrest someone doing something wrong  
2. to take, grab or steal

**Nadir (n):** lowest point

**Naff (adj):** not stylish or tasteful; worthless

**Nag (v):** 1. to criticize or complain repeatedly and annoyingly  
2. to make someone feel continuously worried or uncomfortable

**Native (adj):** lack of experience, wisdom or judgement

**Namby-pamby (adj):** weak, foolish or silly

**Namesake (n):** excessive interest in and admiration for one's own physical appearance and abilities

**Nascent (adj):** just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential

**Natter (v):** to talk for a long time about unimportant things



**Natty** (adj): smart and fashionable; tidy  
**Nausea** (n): a feeling of sickness with an inclination to vomit  
**Navigable** (adj): the Amazon is the largest navigable river in the world  
**Nebulous** (adj): vague; unclear especially of ideas  
**Necromancy** (n): the act of communicating with the dead in order to discover what is going to happen in the future; black magic  
**Nefarious** (adj): evil and immoral activities  
**Negate** (v): to prevent something from having any effect; nullify  
**Nemesis** (n): 1. punishment or defeat that is deserved and cannot be avoided  
 2. an opponent or situation that is likely to be impossible to be defeated or dealt with  
**Neologism** (n): creation and use of a new word or expression  
**Neophyte** (n): 1. someone who has just started to learn a particular skill  
 2. a new convert to a religion  
**Nepotism** (n): favouritism to a relative or friend  
**Nestle** (n): to be or put in a warm, comfortable or sheltered position  
**Nether** (adj): in a lower position  
**Nettle** (v): to annoy  
**Nexus** (n): a connection or network  
**Niche** (n): 1. a job or position which is very suitable for someone  
 2. opportunity to sell a product to a particular group which has similar needs and interests  
**Nifty** (adj): good, pleasing or effective  
**Niggardly** (adj): 1. a very small amount which is given unwillingly  
 2. unwilling to spend money or be generous; miser, stingy  
**Niggle** (v): 1. to worry slightly  
 2. to criticize someone about small details  
**Nihilism** (n): denial of social values

**Oaf** (n): stupid; rude or awkward person  
**Obdurate** (adj): extremely determined; stubborn  
**Obeisance** (n): obedience and respect, often shown by bending the head  
**Obfuscate** (v): confusing and difficult to understand  
**Obituary** (n): death notice, especially in a newspaper  
**Objective** (n/adj): 1. aim; goal  
 2. not influenced by personal belief, based on real facts  
**Objugate** (v): rebuke severely; scold  
**Obligatory** (adj): compulsory; binding  
**Oblique** (adj): 1. indirect remarks  
 2. having a sloping direction; slanted

**Nimble** (adj): quick in movement and/or exact in thoughts; agile  
**Nitpicking** (adj): showing too much interest in unimportant details  
**Nitty-gritty** (n): the basic facts of a situation  
**Nit wit** (n): a foolish or stupid person  
**Nix** (v): to stop, forbid or refuse to accept  
**Nobble** (v): to try to influence or thwart by unfair methods  
**Noisome** (adj): very unpleasant  
**Nonagenarian** (n): a person who is between 90 and 99 years of age  
**Nonchalant** (adj): behaving calmly and not seeming interested; indifferent  
**Nonentity** (n): a person without strong character or influences a person of no importance  
**Nonplussed** (adj): surprised; confused  
**Non sequitur** (n): a conclusion or statement that does not logically follow from the previous argument or statement  
**Nostalgia** (n): sentimental longing for past  
**Nostrum** (n): questionable remedy or scheme  
**Nosy** (n): showing too much curiosity about other people's affairs  
**Notion** (n): an idea or belief  
**Notoriety** (n): state of being famous for something bad  
**Novice** (n): a beginner  
**Noxious** (adj): poisonous; very harmful  
**Nuance** (n): very slight difference in appearance, meaning, sound etc. subtlety  
**Nubile** (adj): young sexually attractive; marriageable  
**Nugatory** (adj): of little value; worthless  
**Nuisance** (n): a person or thing causing inconvenience or annoyance  
**Nullify** (v): make legally null and void; invalidate  
**Numismatics** (n): the study or collection of coins, bank notes and medals  
**Numskull (or numbskull)** (n): stupid or foolish person  
**Nuptial** (adj): relating to marriage  
**Nurture** (v): to care off; to bring up

**O**

**Obliterate** (v): 1. to destroy completely  
 2. to remove a thought, feeling or memory from someone's mind  
 3. to make invisible; conceal or cover; obnubilate  
**Oblivion** (n): 1. unconsciousness  
 2. the state of being completely forgotten  
**Oblivious** (n): not aware; completely absorbed  
**Obloquy** (n): strong public condemnation  
**Obnoxious** (adj): too eager to praise or obey someone; servile; sycophantic  
**Obsequy** (n): funeral ceremony  
**Obsessed** (adj): too interested or very worried about something



**Obsolete** (adj): outdated; outmoded  
**Obstetrics** (n): area of medicine which deals with pregnancy and birth of baby  
**Obstinate** (adj): unreasonably determined; stubborn  
**Obstreperous** (adj): difficult to deal with and noisy  
**Obtrude** (v): to become noticeable in an undesirable way  
**Obtuse** (adj): slow to understand or unwilling to try to understand  
**Obverse** (n): opposite  
**Obviate** (v): eliminate; to get rid of  
**Occident** (n): the western part of the world, especially countries of Europe and America  
**Occlude** (v): to stop; shut  
**Occult** (n): mystical; supernatural  
**Octogenarian** (n): a person who is between eighty and eighty-nine years of age  
**Oculist** (n): eye specialist; ophthalmologist  
**Odious** (adj): extremely unpleasant; hateful  
**Odyssey** (n): a long, adventurous journey  
**Offbeat** (adj): unusual and not what people normally expect  
**Off hand** (adj): 1. not very-friendly  
 2. said or done without thinking or planning  
 3. (as adv) immediately; without previous thought or consideration  
**Officious** (adj): assertive of authority in a domineering way, especially with regard to trivial matters  
**Offing** (in the offing) (n): likely to happen soon  
**Offload** (v): to get rid of something that is not wanted by giving it to someone else  
**Offset** (v): to balance one influence against an opposing influence, so that there is not great difference as a result  
**Ogle** (v): to look at someone with obvious sexual interest  
**Olfactory** (adj): connected with the ability to smell  
**Oligarchy** (n): government by a small group of powerful people  
**Ombudsman** (n): an official appointed to investigate individuals complaints against the government, banks insurance companies, etc.  
**Omen** (n): a sign of what will happen in the future  
**Ominous** (adj): making you feel that something bad is going to happen  
**Omnipotent** (adj): able to do every thing; all-powerful  
**Omnipresent** (adj): universally present  
**Omniscient** (adj): knowing everything  
**Onerous** (adj): burdensome; tiresome  
**Onslaught** (n): 1. a very powerful attack  
 2. strong criticism of someone  
 3. an overwhelming large quality of people or things  
**Onus** (n): duty or responsibility

**Oodles** (n): a very large quantity  
**Oomph** (n): the quality of being exciting, energetic or sexually attractive  
**Opalescent** (adj): reflecting light and changing colour; shimmering  
**Opportune** (adj): a time that is suitable for doing something  
**Opportunist** (n): someone who uses every opportunity to gain power, money or unfair advantages  
**Opprobrium** (n): harsh criticism or censure  
**Optimistic** (adj): hopeful and confident about the future  
**Opulent** (adj): having great wealth; luxurious  
**Opus** (n): a work of art  
**Oracular** (adj): hard to interpret; enigmatic  
**Orchestrate** (v): plan or coordinate to produce a desired effect, especially surreptitiously (secretly)  
**Ordain** (v): order (something) officially; command  
**Ordeal** (n): a severe experience  
**Ordinance** (n): an official order or rule  
**Orgasm** (n): the greatest point of sexual pleasure  
**Orgy** (n): excessive indulgence in a specified activity  
**Orient** (v): adjust; adapt  
**Orientation** (n): a person's basic attitude, belief or feeling  
**Orifice** (n): a small opening or hole  
**Ornate** (adj): having a lot of decoration  
**Ornithology** (n): study of birds  
**Orthography** (n): the study of spelling and writing words  
**Ossify** (v): to become fixed and unable to change; stagnate  
**Ostensible** (adj): stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so  
**Ostentatious** (adj): showy  
**Ostracize** (v): to exclude someone from a society or group  
**Outbreak** (n): a sudden occurrence of something unwelcome, such as war of disease  
**Outcry** (n): a strong expression of public disapproval or anger  
**Outlay** (n): the amount of money spent to start a new business or activity  
**Outlook** (n): opinion  
**Ovation** (n): enthusiastic applause  
**Overt** (adj): done publicly without trying to hide anything  
**Overtone** (n): something that is suggested but is not clearly stated  
**Overture** (n): an attempt to begin a friendly relationship  
**Overview** (n): a short description to provide general information, but no details  
**Overweening** (adj): too proud and confident; arrogant; presumptuous  
**Overwhelm** (v): 1. to have a strong emotional effect  
 2. to make powerless by using force; overpower  
 3. give too much of something to; inundate  
**Overwrought** (adj): very upset; nervous and anxious



## P

**Pacify (v):** 1. to make someone calm, quiet and satisfied  
2. to bring peace by use or threat of force

**Paean (n):** song of praise or joy

**Painstaking (adj):** showing hard work; taking great care

**Pageant (n):** a colourful and splendid show

**Palaeontology (n):** study of fossils

**Palatable (adj):** 1. something which can be eaten or drunk  
2. an acceptable proposal or action

**Palatial (adj):** large and beautifully decorated building

**Palaver (v):** to talk unnecessarily and at length

**Palindrome (n):** a word, phrase or sequence that reads the same backwards and forwards

**Pall (v):** to become less interesting or appealing

**Palliate (v):** to ease pain; to make less severe or offensive

**Pallid (adj):** 1. pale; unhealthy; wan  
2. lacking vigour or intensity; insipid

**Palpable (adj):** so strong a feeling that it can easily be noticed

**Palpitate (v):** 1. (of the heart) to beat very fast and irregularly  
2. shake; tremble

**Paltry (adj):** very small amount; insignificant

**Panacea (n):** a solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases

**Panache (n):** flamboyant confidence of style or manner

**Pandemic (adj):** a widespread disease

**Pandemonium (n):** chaos

**Pander (v):** cater to someone's desires

**Pandora's Box (n):** a process that once begun generates many complicated problems

**Panegyric (n):** a speech or piece of writing in praise of someone or something

**Pang (n):** a sudden sharp pain or painful emotion

**Panoply (n):** a wide range or collection of different things

**Panorama (n):** a view of a wide area

**Pantomime (n):** acting without dialogue

**Paparazzi (n):** a free lance photographer who follows celebrities to get them photographed

**Parable (n):** short, simple story teaching a moral

**Paradigm (n):** a typical example or model of something

**Paradigm shift (n):** a fundamental change in approach

**Paradox (n):** something apparently contradictory in nature; statement that looks false but is actually correct

**Paragon (n):** perfect example; a model of perfection

**Parallelism (n):** similarity

**Paramount (adj):** more important than anything else

**Paramour (n):** illicit lover

**Paranoia (n):** an extreme or unreasonable feeling that other people are going to harm you; mistrust

**Paraphernalia (n):** a collection of small objects in connection with a particular activity

**Paraphrase (n):** to summarize

**Parched (adj):** extremely dry

**Pariah (n):** an outcast

**Parity (n):** equality

**Parlance (n):** a group of words that a particular group of people uses

**Parlay (v):** to develop money, skills, experience in a way to make them more profitable or successful

**Parley (n):** a discussion in which enemies try to achieve peace

**Parlous (adj):** full of danger or uncertainty; precarious

**Parochial (adj):** having a limited or narrow outlook

**Paroxysm (n):** sudden outburst of a particular emotion or activity

**Paricide (n):** the killing of a parent or other near relative

**Parry (v):** to ward off an attack with a counter move

**Parsonious (adj):** very unwilling to spend money or give something; stingy

**Partisan (adj):** a strong supporter of a party, cause or person

**Parturition (n):** the act of giving birth; childbirth

**Parvenu (n):** a person of humble origin who has gained wealth, influence or celebrity

**Passe (adj):** no longer fashionable

**Pastiche (n):** imitation of one's style in writing text or music

**Pathos (n):** a quality that evokes pity or sadness

**Patois (n):** the dialect of a particular region

**Patriarchy (n):** a society in which the oldest male is the leader of the family

**Patrician (adj):** a person of high social rank; aristocratic

**Paucity (n):** scarcity

**Peaky (adj):** slightly ill, often looking pale

**Peccadillo (n):** a relatively minor fault or sin

**Peckish (adj):** slightly hungry

**Pecuniary (adj):** pertaining to money

**Pedagogy (n):** study of methods and activities of teaching

**Pedant (n):** someone who pays too much attention to formal rules or to small unimportant details

**Pedestrian (adj):** ordinary; lacking inspiration or excitement

**Pejorative (adj):** expressing contempt or disapproval

**Pell-mell (adv/adj):** very fast and not organized

**Pellucid (adj):** easily understood; lucid

**Penance (n):** self-imposed punishment for sin

**Penchant (n):** strong liking

**Pendent (adj):** pendent branches of lush green trees can be seen everywhere in this garden

**Penitent (adj):** feeling sorry; repentant

**Pensive (adj):** engaged in deep or serious thought

**Penury (n):** the state of being very poor

**Percolate (v):** filtering of a liquid or gas gradually through a porous surface

**Perdition (n):** complete and utter ruin

**Peregrination (n):** journey

**Peremptory (adj):** demanding and leaving no choice

**Perennial (adj):** something long lasting

**Perfidious (adj):** deceitful and untrustworthy



**Perforate** (v): to pierce; to put a hole through

**Perfunctory** (adj): an action carried out without real interest, feeling or effort

**Peripatetic** (adj): working and travelling from place to place for short periods

**Peripheral** (adj): of secondary or minor importance; marginal

**Periphery** (n): the outer limits or edge of an area or object

**Perishing** (adj): 1. used for emphasis or to express annoyance  
2. extremely cold

**Perjury** (n): false testimony while under oath

**Perky** (adj): cheerful and lively

**Permanence** (n): the state or quality of lasting or remaining unchanged indefinitely

**Permeate** (v): to spread through; pervade

**Permissive** (adj): 1. allowing or characterized by excessive freedom of behaviour  
2. allowed but not obligatory; optional

