

# Topicwise words

## MANIA

*(Mania means a severe addiction to or an uncontrollable obsession for something. Mania = noun, maniac = noun, maniacal/manic = adjective.)*

**ABLUTOMANIA** – washing or bathing

**ACROMANIA/ALTOMANIA** – heights, high places

**AGORAMANIA** – open or public places

**AGRIOZOOMANIA** – wild animals

**AILUROMANIA** – cats

**ALGOMANIA** – pain

**AMBULOMANIA** – walking

**ANDROMANIA** – men

**ANGLOMANIA** – things English

**ARACHNEMANIA, ARACHNOMANIA** – spiders

**ARITHMOMANIA** – numbers

**ATAXOMANIA** – disorder or untidiness

**AUROMANIA** – gold

**BATHYMANIA** – depth or deep water

**BIBLIOMANIA** – books

**BRONTOMANIA** – thunder and lightning

**CACOMANIA** – ugliness

**CALIGYNEMANIA** – beautiful women

**CENOMANIA** – empty spaces

**CHIROMANIA** – hands

**CHROMATOMANIA** – colors

**CHROMETOMANIA** – money

**CLAUSTROMANIA** – confinement

**CYNOMANIA** – dogs or rabies

**DENDROMANIA** – trees

**DIPSOMANIA** – drinking (spirits. alcohol)

**DROMOMANIA** – the road: travel, wandering, journeys

**ENOCHLOMANIA** – crowds

**FIBRIOMANIA** – fevers

**GAMOMANIA** – marriages

**GEPHYROMANIA** – crossing bridges

**GERONTOMANIA** – old people

**GNOSIOMANIA** – knowledge

**GRAPHOMANIA** – writing or script

**HELIOMANIA** – the sun or sunlight

**HIPPOMANIA** – horses (Better than equinomania)

**HOMOMANIA** – people/sameness/homosexuals

**HYGROMANIA** – liquid or moisture

**HYPNOMANIA** – sleep or hypnosis

**IATROMANIA** – doctors

**ICHTHYOMANIA** – fishes

**ILLYNGOMANIA** – vertigo

**KAINOMANIA** – novelty, innovation

**KATAGELOMANIA** – ridicule

**KLEPTOMANIA** – stealing

**KONIOMANIA** – dust

**LACHANOMANIA** – vegetables

**LALOMANIA** – speaking

**LEUKOMANIA** – white, the color

**LOGOMANIA** – words

**LOUTROMANIA** – washing or bathing

**MEGALOMANIA** – large things

**MELANOMANIA** – black, the color

**MISOMANIA** – hatred

**NECROMANIA** – death or dead things

**NEPHOMANIA** – clouds

**NOSOMANIA** – illness or disease

**NYCTOMANIA** – night, dark

**OCHLOMANIA** – crowds or mobs

**OENOMANIA** – wines

**OPIOMANIA** – medicine

**PANTOMANIA** – everything

**PLUTOMANIA** – wealth

**PYREXIOMANIA** – fever

**PYROMANIA** – fire

**SELENOMANIA** – the moon

**SINISTROMANIA** – things to the left or left-handedness

**THALASSOMANIA** – sea, ocean

**THANATOMANIA** – death or dying

**TOMOMANIA** – surgical operations

**TOXOMANIA** – poison or being poisoned

**TYPHLOMANIA** – blindness

**VESTIMANIA** – clothing

**XANTHOMANIA** – the colour yellow

**XENOMANIA** – strangers or foreigners

**XEROMANIA** – dryness

# PHOBIA

*(Phobia means an excessive and irrational fear of or a morbid dread of something. Phobia = noun, phobic = adjective, phobist = noun.)*

