abandon
lacking restraint or control; feeling of extreme emotional intensity; unbounded enthusiasm

abandoned
recklessly unrestrained; deserted; left to destruction

abandonment
giving up completely; freedom from constraint

abase
humiliate; lower or depress in rank or esteem

abash
embarrass; make ashamed or uneasy; disconcert

abate
subside; decrease; become less in amount or intensity

abbreviate
make shorter; reduce to shorter form intended to represent full form, as for word or phrase

abdicate
give up, renounce, abandon, lay down, or withdraw from, as a right or claim

aberrant
abnormal; markedly different from an accepted norm

abet
aid, usually in doing something wrong; encourage

abeyance
suspended action; temporary cessation or suspension

abhor
fill with horror and loathing; horrify; hate

abide
endure; put up with; bear; tolerate

abiding
lasting for a long time; enduring; permanent

abjure
renounce upon oath; abandon forever

**ablution**
washing or cleansing of the body, especially as part of religious rite

**abnegate**
give up or surrender; deny something to oneself

**abnegation**
repudiation; self-sacrifice; renouncing your own interests in favor of interests of others

**abolish**
cancel; put an end to; destroy completely

**abolition**
ending; act of abolishing; act of doing away with

**abominable**
detestable; extremely unpleasant; very bad

**aboriginal**
being the first of its kind in a region; primitive; native

**abortive**
unsuccessful; failing to accomplish an intended objective; fruitless

**abrade**
wear away by friction; scrape; erode

**abrasive**
rubbing away; tending to grind down

**abridge**
condense; shorten; reduce length of written text

**abrogate**
abolish, do away with, or annul, especially by authority

**abscond**
leave quickly and secretly and hide oneself, often to avoid arrest or prosecution

**absent**
go away or leave; missing; not present

**absenteeism**
habitual not to appear, especially for work or other regular duty

**abstain**
refrain; hold oneself back voluntarily from an action or practice

**abstemious**
sparing or moderation in eating and drinking; temperate

**abstruse**
obscure; profound; difficult to understand.

**abundant**
plentiful; possessing riches or resources

**abundantly**
in great numbers; in a plentiful or sufficient degree; plentifully

**abut**
border upon; adjoin; touch or end at one end or side; lie adjacent

**abysmal**
bottomless; very profound; limitless; very bad

**accede**
agree; give consent, often at insistence of another; concede

**accelerating**
increasing in speed

**acceleration**
faster rate of improvement; rate of change of velocity with respect to time

**accentuate**
emphasize; stress; pronounce with a stress or accent; mark with an accent

**accessible**
easily approached or entered; obtainable; easy to talk to or get along with

**accident**
event that takes place without one's foresight or expectation; sudden, and unexpected event

**accidentally**
inadvertently; by chance; casually; fortuitously; not essentially or intrinsically

**acclaim**
applaud; announce with great approval

**acclimate**
accustom or become accustomed to a new environment or situation; adapt

**acclivity**
upward slope, as of hill

**accolade**
award of merit; expression of approval; praise

**accommodate**
do a favor or service for; provide for; supply with; make suitable; adapt; allow for

**accommodating**
helpful in bringing about a harmonious adaptation

**accomplish**
succeed in doing; bring to pass; achieve; reach the end of; complete

**accost**
approach and speak to boldly or aggressively, as with demand or request

**accouter**
equip; provide with military equipment

**accretion**
growth or increase in size by gradual external addition, fusion, or inclusion

**accrue**
increase, accumulate, or come about as a result of growth; accumulate over time

**accumulation**
increase by natural growth or addition; concentration

**accusation**
indictment; charge of wrongdoing that is made against a person or other party

**accustomed**
habitual to; used to; frequently practiced, used, or experienced; customary

**acerbity**
bitterness of speech and temper; sourness or acidness of taste, character, or tone

**acetic**
having properties of vinegar; sour

**achieve**
gain with effort; accomplish; fulfill

**achievement**
feat; accomplishment; award for completing a particular task or meeting an objective

**acidulous**
slightly sour in taste or in manner; sharp; caustic

**acoustics**
- science of sound; quality that makes a room easy or hard to hear in

**acquaint**
- inform about; cause to come to know personally; make familiar

**acquainted**
- known by or familiar with another; informed or familiar

**acquiesce**
- assent; agree without protesting

**acquire**
- gain through experience or effort; gain possession of; locate with tracking system