**Permutation** (n): each of several ways in which a set of things can be ordered

**Pernicious** (adj): having a harmful effect, especially in a subtle way

**Pernickety** (n): giving too much attention on trivial matters; fussy

**Peroration** (n): conclusion of an oration

**Perpetrate** (v): to commit an offense

**Perpetual** (adj): continuing forever in the same way

**Perplex** (v): to make someone feel completely baffled

**Perquisite** (n): any gain above stipulated salary

**Perse** (adv): by or of itself; intrinsically

**Persecute** (v): subject someone to hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of their race, political or religious beliefs

**Persecution complex** (n): a fear that one is the object of collective hostility by others

**Perseverance** (n): persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success

**Personable** (adj): attractive

**Perspicacious** (adj): quick in noticing, understanding or judging thing accurately

**Pert** (adj): 1. (of a girl or young woman) attractively lively  
2. (of a part of the body) attractively small and firm

**Pertinacious** (adj): stubborn; persistent

**Pertinent** (adj): relevant or applicable to a particular matter

**Perturb** (v): disturb greatly

**Peruse** (v): read or examine thoroughly or carefully

**Pervasive** (adj): spread widely, especially an unwelcome influence

**Perverse** (adj): 1. intentionally acting in a way that is unreasonable or harmful  
2. contrary to the accepted or expected belief

**Perversion** (n): distortion or corruption of the original course, meaning or state of something

**Pesky** (adj): causing trouble; annoying

**Pessimism** (n): a tendency to see the worst aspects of things or believe that the worst will happen

**Pester** (v): trouble or annoy someone with frequent or persistent request or interruptions

**Pestilent** (adj): destructive to life; deadly

**Petition** (n): a formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority in respect of a particular cause

**Petrify** (v): to make someone so frightened that they are unable to move

**Petulant or pettish** (adj): childishly sulky or bad-tempered

**Philanderer** (n): faithless lover; flirt

**Philanthropist** (n): lover of mankind; doer of good

**Philately** (n): the collection and study of postage stamps

**Philistine** (n): a narrow-minded person; uncultured and exclusively interested in material gains

**Philology** (n): study of languages

**Phlegmatic** (adj): calm; not easily disturbed

**Phobia** (n): an extreme or irrational fear of something

**Phonetics** (n): study and classification of speech sounds

**Phoney** (adj): not genuine; fraudulent

**Picayune** (adj): of little value or significance; petty

**Pickings** (n): money which can be earned easily or dishonestly

**Picturesque** (adj): a place which is attractive in appearance

**Piddle** (v): 1. to urinate  
2. (piddle about/around) spend time in trifling activities

**Piddling** (adj): very small or unimportant

**Pidgin** (n): a language which has developed from a mixture of two languages, used as a way of communicating by people who do not speak each other's language

**Piecemeal** (adj & adv): not done according to a plan but done at different times in different ways

**Piety** (n): devoutness; reverence for God

**Piffle** (n): nonsense

**Pig-headed** (adj): stupidly obstinate

**Pilfer** (v): to steal things of little value

**Pillage** (v): to plunder, especially in wartime

**Pillory** (v): to attack or ridicule publicly

**Pimp** (n): a person who controls prostitutes and arranges clients for them, taking a percentage of their earnings in return

**Pinched** (adj): (of someone's face) thin and pale

**Pine** (v): 1. to suffer a mental and physical decline, especially because of a broken heart  
2. (pine for) miss or long for

**Pinion** (v): to immobilize someone by tying up or holding their arms or legs

**Pinnacle** (n): the most successful point; the culmination

**Pious** (adj): strong believer in God

**Piquant** (adj): 1. interesting and exciting  
2. having a pleasantly sharp or spicy taste

**Pique** (n): a feeling of irritation or resentment resulting from an ego hurt

**Piracy** (n): unauthorized use or reproduction of another's work



**Piscatorial (adj)**: pertaining to fisherman or fishing  
**Pitchfork into (v/prep)**: to thrust someone suddenly into an unexpected and difficult situation  
**Pitfall (n)**: hidden danger; concealed trap  
**Pith (n)**: the essence of something  
**Pittance (n)**: a small allowance or wage  
**Pitter-patter (v/n)**: a quick light knocking sound  
**Pivotal (adj)**: of crucial importance; critical  
**Placate (v)**: pacify; conciliate  
**Placebo (n)**: harmless substance prescribed as a dummy pill  
**Placid (adj)**: peaceful; calm  
**Plagiarize (v)**: steal another's ideas and pass them off as one's own  
**Plaintiff (n)**: a person who brings a case against another in a court of law  
**Plaintive (adj)**: sounding sad and mournful  
**Plank (n)**: a fundamental point of a political or other program  
**Plastered (adj)**: very drunk  
**Platitude (n)**: a trite remark; a commonplace statement  
**Plaudits (n)**: enthusiastic approval; praise  
**Plausible (adj)**: having a show of truth but open to doubt; specious  
**Plea (n)**: 1. a request made in an urgent and emotional manner  
 2. the answer that a person gives in court to an accusation that he has committed a crime  
**Pleasantries (n)**: an inconsequential remark made as part of a polite conversation  
**Plebeian (adj)**: of or belonging to a low social class  
**Plebiscite (n)**: a referendum  
**Plenary (adj)**: 1. complete; full  
 2. (of a meeting) to be attended by all participants, who otherwise meet in smaller groups  
**Plenipotentiary (n)**: a person who has the authority to act as the representative of his or her country, especially in another country  
**Plenitude (n)**: abundance; completeness  
**Plethora (n)**: an excess of something  
**Pliant (adj)**: flexible; easily influenced  
**Plight (n)**: an unpleasant condition  
**Plimsoll line (n)**: a mark on the ship side showing the limit of legal submersion when loaded with cargo  
**Ploy (n)**: a cunning plan or action designed to turn a situation to one's own advantage  
**Plucky (adj)**: showing courage in the face of difficulties  
**Plumb (v/adv)**: 1. examine critically in order to understand  
 2. exactly  
**Plummet (v)**: fall sharply  
**Plutocracy (n)**: government by the wealthy  
**Poignant (adj)**: evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret  
**Poise (n)**: 1. composure and dignity of manner  
 2. balance; equilibrium  
**Polarize (v)**: split into opposite extremes or camps  
**Polemic (n)**: argument in support of a point of view

**Politic (adj)**: sensible; judicious; prudent; sagacious  
**Polygamy (n)**: having more than one wife or husband at the same time  
**Polyglot (adj)**: knowing or using several languages; multilingual  
**Pompous (adj)**: 1. affectedly grand or self-important  
 2. characterized by pomp or splendor  
**Ponder (v)**: to think about something carefully before making a decision  
**Ponderous (adj)**: slow and clumsy because of great weight  
**Pooh-pooh (v)**: to dismiss an idea as being foolish or impractical  
**Populace (n)**: the people living in particular area  
**Pore (v)**: to think intently; to ponder  
**Portend (v)**: to be a sign or warning that something bad is likely to happen  
**Portent (n)**: sign; omen; forewarning  
**Portly (adj)**: a fatty man  
**Poseur (n)**: a person who behaves affectedly in order to impress others  
**Posit (v)**: to put forward as a fact from which a further idea is formed  
**Posterity (n)**: descendants; future generations  
**Posthumous (adj)**: happening after death  
**Postulate (v)**: to suggest an idea as a basic principle from which a further idea is formed  
**Potable (adj)**: suitable for drinking  
**Potboiler (n)**: a book, film, or other creative work produced solely to make the originator a living by catering to popular taste  
**Potent (adj)**: having great power, influence or effect  
**Potpourri (n)**: an unusual or interesting mixture of things  
**Pragmatic (adj)**: practical and not idealistic  
**Prank (n)**: a practical, and not idealistic  
**Prank (n)**: a practical joke or mischievous act  
**Prate (v)**: to talk foolishly at tedious lengths; prattle  
**Preamble (n)**: introductory statement  
**Precarious (adj)**: uncertain; risky  
**Precedent (adj)**: an earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide to be considered in subsequent similar circumstances  
**Precept (n)**: a general rule intended to regulate behaviour or thought  
**Precipice (v)**: a cliff; a dangerous situation  
**Precipitate (v)**: to cause an event or situation, especially an undesirable one, to happen suddenly and unexpectedly  
**Precise (adj)**: exact; accurate  
**Preclude (v)**: prevent from happening; make impossible  
**Precocious (adj)**: (of a child) showing unusually early mental development or achievement  
**Precursor (n)**: a person or thing that comes before another of the same kind; a forerunner  
**Predecessor (n)**: a person who held a post before the current holder  
**Predicament (n)**: a difficult, unpleasant or embarrassing situation  
**Predilection (n)**: partiality; preference



- Predispose (adj):** to influence someone and make him likely to behave in a particular way
- Preemie (n):** a baby that is borne earlier than expected
- Pre-eminent (v):** outstanding; superior
- Pre-empt (n):** 1. to take action in order to prevent any anticipated happening  
2. acquire or appropriate something in advance
- Preen (v):** to congratulate or pride oneself
- Prefatory (adj):** introductory
- Prehensile (adj):** capable of grasping or holding
- Prejudice (n):** preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience
- Prelude (n):** introduction; forerunner
- Premeditated (adj):** (especially of crime or something unpleasant) planned in advance and done deliberately
- Premise (n):** as assertion or proposition which forms the basis for a work or theory
- Premonition (n):** a strong feeling that something is about to happen, especially something unpleasant
- Preponderance (n):** superiority of power, quantity etc.
- Preposterous (adj):** contrary to reason or commonsense; absurd; ridiculous
- Prerogative (n):** privilege; unquestionable right
- Presage (v):** foretell; predict
- Prescient (adj):** having or showing knowledge of events before they take place
- Presentiment (n):** a feeling that something unpleasant is going to happen
- Presumptuous (adj):** doing something that one has no right to do and that seems rude
- Pretentious (adj):** attempting to impress by affecting greater importance or merit than is actually possessed
- Preternatural (adj):** beyond what is normal or natural
- Pretext (n):** an excuse
- Prevail (v):** prove more powerful or superior
- Prevaricate (v):** speak or act in an evasive manner; to lie
- Prey (n):** a person who is easily deceived or harmed
- Prim (adj):** very formal and correct in behaviour and easily shocked by anything rude
- Primacy (n):** the state of being the most important thing
- Prima facie (adj):** at first sight (based on what seems to be the truth when first seen or heard)
- Primal (adj):** 1. relating to an early stage in evolutionary development  
2. most important; primary or fundamental
- Primogeniture (n):** the state of being the first born child
- Primordial (adj):** 1. existing at the beginning of time or the universe  
2. (especially of a feeling or state) basic and fundamental
- Primp (v):** groom oneself with care; to adorn oneself
- Pristine (adj):** in its original condition; unspoiled
- Privation (n):** lack of basic things that are necessary for an accepted standard of living
- Privy (adj):** aware of or knowing about a secret
- Proactive (adj):** creating or controlling a situation rather than just responding to it after it has happened
- Probe (v):** a thorough investigation into a crime or other matter
- Probity (n):** the quality of having strong moral principles
- Proclivity (n):** inclination; natural tendency
- Procrastinate (v):** delay or postpone action; put off something
- Procurement (n):** the action of obtaining something
- Prod (v/n):** to persuade someone to do something
- Prodigal (adj):** wastefully extravagant; reckless with money
- Prodigious (adj):** remarkably great in extent, size or degree
- Prodigy (n):** a young person with exceptional qualities or abilities
- Profane (adj):** showing a lack of respect for religion
- Profanity (n):** blasphemous or obscene language
- Profligate (adj):** wasteful with money and resources
- Profound (adj):** 1. (of a state, quality or emotion) very great or intense  
2. showing a clear and deep understanding of serious matters
- Profusion (n):** an abundance or large quantity of something
- Progenitor (n):** 1. ancestor  
2. a person who first thinks of something and causes it to happen
- Progeny (n):** children; offspring
- Prognosis (n):** a forecast of the likely outcome of a situation, especially of a disease
- Proletarian (n):** member of the working class; blue collared person
- Proliferate (v):** increase rapidly in number; multiply
- Prolific (adj):** abundantly fruitful
- Prolix (adj):** using or containing too many words; tediously lengthy; verbose
- Prologue (n):** 1. introduction of a poem or a play  
2. if one event is a prologue to another event, it leads to it
- Prominent (adj):** very noticeable, well known or important; conspicuous
- Promiscuous (adj):** 1. having a lot of different sexual partners or sexual relationships  
2. consisting of a wide range of different things
- Promissory (adj):** indicative of something to come; full of promise
- Promulgate (v):** to promote, approve or make widely known (an idea or cause)
- Prone (adj):** likely or liable to suffer from
- Pronounced (adj):** very noticeable or certain
- Propensity (n):** an inclination or natural tendency to behave in a particular way
- Prophecy (n):** a prediction of what will happen in future
- Prophylactic (adj):** intended to prevent disease
- Propinquity (n):** the state of being close to someone or something; proximity
- Propitiate (adj):** to appease
- Propitious (adj):** favourable; fortunate



**Proponent (n)**: supporter; backer  
**Propound (v)**: to put forward (an idea or theory) for analysis  
**Propriety (n)**: conformity to conventionally accepted standards of behaviour or morals  
**Prorata (adj/adv)**: proportional  
**Prorogue (v)**: to discontinue a session, especially of parliament, without dissolving it  
**Prosaic (adj)**: lacking interest, imagination and variety; boring  
**Proscribe (v)**: to forbid, especially by law  
**Prosecute (v)**: 1. institute or conduct legal proceedings against someone  
 2. to carry on an action  
**Proselytize (v)**: induce someone to convert to a religion or belief  
**Prospective (adj)**: 1. likely to happen at a future date  
 2. expected or expecting to be the specified thing in the future  
**Prostitute (v)**: to put oneself or one's talents to an unworthy or corrupt use for personal or financial gain  
**Prostrate (adj)**: completely overcome or helpless, especially with distress or exhaustion  
**Protagonist (n)**: 1. an advocate or a champion of a particular cause or idea  
 2. the leading or major character in a film, play, novel, etc.  
**Protean (adj)**: easily changing; variable  
**Protege (n)**: person receiving protection and support from a patron  
**Protocol (n)**: 1. the system of rules and acceptable behaviour used officially  
 2. a formal international agreement  
**Prototype (n)**: original work used as a model by others  
**Protract (v)**: prolong  
**Protrude (v)**: extend beyond or above a surface  
**Provenance (n)**: place of origin or source of something  
**Provender (n)**: animal fodder  
**Provident (adj)**: making or indicative of timely preparation of the future; displaying foresight  
**Providential (adj)**: happening exactly when needed but without being planned; opportune  
**Provisional (adj)**: temporary  
**Proviso (n)**: a condition attached to an agreement or statement  
**Provocation (n)**: action or speech that makes someone angry, especially deliberately  
**Prowess (n)**: great ability or skill  
**Proximity (n)**: nearness in space, time or relationship  
**Proxy (n)**: the authority to represent someone else, especially in voting  
**Prude (n)**: a person who is easily shocked by rude things, especially those of a sexual type