**AEROPHOBIA** – fear of air

**ANTHOPHOBIA** – fear of flowers

**ANTHROPOPHOBIA** – fear of people

**ANUPTAPHOBIA** – fear of remaining unmarried or single

**ATELOPHOBIA** – fear of imperfection

**ATYCHIPHOBIA** – fear of failure

**AUTOPHOBIA** – fear of being by oneself or of being in solitude

**AVIOPHOBIA, AVIATOPHOBIA** – fear of flying

**BATHYPHOBIA** – fear of depths

**BATRACHOPHOBIA** – fear of amphibians such as frogs

**BELONEPHOBIA** – fear of sharp, pointed objects

**BRONTOPHOBIA** – fear of thunder and lightning

**CACOPHOBIA** – fear of ugliness

**CALLOPHOBIA** – fear of beauty

**CATAPEDOPHOBIA** – fear of jumping

**CENOPHOBIA** – fear of empty spaces

**CHIONOPHOBIA** – fear of snow

**CHROMOPHOBIA / CHROMATOPHOBIA** – fear of colours

**CHROMETOPHOBIA** – fear of money

**CLAUSTROPHOBIA** – fear of closed spaces, confinement

**DEMOPHOBIA** – fear of crowds

**DEMONOPHOBIA** – fear of ghosts and spirits

**DENDROPHOBIA** – fear of trees

**DIKEPHOBIA** – fear of justice, lawsuits

**ECCLESOPHOBIA** – fear of churches, religion

**EISOPTROPHOBIA** – fear of mirrors

**EMETOPHOBIA** – fear of vomiting

**ENTOMOPHOBIA** – fear of insects

**ERGOPHOBIA** – fear of work

**FRANCOPHOBIA** – fear of France, all things French

**GAMOPHOBIA** – fear of marriage

**GERAPHOBIA** – fear of old age

**GERONTOPHOBIA** – fear of old men

**GNOSIOPHOBIA** – fear of knowledge

**GYMNOPHOBIA** – fear of nudity

**GYNEPHOBIA** – fear of women

**HAEMATOPHOBIA** – fear of blood

**HAGIOPHOBIA** – fear of saints / holy things

**HAPHEPHOBIA / HAPTEPHOBIA** – fear of being touched

**HARPAXOPHOBIA** – fear of being robbed

**HELIOPHOBIA** – fear of sun / sunlight

**HERPETOPHOBIA** – fear of reptiles like snakes etc.

**HODOPHOBIA** – fear of travel by road

**ICHTHYOPHOBIA** – fear of fish

**ISOLOPHOBIA** – fear of being alone, solitude

**KAKORRHAPIOPHOBIA** – fear of failure or defeat

**KOPOPHOBIA** – fear of fatigue

**LIGYROPHOBIA** – fear of loud or shrill noises

**LYGOPHOBIA** – fear of darkness

**LYSSOPHOBIA** – fear of rabies or madness

**MAGEIROCOPHOBIA** – fear of cooking

**MAIEUSIOPHOBIA** – fear of childbirth

**MICROPHOBIA** – fear of small things

**MYSOPHOBIA** – fear of dirt or contamination

**NEOPHOBIA** – fear of change

**NOSOCOMEPHOBIA** – fear of hospitals

**OCHLOPHOBIA** – fear of crowds

**OCHOPHOBIA** – fear of vehicles

**OMBROPHOBIA** – fear of rain

**ONEIROPHOBIA** – fear of dreams

**PANOPHOBIA / PANTOPHOBIA** – fear of everything

**PHARMACOPHOBIA** – fear of medicine

**PHASMOPHOBIA** – fear of ghosts

**PHONOPHOBIA** – fear of sounds including one's own voice

**PODOPHOBIA** – fear of feet

**PORNOPHOBIA** – fear of prostitutes

**POTAMOPHOBIA** – fear of rivers or running water

**RHYTOPHOBIA** – fear of wrinkles or getting wrinkles

**SCIOPHOBIA** – fear of shadows

**SCOPOPHOBIA** – fear of being looked at

**SELACHOPHOBIA** – fear of sharks

**SOCIOPHOBIA** – fear of society or people in general

**SPECTROPHOBIA** – fear of mirrors

**STYGIOPHOBIA** – fear of hell

**TACHOPHOBIA** – fear of speed

**THALASSOPHOBIA** – fear of seas and oceans

**TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA** – fear of the number 13

**TRICHOPHOBIA** – fear of hair

**XENOPHOBIA** – fear of foreigners or strangers

**ZOOPHOBIA** – fear of animals

## PERSONALITY TYPES / PERSONALITY TRAITS

**ADONIS** – a handsome young man loved by the Greek goddess of love; any handsome young man

**ADROIT** – quick and skilful in thought or action

**AESTHETE** – a person who studies and enjoys beauty

**AGNOSTIC** – a person who is not sure whether God exists

**ALTER EGO** – the side of one's personality usually not seen by others

**ALTRUIST** – one willing to help others even it causes disadvantage to oneself

**AMAZON** – a tall, strong, masculine woman

**AMBIDEXTROUS** – able to use both hands with equal ease

**AMBIVERT** – a person who has qualities of an introvert as well as an extrovert

**ASCETIC** – one who leads a life of self-denial, avoiding physical pleasures

**ATHEIST** – one who does not believe that God exists

**BIGAMIST** – one who illegally marries a person while already legally married to another

**CHAUVINIST** – a person with a prejudiced belief in the superiority of one's own race, cause or nation

**CIRCE** – the enchantress in Greek mythology who lured sailors to her island and turned them into pigs

**CLAIRVOYANT** – a person who claims to see the future or things others cannot see

**COMPLACENT** – one who feels satisfied in one's condition or situation, not feeling any need to try harder

**CONNOISSEUR** – an expert, especially in judging excellence in food, arts etc.

**CONSERVATIVE** – one who has old ideas; resistant to change

**COQUETTE** – a seductive woman who uses sex appeal to exploit men

**DEMAGOGUE** – a person who wins support by exciting emotions and prejudices

**DEXTEROUS** – ability to think or act skilfully or quickly

**DILETTANTE** – a person who appears interested but has a shallow understanding of a subject, especially arts

**EGOCENTRIC** – with a great feeling of one's own importance and ability

**EGOIST** – self-centred person with little regard for others

**EGOTIST** – one who talks excessively about oneself; conceited and self-centred

**ELITE** – the socially superior part of a society; the creamy layer; best of a class

**EPICUREAN** – one who is devoted to the best forms of sensuous enjoyment

**ERUDITE** – having or showing profound knowledge

**EXTROVERT** – an energetic, happy, outgoing person who enjoys being with others

**FUTILITARIAN** – one who believes that human efforts are futile

**GAUCHE** – young, inexperienced, awkward and uncomfortable with other people

**GLUTTON** – one who eats and drinks in excess

**GOURMAND** – someone greatly interested in good food and drink

**GOURMET** – a connoisseur of food and drink

**GREGARIOUS** – a person who seeks and enjoys the company of others

**GULLIBLE** – someone who is too trusting and easily deceived

**ICONOCLAST** – one who strongly opposes generally accepted beliefs and traditions

**INDEFATIGABLE** – determined, energetic and never willing to admit defeat

**INHIBITED** – a person who is too shy to say or do what he wants to

**INTELLIGENTSIA** – highly educated and especially interested in arts and politics

**INTROVERT** – someone who is shy, quiet and unable to make friends easily

**JINGOIST** – strong believer in one's own nation's superiority

**JUDAS** – a person who can betray anyone

**LIBERAL** – someone who favours reform and progress; tolerant; broad-minded

**MAGNANIMOUS** – very large-hearted, extremely forgiving by nature

**MARTINET** – strict disciplinarian; someone who demands absolute conformity to rules and forms

**MASOCHIST** – a person who enjoys receiving punishment

**MAUDLIN** – feeling sad and very sorry for oneself

**MISANTHROPE** – one who dislikes other human beings and avoids involvement with society

**MISOGAMIST** – a person who hates marriage

**MISOGYNIST** – one who hates women

**MODEST** – simple; humble in spirit or manner

**MONOGAMIST** – one who believes in and practises being married to one person at a time

**NUMISMATIST** – a collector of coins

**OBSEQUIIOUS** – excessively servile

**OPINIONATED** – a person who stubbornly sticks to his or her own opinions

**PANDERER** – a person who caters to the vulgar passions or plans of others; a pimp

**PARVENU** – someone who has newly acquired wealth and position but does not have the social skills to go with the new status