**acrid**
- unpleasantly sharp or bitter to taste or smell; bitterly pungent

**acrimonious**
- bitter and sharp in language, tone, or manner

**acrophobia**
- fear of heights; abnormal fear of high places

**actively**
- energetically; vigorously; in an active manner; voluntarily, not passively

**actuarial**
- calculating; pertaining to insurance statistics

**actuate**
- put into motion or action; activate

**acuity**
- sharpness; acuteness of vision or perception; keenness

**acumen**
- mental keenness; quickness of perception

**adaptable**
- flexible; becoming or being made suitable to particular situation or use

**adaptive**
- having a capacity for adaptation; capable of adapting

**addendum**
something added or to be added, especially a supplement to a book

**additional**
- further; extra; supplemental or added to

**addle**
- muddle; drive crazy; become confused

**adept**
- expert at; very skilled; having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude

**adherent**
- person who adheres; one who follows or upholds a leader, party, cause

**adhesive**
- glue; paste; substance that unites or bonds surfaces together

**adjoin**
- be next to; be contiguous to; border on

**adjudicate**
- hear and settle a case by judicial procedure

**adjunct**
- something added on or attached generally nonessential or inferior

**adjure**
- appeal to or entreat earnestly; command or enjoin solemnly, as under oath

**administer**
- govern; supervise; give or apply medications

**admiration**
- favorable judgment; feeling of pleasure, wonder, and approval

**admittedly**
- doubtlessly; in an acknowledged manner; confessedly

**admonish**
- warn; counsel someone against something to be avoided

**admonition**
- gentle or friendly reproof; cautionary advice or warning

**adorn**
- enhance or decorate with or as if with ornaments

**adornment**
embellishment; decoration; something that beautifies or adorns; ornament

adroit
skillful and adept under pressing conditions

adulation
excessive flattery or admiration; unmerited praise

adulterate
make impure by adding inferior or tainted substances

adumbrate
give hint or indication of something; disclose partially or guardedly; overshadow; shade

advance
proceed; move forward; improve; moving forward

advanced
improved; highly developed or complex; ahead of the times; progressive

advent
coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important

adventitious
accidental; casual; not inherent but added extrinsically

adverse
in opposing direction; harmful or unfavorable; acting or serving to oppose

advocacy
support; active pleading on behalf of something

aerie
nest of bird, such as eagle, built on a cliff or other high place

aesthetic
elegant or tasteful; of or concerning appreciation of beauty or good taste

affable
easily approachable; warmly friendly

affect
have an emotional or cognitive impact upon

affection
fondness; tender feeling toward another; fondness

affectionate
having affection or warm regard; loving; fond; kindly inclined; zealous

affinity
natural attraction, liking, or feeling of kinship; relationship by marriage

affirmation
positive assertion; confirmation; solemn pledge by one who refuses to take an oath

affix
fasten; append; add on; secure to something

affluence
abundance; a plentiful supply of material goods; wealth

affluent
having an abundant supply of money or possessions of value

affront
insult; offense; intentional act of disrespect

agenda
items of business at a meeting; list or program of things to be done or considered

agglomeration
collection; heap; act or process of gathering into a mass

agrandize
increase scope of; extend; intensify; make greater in power, influence, stature, or reputation

aggravating
irritating; annoying; making worse or more heinous

aggregate
gather into a mass, sum, or whole; amount to

aggressive
making assaults; unjustly attacking; combative; hostile; tending to spread quickly

aggressiveness
feeling of hostility that arouses thoughts of attack; quality of being bold and enterprising

aghast
struck by shock, terror, or amazement

agility
mentally quick; moving quickly and lightly

agitate
cause to move with violence or sudden force; upset; disturb

**agitation**

anxiety; extreme emotional disturbance

**agnostic**

one who is skeptical of existence of a god or any ultimate reality

**agrarian**

pertaining to land or its cultivation; relating to agricultural or rural matters

**ajar**

half-open; slightly turned or opened

**alacrity**

cheerful promptness or willingness; eagerness; speed or quickness

**alchemy**

medieval chemistry; magical or mysterious power or process of transforming

**alcove**

nook; small, recessed section of a room

**algorithm**

established procedure for solving problem

**alien**

dissimilar, inconsistent, or opposed in nature; very different place, society, or person