**Prudent (adj)**: avoiding risks; cautious; careful  
**Prune (v)**: to cut away; trim  
**Prurient (adj)**: having an excessive interest in sexual matters, especially the sexual activities of others  
**Pry (v)**: enquire too inquisitively into a person's private affairs  
**Pseudonym (n)**: a fictitious name, especially one used by an author  
**Psyche (n)**: the human soul, mind or spirit  
**Psychiatrist (n)**: a doctor who treats mental diseases  
**Psychopath (n)**: a person suffering from chronic mental disorder with abnormal or violent social behaviour  
**Puerile (adj)**: childishly silly and immature  
**Pugilist (n)**: boxer  
**Pugnacious (adj)**: eager or quick to argue, quarrel or fight  
**Puissant (adj)**: having great power or influence  
**Pulchritude (n)**: beauty; comeliness  
**Pulmonary (adj)**: pertaining to lungs  
**Pulsate (v)**: expand and contract with strong regular movements; throb  
**Pulverize (v)**: 1. to crush or grind into very small particles  
 2. to defeat utterly  
**Pummel (v)**: strike repeatedly with the fists  
**Punctilious (adj)**: showing great attention to details or correct behaviour  
**Pundit (n)**: authority on a subject; learned person; expert  
**Pungent (adj)**: 1. having a sharply strong taste or smell  
 2. (of comment, criticism or humour) having a sharp and caustic quality  
**Punitive (adj)**: punishing  
**Punk (n)**: a young person who fights and is involved in criminal activities  
**Puny (adj)**: small and weak; insignificant  
**Purgatory (n)**: mental anguish or suffering  
**Puritanical (adj)**: very strict about moral matters, especially sex  
**Purport (n/v)**: 1. intention; meaning  
 2. to claim, not necessarily in a way that is believable  
**Purvey (v)**: to provide or supply (food, drinks or other goods) as one's business  
**Purview (n)**: the limit of someone's responsibility, interest or activity  
**Pushover (n)**: a person who is easy to overcome or influence  
**Pusillanimous (adj)**: showing a lack of courage or determination; timid  
**Putative (adj)**: foul; rotten; decayed  
**Pyromaniac (n)**: a person with an insane desire to set things on fire



## Q

**Quack** (n): a person who dishonestly pretends to have medical skill or knowledge

**Quadruped** (n): four-footed animal

**Quaff** (v): to drink with relish

**Quagmire** (n): 1. an area of soft wet ground which one sinks into if one tries and walks on  
2. an awkward, complex or hazardous situation

**Quail** (v): feel or show fear or apprehension

**Quaint** (adj): attractively unusual or old-fashioned

**Qualms** (n): misgivings; uneasy fears, especially about matters of conscience

**Quandary** (n): dilemma

**Quango** (n): an organization established by government to consider a subject of public importance, but which is independent of the government

**Quantum leap** (n): great improvement or important advance in something

**Quarantine** (n): isolation of a person, place or ship to prevent infection

**Quarry** (n): victim; object of a hunt

**Quash** (v): reject as invalid, especially by legal procedure

**Quaver** (v): (of a person's voice) shake or tremble in speaking, typically through nervousness

**Queasy** (adj): easily nauseated; squeamish; likely to vomit

**Queer** (adj/v): 1. strange; odd  
2. (as verb) to spoil an opportunity or chance

**Rabble** (n): a disorderly crowd; mob

**Rabid** (adj): expressing strong feelings; furious

**Rack up** (v/adv): to gradually increase in number or amount; to accumulate

**Raconteur** (n): one who tells anecdotes in a skillful and amusing way

**Raffish** (adj): unconventional and slightly disreputable, especially in an attractive way

**Ragamuffin** (n): a dirty untidy child in torn clothes

**Ragged** (adj): 1. having a rough or irregular surface or edge  
2. lacking finish, smoothness or uniformity  
3. suffering from exhaustion or stress

**Rail** (v): to complain and protest strongly and persistently

**Raiment** (n): clothing

**Rakish** (adj): stylish; sporty

**Rally** (v): 1. to call up or summon (forces, vital powers, etc)  
2. to revive; recuperate

**Ramble** (v): to wander aimlessly (physically or mentally)

**Ramification** (n): 1. a complex or unwelcome consequence of an action or event  
2. a subdivision of a complex structure or process

**Quell** (v): to put an end to something, typically by the use of force

**Quench** (v): to satisfy one's thirst

**Querulous** (adj): complaining in a rather petulant or whining manner

**Quest** (n): a long or arduous search for something

**Quibble** (v): a slight objection or criticism

**Quickfire** (adj): happening at great speed

**Quid pro quo** (n): a favour or advantage granted in return for something

**Quiescent** (adj): at rest; dormant

**Quietude** (n): calm and peacefulness; tranquility

**Quintessence** (n): the most perfect or typical example of a quality or class

**Quip** (n): a witty remark; taunt

**Quirk** (n): 1. a peculiar aspect of a one's character or behaviour  
2. a sudden unexpected twist; caprice

**Quisling** (n): traitor who aids invaders

**Quiver** (v/n): 1. tremble or shake with a slight rapid movement  
2. (as noun) case for arrows

**Quixotic** (adj): idealistic but impractical

**Quizzical** (adj): (of a person's expression or behaviour) indicating mild or amused puzzlement

**Quorum** (n): the smallest number of people needed to be present at a meeting before it can be allowed to begin

**Quotidian** (adj): occurring everyday; commonplace; customary

## R

**Rampage** (v): (especially of a large group of people) to move around in a violent and uncontrollable manner

**Rampant** (adj): (especially of something unwelcome) flourishing or spreading unchecked

**Ramshackle** (adj): (especially of a house or vehicle) in a state of severe disrepair

**Rancid** (adj): (of foods containing oil) smelling or tasting unpleasant as a result of being old and stale

**Rancour (or Rancor)** (n): bitterness or resentfulness, especially when long standing

**R&D** (n): abbreviation for research and development

**Random** (adj): without definite purpose, plan or aim; haphazard

**Rank and file** (n): the ordinary members of an organization as opposed to its leaders

**Rankle** (v): to irritate; fester

**Ransack** (v): to go through a place stealing things and causing damage

**Rant** (v): to speak or shout angrily at length

**Rapacious** (adj): aggressively greedy grasping

**Rapport** (n): a close and harmonious relationship in which the people concerned understand each other's feelings or ideas and communicate well



**Rapt (adj):** completely fascinated or absorbed by what one is seeing or hearing

**Rapture (n):** a feeling of intense pleasure or joy

**Rarefied (adj):** (of air, especially at high altitudes) of lower pressure than usual;

**Raring (adj):** very enthusiastic and eager to do something

**Raspy (adj):** grating; harsh

**Ratify (v):** to approve formally; confirm; verify

**Rationale (n):** a set of reasons or a logical basis for a course of action or belief

**Rationalize (v):** to give a plausible reason for an action in place of the real one; to offer an excuse

**Rattle (v):** 1. to make or cause to make a rapid succession of short, sharp knocking sounds  
2. to make someone nervous or irritated  
3. (rattle something off) to say, perform or produce something quickly and effortlessly  
4. (rattle on/away) to talk rapidly and at length, especially in an inane way

**Raucous (adj):** sounding loud and unpleasant; harsh

**Raunchy (adj):** 1. having to do with sex in a clear and obvious way  
2. shabby; grubby; filthy

**Ravage (v):** to cause severe and extensive damage; to plunder

**Rave (v):** 1. to talk incoherently, as if one were delirious or mad  
2. to speak or write about someone or something with great enthusiasm or admiration

**Ravel (v):** 1. to untangle something; untwist  
2. to confuse or complicate (a question or situation)

**Ravenous (adj):** extremely hungry

**Raving (n):** 1. irrational or incoherent talk  
2. (as adj.) used to emphasize a particular quality

**Ravishing (adj):** delightful; entrancing; stunning

**Raze (v):** to destroy completely

**Razzmatazz (n):** noisy, showy and exciting activity and display designed to attract and impress

**Reactionary (adj):** opposing political or social progress or reform

**Reactive (adj):** acting in response to a situation rather than creating or controlling it

**Realm (n):** a field or domain of activity or interest

**Rearguard (n):** a rearguard action is a final and probably hopeless attempt to prevent something from happening

**Rebuff (v):** an abrupt or ungracious rejection of an offer, request or friendly gesture

**Rebuke (v):** to scold harshly; criticize severely

**Rebut (v):** to claim or prove that an evidence or accusation is false

**Recalcitrant (adj):** (of a person) unwilling to obey orders or (of an animal) refusing to be controlled

**Recant (v):** to announce that one's past beliefs were wrong and that one no longer agrees with them

**Recapitulate (v):** to summarize and state again the main points of

**Recede (v):** 1. to move back or further away from a previous position  
2. (of a quality, feeling or possibility) gradually diminish

**Receptive (adj):** willing to consider or accept new suggestions and ideas

**Recession (n):** a period when the economy of a country is not successful, business conditions are bad, industrial production and trade is at a low level and there is a lot of unemployment

**Recherche (adj):** unusual and not generally known about; chosen or planned with extreme care

**Recidivist (n):** a criminal who continues to commit crime even after he has been punished

**Reciprocate (v):** to do or give something, because something similar has been done or given to you

**Reckless (adj):** heedless of danger or the consequences of one's actions; rash or impetuous

**Recluse (n):** a person who lives a solitary life and tends to avoid other people

**Recollect (n):** 1. to remember something; call to mind  
2. to bring oneself back to a state of composure

**Reconcile (v):** to correct inconsistencies; to become friendly after a quarrel

**Recondite (adj):** (of a subject or knowledge) little known; abstruse

**Reconnaissance (n):** to make a military observation of a region

**Recount (v):** to tell someone about something; to give an account of an event or experience

**Recoup (v):** to get back money that one has spent or lost

**Recourse (n):** activity done for enjoyment when one is not working

**Recrimination (n):** argument between people who are blaming each other

**Recrudescence (n):** a sudden new appearance and growth, especially of something dangerous and unpleasant

**Rectify (v):** to correct or make right

**Rectitude (n):** honesty and moral correctness of a person's character or behaviour

**Recumbent (adj):** lying down

**Recuperate (v):** to recover from illness or exertion

**Recur (v):** to occur again periodically or repeatedly

**Recurrent (adj):** occurring often and repeatedly

**Redeem (v):** 1. to compensate for the faults or bad aspects of  
2. to gain or regain possession of something in exchange for payment  
3. to fulfil a promise or pay back a debt

**Redolent (adj):** fragrant; odorous; suggestive of an odour

**Redoubtable (adj):** a formidable person especially as an opponent

**Redress (v/n):** remedy or set right (an undesirable or unfair situation)

**Redundant (adj):** no longer needed or useful; superfluous

**Reek (v/n):** to smell strongly and unpleasantly; stink



**Refectory** (n): a room used for communal meals in an educational or religious institution

**Referendum** (n): a general vote by the electorate on a single political question which has been referred to them for a direct decision

**Refine** (v): to make pure; to improve

**Refrain** (v): to stop oneself from doing something

**Refulgent** (adj): brightly shining; gleaming

**Refurbish** (v): to renovate; make bright by polishing

**Refute** (v): to prove a statement or theory to be wrong or false; disprove

**Regal** (adj): extremely splendid; royal

**Regale** (v): to entertain or amuse someone

**Regency** (n): the period of government by a regent (a temporary ruler)

**Regime** (n): a particular government or a system of method of government

**Regimen** (n): prescribed diet or exercise for the promotion or restoration of health

**Regress** (v): 1. to return to a previous and less advanced or worse state, condition or way of behaving  
2. In the plot, the heroine suffers brain damage from an accident and regresses to the mental age of a six-year old.

**Regurgitate** (v): to bring back swallowed food into the mouth

**Rehabilitate** (v): to restore to proper condition

**Reimburse** (v): to repay a person who has spent or lost money

**Reinforce** (v): to strengthen or support, especially with additional material

**Reinstate** (v): to restore someone or something to their former position or state

**Reiterate** (v): to say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity

**Rejig** (v): to rearrange something

**Rejoice** (v): to feel or show great joy or delight

**Rejoinder** (n): a sharp and witty reply

**Rejuvenate** (v): to make someone or something look or feel better, younger or more vital

**Relegate** (v): to assign an inferior rank or position to

**Relent** (v): to act in a less severe way towards someone and allow something that one had refused to allow before

**Relevant** (adj): closely connected or appropriate to the matter in hand

**Relic** (n): an object surviving from an earlier time, especially one of historic importance

**Relinquish** (v): voluntarily cease to keep or claim

**Relish** (v): to enjoy an experience or the thought of something that is going to happen

**Remedial** (adj): an action which is intended to correct something that is wrong or to improve a bad condition

**Reminiscence** (n): act of remembering events and experiences from the past; recollection

**Remiss** (adj): lacking care or attention to duty; negligent

**Remission** (n): 1. a period of time when an illness is less severe  
2. cancellation of a debt, charge or penalty

**Remnant** (n): a part of quantity that is left after the greater part has been used, removed or destroyed; remainder

**Remonstrance** (v): to protest forcefully

**Remorse** (n): deep regret or guilt

**Remunerate** (v): to pay someone for services rendered or work done

**Renaissance** (n): new growth of interest in something especially art, literature or music

**Rend** (v): to tear something into pieces

**Render** (v): 1. to deliver or provide  
2. to cause to be or become

**Rendezvous** (n): a meeting place

**Rendition** (n): a performance or interpretation, especially of a dramatic role or a piece of music

**Renegade** (n): a person who deserts or betrays an organization, country or set of principles

**Reneg** (v): to deny a promise, undertaking or contract

**Renounce** (v): to declare one's abandonment of a claim, right or possession

**Renovate** (v): restore to good condition; renew

**Renowned** (adj): famous

**Rent** (n): a large tear in a piece of fabric

**Renunciation** (n): the formal rejection of something, typically a belief, claim or course of action

**Reparation** (n): payment for harm or damage

**Repartee** (n): conversation or speech characterized by quick, witty comments or replies

**Repast** (n): a meal; feast; banquet

**Repatriate** (v): to send one back to one's country

**Repeal** (v): to revoke or annul a law or act of parliament

**Repercussion** (n): an unintended consequence of an event or action, especially an unwelcome one

**Repertoire** (n): a stock of skills or types of behaviour that a person habitually uses

**Repine** (v): to feel or express discontent; fret

**Replenish** (v): to fill something up again

**Replete** (adj): filled or well supplied with something

**Replica** (n): an exact copy or model of something

**Repose** (v/n): 1. to rest, lie or place  
2. to repose trust/confidence/hope in someone or something is to place your trust or hopes in them