**PEDAGOGUE** – a teacher who is too formal and not very interesting

**PEDANT** – one who gives too much attention to formal rules or minor details

**PERSPICACIOUS** – one quick in noticing, understanding or judging things accurately; a very brilliant person

**PHILANTHROPIST** – one who helps poor people; lover of mankind

**PHILATELIST** – a collector of stamps

**PHLEGMATIC** – a person who stays calm and does not get emotional or excited in any situation

**POLYGAMIST** – one who believes in and practises being married to more than one person at a time

**POLYGLOT** – a person who can speak many languages

**POMPOUS** – too serious about and full of oneself

**PUERILE** – immature, silly, trivial, childish

**PUNCTILIOUS** – very particular about correct behaviour and attention to detail

**PUSILLANIMOUS** – one who lacks courage, strength and resolution; ridiculously fearful

**SADIST** – a person who enjoys causing pain to others

**SCEPTIC** – a person who habitually doubts values or beliefs

**SINISTER** – evil; wicked; dishonourable

**SOLITARY** – one who prefers to stay alone or in solitude

**STOIC** – a person indifferent to emotions, pain as well as pleasure

**SUAVE** – smoothly agreeable and courteous, sophisticated

**SUPERCILIOUS** – showing arrogant superiority; contemptuous of views and opinions of others

**SYCOPHANT** – a servile person who flatters someone in position or power for personal gain

**TYRO** – someone new to a field or activity

**VAPID** – a person without any sparkle, flavour; lacks intelligence or imagination

**VERSATILE** – competent in many areas

**VINDICTIVE** – revengeful; unwilling to forgive

**VIRAGO** – fierce, unpleasant woman who shouts a lot

**VIRTUOSO** – extremely skilled at something, especially playing an instrument or performing

**VIVACIOUS** – attractively energetic and enthusiastic

**VULGARIAN** – a vulgar person; crude; lacking taste; ostentatious

**WANTON** – a person indulging in every passion, lewd and lustful

**WORKAHOLIC** – someone with a compulsive need to work and finds it difficult not to work

## TYPES OF SPEAKERS

**BANAL** – boring, ordinary and not original

**COGENT** – powerful and persuasive; able to influence or convince

**GARRULOUS** – in the habit of talking a lot, usually about unimportant things

**GRANDILOQUENT** – deliberate use of complicated words in order to attract attention and admiration

**INARTICULATE** – unable to express feelings or ideas clearly

**LACONIC** – brief and to the point

**LOQUACIOUS** – too full of trivial talk

**TACITURN** – habitually reserved, speaking very little

**VERBOSE** – using more words than necessary

**VENTRILQUIST** – someone who speaks without moving lips to give the impression that the voice is coming from somewhere else

**VOLUBLE** – very fluent and rapid

**VOCIFEROUS** – offensively loud

## ADJECTIVES OF RELATION

*(There are many terms which refer to a state of relating to or pertaining to a certain thing or category of things. Instead of using a phrase such as "pertaining to buttercups", you can substitute the adjective "ranunculaceous". We have compiled some such terms below. We use many of these words every day without realizing that they are part of this larger category.)*

**ABECEDARIAN** – of, like or pertaining to the order of the alphabet; rudimentary

**AESTIVAL** – of, like or pertaining to summer

**AGRESTIC** – of the fields; rural; unpolished

**ALAR** – of, like or pertaining to the wing or shoulder

**ALVEOLATE** – of or like a honeycomb

**AURICULAR** – of, like or pertaining to the ear; spoken secretly

**AVUNCULAR** – like an uncle; of, like or pertaining to uncles

**BATHYSMAL** – of, like or pertaining to the depths of the ocean

**BIBITORY** – of, like or pertaining or pertaining to drinking

**BUCCAL** – of, like or pertaining to the mouth or cheek

**BUCOLIC** – of, like or pertaining to the tending of cattle; rustic; rural

**BURSAL** – of, like or pertaining to a state's revenues

**CARPAL** – of, like or pertaining to the wrist

**CHTHONIAN** – of, like or pertaining to the earth or the underworld

**CONNUBIAL** – of, like or pertaining to marriage

**CREPUSCULAR** – of, like or pertaining to twilight

**CRETACEOUS** – of or resembling chalk; of a whitish colour

**DISTAFF** – of, like or pertaining to the female branch of a family or women's work

**EDACIOUS** – voracious; gluttonous; pertaining to eating

**EPISTOLARY** – of, like or pertaining to letters

**FENESTRAL** – of, like or pertaining to windows

**FUNICULAR** – of, like or pertaining to a string or cable

**GALACTIC** – of, like or pertaining to or obtained from milk

**HERMENEUTIC** – of, like or pertaining to the interpretation of passages

**HIBERNAL** – of, like or pertaining to winter

**HISTRIONIC** – of, like or pertaining to the stage or actors

**HYPOTHECARY** – of, like or pertaining to mortgages

**INTERSTITIAL** – of, like or pertaining to the space between things

**LITTORAL** – of, like or pertaining to the shore of a body of water

**MAGISTRAL** – of, like or pertaining to a master or teacher

**MARMOREAL** – of or like marble

**MATINAL** – of, like or pertaining to the morning

**MAXILLARY** – of, like or pertaining to a jaw

**MERETRICIOUS** – of, like or pertaining to prostitution; superficially attractive but lacking value

**OCCIPITAL** – of, like or pertaining to the back of the head

**OLEIC** – of, like or pertaining to or derived from oil

**OSCULAR** – of, like or pertaining to the mouth or to kissing

**PARIETAL** – of a wall or walls, especially anatomical walls

**PECUNIARY** – of, like or pertaining to money; consisting of money

**PLEBEIAN** – of the common people or vulgar classes

**PRANDIAL** – of, like or pertaining to dinner

**PROCEPHALIC** – of, like or pertaining to the front of the head

**PUERPERAL** – of, like or pertaining to childbirth

**PYRETIC** – of, pertaining to or for the cure of fevers

**RISIBLE** – laughable

**SARTORIAL** – of, like or pertaining to a tailor or tailored clothes

**SCIATIC** – of, like or pertaining to the hip

**SIDEREAL** – of, like or pertaining to the stars

**STOCHASTIC** – of, like or pertaining to a sequence of random events

**SULPHOROUS** – of, like or pertaining to hellfire; infernal; blasphemous

**SUPERCILIARY** – of, on or near the eyebrow

**TECTONIC** – of, like or pertaining to building; structural

**TERPSICHOREAN** – of, like or pertaining to dancing

**UMBILICAL** – of, like or pertaining to the navel; related on the mother's side

**UXORIAL** – of, like or pertaining to a wife

**VACCINE** – of, like or pertaining to cows; preparation conferring immunity to disease

**VALETUDINARIAN** – of, like or pertaining to ill-health; anxious about health

**VERNAL** – of, like or pertaining to spring

**VISCERAL** – of the organs of the body

**VOLITIVE** – of, like or pertaining to the will

## BEARING AND CARRYING

*The following table is a relatively complete listing of words relating to the bearing, exuding, carrying, emitting, or containing of things by other things. Note that almost all of them end in "ferous" or "gerous" (from the Latin ferre and gerere, both meaning 'to bear').*