**alimentary**

providing nourishment; concerned with food, nutrition, or digestion

**allay**

calm; pacify; reduce the intensity of; relieve

**allege**

state without proof; assert to be true

**allegory**

symbolic representation of abstract ideas or principles in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form

**alliteration**

repetition of beginning sound in poetry

**allocate**

assign; distribute according to plan

**allude**
refer casually or indirectly, or by suggestion

**allusion**
indirect reference; symbolical reference or comparison; metaphor

**aloft**
in or into a high place; high or higher up

**alternate**
happening or following in turns; succeeding each other continuously; substitute

**altitude**
elevation especially above sea level; height

**altruistic**
unselfishly generous; concerned for others

**amalgamate**
combine; unite in one body; mix or alloy a metal with mercury

**amass**
collect; gather for oneself, as for one's pleasure or profit

**ambidextrous**
capable of using either hand with equal ease

**ambience**
particular environment or surrounding influence; atmosphere of environment

**ambiguous**
unclear or doubtful in meaning

**ambivalence**
state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes, such as love and hate

**amble**
moving at an easy pace; walk slowly or leisurely

**ambulatory**
able to walk; formed or adapted for walking; not stationary

**ameliorate**
make or become better; improve; grow better

**amenable**
responsive to advice or suggestion; responsible to higher authority; willing to comply with; agreeable
amenities
convenient features; courtesies

amiable
good-natured and likable; lovable; warmly friendly

amicable
exhibiting friendliness or goodwill; not quarrelsome

amid
in the middle of; among; surrounded by

amity
friendship; peaceful relations, as between nations

amorous
moved by sexual love; loving

amorphous
formless; lacking shape or definition

amphibian
able to live both on land and in water

amphitheater
oval building with tiers of seats from central open space or arena

amplify
broaden or clarify by expanding; intensify; make larger or more powerful; increase

amputate
cut off part of body, especially by surgery; prune

anachronistic
having time error in story; erroneous in date; in wrong time

analgesic
serving to reduce sensibility to pain without loss of consciousness

analogous
comparable; similar or alike

anarchist
person who seeks to overturn established government; advocate of abolishing authority

anathema
solemn curse; someone or something regarded as a curse
ancestor
forefather; forebear; forerunner or predecessor

ancestry
family descent; series or line of ancestors; lineage

ancillary
serving as aid or accessory; auxiliary

anecdotal
having the character of an anecdote; of short story of interesting or humorous incident

angular
sharp-cornered; consisting of an angle or angles; stiff in manner

animate
endowed with life; alive; living; animated

animated
having life or vigor or spirit; filled with activity; in form of cartoon

animus
feeling of enmity or ill will; attitude that informs one's actions; disposition

annals
chronological record of the events of successive years

annihilate
destroy completely; reduce to nonexistence

annotate
comment; make explanatory notes

announce
herald; give out; proclaim; make known publicly

announcement
formal public statement; act of making known publicly

annoy
disturb, especially by minor irritations; irritate

annuity
annual payment of allowance or income; periodical payment, amounting to a fixed sum in each year

annul
make or declare void or invalid; reduce to nothing
anodyne
source of relaxation or comfort; medicine that relieves pain

anoint
apply oil or similar substance to; put oil on during religious ceremony as a sign of sanctification or consecration.

anomalous
deviating from normal or common order, form, or rule

anomaly
irregularity; person or something that is unusual; departure from normal or common order

anonymous
having no name; having unknown or unacknowledged name

antagonism
active resistance; condition of being an opposing principle, force, or factor

antecede
precede; go before in time, and sometimes in place, rank, or logical order

antecedents
preceding events or circumstances that influence what comes later; ancestors or early background

antediluvian
antiquated; extremely old and ancient; belonging to very ancient times

anthology
book of literary selections by various authors

anthropocentric
regarding human beings as the center of the universe

anthropoid
manlike; resembling a human, especially in shape or outward appearance

anthropomorphic
having human form or characteristics

anticlimax
letdown in thought or emotion; decline viewed in disappointing contrast with previous rise