**Reprehensible** (adj): deserving censure or condemnation

**Repress** (v): to subdue someone or something by force

**Reprieve** (v/n): to cancel or postpone something considered bad

**Reprimand** (v/n): to express strong disapproval; to rebuke

**Reprisal** (n): an act of retaliation

**Reprise** (n): repeat performance; recurrent action

**Reproach** (v/n): to criticize someone, especially for not being successful or not doing what is expected

**Reprobate** (n/adj): person hardened in sin and devoid of a sense of decency

**Reprove** (v): to reprimand or rebuke someone

**Repudiate** (v): to refuse to accept; reject



**Repugnant** (adj): extremely distasteful; unacceptable  
**Repulsion** (n): a feeling of intense distaste or disgust  
**Reputed** (adj): supposed  
**Requisite** (adj/n): needed for a particular purpose; necessary  
**Requite** (v): to give or do something in return for something  
**Rescind** (v): to revoke, cancel or repeal (a law, order or agreement)  
**Resentment** (n): bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly  
**Residue** (n): a small amount of something that remains after the main part has gone or been taken or used  
**Resignation** (n): the acceptance of something undesirable but inevitable  
**Resilient** (adj): able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions  
**Resolution** (n): a firm decision to do not to do something  
**Resolve** (v): 1. to settle or find a solution to a problem  
 2. to decide firmly on a course of action  
**Resonant** (adj): (of a sound) deep, clear and continuing to sound or reverberate  
**Respite** (n/v): a short period of rest or relief from something difficult or unpleasant  
**Resplendent** (adj): attractive and impressive through being richly coloured or sumptuous  
**Responsiveness** (n): state of reacting readily to appeals, orders, etc  
**Restitution** (n): the restoration of something lost or stolen to its proper owner or to its original state  
**Restive** (adj): (of a person) unable to remain still, silent or submissive, especially because of boredom or dissatisfaction  
**Restraint** (n): a measure of condition that someone or something under control  
**Resumption** (n): the action of beginning something again after a pause or interruption  
**Resurgence** (n): an increase or revival after a period of little activity, popularity or occurrence  
**Resurrect** (v): to revive or revitalize something that is inactive, disused or forgotten  
**Resuscitate** (v): to revive someone or something  
**Retaliate** (v): to make an attack in return for a similar attack  
**Retard** (v): to delay or hold back in terms of progress or development  
**Retentive** (adj): (of a person's memory) effective in retaining facts and impressions  
**Reticent** (adj): not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily; reserved  
**Reticulate** (v): to divide or mark something in such a way as to resemble a net or network  
**Retinue** (n): a group of advisers, assistants or other accompanying an important person or team  
**Retort** (n): quick, sharp reply  
**Retract** (v): to withdraw; take back  
**Retrench** (v): (of an organization or individual) to reduce costs or spending in response to economic difficulty  
**Retribution** (n): punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act  
**Retrieve** (v): to recover; find and bring in

**Retro** (adj): imitative of a style or fashion from the recent past  
**Retroactive** (adj): (especially of a rule) taking effect from a date in the past  
**Retrograde** (adj): reverting to an earlier or inferior condition  
**Retrospective** (adj): looking back on the past  
**Revamp** (v): to give new or improved form, structure or appearance to  
**Revelation** (n): a surprising and previously unknown fact that has been disclosed to others  
**Revelry** (n): boisterous merrymaking  
**Reverberate** (v): 1. (of a loud sound) to be repeated several times as an echo  
 2. having continuing and serious effects  
**Reverence** (n): deep respect for someone or something  
**Reverie** (n): a state of being pleasantly lost in one's thought; a daydream  
**Revert** (v): to return to a previous state, practice, topic, etc  
**Revile** (v): to criticize in an abusive or angrily insulting manner  
**Revive** (v): to restore to life or consciousness; to give new strength or energy to something  
**Revoke** (v): to cancel; retract  
**Revulsion** (n): a sense of disgust or loathing; sudden violent change of feeling  
**Rhapsodize** (v): to speak or write about someone or something with great enthusiasm and delight  
**Rhetoric** (n): 1. art of effective communication  
 2. insincere or grandiloquent language  
**Ribald** (adj): referring to sexual matters in an amusingly rude or irreverent way  
**Ribbed** (adj): (especially of a fabric or garment) having a pattern of raised bands  
**Rickety** (adj): (of a structure or piece of equipment) poorly made and likely to collapse  
**Ricochet** (v): (of a bullet or other projectile) to rebound off a surface  
**Riddle** (n/v): 1. a question or statement intentionally phrased so as to require ingenuity in ascertaining its answer or meaning  
 2. something one doesn't understand and cannot explain  
 3. (As verb) to pierce with holes; permeate or spread throughout  
**Rider** (n): a condition or proviso added to something already agreed  
**Ridicule** (n): to subject someone or something to mockery and derision  
**Rife** (adj): (especially of something undesirable) of common occurrence; widespread  
**Rifle** (v): 1. to turn over something, especially the pages of a book, quickly and casually  
 2. (rifle through) to search quickly through something  
**Riff-raff** (n): disreputable or undesirable people  
**Rift** (n): 1. a crack, split or break in something  
 2. a serious break in friendly relations  
**Rig** (v): to fix or manipulate to gain an advantage  
**Righteous** (adj): morally right or justifiable



**Rigid** (*adj*): not able to be changed or adapted  
**Rigorous** (*adj*): extremely thorough and careful  
**Rile** (*v*): to make someone annoyed or irritated  
**Riparian** (*adj*): relating to or situated on the banks of a river  
**Rip off** (*n*): to cheat someone by charging too much money  
**Riposte** (*n*): a quick, clever reply to an insult or criticism  
**Ripple** (*n*): 1. a small wave or series of waves on the surface of water  
 2. if an event causes ripples, its effects gradually spread, causing several other events to happen one after the other

**Rip-roaring** (*adj*): full of energy and vigour  
**Risible** (*adj*): provoking laughter through being ludicrous  
**Risque** (*adj*): slightly indecent and liable to shock, especially by being sexually suggestive

**Ritzy** (*adj*): expensively stylish

**Riveting** (*adj*): absorbing; engrossing

**Rivulet** (*n*): a small stream of water or another liquid

**Robust** (*adj*): vigorous; strong

**Rococo** (*adj*): (especially of music or literature) extravagantly ornate

**Rogue** (*n*): a dishonest or unprincipled man (but who is nonetheless likeable or attractive)

**Romp** (*v*): 1. (especially of a child or animal) to play roughly and energetically

**Rook** (*v*): to cheat

**Rookie** (*n*): a new recruit in an organization or team

**Ropey** (*adj*): in bad condition or of low quality

**Rort** (*n/v*): a fraudulent or dishonest act or practice

**Roster** (*n*): a list of members in a team or an organization

**Rostrum** (*n*): a raised platform on which a person stands to make a speech

**Rosy** (*adj*): promising or suggesting good fortune or happiness

**Rote** (*n*): mechanical or habitual repetition of something to be learned

**Rotund** (*adj*): (of a person) large and plump

**Rousing** (*adj*): exciting; stirring

**Rout** (*v*): a decisive defeat

**Rowdy** (*adj*): noisy and disorderly

**Rubble** (*n*): fragments of bricks, stones left as the debris from the demolition of buildings

**Ruddy** (*adj*): (of a person's face) having a healthy red colour

**Rudimentary** (*adj*): not developed; elementary; crude

**Rue** (*v*): to regret; lament; mourn

**Ruffian** (*n*): a violent person, especially one involved in crime

**Ruffle** (*v*): 1. to make a smooth surface uneven  
 2. to offend or upset someone slightly

**Ruinous** (*adj*): disastrous or destructive

**Rumble** (*v*): to discover an illicit activity or its perpetrator

**Rumbling** (*n*): a sign of dissatisfaction or that a situation is becoming worse

**Ruminate** (*v*): to think deeply about something

**Rummage** (*v*): to search unsystematically and untidily for something

**Ruse** (*n*): an action intended to deceive someone; a trick

**Rustic** (*adj*): having a simplicity and charm that is considered typical of a countryside

**Rusticate** (*v*): to suspend a student from college as punishment

**Ruthless** (*adj*): having or showing no pity or compassion for others

## S

**Saboteur** (*n*): a person who deliberately destroys, damages or obstructs something

**Sacrilege** (*n*): violation or misuse of what is regarded as sacred

**Sacrosanct** (*adj*): thought to be too important or too special to be changed; inviolable

**Sadistic** (*adj*): inclined to cruelty

**Saga** (*n*): a long story, account or series of incidents

**Sagacious** (*adj*): having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgement; wise or shrewd

**Salacious** (*adj*): having or conveying undue or indecent interest in sexual matters

**Salient** (*adj*): most noticeable or important

**Saline** (*adj*): salty

**Sallow** (*adj*): (of a person's face or complexion) of an unhealthy yellow or pale brown colour

**Salubrious** (*adj*): health-giving; healthy

**Salutary** (*adj*): (especially with reference to something unwelcome or unpleasant) producing good effects; beneficial

**Salvage** (*v*): rescue from loss

**Samaritan** (*n*): a charitable or helpful person

**Sanctimonious** (*adj*): making a show of being morally superior to others

**Sanction** (*n*): approve; ratify

**Sanctity** (*v*): the state or quality of being holy, sacred or saintly

**Sanctuary** (*n*): refuge or safety from pursuit, persecution or other danger

**Sanguinary** (*adj*): involving or causing much bloodshed

**Sanguine** (*adj*): cheerfully optimistic

**Sanitize** (*v*): to remove particular details from a report, story, etc in order to make it less offensive unpleasant or embarrassing

**Sap** (*v*): to drain someone of strength or power

**Sarcastic** (*adj*): using irony in order to mock or convey contempt

**Sardonic** (*adj*): grimly mocking or cynical

**Sartorial** (*adj*): relating to tailoring, clothes or style of dress

**Sate** (*adj*): satisfy to the full

**Satiate** (*v*): satisfy fully

**Satire** (*n*): the use of humour, irony, exaggeration or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity and vices

**Saturate** (*v*): to soak thoroughly

**Saunter** (*v*): to walk in a slow, relaxed manner



**Savage** (adj): cruel and vicious; aggressively hostile  
**Savant** (n): scholar  
**Saviour** (n): a person who saves someone or something from danger or difficulty  
**Savoir faire** (n): the ability to act or speak appropriately in social situations  
**Savour** (v): to enjoy and appreciate something to the full  
**Scabrous** (adj): indecent; salacious  
**Scad** (n): a great quantity  
**Scale** (v): climb up; ascent  
**Scandalous** (adj): causing general public outrage by a perceived offence against morality or law  
**Scanty** (adj): insufficient in quantity or amount  
**Scapegoat** (n): a person who is blamed for the mistakes of others  
**Scary** (adj): frightening; causing fear  
**Scathing** (adj): severely critical  
**Scavenge** (v): search and collect something from discarded waste  
**Schematic** (adj): (of a thought, ideas, etc) simplistic or formulaic in character  
**Schism** (n): a split or division between strongly opposed sections or parties, caused by difference in opinion  
**Scintilla** (n): a tiny trace or spark of a specified quality or feeling  
**Scintillate** (v): sparkle; flash  
**Scoff** (v): mock; ridicule  
**Scorching** (adj): very hot  
**Scorn** (n): a feeling and expression of contempt or disdain for someone or something  
**Scotch** (v): to decisively put an end to something  
**Scour** (v): to subject a place or text to a thorough search in order to locate something  
**Scourge** (n): a person or thing that causes great trouble or suffering  
**Scrape** (v): just manage to achieve; accomplish with great effort or difficulty  
**Scrawl** (v): to write something in a hurried, careless way; to scribble  
**Screwed up** (adj): an emotionally disturbed person  
**Scrimp** (v): be thrifty or parsimonious; economize  
**Scrumptious** (adj): extremely appetizing and delicious food  
**Scruple** (n): a feeling of doubt or hesitation with regard to the morality of a course of action  
**Scrupulous** (adj): (of a person or process) diligent, thorough and extremely attentive to details  
**Scrutinize** (v): examine or inspect closely or thoroughly  
**Scuffle** (n): a short, confused fight or struggle at close quarters  
**Scurrilous** (adj): spreading scandalous claims about someone with the intention of damaging his reputation  
**Scurry** (v): to move briskly  
**Scurvy** (adj): worthless; contemptible  
**Scuttle** (v): 1. to sink one's own ship deliberately  
 2. to deliberately cause a scheme to fail  
**Seamless** (adj): smooth and without obvious joints  
**Seamy** (adj): sordid and disreputable

**Sear** (v): 1. char or burn  
 2. to have a strong sudden and unpleasant effect  
**Seasoned** (adj): experienced  
**Secession** (n): the action of withdrawing formally from membership of a body  
**Seclusion** (n): the state of being private and away from other people  
**Secrete** (v): to conceal; hide  
**Sect** (n): a separate religious body; faction  
**Secular** (adj): (of a fluctuation or trend) occurring or persisting over an indefinitely long period  
**Sedate** (adj): calm, dignified and unhurried  
**Sedentary** (adj): characterized by much sitting and little physical exercise  
**Sedition** (n): conduct or speech inciting people to rebel against the authority  
**Seductive** (adj): tempting and attractive  
**Sedulous** (adj): (of a person or action) showing dedication and diligence  
**Seedy** (adj): sordid and disreputable  
**Seeming** (adj): appearing to be real or true, but not necessarily being so; apparent  
**Seemly** (adj): conforming to accepted notions of propriety or good taste  
**Seep** (v): ooze; trickle  
**Seethe** (v): 1. (of a liquid) boil or be turbulent as if boiling  
 2. (of a person) be filled with intense but unexpressed anger  
 3. (of a place) be crowded with people or things moving about in a rapid or hectic way  
**Segregation** (n): the action or state of setting someone or something apart from each other  
**Seismic** (adj): pertaining to earthquakes  
**Self-centered** (adj): preoccupied with oneself and one's affairs; selfish  
**Semantic** (adj): relating to meaning in language or logic  
**Semblance** (n): the outward appearance or apparent form of something, especially when the reality is different  
**Seminal** (adj): strongly influencing future developments  
**Senile** (adj): showing a lack of mental ability because of old age  
**Sensationalize** (v): (especially of a newspaper) present information in a sensational way  
**Sensual** (adj): expressing or suggesting physical, especially sexual pleasure or satisfaction; carnal; voluptuous  
**Sententious** (adj): trying to appear wise, clever and important  
**Sentient** (adj): able to experience physical and possibly emotional feelings  
**Sentinel** (n): a soldier or guard whose job is to stand keep watch  
**Septuagenarian** (n): a person who is between 70 and 79 years old  
**Sequester** (v): isolate or hide away  
**Serendipity** (n): the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way  
**Serenity** (n): the state of being calm, peaceful and untroubled; placidity  
**Serpentine** (adj): winding; twisting; complex