**ALIGEROUS** – winged

**AURIFEROUS** – bearing gold

**BELLIFEROUS** – bringing war

**BRACHIFEROUS** – bearing or having branches or arms

**BRANCHIFEROUS** – having or bearing gills

**CALCIFEROUS** – bearing lime

**CARBONIFEROUS** – bearing carbon

**CARNIFEROUS** – bearing flesh; fleshy

**CLAVIGEROUS** – keeping keys

**CONCHIFEROUS** – bearing a shell

**CONIFEROUS** – bearing cones

**CRUCIFEROUS** – bearing a cross

**DIAMANTIFEROUS** – bearing diamonds

**FLORIFEROUS** – bearing flowers

**FRIGIFEROUS** – bearing or bringing cold

**FRUCTIFEROUS** – bearing fruit

**FRUGIFEROUS** – bearing fruit

**LUCIFEROUS** – light-bringing; light-giving

**MORTIFEROUS** – death-bringing; fatal

**ODORIFEROUS** – emitting a usually pleasant smell

**SACCHARIFEROUS** – bearing sugar

**SACCIFEROUS** – bearing a sac or sacs

**TOXIFEROUS** – producing or bearing poison

**VASIFEROUS** – bearing a vessel or vas

## CARRIAGES AND CHARIOTS

*Each of the vehicles listed here is wheeled and non-motorized – a carriage, chariot, cart, buggy or similar thing. In general, this means that they will be horse-drawn (or donkey-drawn, or ... well, you get the picture). A number of these terms are foreign.*

**BROUGHAM** – one-horse closed carriage

**CABRIOLET** – two-wheeled carriage

**CHAISE** – light open carriage for one or two people

**CHARABANC** – open tourist coach with benches

**COUPE** – four-wheeled closed horse-drawn carriage

**DOGCART** – light two-wheeled carriage with seats back-to-back

**DROSKHY** – low four-wheeled open carriage

**EKKA** – small one-horse carriage

**GHARRY** – box-like Middle Eastern horse-drawn cab

**GIG** – light two-wheeled one-horse carriage

**HACKNEY** – four-wheeled two-horse carriage

**HANSOM** – light two-wheeled cab

**LANDAU** – horse-drawn carriage with folding top

**PHAETON** – open four-wheeled carriage

**SULKY** – light two-wheeled, one-person horse-drawn carriage

**TANDEM** – two-seated carriage with horses harnessed in series

**TONGA** – light two-wheeled carriage

**TRAP** – light one-horse carriage with springs

**TROIKA** – carriage drawn by three horses

**TUM-TUM** – dog-cart

**VICTORIA** – light open two-seated four-wheeled carriage

**WAGONETTE** – carriage with one crosswise seat in front, two seats in back

## CAUSATION AND FORMATION

*These words refer to causation, formation, origination, production, growth, development or generation. While this might seem like a pretty broad category, all of the words in the list derive from the single Greek word genesis, which can have all of the above meanings. Of course, Genesis is also the name of the first book of the Bible, in which the causation, origin and development of the world is described.*

**ABIOTENESIS** – spontaneous generation of living matter  
**ALLERGENIC** – producing allergies  
**ANTHROPOGENESIS** – origin of human beings  
**CARCINOGENESIS** – causing cancer  
**COSMOGENIC** – produced by interaction of cosmic rays with earth's surface  
**CRYPTOGENIC** – of unknown origin  
**CYTOGENESIS** – formation of cells  
**EMBRYOGENESIS** – production of an embryo  
**ENDOGENOUS** – having no external cause  
**ETHNOGENY** – study of origins of races or ethnic groups  
**EXOGENOUS** – having an external origin  
**HAEMATOGENESIS** – production of blood  
**HALLUCINOGENIC** – causing hallucinations  
**HETEROGENESIS** – spontaneous or alternate generation  
**HYPOALLERGENIC** – causing few allergies  
**IATROGENIC** – induced inadvertently by medical treatment  
**IMMUNOGENIC** – producing an immune response  
**LACTOGENIC** – producing milk  
**MEROGENESIS** – segmentation  
**MYOGENIC** – having a muscular origin  
**NONPATHOGENIC** – not causing disease  
**NOOGENESIS** – evolution of the mind  
**ONTOGENESIS** – origin and development of a single individual organism  
**OOGENESIS** – production of eggs or ova  
**PHYTOGENESIS** – origin and development of plants  
**PROTOGENIC** – formed at the beginning  
**PSYCHOGENESIS** – origin and development of the mind  
**RADIOGENIC** – produced by radioactive disintegration  
**SCHIZOGENESIS** – reproduction by division  
**SOLIGENOUS** – produced by the sun  
**THAUMATOGENY** – doctrine of the miraculous origin of life  
**VIRIDIGENOUS** – producing greenness  
**XYLOGENOUS** – growing on wood

## COLOUR TERMS

*This list contains definitions of obscure colour terms using combinations of 'normal' colours of the rainbow and descriptive adjectives; e.g. cardinal = deep scarlet red; russet = reddish brown.*

**ATROUS** – jet black  
**AUBERGINE** – eggplant; a dark purple colour  
**AZURE** – light or sky blue; the heraldic colour blue  
**BEIGE** – light creamy white-brown  
**BURNET** – dark brown; dark woollen cloth  
**CARDINAL** – deep scarlet red colour  
**CELESTE** – sky blue  
**CERULEAN** – sky-blue; dark blue; sea-green  
**CHARTREUSE** – yellow-green colour  
**CINNABAR** – red crystalline mercuric sulfide pigment; deep red or scarlet colour  
**CITRINE** – dark greenish-yellow  
**CLARET** – dark red-purple colour; a dark-red wine  
**CRETACEOUS** – of or resembling chalk; of a whitish colour  
**FLAVESCENT** – yellowish or turning yellow  
**HELIOTROPE** – purplish hue; purplish-flowered plant; ancient sundial; signalling mirror  
**HOARY** – pale silver-grey colour; grey with age  
**INDIGO** – deep blue-violet colour; a blue-violet dye  
**JACINTHE** – orange colour  
**KHAKI** – light brown or tan  
**LURID** – red-yellow; yellow-brown  
**MAGENTA** – reddish purple  
**MAROON** – brownish crimson  
**MAUVE** – light bluish purple  
**OCHRE** – yellowish or yellow-brown colour  
**PERIWINKLE** – a bluish or azure colour; a plant with bluish flowers  
**PRIMROSE** – pale yellow  
**PUCE** – brownish-purple; purplish-pink  
**RUSSET** – reddish brown  
**SABLE** – black; dark; of a black colour in heraldry  
**SAFFRON** – orange-yellow  
**SAGE** – grey-green colour  
**SANGUINEOUS** – bloody; of, like or pertaining to blood; blood-red  
**SAPPHIRE** – deep pure blue  
**SEPIA** – fine brown  
**SLATE** – dull dark blue-grey  
**SORREL** – reddish-brown; light chestnut  
**SUEDE** – light beige  
**SULPHUREOUS** – bright yellow  
**TAN** – tawny brown

**TAWNY** – brownish-yellow  
**TEAL** – greenish-blue  
**TERRACOTTA** – reddish-brown  
**TITIAN** – red-gold or reddish-brown  
**TOPAZ** – dark yellow  
**TURQUOISE** – blue-green  
**ULTRAMARINE** – deep blue  
**UMBER** – brownish red  
**VERMILION** – bright red  
**VIRIDIAN** – chrome green  
**WHEY** – off-white