antipathy
strong feeling of aversion; dislike

antithesis
contrast; direct contrast; opposition
anxious
  eager; keen; worried; uneasy and apprehensive about an uncertain event or matter

apathy
  lack of caring; indifference

aperture
  opening; diameter of such an opening; hole

apex
  highest point; vertex; summit; climax

aphasia
  loss of speech due to injury or illness

aphorism
  definition or concise statement of principle; tersely phrased statement of truth or opinion

apiary
  place where bees and beehives are kept, especially where bees are raised for their honey

aplomb
  poise; self-confident assurance

apocryphal
  untrue; of questionable authorship or authenticity; erroneous; fictitious

apogee
  the highest point; point in orbit most distant from the body being orbited

apolitical
  having aversion or lack of concern for political affairs

apologist
  person who argues in defense or justification of something, such as doctrine, policy, or institution

apostate
  one who abandons his religious faith or political beliefs

apotheosis
  elevation to godhood; fact or action of becoming a god; an ideal example of something

appall
  depress or discourage with fear; grow faint or become weak

apparition
  ghostly figure; sudden or unusual sight; appearance; state of being visible
appellation
name; title; act of naming; act of appealing for aid, sympathy

append
attach; add as supplement or appendix

appliance
durable goods for home or office use; device or instrument for household use

apply
exert; put into service; avail oneself to;

apportion
distribute; allot; give out as one's portion or share

apposite
strikingly appropriate and relevant; well-suited

appraise
estimate value of; evaluate, especially in official capacity

apprehension
fearful or uneasy anticipation of the future; act of seizing or capturing; understanding

apprenticeship
term during which one learns a trade from skilled worker; service or legal condition of an apprentice

apprise
inform; give notice to; make aware

approaching
impending; of the relatively near future; coming closer to another

approbation
expression of warm approval; praise

appropriation
funding; money set aside for a specific purpose

apropos
with reference or regard; in respect

aptly
in a competent capable manner; in an apt or suitable manner

aquatic
consisting of, relating to, or being in water
aquiline  
curved or hooked like an eagle's beak

arable  
fit for growing crops, as by plowing

arbiter  
person with power to decide a dispute; judge

arboretum  
place where different tree varieties are exhibited

arcane  
secret; mysterious; known only to the initiated

archaeology  
study of artifacts and relics of early mankind

archaic  
no longer current or applicable; antiquated

archetype  
prototype; original model or type after which other similar things are patterned

archipelago  
group of closely located islands

architecture  
art and science of designing and erecting buildings; buildings and other large structures

ardent  
displaying or by strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate

arduous  
demanding great effort or labor; difficult

arid  
dry; lacking moisture, especially having insufficient rainfall to support trees or plants

aristocracy  
hereditary nobility; privileged class

armada  
a fleet of warships; a large group of moving things

aroma  
fragrance; scent; pleasant characteristic odor, as of a plant, spice, or food
aromatic
fragrant or sweet-smelling; caused by fragrant odor

arousal
act of awaking from sleep; arousing from what is like sleep

arouse
excite; stimulate; awaken from or as if from sleep

arraign
officially charge someone in a court of law

arrears
being in debt; unpaid, overdue debt or an unfulfilled obligation

arrogate
claim without justification; claim for oneself without right

arroyo
deep gully; a dry gulch; brook or creek; watercourse

arthritis
inflammation of a joint or joints

article
essay; editorial; individual thing or element of a class

articulate
expressing oneself easily in clear and effective language

artifice
subtle but base deception; trickery; cleverness or skill; ingenuity

artisan
manually skilled worker; craftsman, as opposed to artist

artless
free of artificiality; natural; open and honest

ascendancy
superiority or decisive advantage; domination

ascetic
leading a life of self-discipline and self-denial; austere

ascribe
inscribe or dedicate; attribute to a specified cause, source, or origin; assign as a quality
aseptic
preventing infection; having cleansing effect

ashen
ash-colored; very pale; consisting of ashes

askance
with sideways or indirect look; Turned to side, especially of eyes

askew
turned or twisted toward one side; at an angle

aspect
distinct feature or element in a problem; a way in which something can be viewed by the mind

asperity
sharpness of temper; roughness or harshness, as of surface, sound, or climate

aspirant
one who aspires, as to advancement, honors, or a high position

assail
assault; attack with or as if with violent blows

assay
analyze; evaluate; examine by trial or experiment; put to test

assembly
gathering; meeting; a group of persons gathered together for common reason

assent
express agreement to what is alleged or proposed; accept

assiduous
constant in application or attention; diligent; unceasing or persistent

assimilate
incorporate and absorb into mind; make similar; cause to resemble

assist
give help or support to, especially as a subordinate

assistant
helper; person who assists or helps someone else

assuage
ease or lessen pain; satisfy or appease
**astigmatism**
eye defect that prevents proper focus