**Serrated (adj):** having a row of sharp points along the edge

**Servile (adj):** too eager to serve and please someone else in a way that shows a lack of respect for oneself

**Servitude (n):** the state of being under the control of someone else and of having no freedom; slavery

**Sever (v):** to put an end to (a connection or relationship); break off

**Severity (n):** intensity; harshness; austerity

**Shabby (adj):** 1. in poor condition through long use or lack of care  
2. (of behaviour) mean and unfair

**Shackle (v):** restrain; limit

**Sham (n):** someone or something that is not what it pretends to be; pretence

**Shamble (v):** to move with a slow, shuffling awkward gait

**Shambles (n):** a state of total disorder

**Shard (n):** a piece of broken ceramic, metal, glass or rock, typically having sharp edges

**Sheath (n):** a close fitting protective covering

**Sheen (n):** a soft luster on a surface

**Sheer (adj):** 1. (used for emphasis) nothing except; complete  
2. extremely steep; almost vertical

**Shell out (v/adv):** to pay money, especially unwillingly

**Shellacking (n):** defeat or beat someone decisively

**Shelve (v):** decide not to proceed with a plan either temporarily or permanently

**Shenanigan (n):** a complicated, dishonest activity intended to bring advantages by deceiving people

**Shimmer (v):** to shine with a soft tremulous light

**Shindig (n):** a large, lively party, especially one celebrating something

**Shindy (n):** a noisy disturbance or quarrel

**Shirk (v):** to avoid or neglect a duty or responsibility; mangle

**Shoddy (adj):** 1. badly made or done  
2. showing a lack of respect, consideration and care

**Shore up (v/adv):** to make something stronger by supporting it

**Showcase (n):** a situation or event which makes it possible for the best features of something to be seen

**Showdown (n):** a final test or confrontation intended to settle a dispute

**Shrew (n):** a bad-tempered or aggressively assertive woman

**Shrewd (adj):** having or showing sharp powers of judgement; astute

**Shrill (adj):** sounding loud and high in a way that is unpleasant or painful to listen

**Shroud (v):** 1. to hide something by covering or surrounding it  
2. to keep information secret so that people do not know what really happened

**Shun (v):** to keep away from

**Shunt (v):** to move someone or something to a particular place often without considering the unpleasant effects that this might have

**Shyster (n):** a person, especially a lawyer, who uses unscrupulous fraudulent or deceptive methods in business

**Sibling (n):** a brother or sister

**Sibylline (adj):** prophetic and mysterious

**Sidereal (adj):** related to stars

**Siege (n):** the surrounding of a place by an armed force in order to defeat those defending it

**Signatory (n):** a person, person, organization or character which has signed an agreement

**Silhouette (n):** a dark shape seen against a light background

**Silt (n):** sediment deposited by running water

**Simian (adj):** like monkey

**Simper (v):** to smile in a foolish or silly way

**Simplistic (adj):** treating complex issues and problems as if they were much simpler than really are

**Simulate (v):** to imitate the appearance or character of

**Sinecure (n):** well-paid position with little responsibility

**Sinewy (adj):** tough, strong and firm

**Singular (adj):** of an unusual quality or standard; noticeable; odd

**Sinister (adj):** giving the impression that something harmful or evil is happening or will happen

**Sinuous (adj):** having many curves and turns

**Sketchy (adj):** not thorough or detailed

**Skew (adj):** 1. neither parallel nor at right angles to a specified or implied line; askew; crooked  
2. a bias towards one particular group or subject

**Skim (v):** to read something quickly or cursorily so as to note only the important points

**Skimp (v):** to use less of something than is necessary in an attempt to economize

**Skinflint (n):** stingy person; a miser

**Skirmish (n):** a small fight which is usually short and not planned

**Skittish (adj):** nervous or excitable; inclined to shy

**Skullduggery (n):** secret and dishonest behaviour

**Skulk (v):** to hide or move around as if trying not to be seen, usually with bad intentions

**Slack (adj):** 1. not tight; loose  
2. showing a lack of activity; not busy or happening in a positive way

**Slake (v):** to satisfy a thirst or desire

**Slander (n):** utterance of false and malicious statements; defamation

**Slang (adj):** 1. a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing and are particularly restricted to a particular context or group of people  
2. (as verb) attack someone using abusive language



**Slant (v):** to present or view information from a particular angle, especially in a biased or unfair way

**Slapdash (adj):** done too hurriedly or carelessly

**Slap-happy (adj):** cheerfully casual, often in a careless and irresponsible way

**Slay (v):** to kill in a violent way

**Sleaze (n):** immoral, sordid and corrupt behaviour or activities

**Sleek (adj):** (for hair, fur or skin) smooth and glossy

**Sleight (n):** the use of dexterity or cunning, especially so as to deceive

**Slender (adj):** 1. (of a person or part of body) gracefully thin  
2. small and very limited in amount or size; slim

**Sleuth (n):** a detective

**Slick (adj):** 1. done or operating in an impressively smooth and efficient way  
2. smooth and superficially impressive but insincere and shallow

**Slight (n):** an insult caused by a failure to show someone proper respect or attention

**Slipshod (adj):** characterized by a lack of care, thought or organization; shabby

**Slither (v):** to move smoothly over a surface with a twisting or oscillating motion

**Slob (n):** a lazy person, especially one who is untidy and unattractive

**Sloppy (adj):** 1. careless and unsystematic; excessively casual  
2. (of literature or behaviour) foolishly sentimental

**Sloth (n):** reluctance to work or make an effort; laziness

**Slouch (v):** 1. to stand, move or sit in a lazy drooping way  
2. if someone is no slouch at a particular activity it means he works hard at it and produces results

**Slough (v):** 1. a mental state of deep sadness and hopelessness  
2. (slough off) to get rid of something, especially something that is damaging

**Slovenly (adj):** untidy; careless in work habits

**Sluggish (adj):** slow; lazy; lethargic

**Sluice (n):** an artificial channel for directing or controlling the flow of water

**Slur (n/v):** 1. insult to one's character or reputation; slander  
2. (as verb) to speak indistinctly; mumble

**Sly (adj):** 1. having or showing a cunning and deceitful nature  
2. a smile, look etc. that shows one knows something insinere

**Smarmy (adj):** extremely good, attractive, enjoyable or pleasant

**Smattering (n):** a slight superficial knowledge of a language or subject

**Smear (v):** 1. to spread (a thick liquid or soft sticky substance) over a surface  
2. to damage the reputation of someone by false accusations; slander

**Smidgen (or smidgin or smidgeon) (n):** a very small amount

**Smirch (v):** 1. to make something dirty

2. to discredit a person or his reputation; taint

**Smirk (v):** to smile in an unpleasant way that shows one is pleased by someone else's bad luck or thinks one is better than others

**Smitten (adj):** having suddenly started to like something very much or be in love with someone

**Smother (v):** 1. to cover someone or something entirely with  
2. to suppress a feeling or an action; stifle

**Smoulder (v):** 1. to burn slowly with smoke but no flames  
2. to show or feel barely suppressed anger, hatred or another powerful emotion

**Snaffle (v):** to take something quickly, especially before anyone else has had the time or the chance to do this

**Snafu (n):** a confused or chaotic state; a mess

**Snag (n):** a problem, difficulty or disadvantage

**Snappy (adj):** 1. smart; attractive; fashionable  
2. immediately effective in getting people's attention or communicating an idea

**Snarled (adj):** (of a long line of traffic) unable to move forward because of something blocking the road

**Snazzy (adj):** modern and stylish in a way that attracts attention

**Sneak (v):** 1. to move or go secretly  
2. to look at something quickly and secretly, especially something that one is not supposed to see  
3. to steal something unimportant or of little value

**Sneer (n):** a contemptuous or mocking smile, remark or tone

**Snicker (v):** to give a smothered or half-suppressed laugh at something which is not supposed to be funny; snigger

**Snide (adj):** 1. (especially of remarks) containing unpleasant and indirect criticism  
2. counterfeit; inferior

**Snigger (v):** to laugh in a half-suppressed, typical scornful way

**Snip (v):** to cut with scissors or shears, typically with small quick strokes

**Snippet (n):** a small piece or brief extract

**Snitch (v):** 1. to quickly steal something unimportant or of little value  
2. to inform to someone

**Snivel (v):** cry and snuffle; complain in a whining or tearful way

**Snobbish (adj):** behaving in a way that shows one thinks that one is better than other people because one is from a higher social class or knows more than others

**Snooker (v):** to prevent someone from completing an intended plan of action

**Snoop (v):** to investigate or look around furtively in an attempt to find out something, especially information about someone's private affairs

**Snotty (adj):** having or showing a superior or conceited attitude

**Snub (v):** to insult someone by not giving him any attention or treating him as if he is not important

**Snug (adj):** comfortable, warm and cosy; well protected from the weather and cold



- Sobriquet** (n): nickname
- Sodden** (adj): saturated with liquid, especially water
- Sojourn** (n): a temporary stay
- Solace** (n): comfort or consolation in a time of great distress or sadness
- Solecism** (n): 1. breach of good manners; an instance of incorrect behaviour  
2. a grammatical mistake in speech or writing
- Solemnity** (n): the state or quality of being serious or dignified
- Solicit** (v): to request earnestly; to ask formally for something
- Sollicitious** (adj): showing care and helpful attention to someone
- Solidarity** (n): unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest
- Soliloquy** (n): talking to oneself
- Solitude** (n): the state or situation of being alone
- Solvent** (adj): having enough money to pay all that one owes to other people
- Sombre** (adj): serious, sad and without humour and amusement
- Somnolent** (adj): almost sleeping or causing sleep
- Sonorous** (adj): having a deep pleasant sound
- Soothsayer** (n): a person supposed to be able to foresee the future
- Sophism** (n): a clever but false argument, espt. one used deliberately to deceive
- Soporific** (adj): tending to induce drowsiness or sleep
- Soppy** (adj): 1. self-indulgently/foolishly sentimental  
2. lacking spirit and strength of character
- Sordid** (adj): 1. unpleasant because dirty or in bad condition  
2. (of behaviour) dishonest and not deserving respect
- Sorely** (adv): extremely; very much
- Sos** (n): a request for help, because of danger
- Sovereign** (adj): possessing supreme or ultimate power
- Sparse** (adj): not thick; thinly scattered; scanty
- Spartan** (adj): simple and severe with no comfort
- Spasmodic** (adj): lasting only for short periods of time; irregular
- Spat** (n): a minor dispute
- Spate** (n): an unusually large number of events, especially unwanted ones, happening at about the same time
- Spatial** (adj): related to space
- Specious** (adj): seemingly reasonable but incorrect
- Speck** (n): a very small mark, piece or amount
- Spectacle** (n): a splendid public event or show; a splendid appearance
- Spectral** (adj): ghostly
- Spectrum** (n): coloured band produced when a beam of light passes through a prism
- Speculate** (v): to buy and sell in the hope that the value of what one buy will increase and that it can then be sold at a higher price in order to make a profit
- Spellbound** (adj): having one's attention completely held by something, so that one cannot think about anything else
- Spendthrift** (adj): a person who spends money in a wasteful way
- Spike** (v): to stop something from happening
- Spinster** (n): a woman who is not married, especially a woman who is no longer young and seems unlikely ever to marry
- Splash out** (v/adv): to spend a lot of money on buying goods, especially luxury goods; splurge
- Splendour** (n): magnificent and splendid appearance; grandeur
- Splice** (v): to fasten together; unite
- Spoilsport** (n): a person who stops other persons from enjoying themselves
- Spontaneous** (adj): happening or done in a natural, often sudden way, without any planning or without being forced
- Spook** (n): a spy; a secret person
- Spoonerism** (n): a verbal error in which a speaker accidentally transposes the initial sounds or letters of two or more words, often to humorous effect
- Sporadic** (adj): occurring at irregular intervals or only in a few places; scattered or isolated
- Sport** (n): a person who behaves in a good and specified way in response to teasing, defeat or a similarly trying situation
- Spout** (v): to repeat meaningless things continuously that is boring and annoying to other people
- Sprawl** (v): 1. to spread the arms and legs out carelessly and untidily while sitting or lying down  
2. if buildings sprawl, they spread out over a wide area in an untidy and unattractive way
- Spree** (n): a short period of doing a particular, often enjoyable, activity much more than is usual
- Spruce** (adj): tidy, neat and trim
- Spry** (adj): (especially of old people) active and able to move quickly and energetically
- Spurious** (adj): false; counterfeit; forged
- Spurn** (v): to reject; scorn
- Spurt** (v): to flow out suddenly and with force, in a fast stream
- Squabble** (n): a silly argument over an unimportant matter
- Squalid** (adj): 1. (of a place) extremely dirty and unpleasant  
2. immoral; involving sex and drugs
- Squander** (v): to waste money or time in a reckless and foolish manner
- Squash** (v): 1. to crush or squeeze something with force so that it becomes flat, soft or out of shape  
2. to suppress or subdue a feeling or action
- Squat** (v/adj): 1. to crouch or sit with one's knees bent and one's heels close to or touching one's buttocks or the back of one's thighs  
2. unlawfully occupy an uninhabited building or settle on a piece of land  
3. (as adj) stocky, short and thick
- Squeak** (v): 1. to make a high-pitched sound or cry  
2. to succeed in achieving something by a very narrow margin; scrape
- Squeamish** (adj): easily made to feel sick or disgusted



**Squib (n):** a short piece of writing (which attacks someone or something in a humorous way)

**Squirm (v):** to wriggle or twist the body from side to side, especially as a result of nervousness or discomfort; wriggle

**Squirt (v):** (to force a liquid) to flow out through a narrow opening in a fast stream

**Stab (v):** to thrust a knife or other pointed weapon into someone so as to wound or kill

**Staccato (adj):** a musical note or sound which consists of short and separate notes

**Stagger (v):** 1. to walk or move unsteadily, as if about to fall  
2. to cause someone to feel shocked or surprised  
3. to arrange (events, payments, hours, etc) so that they do not occur at the same time