## DANCE STYLES

*This list of dances won't actually turn you into a master of the ballroom, but it may help you recognize and understand the differences between certain dances. It's rather difficult to define a complex dance in one line, and so we've avoided a lot of detail about specific steps, etc.*

**BOLERO** – Spanish dance with sudden pauses and sharp turns  
**BOSSA-NOVA** – Brazilian dance similar to samba  
**CANCAN** – French woman's dance involving high kicks while holding up front of skirt  
**CHA-CHA** – fast rhythmic ballroom dance  
**CHARLESTON** – fast-paced 1920s dance characterized by energetic kicking  
**COTILLION** – elaborate ballroom dance with frequent changes of partner  
**FANDANGO** – lively Spanish dance performed by a couple  
**FLAMENCO** – vigorous rhythmic dance originating with Gypsies  
**FOX-TROT** – slow and complex ballroom dance  
**HABANERA** – slow and seductive Cuban dance  
**HULA** – sinuous Polynesian dance with rhythmic hip movements  
**HUSTLE** – lively disco dance derived from swing elements with a plus-like pattern  
**JIG** – springy and sprightly dance  
**JITTERBUG** – jazz dance featuring vigorous acrobatic feats  
**JIVE** – fast dance done to jazz or swing music  
**LIMBO** – dance of the West Indies where dancers pass under horizontal pole  
**MAMBO** – Cuban ballroom dance resembling the rumba or cha-cha  
**MAZURKA** – Polish folk dance in moderate triple measure  
**PASSACAGLIA** – slow solemn Italian or Spanish dance  
**POLKA** – lively Bohemian dance for a couple  
**QUADRILLE** – square dance for four couples  
**REEL** – lively dance of the Scottish Highlands  
**ROUND** – dance in a ring  
**RUMBA** – Cuban ballroom dance with pronounced hip movements  
**SALSA** – fast Latin American jazz-influenced dance  
**SAMBA** – Brazilian dance of African origin

**SHIMMY** – jazz dance featuring rapid shaking of the body  
**SHUFFLE** – dance featuring sliding or scraping of the feet  
**STOMP** – jazz dance featuring heavy stamping of the feet  
**TANGO** – Latin-American (orig. Argentinian) ballroom dance with long pauses  
**TARANTELLA** – fast violent Italian folk dance  
**TWIST** – dance featuring many gyrations of the hips  
**WALTZ** – ballroom dance in 3/4 time  
**ZOUK** – Caribbean disco dance and corresponding type of fast rhythmic music

## FABRIC AND CLOTH

*This rather odd category, lists the different kinds of fabric and cloth. There is an enormous variety in fabrics, with many different national, historical and regional varieties. It is interesting to note, however, that almost all of the types of fabric listed below are variants or blends of just five basic fabric types viz. silk, cotton, linen, wool and worsted.*

**ALPACA** – fine wool made from alpaca hair  
**ANGORA** – silk-like fabric made from wool of angora goats  
**BAIZE** – coarse napped cotton or wool fabric  
**BROADCLOTH** – dense twilled wool or worsted fabric  
**BROCADE** – rich silk fabric with raised patterns  
**BURLAP** – coarse plain-woven jute or hemp fabric  
**CALICO** – plain white cotton  
**CAMBRIC** – fine thin white cotton or linen fabric  
**CASHMERE** – soft twilled fabric made of fine goat's wool  
**CHAMBRAY** – lightweight fabric with coloured warp and white filling  
**CHAMOIS** – cotton fabric made in imitation of chamois leather  
**CHIFFON** – sheer silk fabric  
**CHINO** – strong twilled cotton cloth  
**CHINTZ** – glazed printed cotton fabric  
**CORDUROY** – durable cotton piled fabric with vertical ribs  
**CREPE** – light crinkled fabric  
**DAMASK** – fine lustrous fabric with flat patterns and a satin weave  
**DENIM** – firm and durable twilled cotton  
**DRILL** – durable twilled cotton  
**DUFFEL** – fabric of thick, low-quality woollen cloth  
**DUNGAREE** – heavy coarse durable twilled cotton, usually coloured  
**FLANNEL** – light woollen fabric  
**GABARDINE** – closely woven cotton or wool twill  
**GEORGETTE** – thin silk  
**GINGHAM** – striped cotton cloth  
**HERRINGBONE** – twilled fabric woven in rows of parallel sloping lines  
**JACQUARD** – intricately-woven variegated fabric; loom for making jacquard

**JERSEY** – plain weft-knitted fabric of wool, cotton, nylon or silk  
**KALAMKARI** – fabric coloured by repeated dyeing  
**KHADDAR** – homespun cotton cloth  
**MACKINTOSH** – lightweight rubberized waterproof cotton  
**MADRAS** – fine plain-woven cotton or silk  
**MERINO** – soft wool of the merino sheep; any soft merino-like wool or wool and cotton cloth  
**MOHAIR** – fabric made from silky hair of angora goats  
**MOLESKIN** – heavy durable cotton  
**MUSLIN** – plain-woven fine cotton  
**ORGANDIE** – fine translucent cotton  
**ORGANZA** – transparent thin silk or nylon  
**PAISLEY** – soft wool fabric with ornamental pattern  
**PASHMINA** – fine goat's wool fabric used for making shawls  
**PIQUÉ** – stiff durable corded fabric of cotton, rayon or silk  
**POPLIN** – corded woven silk and worsted  
**ROMAL** – handkerchief or headcloth; silk or cotton fabric  
**SATIN** – closely woven silk with lustrous face  
**SEERSUCKER** – light puckered cotton or linen fabric  
**SERGE** – strong twilled worsted  
**SHETLAND** – lightweight loosely twisted wool fabric  
**TAFFETA** – thin glossy silk  
**TULLE** – sheer and delicate thin silk  
**TWEED** – rough twilled wool  
**VELOUR** – piled velvety cotton  
**VELVET** – soft piled fabric of silk, cotton or synthetic material  
**VOILE** – soft fine sheer fabric  
**WOOLSEY** – cotton and wool blend  
**WORSTED** – fine closely-woven wool

## FIGHTING AND COMBAT

*These words, all very obscure, refer to fighting, combat or conflict, whether actual or metaphorical, using the suffix "machy" (from the Greek mache, a fight).*