**astringent**
causing contraction; having the effect of drawing tissue together; stern or austere

**astronomical**
enormously large or extensive; relating to astronomy

**asunder**
into separate parts or pieces; apart

**asymmetric**
not identical on both sides of a dividing central line

**atavism**
resemblance to remote ancestors rather than to parents; deformity returning after passage of two or more generations

**atavistic**
displaying characteristics of previous cultural era or of previous ancestral form

**atheistic**
denying existence of God; godless

**atrocious**
brutal deed; atrocious condition, quality, or behavior; monstrousness

**atrophy**
wasting away; decrease in size; reduction in the functionality of an organ caused by disease

**attach**
fasten; annex; be in contact with

**attached**
fastened together; joined by wall, especially by sharing a wall with another building; not freestanding

**attainment**
something, such as an accomplishment or achievement; achievement

**attenuate**
make slender, fine, or small; weaken; lessen density of

**attorney**
lawyer; one who is appointed by another to act in his place or stead; proxy

**attract**
draw to, or cause to tend to; engage or fix, as the mind, attention; invite or allure

**attribute**
essential quality; reputation; honor

**attrition**
gradual decrease in numbers; reduction in work force without firing employees; wearing away of opposition by means of harassment

**atypical**
not normal; unusual or irregular; not representative of a group, class, or type

**audacious**
fearlessly, often recklessly daring; bold

**audit**
examination of accounts; adjustment or correction of accounts

**auditory**
of or relating to hearing, the organs of hearing, or the sense of hearing

**auger**
hand tool for boring holes; hollow drill used to take core samples of soil, ice

**augment**
make greater, as in size, extent, or quantity

**augury**
sign of something coming; art or practice of foretelling events by signs or omens

**aureole**
the outermost region of the sun's atmosphere; halo

**auroral**
characteristic of dawn; dawning, eastern, like new beginning; relating to the atmospheric phenomenon auroras

**auspicious**
attended by favorable circumstances; marked by success; prosperous

**austere**
strict or severe in discipline; severely simple and unornamented

**authenticate**
prove genuine; establish authenticity of

**authoritarian**
expecting absolute obedience; completely dominating another's will
**authoritative**
having weight of authority; peremptory and dictatorial

**authority**
jurisdiction; power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge; government

**authorize**
empower; give permission for; sanction

**autocrat**
dictator; ruler having unlimited power

**autocratic**
having absolute, unchecked power; dictatorial

**automaton**
mechanism that imitates actions of humans

**autonomous**
self-governing; not controlled by others or by outside forces; independent

**autonomy**
indepen dence; self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination

**auxiliary**
helper, additional or subsidiary

**avalanche**
great mass of falling snow and ice

**avarice**
greediness for wealth; insatiable desire of gain

**aver**
declare to be true; affirm

**averse**
reluctant; disinclined; turned away or backward; unwilling

**aversion**
firm dislike; turning away; avoidance of a thing, situation, or behavior because of dislike

**aviary**
large cage, building, or enclosure in which birds are reared or kept

**aviation**
art or science of flying; flight; aeronautics
avid
greedy; eager for; marked by keen interest and enthusiasm

avocation
activity taken up in addition to one's regular work or profession, usually for enjoyment

avoidance
keeping away from or preventing from happening

avow
declare openly; acknowledge openly, boldly, and unashamedly

avuncular
in manner of uncle, pertaining to uncle; kind, genial, benevolent or tolerant

awkwardly
in an uncomfortable, nervous or embarrassed way

awry
in a position that is turned toward one side; away from correct course

axiom
self-evident truth requiring no proof

azure
sky blue; light purplish-blue