**Stagnant (adj):** not growing or developing; motionless

**Staid (adj):** serious, boring and highly old-fashioned

**Stake (n):** a sum of money or something else of value gambled on the outcome of a risky game or venture

**Stalemate (n):** a situation in which further action or progress by opposing or competing parties seems impossible

**Stalk (v):** to follow an animal or person as closely as possible without being seen or heard

**Stalwart (adj):** 1. loyal, reliable and hardworking  
2. strongly built and sturdy

**Staple (adj):** basic or main; standard or regular

**Stark (adj):** 1. severe or bare in appearance or outline; unpleasantly clear and impossible to avoid  
2. complete; sheer

**Star-struck (adj):** fascinated or greatly impressed by famous people, especially those connected with cinema or theatre

**Startle (v):** to cause to feel sudden shock or alarm

**Statesman (n):** an experienced politician, especially one who is respected for making good judgments

**Static (adj):** lacking in movement, action or change

**Stature (n):** importance or reputation gained by ability or achievement

**Statute (n):** a law which has been formally approved and written down

**Staunch (adj/v):** 1. very loyal and committed in attitude; steadfast  
2. (as verb) to stop or restrict something from happening

**Steadfast (adj):** resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering

**Stealth (n):** cautious and surreptitious action or movement

**Steamroller (v):** an oppressive and relentless power or force

**Steep (v):** to soak in water or other liquid

**Stellar (adj):** 1. pertaining to stars  
2. exceptionally good; outstanding

**Stem (v):** 1. check the flow  
2. (stem from) originate in or be caused by

**Stentorian (adj):** (of a person's voice) loud and powerful

**Stereotype (n):** a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing

**Sterling (adj):** of a very high standard; admirable

**Stern (adj):** (of a person or his manners) serious and unrelenting, especially in the assertion of authority and exercise of discipline

**Stickler (n):** a person who insists on a particular quality or a type of behaviour

**Stifle (v):** prevent or constraint (an activity or idea)

**Stifling (adj):** a room or weather that is stifling is very hot and uncomfortable, so that it seems difficult to breathe

**Stigma (n):** a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality or person

**Stilted (adj):** (of a person's behaviour or way of speaking or writing) too formal and not smooth and natural

**Stimulate (v):** encourage or arouse interest or enthusiasm in

**Stingy (adj):** unwilling to spend money

**Stint (v/n):** 1. to supply a very ungenerous or inadequate amount of something  
2. (as noun) a person's fixed or allotted period of work

**Stipend (n):** pay for services

**Stipple (v):** to draw or paint something in small spots or marks

**Stipulate (v):** to state exactly how something must be or must be done

**Stodgy (adj):** dull and uninspired; lacking originality or excitement

**Stoic (adj):** a person who can endure pain or hardship without showing his feelings or complaining

**Stoke (v):** encourage or incite (a strong emotion or tendency)

**Stolidity (n):** dullness

**Stomp (v):** to walk with intentionally heavy steps, especially as a way of showing annoyance

**Stooge (n):** a subordinate used by one to do unpleasant routine work

**Stoop (v):** to bend the top half of the body forward and down

**Stopgap (n):** something intended for temporary use until something better or more suitable can be obtained

**Stouthearted (adj):** brave and determined

**Straddle (v):** 1. to sit or stand with one's legs on either side of something  
2. not state clearly what one's opinion is in an argument

**Straitened (adj):** (of a person's situation) difficult because there is much less money than there was in the past

**Straitjacket (n):** a severe restriction on freedom of action, development or expression

**Straitlaced (adj):** having old-fashioned and fixed morals, especially related to sexual matters

**Stranded (adj):** unable to leave a place because of lack of transport or money

**Stranglehold (n):** complete control

**Strapped (adj):** not having enough money

**Stratagem (n):** carefully planned way of achieving or dealing with something, often involving a trick

**Stratify (v):** to arrange the different parts in separate layers or groups

**Stray (v):** to move away aimlessly from a group or from the right course or plan



**Streak (n)**: 1. a mark of a different substance or colour from its surroundings  
2. an element of a specified kind in someone's character

**Streamline (v)**: to improve the effectiveness of an organization by simplifying the way activities are performed

**Strenuous (adj)**: demanding or using a lot of physical or mental effort or energy

**Strew (v)**: to scatter or spread things untidily over a surface or area

**Striated (adj)**: marked with parallel bands; grooved

**Stricken (adj)**: suffering severely from the effects of something

**Stricture (n)**: 1. a statement of severe criticism or disapproval  
2. a severe moral or physical limitation

**Stride (n)**: an important positive development

**Strident (adj)**: presenting a point of view, especially a controversial one, in an excessively forceful way

**Strife (n)**: violent or angry disagreement

**Stringent (adj)**: (of regulations, requirements or conditions) strict, precise and exacting

**Strive (v)**: to make great efforts to achieve or obtain something

**Stroll (v)**: to walk in a leisurely way

**Strut (v)**: to walk in a proud way trying to look important

**Stubborn (adj)**: having dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something, especially in spite of good reasons to do so

**Studied (adj)**: (of a quality or result) achieved and maintained by careful and deliberate effort

**Stultify (v)**: to cause to lose enthusiasm and initiative, especially as a result of a tedious or restrictive routine

**Stupefy (v)**: 1. to surprise or shock someone  
2. to make someone tired and unable to think clearly

**Stupendous (adj)**: very surprising, usually in a pleasing way, especially by being large in amounts or size

**Stupor (n)**: a state of near-unconsciousness or insensibility

**Sturdy (adj)**: strong and solidly built

**Stygian (adj)**: extremely and unpleasantly dark; gloomy; hellish

**Stymie (v)**: to present an obstacle; stump; thwart

**Suave (adj)**: (especially of men) having a pleasant and charming manner, which is sometimes considered to be false

**Subaltern (adj)**: of lower status; subordinate

**Subdued (adj)**: (of a person or his manner) quiet and rather reflective or depressed

**Subjective (adj)**: based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes or opinions

**Subjugate (v)**: to bring under domination or control, especially by conquest

**Sublimate (v)**: to transform something into a purer or idealized form

**Sublime (adj)**: extremely good, beautiful or enjoyable

**Subliminal (adj)**: not recognized or understood by conscious mind, but still having an influence on it

**Submissive (adj)**: to allow oneself to be controlled by others; yielding; timid

**Suborn (v)**: to bribe or otherwise induce someone to commit an unlawful act such as perjury

**Subpoena (v)**: a writ ordering a person to attend a court

**Subsequent (adj)**: happening after something else

**Subservient (adj)**: prepared to obey others unquestioningly; servile

**Subsidiary (adj)**: less important than something else with which it is connected

**Subsidy (n)**: money given as part of the cost of something, to help or encourage it to happen

**Subsist (v)**: to maintain or support oneself, especially at a minimal level

**Substantial (adj)**: 1. large in size, value or importance  
2. concerning the essentials of something

**Substantiate (v)**: to provide evidence to support or prove the truth of something

**Substantive (adj)**: important, serious or related to real facts

**Subsume (v)**: to include something or someone as part of a larger group

**Subterfuge (n)**: an action taken to hide something from someone

**Subtle (adj)**: 1. (especially of a change or distinction) so delicate or precise as to be difficult to analyze or describe  
2. making use of clever and indirect methods to achieve something

**Subversive (adj)**: seeking or intended to overthrow an established system or institution

**Succinct (adj)**: (of writing or speech) clear and short; expressing what needs to be said without unnecessary words; terse

**Succour (or succor) (n)**: assistance and support in times of hardship and distress

**Succulent (adj)**: juicy; full of richness

**Succumb (v)**: to fail to resist pressure, temptation or some other negative force

**Sue (v)**: to institute legal proceedings against a person or an institution, typically for redress

**Suffice (v)**: to be enough or adequate

**Suffragist (n)**: advocate for voting rights for women

**Suffuse (v)**: to gradually spread through or over

**Suitor (n)**: 1. a man who wants to marry a particular woman  
2. a prospective buyer of a business or corporation

**Sulky (adj)**: morose, bad-tempered and resentful; refusing to be cooperative or cheerful

**Sullen (adj)**: bad-tempered and sulky

**Sully (v)**: to spoil (something or someone's perfect reputation, purity or cleanliness)

**Sultry (adj)**: 1. hot and humid weather  
2. (especially of a woman or her behaviour) displaying or suggesting a strongly sexual nature



**Summation** (n) : the process of adding things together  
**Summit** (n) : 1. the highest point of a hill or mountain  
 2. a meeting between heads of government  
**Summon** (v) : to make an effort to produce a particular quality or reaction from within oneself  
**Sumptuous** (adj) : splendid and expensive looking  
**Sunder** (v) : to split apart  
**Sundry** (adj) : of various kinds; various  
**Superannuated** (adj) : outdated or obsolete through age or new developments  
**Supercilious** (adj) : behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others  
**Supererogation** (n) : the performance of more work than duty requires  
**Superficial** (adj) : 1. appearing to be true or real only until examined more closely  
 2. not thorough, deep or complete; cursory  
 3. lacking depth of character or understanding  
**Superfluous** (adj) : unnecessary, especially through being more than enough  
**Superimpose** (v) : to place or lay one thing over another, typically so that both are still evident  
**Supernal** (adj) : 1. relating to sky or the heavens; celestial  
 2. of exceptional quality or extent  
**Supernumerary** (adj) : person or thing in excess of what is necessary  
**Supersede** (v) : to replace (especially something older or old-fashioned)  
**Supine** (adj) : lying flat on back, looking up  
**Supplant** (v) : to replace; usurp  
**Supple** (adj) : bending and moving easily and gracefully; flexible  
**Supplicate** (v) : to ask or beg for something earnestly or humbly  
**Suppositious** (adj) : based on assumption rather than fact; hypothetical  
**Supranational** (adj) : having power and influence that transcends national boundaries or governments  
**Surefire** (adj) : certain to succeed  
**Sure-footed** (adj) : confident and competent  
**Surfeit** (n) : an excessive amount of something  
**Surge** (n) : a sudden and great increase or a sudden and great movement forward  
**Surmise** (v) : to suppose that something is true without having evidence to confirm it  
**Surmount** (v) : 1. to overcome a difficulty or obstacle  
 2. to stand or be placed on top of  
**Surpass** (v) : exceed; be greater than  
**Surreal** (adj) : strange; not like reality but like a dream  
**Surreptitious** (adj) : kept secret, especially because it would not be approved of  
**Surrogate** (n) : a substitute  
**Surveillance** (n) : close observation, especially of a suspected spy or criminal

**Susceptible** (adj) : 1. likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing; sensitive  
 2. (susceptible of) capable or admitting of  
**Suss** (v) : to realize; to grasp  
**Sustenance** (n) : the maintaining of someone or something in life or existence  
**Suture** (n) : a stitch used to sew up a cut in a person's body  
**Swank** (v) : to display one's wealth, knowledge or achievements in a way that is intended to impress others  
**Swansong** (n) : the final performance or activity of a person's career  
**Swarthy** (adj) : dark-complexioned  
**Swashbuckle** (v) : to engage in daring and romantic adventures with bravado and flamboyance  
**Swathe** (v) : to wrap around or cover something in something  
**Sway** (v/n) : 1. to move slowly from side to side  
 2. to persuade someone to do something rather than another  
 3. (as noun) to control or influence  
**Swelter** (v) : to feel very hot; to be oppressed by heat  
**Swerve** (v) : to change direction abruptly  
**Swill** (v) : to drink something greedily or in large quantities  
**Swindler** (n) : cheat  
**Swingeing** (adj) : severe or extreme in size, amount or effect  
**Swipe** (v/n) : 1. to steal  
 2. to hit or try to hit with a swinging blow  
 3. (as noun) a criticism of someone or something  
**Swish** (adj) : 1. fashionable and luxurious  
 2. to move quickly through air making a high soft sound  
**Swoon** (v) : to be extremely excited and unable to control oneself because one admires someone so much  
**Sybarite** (n) : a person who loves luxury and pleasure  
**Sycophant** (n) : a person who praises people in authority to get advantage from them, bootlicker  
**Syllogism** (n) : a process of logic in which two general statements lead to a more particular statement  
**Sylvan** (adj) : consisting of or associated with woods; pleasantly rural or pastoral  
**Symbiosis** (n) : a mutually beneficial relationship between different people or groups  
**Symmetry** (n) : arrangement of parts so that balance is obtained; congruity  
**Symposium** (n) : a conference at which people who have great knowledge of a particular subject meet in order to discuss a matter of interest  
**Synchronize** (v) : to (cause to) happen at the same time  
**Syndicate** (v) : a group of individuals or organizations combined to promote a common interest  
**Synergy** (n) : the combined power of a group of things when they are working together which is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately  
**Synoptic** (adj) : providing a general overview; summary



## T

**Tabloid (adj)** : a type of popular newspaper with small pages which has many pictures and dominated by sensational stories

**Taboo (adj)** : prohibited or restricted by social custom

**Tacit (adj)** : understood or implied without being stated

**Taciturn (adj)** : (of a person) reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little

**Tactile (adj)** : related to touch

**Taint (v)** : to damage something, especially by causing a reduction or change in quality, taste, etc

**Talisman (n)** : an object believed to bring good luck or to keep its owner safe from harm; charm

**Talon (n)** : claw of bird

**Tamper (with) (v)** : to touch or change something without permission or without enough knowledge of how it works

**Tandem (in tandem) (n)** : doing something together or at the same time

**Tangential (adj)** : hardly touching a matter; peripheral

**Tangible (adj)** : real or not imaginary; able to be shown or touched

**Tantalize (v)** : to excite or attract someone by an offer or a suggestion of something which is, in fact, unlikely to happen