**ALECTRYOMACHY** – cock-fighting  
**CYNARTOMACHY** – bear-baiting using dogs  
**DUOMACHY** – duel or fight between two people  
**GIGANTOMACHY** – war of giants against the gods  
**HIEROMACHY** – fight or quarrel between priests  
**HOPLOMACHY** – fighting while heavily armoured  
**ICONOMACHY** – opposition to the worship of images or icons  
**LOGOMACHY** – contention about words or in words  
**MONOMACHY** – single combat; a duel  
**NAUMACHY** – mock sea-battle  
**PNEUMATOMACHY** – denial of the divinity of the Holy Ghost  
**POETOMACHIA** – contest or quarrel among poets  
**PSYCHOMACHY** – conflict between the body and the soul

**PYGMACHY** – boxing; fighting with clubs  
**PYROMACHY** – use of fire in combat  
**SKIAMACHY** – sham fight; shadow boxing  
**SYMMACHY** – fighting jointly against a common enemy  
**TAUROMACHY** – bullfighting  
**THEOMACHY** – war amongst or against the gods  
**TITANOMACHY** – war of the Titans against the gods

## KILLING AND KILLERS

*Anyone who has looked at the news lately knows that the human species seems to have an inordinate propensity for killing things. Similarly, anyone looking at this list of terms relating to killing will quickly realize that humans also have an inordinate propensity for making up words about killing things. All of these words end in 'cide', from Latin caedere, to kill. Of all of these, though, perhaps the greatest crime of all is verbicide, the brutal slaughter of our language by incompetents and ignoramuses. Will the atrocities never end?*

**ABORTICIDE** – killing of a foetus; abortion; foeticide  
**AMICIDE** – murder of a friend  
**BIOCIDE** – killing living material  
**DEICIDE** – destruction or killing of a god  
**ECOCIDE** – destruction of the environment  
**FILICIDE** – killing of one's own child  
**FRATRICIDE** – killing of one's brother  
**FUNGICIDE** – killing of fungus  
**GENOCIDE** – killing of a race or ethnic group  
**GERMICIDE** – substance that kills germs  
**GYNAECIDE** – killing of women  
**HERBICIDE** – killing of plants  
**HERETICIDE** – killing of heretics  
**HOMICIDE** – killing of a human being  
**INFANTICIDE** – killing of an infant  
**INSECTICIDE** – killing of insects  
**MARITICIDE** – killing or killer of one's husband  
**MATRICIDE** – killing of one's mother  
**PARASUICIDE** – harmful act appearing to be an attempt at suicide  
**PARRICIDE** – killing of parents or a parent-like close relative  
**PATRICIDE** – killing of one's father  
**REGICIDE** – killing of a monarch  
**SIBLICIDE** – killing or killer of a sibling  
**SORORICIDE** – killing of one's own sister  
**TAURICIDE** – killing or killer of a bull  
**TYRANNICIDE** – killing or killer of a tyrant  
**URBICIDE** – destruction of a city  
**UXORICIDE** – killing of one's own wife  
**VATICIDE** – killing or killer of a prophet  
**VERBICIDE** – destroying the meaning of a word  
**VERMICIDE** – killing of worms

# PHILOSOPHICAL ISMS

*Here is a list of different isms, each representing a philosophical, political or moral doctrine or a belief system.*

**ABSOLUTISM** – doctrine of government by a single absolute ruler; autocracy

**AESTHETICISM** – doctrine that beauty is central to other moral principles

**ANARCHISM** – doctrine that all governments should be abolished

**ANIMISM** – attribution of soul to inanimate objects

**ANTHROPOMORPHISM** – attribution of human qualities to non-human things

**ANTHROPOTHEISM** – belief that gods are only deified men

**ANTINOMIANISM** – doctrine of the rejection of moral law

**ASCETICISM** – doctrine that self-denial of the body permits spiritual enlightenment

**CAPITALISM** – doctrine that private ownership and free markets should govern economies

**COLLECTIVISM** – doctrine of communal control of means of production

**CONSERVATISM** – belief in maintaining political and social traditions

**DEISM** – belief in God but rejection of religion

**DUALISM** – doctrine that the universe is controlled by one good and one evil force

**EGALITARIANISM** – belief that humans ought to be equal in rights and privileges

**EGOISM** – doctrine that the pursuit of self-interest is the highest good

**EGOTHEISM** – identification of oneself with God

**EMPIRICISM** – doctrine that the experience of the senses is the only source of knowledge

**EXISTENTIALISM** – doctrine of individual human responsibility in an unfathomable universe

**EXPERIENTIALISM** – doctrine that knowledge comes from experience

**FATALISM** – doctrine that events are fixed and humans are powerless

**GEOCENTRISM** – belief that Earth is the centre of the universe

**GNOSTICISM** – belief that freedom derives solely from knowledge

**HEDONISM** – belief that pleasure is the highest good

**HISTORICISM** – belief that all phenomena are historically determined

**HUMANISM** – belief that human interests and mind are paramount

**HUMANITARIANISM** – doctrine that the highest moral obligation is to improve human welfare

**IDEALISM** – belief that our experiences of the world consist of ideas

**INTELLECTUALISM** – belief that all knowledge is derived from reason

**LIBERALISM** – doctrine of social change and tolerance

**LIBERTARIANISM** – doctrine that personal liberty is the highest value

**MATERIALISM** – belief that matter is the only extant substance

**MONISM** – belief that all things can be placed in one category

**MONOTHEISM** – belief in only one God

**NIHILISM** – denial of all reality; extreme scepticism

**OBJECTIVISM** – doctrine that all reality is objective

**OPTIMISM** – doctrine that we live in the best of all possible worlds

**PANTHEISM** – belief that the universe is God; belief in many gods

**PESSIMISM** – doctrine that the universe is essentially evil

**PLURALISM** – belief that reality consists of several kinds of entities

**POSITIVISM** – doctrine that that which is not observable is not knowable

**PRAGMATISM** – doctrine emphasizing practical value of philosophy

**PRIMITIVISM** – doctrine that a simple and natural life is morally best

**PYRRHONISM** – total or radical skepticism

**RACISM** – belief that race is the primary determinant of human capacities

**RATIONALISM** – belief that reason is the fundamental source of knowledge

**REALISM** – doctrine that objects of cognition are real

**REDUCTIONISM** – belief that complex phenomena are reducible to simple ones

**REPUBLICANISM** – belief that a republic is the best form of government

**ROMANTICISM** – belief in sentimental feeling in artistic expression

**SCIENTISM** – belief that the methods of science are universally applicable

**SELF-DETERMINISM** – doctrine that the actions of a self are determined by itself

**SKEPTICISM** – doctrine that true knowledge is always uncertain

**SOCIALISM** – doctrine of centralized state control of wealth and property

**SPIRITUALISM** – belief that nothing is real except the soul or spirit

**STOICISM** – belief in indifference to pleasure or pain

**SUBJECTIVISM** – doctrine that all knowledge is subjective

**THEISM** – belief in the existence of God without special revelation

**THEOCENTRISM** – belief that God is central fact of existence

**THEOPANTISM** – belief that God is the only reality

**TRANSCENDENTALISM** – theory that emphasizes that which transcends perception

**UTILITARIANISM** – belief that utility of actions determines moral value

## SCIENCES AND STUDIES

*This list defines sciences, arts and studies of various degrees of respectability and rarity, ranging from the common and esteemed to the obscure and quirky. Over the past century, the range and scope of scientific endeavours has expanded exponentially, so that practically any field of study has a name associated with it. Most of these terms end in 'ology', from the Greek logos, meaning 'word'.*