**Tantamount (adj)** : equivalent in seriousness to; virtually the same as

**Tantrum (n)** : an uncontrolled outburst of anger and frustration, typically in a childish way

**Taper (v)** : diminish or reduce in thickness towards one end

**Tardy (adj)** : slow or late in happening or arriving

**Tarnish (v)** : to make or become less valuable or respected

**Tarry (v)** : to stay longer than intended; delay leaving a place

**Tart (adj)** : (especially of a way of speaking) quick, sharp and unpleasant

**Tarty (adj)** : (of a woman) dressed in a sexually provocative manner that is considered to be in bad taste

**Tattered (adj)** : old and torn; in poor condition

**Tattle (n)** : gossip; idle talk; tatty

**Taut (adj)** : 1. stretched or pulled tight

2. (of writing, music, etc.) concise and controlled

**Tautological (adj)** : needlessly repetitious

**Tawdry (adj)** : showy but cheap and of poor quality

**Tawny (adj)** : of an orange-brown or yellowish-brown colour

**Taxing (adj)** : physically or mentally demanding

**Tedious (adj)** : too long, slow or dull; tiresome or monotonous

**Tee (off) (v)** : to make someone angry

**Teetotalism (n)** : practice of abstaining totally from alcoholic drinks

**Telepathy (n)** : the supposed communication of thoughts or ideas by means other than the known senses

**Telltale (adj)** : allowing a secret to become known

**Temerity (n)** : excessive confidence or boldness; audacity

**Temper (v)** : to reduce the pleasant or unpleasant effects of something

**Temperament (n)** : characteristic frame of mind; disposition; emotional excess

**Temperate (adj)** : restrained; self-controlled

**Tempestuous (adj)** : 1. characterized by strong and turbulent or conflicting emotion  
2. very stormy

**Template (n)** : something that serves as a model for others to copy

**Tempo (n)** : the rate or speed of motion or activity; pace

**Temporal (adj)** : 1. relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs  
2. relating to time

**Temporize (v)** : to avoid making a decision or committing oneself in order to gain time

**Tenable (adj)** : able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection

**Tenacious (adj)** : one who is very determined and doesn't give up easily; persistent

**Tendentious (adj)** : expressing or intending to promote a particular cause or point of time, especially a controversial one

**Tender (v)** : offer; extend

**Tenet (n)** : one of the principles on which a belief or theory is based

**Tenor (n)** : the general meaning, character or pattern of something

**Tensile (adj)** : capable of being stretched

**Tentative (adj)** : 1. not certain or fixed; provisional  
2. done without confidence; hesitant

**Tenterhooks (n)** : worried or anxious about something that is going to happen

**Tenuous (adj)** : weak; easily damaged for proved false

**Tepid (adj)** : (of liquid) not very warm

**Terminal (adj)** : leading gradually to death

**Terminus (n)** : the last stop or the station at the end of a bus or railway route

**Terrestrial (adj)** : on or relating to the earth

**Terse (adj)** : using few words, sometimes in a way that seems rude or unfriendly

**Tertiary (adj)** : third service sector forms the tertiary sector of our economy, with agriculture the primary and industry the secondary.

**Tessellated (adj)** : fitted together in a pattern with no space in between

**Testament (n)** : 1. proof  
2. a person's will

**Testify (v)** : 1. to give or provide evidence in a court of law  
2. to serve as a proof that something exists or is the case

**Testy (adj)** : bad tempered and lacking patience

**Tetchy (adj)** : easily made angry, unhappy or upset

**Tlfe-b-tlfe (n)** : a private conversation between two people



**Tether (v)** : to tie an animal with a rope or chain so as to restrict its movement

**Thaw (v)** : to change from a solid, frozen state to become liquid or soft, because of an increase in temperature

**Thematic (adj)** : having or relating to subjects or a particular subject

**Theocracy (n)** : a government run by religious leaders

**Theoretical (adj)** : not practical or applied; hypothetical

**Therapeutic (adj)** : causing someone to feel happier and more relaxed or to be more healthy

**Thereabouts (adv)** : approximately

**Thespian (adj)** : pertaining to acting and theatre

**Thoroughfare (n)** : a main road for public use or a passage through somewhere

**Thoroughgoing (adj)** : complete; detailed; careful

**Thrall (n)** : slave; bondage

**Threadbare (adj)** : (of material) become thin or damaged because of being used a lot

**Threshold (n)** : a point or level at which something begins or starts to take effect

**Thrifty (adj)** : careful about money; economical; frugal

**Thrive (v)** : prosper; flourish

**Throes (n)** : in the process of doing something which is difficult, unpleasant or painful

**Throng (n)** : a large, densely packed crowd of people or animals

**Throttle (v)** : 1. to attack or kill someone by choking or strangling; strangle  
2. to make it difficult for something to succeed

**Thwart (v)** : to stop something from happening or someone from doing something

**Tiff (n)** : a slight argument

**Tightwad (n)** : a person who is not willing to spend money; miser

**Timbre (n)** : quality of a musical tone produced by a musical instrument

**Timidity (n)** : lack of self-confidence or courage

**Timorous (adj)** : nervous; easily frightened; lacking confidence

**Tinge (n)** : a very slight amount of a colour or of a feeling

**Tinker (v)** : to attempt to repair or improve something in a casual way

**Tinsel (n)** : showy or superficial attractiveness or glamour

**Tip-off (n)** : piece of information given in a discrete or confidential manner

**Tipple (v)** : to drink alcohol especially habitual

**Tiptoe (v)** : to walk quietly and carefully with one's heels raised

**Tirade (n)** : a long, angry speech of criticism or accusation

**Tiresome (adj)** : boring or annoying

**Titanic (adj)** : extremely powerful, strong, important or large

**Titillate (v)** : to arouse someone, especially through sexually suggestive images or words

**Titivate (v)** : to make minor enhancements

**Titter (v)** : to give a short, half-suppressed laugh; giggle

**Tittle-tattle (n)** : gossip

**Titular (adj)** : having the title of a position but not the responsibilities, duties or power; in name only

**Tizzy (n)** : a temporary state of anxiety and confusion

**Toady (n)** : servile flatterer; yes man

**Toil (n)** : hard work, especially that which is physically tiring

**Tomboy (n)** : a girl who acts and dresses like a boy

**Tomfoolery (n)** : foolish or silly behaviour

**Tonsure (n)** : shaving of the head, especially as a preparation for entering a religious order

**Toothsome (adj)** : (especially of food) attractive or pleasant

**Topical (adj)** : relating to things which are happening at present

**Topography (n)** : physical features of a region

**Topple (v)** : loose balance and fall down

**Topsy-turvy (adj/adv)** : in a state of confusion; upside down

**Torment (n)** : severe physical or mental suffering

**Torpid (adj)** : mentally physically inactive; lethargic; torpor

**Torque (n)** : a force that tends to cause rotation

**Torrent (n)** : an overwhelming outpouring of something

**Torrid (adj)** 1. full of passion arising from sexual love  
2. full of difficulty

**Torso (n)** : trunk of statue with head and limbs missing

**Tortuous (adj)** : full of twists and turns; not direct and simple

**Toss off (v/adv)** : to do something quickly, especially in a careless way or with little effort

**Tot (n)** : a small child

**Totalitarian (adj)** : relating to a system of government that is canalizing is dictatorial

**Tote (v)** : to carry something heavy or awkward

**Totter (v)** : to move unsteadily; to sway, as if about to fall

**Touchstone (n)** : an established standard or principle by which something is adjudged

**Touchy (adj)** : easily offended or upset; needing to be dealt with carefully

**Tour de force (n)** : an achievement or performance which shows great skill and attracts admiration

**Tout (v)** 1. to publicize; praise excessively  
2. to sell tickets unofficially, usually at a much higher than the official price

**Tract (n)** : a large area of land

**Tractable (adj)** : easily dealt with, controlled persuaded

**Traction (n)** : the force that prevents something such as a wheel sliding on a surface

**Traduce (v)** : to criticize very negatively

**Trait (n)** : a distinguishing quality or characteristic, typically one belonging to a person

**Traitor (n)** : a person who betrays someone or something, such as a friend, cause or principle

**Tramp (v)** : to walk over a long distance wearily or reluctantly

**Trample (on/upon/over) (v)** : to treat with contempt

**Tranquility (n)** : calmness; peace

**Transcend (v)** : to go beyond the range or limits of (a field of activity or conceptual sphere)



**Transcribe** (v) : to put thoughts, speech or data into written or printed form

**Transgress** (v) : to break a law or moral rule

**Transient** (adj) : lasting for only a short time

**Transition** (n) : a change from one form or type to another

**Translucent** (adj) : partly transparent

**Transmogrify** (v) : to transmute; to change something or someone completely

**Transpire** (v) : 1. (of a fact which was secret and not known) to become known  
2. to happen

**Transports** (n) : an overwhelmingly strong emotion

**Transpose** (v) : to cause two or more things to exchange places

**Trappings** (n) : all the things that are part of or are typical of a particular job, situation or event

**Trash** (n) : L something that is worthless and of low quality

**Travails** (n) : the difficulties that are experienced as part of a particular situation

**Travelogue** (n) : a film or book about traveling to or in a particular place

**Traverse** (v) : to move or travel

**Travesty** (n) : a false, absurd or distorted representation of something

**Trawl** (v) : to search thoroughly

**Treacherous** (adj) : 1. guilty of or involving betrayal or deception  
2. (of the ground or the sea) extremely dangerous and unpredictable

**Tread** (v) : to walk in a specified way

**Treadmill** (n) : a job or situation that is tiring or boring and from which it is hard to escape

**Treason** (n) : the action of betraying someone or something

**Treatise** (n) : a written work dealing formally and systematically with a subject

**Treble** (adj) : consisting of three parts

**Trek** (n) : a long arduous journey, especially one made on foot as an adventure

**Tremulous** (adj) : trembling; wavering

**Trenchant** (adj) : vigorous or incisive in expression or style

**Trepidation** (n) : a feeling of fear or anxiety about something that may happen

**Trespass** (v) : 1. to enter someone's land or property without permission  
2. (trespass on) to make unfair claims (n) or take advantage of something

**Tribulation** (n) : a cause of great trouble or suffering

**Tribunal** (n) : a court of justice

**Tribute** (n) : an act, statement or gift that is intended to show gratitude, respect or admiration

**Trident** (n) : a three-pronged spear

**Trifling** (adj) : unimportant or trivial

**Trilogy** (n) : a group of three related novels, plays, films, etc

**Trinity** (n) : the state of being three

**Trite** (adj) : lacking originality; dull on account of overuse

**Trivia** (n) : unimportant details or information; hackneyed

**Troika** (n) : a group of three people, especially government officials

**Trojan horse** (n) : a person or thing that enters something secretly in order to attack it

**Trot (out)** (v) : to state (an idea, opinion or fact, especially one that has been stated often before or is foolish)

**Trough** (n) : a low point in a regular series of high and low points

**Trounce** (v) : to defeat a competitor by a large amount

**Trouper** (n) : a successful entertainer who has had a lot of experience

**Truce** (n) : an agreement between enemies or opponents to stop fighting or arguing for a certain time

**Truculent** (adj) : eager or quick to argue or fight

**Trudge** (v) : to walk slowly and with heavy steps, typically because of exhaustion or harsh conditions

**Truism** (n) : a statement that is obviously true and says nothing new or interesting

**Trumpery** (adj) : showy but worthless

**Truncate** (v) : to shorten something by cutting off the top or the end

**Tryst** (n) : a private, romantic rendezvous between lovers

**Tumid** (adj) : 1. (especially of a part of body) swollen  
2. (especially of language or literary style) pompous or bombastic

**Tumult** (n) : a state of confusion or disorder

**Turbid** (adj) : confused or obscure in meaning or effect

**Turbulent** (adj) : characterized by conflict, disorder or confusion

**Turgid** (adj) : 1. swollen or congested  
2. (of language or style) boring and difficult to understand

**Turmoil** (n) : a state of great disturbance, confusion or uncertainty

**Turncoat** (n) : traitor

**Turpitude** (n) : behaviour which is not morally or socially acceptable

**Tussle** (n) : a vigorous struggle or scuffle, typically in order to obtain or achieve something

**Tutelage** (n) : protection of or authority over someone or something; guardianship

**Twaddle** (n) : trivial or foolish speech or writing

**Tycoon** (n) : a wealthy, powerful person in business or industry

**Tyranny** (n) : cruel and oppressive government or rule

**Tyro** (n) : a beginner or novice



## U

**Ubiquitous (adj)** : existing everywhere; omnipresent  
**Ultior (adj)** : existing beyond what is obvious or admitted; intentionally hidden  
**Ultimatum (n)** : last demand; warning  
**Umbrage (n)** : resentment; anger; sense of injury or insult  
**Umpteen (cardinal number)** : indefinitely many; a lot of  
**Unabashed (adj)** : not embarrassed, disconcerted or ashamed  
**Unabated (adj)** : without weakening in strength or force  
**Unaccountable (adj)** : 1. unable to be explained  
 2. not expected to explain or provide a reason for one's actions  
**Unaffected (adj)** : (of a person) natural and sincere  
**Unalloyed (adj)** : without any negative feeling; pure  
**Unambiguous (adj)** : expressed clearly  
**Unanimous (adj)** : (of two or more people) fully in agreement  
**Unassailable (adj)** : not subject to question; not open to attack  
**Unassuaged (adj)** : unsatisfied; not soothed  
**Unassuming (adj)** : modest  
**Unattached (adj)** : not married  
**Unbeknown (adv)** : without the knowledge of  
**Unbend (v)** : to relax and become less formal and serious in your manner  
**Unbridled (adj)** : not controlled or limited  
**Uncalled (for) (adj)** : unfair or unkind criticism or insult  
**Uncanny (adj)** : strange; mysterious  
**Unceremonious (adj)** : lack of courtesy; rough or abrupt  
**Uncharted (adj)** : (of a situation) completely new and therefore never described before  
**Uncle Sam (n)** : the United States of America or its government  
**Unconscionable (adj)** : unscrupulous; excessive  
**Uncouth (adj)** : lacking good manners, refinement or grace  
**Unctuous (adj)** : excessively flattering or ingratiating; oily  
**Underbelly (n)** : an area vulnerable to attack  
**Undercover (adj)** : using a false appearance in order to work secretly, especially in espionage  
**Undercurrent (n)** : an underlying feeling or influence, especially one that is contrary to the prevailing atmosphere and is not expressed openly  
**Underdog (n)** : 1. a competitor thought to have little chance of winning  
 2. a person who has little status in society  
**Underdressed (adj)** : to dress too plainly or too informally  
**Undergo (v)** : to experience something unpleasant or that involves a change  
**Undermine (v)** : to lessen the effectiveness, power or ability, especially gradually  
**Underscore (v)** : to emphasize  
**Understudy (n)** : (in theatre) a person who learns another's role in order to be able to react at short notice in his absence  
**Undersubscribed (adj)** : (of a course, event or of a share issue) having more places/shares available than applications