**ACOUSTICS** – science of sound

**AERODYNAMICS** – dynamics of gases; science of movement in a flow of air or gas

**AEROLOGY** – study of the atmosphere

**AERONAUTICS** – study of navigation through air or space

**AGROBIOLOGY** – study of plant nutrition; soil yields

**AGRONOMICS** – study of productivity of land

**ASTROLOGY** – study of influence of stars on people

**ASTRONOMY** – study of celestial bodies

**ASTROPHYSICS** – study of behaviour of interstellar matter

**AVIONICS** – the science of electronic devices for aircraft

**BIOMETRICS** – study of biological measurement

**BOTANY** – study of plants

**CACOGENICS** – study of racial degeneration

**CALORIFICS** – study of heat

**CARTOGRAPHY** – the science of making maps and globes

**CATECHETICS** – the art of teaching by question and answer

**CHALCOGRAPHY** – the art of engraving on copper or brass

**CHEMISTRY** – study of properties of substances

**CHIROGRAPHY** – study of handwriting or penmanship

**CHIROLOGY** – study of the hands

**CHIROPODY** – medical science of feet

**CRYOBIOLOGY** – study of life under cold conditions

**DACTYLOLOGY** – study of sign language

**DENDROLOGY** – study of trees

**DIAGRAPHICS** – art of making diagrams or drawings

**ENTOMOLOGY** – study of insects

**EPISTEMOLOGY** – study of grounds of knowledge

**ERGONOMICS** – study of people at work

**ETIOLOGY** – the science of causes; especially of disease

**ETYMOLOGY** – study of origin of words

**EUTHENICS** – science concerned with improving living conditions

**GASTRONOMY** – study of fine dining

**GEOPONICS** – study of agriculture

**HARMONICS** – study of musical acoustics

**HERALDRY** – study of coats of arms

**HOROGRAPHY** – art of constructing sundials or clocks

**HOROLOGY** – science of time measurement

**HYDROPATHY** – study of treating diseases with water

**ICHTHYOLOGY** – study of fish

**KINEMATICS** – study of motion

**KINESICS** – study of gestural communication

**KTENOLOGY** – science of putting people to death

**LIMNOLOGY** – study of bodies of fresh water

**MATHEMATICS** – study of magnitude, number, and forms

**METALLURGY** – study of alloying and treating metals

**METAPHYSICS** – study of principles of nature and thought

**METEOROLOGY** – study of weather

**METRICS** – study of versification

**METROLOGY** – science of weights and measures

**MORPHOLOGY** – study of forms and the development of structures

**OBSTETRICS** – study of midwifery

**OENOLOGY** – study of wines

**OPHTHALMOLOGY** – study of eye diseases

**OPTICS** – study of light

**OPTOMETRY** – science of examining the eyes

**ORTHOEPY** – study of correct pronunciation

**ORTHOGRAPHY** – study of spelling

**PAEDOTROPHY** – art of rearing children

**PATHOLOGY** – study of disease

**PHARMACOLOGY** – study of drugs

**PHILOSOPHY** – science of knowledge or wisdom

**PHYSIOLOGY** – study of processes of life

**PROXEMICS** – study of man's need for personal space

**PSEPHOLOGY** – study of election results and voting trends

**SEISMOLOGY** – study of earthquakes

**SEMIOTICS** – study of signs and symbols

**SOCIOLOGY** – study of society

**SPELEOLOGY** – study and exploration of caves

**SYNTAX** – study of sentence structure

**TAXIDERMY** – art of curing and stuffing animals

**TECTONICS** – science of structure of objects, buildings and landforms

**THEOLOGY** – study of religion; religious doctrine

**TOPOLOGY** – study of places and their natural features

**TOXOPHILY** – love of archery; archery; study of archery

**XYLOGRAPHY** – art of engraving on wood

**ZYMURGY** – branch of chemistry dealing with brewing and distilling

## STYLES OF SPEECH

*Here we have a list of words referring to manners or styles of speaking, words that use the suffix '-loquent', '-loquence', or '-loquy', from Latin loqui (to speak). While in an age of text-messaging, public speaking has lost its once-vaunted status as a communication medium, as long as people meet face to face, others will judge them on their manner of speech.*

**ALLOQUY** – speaking to another or many others; an address

**ALTILOQUENCE** – pompous or high speech

**AMBILOQUOUS** – using dubious or ambiguous expressions

**ANTELOQUY** – a preface

**ANTILOQUY** – speaking against some idea; contradicting or gainsaying

**BILOQUIST** – one capable of speaking with two distinct voices

**BLANDILOQUENCE** – complimentary speech; flattery

**BLESILOQUENT** – speaking with a stammer or lisp

**BREVILOQUENCE** – short-windedness; tendency towards brevity in speech

**COLLOQUY** – speaking together; mutual discourse

**DENTILOQUENT** – speaking with clenched teeth

**DIVERSILOQUENT** – speaking in different ways; speaking on different subjects

**DOCTILOQUENT** – speaking learnedly

**DULCILOQUENT** – speaking sweetly

**ELOQUENCE** – forceful and appealing speech

**FATILOQUENT** – speaking prophetically; declaring fate

**GRANDILOQUENT** – bombastic

**INANILOQUENT** – prone to foolish or empty babbling

**INELOQUENCE** – unappealing speech

**MENDACILOQUENCE** – lying speech

**OBLOQUY** – censure; calumny; slander; disgrace

**PARCILOQUY** – laconic speech

**PAUCILOQUENT** – of few words; speaking little

**POLYLOQUENT** – speaking much; loquacious

**SANCTILOQUENT** – speaking on heavenly or holy matters

**SOLILOQUY** – talking or conversing with oneself; dramatic production of this nature

**SOMNILOQUENCE** – talking in one's sleep

**STULTILOQUENCE** – foolish or senseless talk

**VENTRILQUIISM** – speaking so that the voice appears to come from elsewhere

**VERILOQUENT** – speaking truthfully; truthful

## WORDS OF WISDOM

*This group of 'sophy' and 'sopher' words has in common an etymological derivation from the Greek sophia, meaning 'wisdom'. They refer to an odd group of systems of knowledge, esoteric doctrines, and philosophical practices, most of which are obsolete or extremely rare, with philosophy being the only major exception. Not quite sciences or studies, nor are they isms, they tend to refer to mystical or occult concepts rather than strictly religious or scientific canons of knowledge.*