**Undertone (n)** : an underlying quality or feeling  
**Undiscerning (adj)** : lacking judgement, insight or taste  
**Undone (adj)** : 1. not tied or fastened  
 2. (of a person) ruined by a devastating setback  
**Undulating (adj)** : moving with a wavelike motion  
**Unearth (v)** : to discover something hidden by investigation or searching  
**Unearthly (adj)** : 1. very early or very late and therefore extremely inconvenient  
 2. very strange and unnatural and probably frightening  
**Unequivocal (adj)** : leaving no doubt; unambiguous  
**Unexceptionable (adj)** : not open to objection, but not particularly new or exciting  
**Unexpurgated (adj)** : (of a text) complete and containing all the original material; uncensored  
**Unfailing (adj)** : reliable or constant  
**Unfeigned (adj)** : genuine; sincere  
**Unfettered (adj)** : not confined or restricted  
**Unfledged (adj)** : inexperienced; youthful  
**Ungainly (adj)** : (of a person or movement) awkward; clumsy  
**Ungiving (adj)** : cold or stubborn towards other people  
**Unilateral (adj)** : one-sided  
**Unison (n)** : simultaneous performance or utterance of action or speech  
**Unkempt (adj)** : having an untidy or disheveled appearance  
**Unmitigated (adj)** : absolute; unqualified  
**Unobtrusive (adj)** : not noticeable; seeming to fit in well with the background  
**Unprecedented (adj)** : never done or known before  
**Unprepossessing (adj)** : not attractive or appealing to the eye  
**Unravel (v)** : to understand or explain something that is mysterious or complicated  
**Unrequited (adj)** : (of a feeling, especially love) not returned  
**Unsavory (adj)** : unpleasant or morally unacceptable  
**Unscathed (adj)** : without suffering any injury, damage or harm  
**Unseemly (adj)** : (of behaviour or actions) not proper or appropriate  
**Unightly (adj)** : ugly  
**Untenable (adj)** : especially of a position or view) not able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection  
**Untoward (adj)** : unexpected, unusual or not wanted  
**Unwarranted (adj)** : not justified or authorized; unnecessary  
**Unwieldy (adj)** : difficult to move because of size, shape or weight  
**Unwitting (adj)** : not done on purpose; unintentional  
**Unwonted (adj)** : unaccustomed or unusual  
**Upbraid (v)** : to find fault with someone; scold  
**Upfront (adj)** : bold, honest and frank  
**Uphill (adj)** : requiring great effort; difficult  
**Uphold (v)** : to maintain a custom or practice  
**Uprate (v)** : to improve the performance of something, upgrade



**Uproar** (n) : a lot of noise or public expression of protest or outrage

**Upshot** (n) : the final or eventual outcome of an action or series of events

**Upside** (n) : the more positive aspect of a situation

**Urbane** (adj) : (of a man) courteous and refined in manner

**Urchin** (n) : a young child who is poorly or raggedly dressed

**Usurp** (v) : to take a position of power illegally or by force

**Usury** (n) : the action or practice of lending money at unreasonably high rates of interest

**Utopia** (n) : an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect

**Uxorious** (adj) : having or showing a great or excessive fondness for one's wife

## V

**Vacillate** (v) : to continue to change one's opinions, decisions, ideas etc

**Vacuous** (adj) : having or showing a lack of thought or intelligence; mindless

**Vagabond** (n) : someone who has no home and travels from place to place

**Vagaries** (n) : unexpected and inexplicable changes in a situation or in someone's behaviour

**Vagrant** (n) : a person who has no home or work, especially someone who begs; a tramp

**Valediction** (n) : the action of saying farewell

**Valiant** (adj) : possessing or showing courage or determination

**Valour** (n) : great courage in the face of danger

**Vandalism** (n) : action involving deliberate destruction of or damage to public or private property

**Vanguard** (n) : a group of people leading the way in new developments or ideas

**Vanity** (n) : 1. excessive pride in or admiration of one's own appearance or achievements

2. the quality of being worthless or futile

**Vanquish** (v) : to defeat thoroughly

**Vantage (point)** (n) : a place or position affording a good view of something

**Vapid** (adj) : offering nothing that is stimulating or challenging; bland

**Variation** (n) : a pattern of different colour

**Vasectomy** (n) : the medical operation of cutting the tubes through which a man's sperms move, in order to make him unable to make a woman pregnant

**Vaunted** (adj) : praised excessively

**Veer** (v) : to change direction

**Vehement** (adj) : expressing strong feelings; forceful, passionate or intense

**Veil** (n) : something that hides or partly hides a situation or activity

**Venal** (adj) : corrupt

**Venerable** (adj) : deserving respect; esteemed

**Venerate** (v) : to honour or greatly respect a person or thing

**Venereal** (adj) : caused or spread by sexual activity (with a )

**Vengeance** (n) : with great force or more effort than before

**Venial** (adj) : (of a fault) not very serious and can be forgiven

**Venturesome** (adj) : (of a person) willing to take risks or (of an action behaviour) risky

**Verbatim** (adj/adv) : using exactly the same words as were originally used; word-for-word

**Verbiage** (n) : speech or writing that has many unnecessary words in it

**Verbose** (adj) : using or containing more words than are necessary

**Verdant** (adj) : covered with healthy green plants or grass

**Verisimilitude** (n) : the quality of being true or real

**Veritable** (adj) : a word used to emphasize a description of someone or something; real

**Verity** (n) : an important principle or fact that is always true

**Vermin** (n) : unpleasant people who cause problems for society

**Vernacular** (n) : the language or dialect spoken by the ordinary people of a country or region

**Vernal** (adj) : relating to the spring

**Versatile** (adj) : 1. one who has many different skills

2. having many different uses

**Versed (in)** (adj) : experienced or knowledgeable about something

**Vertiginous** (adj) : causing a feeling of spinning around, because of being extremely high or steep

**Verve** (n) : great energy and enthusiasm

**Vestige** (n) : a trace or remnant of something that is disappearing or no longer exists

**Veto** (n) : refusal to allow something to be done

**Vex** (v) : to make someone feel annoyed, frustrated, especially with trivial matters

**Viable** (adj) : capable of working successfully; feasible

**Vicarious** (adj) : experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another person

**Vice** (n) : immoral or wicked behaviour

**Vicinity** (n) : the immediately surrounding area

**Vicious** (adj) : deliberately cruel or violent

**Vicissitude** (n) : 1. a change of circumstances or fortune, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant

2. alternation between opposite or contrasting things

**Vie** (v) : to compete eagerly

**Vigil** (n) : a period of keeping awake during the time usually spent asleep, especially to keep watch or pray

**Vigilant** (adj) : keeping careful watch for possible danger

**Vignette** (n) : a short piece of writing, music, acting etc. which clearly expresses the typical characteristics of something or someone

**Vigour** (n) : strength, energy or enthusiasm

**Vile** (adj) : extremely unpleasant; morally bad

**Vilify** (v) : to speak or write about someone in an abusively disparaging manner

**Vindicate** (v) : to clear someone of blame or suspicion; to prove to be right or reasonable; to justify



**Vindictive (adj)** : having or showing a strong or unreasonable desire for revenge

**Vintage (adj)** : denoting something from the past of high quality

**Virago (n)** : a fierce, unpleasant woman who shouts a lot

**Virile (adj)** : 1. (of a man) having strength, energy and a strong sexual desire

2. having or characterized by strength and energy

**Virtue (n)** : a quality considered morally good or desirable in a person

**Virtuoso (n)** : a person highly skilled in music or another artistic pursuit

**Virulent (adj)** : 1. (of a disease or poison) extremely severe or harmful in its effects

2. bitterly hostile

**Visage (n)** : a person's face/facial expression

**Vis-a-vis (prep)** : in relation to; with regard to

**Visceral (adj)** : based on deep feelings and emotional reactions rather than on reason or thought

**Viscid (adj)** : like glue

**Vista (n)** : a pleasing view

**Vitiate (v)** : to spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of something

**Vitreous (adj)** : like glass in appearance or physical properties

**Vitriolic (adj)** : filled with bitter criticism or malice

**Vituperative (adj)** : bitter and abusive; reproachful

**Vivacious (adj)** : (especially of a woman) attractively lively and animated

**Vixen (n)** : a shrewish ill-tempered woman

**Vociferous (adj)** : expressing one's opinions loudly and strongly

**Vogue (n)** : prevailing fashion

**Volatile (adj)** : liable to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse

**Volition (n)** : the power of using one's will

**Volte-face (n)** : an abrupt and complete reversal of attitude, opinion or position

**Voluble (adj)** : (of a person) talking fluently, readily or incessantly

**Voluptuous (adj)** : sensual

**Voracious (adj)** : very eager for something

**Votary (n)** : a devoted follower or advocate of someone or something

**Vouchsafe (v)** : to give or grant something

**Voyeurism (n)** : seeking sexual pleasure from watching others when they are naked or engaged in sexual activity

**Vulnerable (adj)** : able to be easily physically, emotionally or mentally hurt or influenced

**Vulpine (adj)** : relating to foxes; crafty; cunning

**Vying (v)** : competing

## W

**Wacko (adj)** : mad; insane

**Wacky (or Whacky) (adj)** : funny or amusing in a slightly odd or peculiar way

**Waddle (v)** : to walk with short steps and a clumsy swaying motion

**Waffle (v)** : to speak or write at length in a vague or trivial manner

**Waft (v)** : (with reference to a scent, sound, etc) pass or cause to pass gently through the air

**Waggish (adj)** : humorous

**Waif (n)** : a homeless, neglected or abandoned child

**Waive (v)** : refrain from insisting on or using a right or claim; to relinquish

**Wallop (v)** : to strike or hit very hard

**Walloping (n/adj)** : 1. a beating

2. (As *adj*) large and powerful

**Wallow (in) (v)** : to indulge in an unrestrained way in something that one finds pleasurable

**Wan (adj)** : (of a person's face) paler than usual and tired-looking

**Wane (v)** : to weaken in strength or influence

**Wangle (v)** : to obtain something by using persuasion or clever manipulation

**Wanton (adj)** : 1. deliberately harming someone or damaging something for no reason

2. (of a woman) sexually immodest or promiscuous

**Warble (v)** : (of a bird) to sing pleasantly; (of a woman) to sing in a high voice

**Warmonger (n)** : a person who encourages or advocates aggression or warfare

**Warrant (n)** : justification or authority for an action, belief or feeling

**Warren (n)** : maze

**Wary (adj)** : alert

**Waspish (adj)** : readily expressing anger or irritation

**Wastrel (n)** : a wasteful or good-for-nothing person

**Waver (v)** : to lose strength, determination or purpose, especially temporarily

**Waylay (v)** : to wait for and then stop someone either to talk or attack

**Wean (someone off) (v)** : to accustom someone to manage without something

**Weary (adj)** : tired; bored

**Weather (v)** : to deal successfully with a difficult situation

**Wedded (adj)** : believing firmly in an idea or theory and unwilling to change that belief

**Weird (adj)** : very strange; bizarre

**Welch (v)** : to avoid doing something one has promised to do, especially not to pay a debt

**Welt (n)** : raised red area of skin

**Welter (n)** : a large number of items in no order; a confused mass

**Whammy (n)** : 1. an event with a powerful and unpleasant effect

2. an evil or unlucky influence

**Wheedle (v)** : to use flattery to persuade someone



**Wheeling and dealing** (n) : to engage in commercial or political scheming, especially unscrupulously

**Wheeze** (v) : to breathe with a whistling or rattling sound in the chest, as a result of obstruction in the air passage

**Whet** (v) : to increase someone's interest in and desire for something, usually by giving him a small experience of it

**Whim** (n) : a sudden desire or change of mind, especially one that is unusual or unexplained

**Whimper** (v) : to make a series of low, feeble sounds expressive of fear, pain or discontent

**Whimsical** (adj) : unusual and strange in a way that might be amusing or annoying; capricious

**Whinge** (v) : to complain persistently about trivial things

**Whinny** (v) : (of a horse) to make a soft high sound

**Whippersnapper** (n) : a young person who is too confident and shows a lack of respect towards others

**Whirligig** (n) : something that is full of fast activity and is always changing

**Whisk** (v) : to take or move someone or something somewhere suddenly and quickly

**Whisker** (n) : a very small amount or degree

**Whistle-blower** (n) : a person who informs on someone engaged in an illicit activity

**Whit** (n) : a very small part or amount

**Wield** (v) : to have and be able to use power or influence

**Wiggle** (v) : to move or cause to move up and down or from side to side with small rapid movements

**Willy-nilly** (adv) : 1. whether one likes it or not  
2. without direction or planning; haphazardly

**Wince** (v) : to make a slight involuntary grimace or shrinking movement of the body out of pain or distress

**Windfall** (n) : a large amount of money that is won or received unexpectedly

**Xanadu** (n) : an idealized place of great or idyllic magnificence or beauty

**Yank** (v) : to pull something with a quick movement

**Yardstick** (n) : a fact or standard by which one can judge the success or value of something

**Yearn** (v) : to desire very strongly

**Zany** (adj) : strange, surprising or uncontrolled in an amusing way

**Zeal** (n) : great enthusiasm

**Zealot** (n) : fanatic

**Winnow** (v) : 1. to blow a current of air through grain in order to remove the chaff, to sift  
2. to remove people or things from a group until only the best ones are left

**Winsome** (adj) : attractive or appealing in a fresh, innocent way

**Wistful** (adj) : sad and thinking about something that is impossible or past

**Wither** (v) : to become dry and shrivelled

**Witless** (adj) : foolish; stupid

**Witty** (adj) : showing or characterized by quick and inventive verbal humour

**Wizardry** (n) : great skill in a particular area or activity

**Wizened** (adj) : shrivelled or wrinkled with age

**Wont** (n) : someone's habit or custom

**Workhorse** (n) : a person who does a lot of work, especially of a type which is necessary but uninteresting; a machine which operates without failing for long periods although it might not be very exciting

**Wraith** (n) : ghost

**Wrangle** (n) : a dispute, especially one which continues for a long period

**Wrath** (n) : extreme anger; rage

**Wreak** (v) : to cause a large amount of damage or harm

**Wreath** (n) : an arrangement of flowers, leaves or stems fastened in a ring and used for decoration or for laying on a grave

**Wreck** (v) : to destroy or severely damage

**Wrench** (v) : to pull or twist suddenly and violently

**Wrest** (v) : to take something, especially power or control, after considerable effort or difficulty

**Wretch** (n) : unfortunate or unhappy person

**Writhe** (v) : to make large twisting movements with the body

**Wry** (adj) : showing that one finds a bad or difficult situation slightly amusing

## X

**Xenophobia** (n) : extreme dislike or fear of foreigners, their customs, etc.

## Y

**Yen** (n) : a strong feeling of wanting or desiring

**Yield** (v) : to give up

**Yore** (n) : of a long time ago

## Z

**Zenith** (n) : the best or most successful point or time

**Zest** (n) : enthusiasm, eagerness, energy and interest

**Zombie** (n) : a person who lacks energy, seems to act without thinking and is not aware of what is happening around him