**ANTHROPOSOPHY** – knowledge of the nature of humanity; human wisdom

**CHIROSOLOGY** – knowledge of palm-reading

**COSMOSOPHY** – knowledge of the cosmos

**DEIPNOSOPHY** – learned dinner-conversation

**DEMONOSOPHER** – one who is inspired by a demon or devil

**GASTROSOPHER** – a person skilled in matters of eating

**HELICOSOPHY** – geometry that deals with spirals

**HYPNOSOPHY** – knowledge of phenomena relating to sleep

**MISOSOPHY** – hatred of knowledge or wisdom

**MOROSOPHY** – foolish pretence of wisdom

**MYSTERIOSOPHY** – system of knowledge concerning secrets and mysteries

**NEUTROSOPHY** – study of the origin and nature of philosophical neutralities

**ONTOSOPHY** – knowledge of being or existence

**PALAEOSOPHY** – ancient learning or thought

**PANSOPHY** – universal knowledge

**PANTOSOPHY** – universal knowledge; pansophy

**PHILOSOPHY** – science of knowledge or wisdom

**PHYSIOPHILOSOPHY** – system of knowledge concerning principles of natural history

**PHYSIOSOPHY** – assumption of knowledge of nature

**PHYTOSOPHY** – knowledge of plants

**PNEUMATOPHILOSOPHY** – philosophy of spirits or the spirit world

**PSEUDOSOPHY** – pretension to wisdom

**PSILOSOPHY** – shallow philosophy; limited knowledge

**PSYCHOSOPHY** – doctrine or theory of the soul

**PYROSOPHY** – knowledge of the properties of fire

**RHABDOLOGY** – knowledge or learning concerning calculating rods

**SCIOSOPHY** – system of knowledge without basis in science

**THEANTHROPOSOPHY** – system of belief concerning Christ as god and man

**THEOSOPHY** – immediate divine illumination or wisdom

**ZOOSOPHY** – knowledge or learning concerning animals

## FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

*Each of the following words indicates a type of government by a certain kind of person or institution. Etymologically-minded folks should note the difference between the suffix 'archy', meaning 'rulership', and 'cracy', meaning 'power', which both come from Greek roots.*

**ACRACY** – government by none; anarchy  
**ALBOCRACY** – government by white people  
**ANDROCRACY** – government by men  
**ANTARCHY** – opposition to government; anarchy  
**ARGENTOCRACY** – government by money  
**ARISTARCHY** – government by the best  
**ARISTOCRACY** – government by the nobility  
**ARITHMOCRACY** – government by simple majority  
**AUTARCHY** – government by an absolute ruler  
**AUTOCRACY** – government by one individual  
**BUREAUCRACY** – government by civil servants  
**CHIROCRACY** – government by physical force  
**COSMARCHY** – rulership over the entire world, esp. by the devil  
**DEMARCHY** – government by the people; popular government  
**DEMOCRACY** – government by the people  
**ENDARCHY** – centralised government  
**EXARCHY** – government by bishops  
**GERONTOCRACY** – government by the aged  
**GYNARCHY** – government by women; gynocracy  
**HAGIOCRACY** – government by holy men  
**HIERARCHY** – government by a ranked body; government by priests  
**IATRARCHY** – government by physicians  
**IDIOCRACY** – personal rule; self-rule  
**KAKISTOCRACY** – government by the worst  
**KRITARCHY** – government by judges  
**MATRIARCHY** – government by women or mothers  
**MERITOCRACY** – government by the meritorious  
**MESOCRACY** – government by the middle classes  
**MOBOCRACY** – government by mobs or crowds; ochlocracy  
**MONARCHY** – government by one individual  
**OLIGARCHY** – government by the few  
**PANTARCHY** – government by all the people; world government  
**PATRIARCHY** – government by men or fathers  
**PLUTARCHY** – government by the wealthy; plutocracy  
**POPOCRACY** – government by populists  
**PSEPHOCRACY** – government resulting from election by ballot  
**STATOCRACY** – government by the state alone, without ecclesiastical influence  
**TECHNOCRACY** – government by technical experts  
**THEOCRACY** – government by priests or by religious law  
**XENOCRACY** – government by a body of foreigners

## NAMES FOR NAMES

*This short list defines some words relating to names. These words contain the root "nym", which comes from the Greek onoma, a name.*

**ACRONYM** – word formed from initial letters of another word  
**ALLONYM** – other person's name used by an author  
**ANANYM** – name written backward; often used as synonym  
**ANONYM** – person whose name is not given; pseudonym  
**ANTONYM** – word whose meaning is the opposite of a given word  
**APTRONYM** – name that suits its owner  
**AUTONYM** – a writer's real name; work published under writer's own name  
**CACONYM** – wrongly derived name  
**COHYPONYM** – word which is one of multiple hyponyms of another word  
**CRYPTONYM** – secret name  
**DIONYM** – name containing two parts or terms  
**EPONYM** – personal name from which another name is derived  
**EUONYM** – a pleasing or beautiful name  
**EUONYMOUS** – appropriately named  
**EUPHONYM** – euphonious synonym  
**EXONYM** – name for a town or country in a foreign language  
**HETERONYM** – word having same spelling but different sound and meaning  
**HOMONYM** – words having the same sound but different meanings  
**HYPERNYM** – word representing a class of words or things  
**HYPONYM** – term which is a member of a larger class  
**ISONYM** – word having the same derivation or form as another  
**MERONYM** – word whose relation to another is a part to the whole  
**METONYMY** – figurative use of word to name an attribute of its subject  
**METRONYMY** – system of naming after the mother's or female line  
**ONYMOUS** – bearing the author's name  
**PAEDONYMIC** – name taken from one's child  
**PARANYM** – euphemism; word whose meaning is altered to conceal evasion  
**PARONYM** – word from same root or having same sound as another  
**PATRONYM** – name derived from father's name  
**POECILONYM** – synonym  
**POLYONYM** – name consisting of several words  
**PSEUDONYM** – fictitious name used by an author  
**RETRONYM** – new name as modification of older term used alone  
**SYNONYM** – word whose meaning is the same as another word  
**TAUTONYM** – taxonomic name in which genus and species are the same  
**TEKNONYMY** – the naming of the parent from the child  
**TOPONYM** – place name derived from geographical feature  
**TRIONYM** – name consisting of three words