

Barrons GRE Vocabulary 3

berserk

mentally or emotionally upset; deranged; excessively agitated
Angered, he became berserk and began to wreck the room.

beseech

beg; plead with; ask for or request earnestly
The workaholic executive's wife had to beseech him to spend more time with their son.

beset

attack from all sides; trouble persistently; hem in
Many vexing problems beset the American public school system.

besiege

surround with armed forces; harass with requests
When the bandits besiege the village, the villagers hole up in the town hall and prepare to withstand a long siege.

besmirch

soil, smear so as to make dirty or stained
The scandalous remarks in the newspaper besmirch the reputations of every member of the society.

bestial

beastlike; brutal; lacking in intelligence or reason
According to legend, the werewolf was able to abandon its human shape and take on a bestial form.

bestow

give as gift; present
He wished to bestow great honors upon the hero.

betoken

signify; indicate; be a visible sign of; give evidence of
The well-equipped docks, tall piles of cargo containers, and numerous vessels being loaded all betoken Oakland's importance as a port.

betray

be unfaithful; reveal unconsciously or unwillingly
The two spies betray their country by selling military secrets to the enemy.

betroth

become engaged to marry; promise to marry
The announcement that they would betroth surprised their friends who had not suspected any romance.

bevy

large group; a group of animals or birds, especially larks or quail
The movie actor was surrounded by a bevy of starlets.

bicameral

composed of or based on two legislative chambers or branches
The United States Congress is a bicameral body.

bicker

engage in a petty, bad-tempered quarrel
The children bicker morning, noon, and night, exasperating their parents.

bid

make an offer of; propose; offer in words; declare, as a wish, a greeting, a threat, or defiance
"Then you and I must bid good-bye for a little while?" "I suppose so, sir."

biennial

every two years; lasting or living for two years
Seeing no need to meet more frequently, the group held biennial meetings instead of annual ones.

bigot

hypocrite, especially, superstitious hypocrite; one who is strongly partial to one's own group, religion, race, or politics
And it appears that in many cases, being a hateful bigot is a boost to your chances of being elected.

bigotry

stubborn intolerance; excessive zeal or warmth in favor of a party, sect, or opinion
Brought up in a democratic atmosphere, the student was shocked by the bigotry and narrowness expressed by several of his classmates.

bilious

suffering from indigestion; appearing as if affected by disorder; sickly
The bilious is indicated by a thin, spare face, dark skin, black hair, firm flesh, moderate stoutness, with rough, harsh, and strongly marked features.

bilk

defraud or cheat; frustrate or disappoint; evade or escape from
The con man planed to bilk insurance companies.

billowing

swelling out in waves; surging; stormy; affected by storms
Standing over the air vent, Marilyn Monroe tried vainly to control her billowing skirts.

bivouac

temporary encampment; a site where people on holiday can pitch tent
While in bivouac, we spent the night in our sleeping bags under the stars.

bizarre

fantastic; violently contrasting; strangely unconventional in style or appearance
The plot of the novel was too bizarre to be believed.

blanch

cause to turn white or become pale; take color from; bleach

Although age can blanch his hair, he is still vigorous and energetic.

bland

lacking stimulating or mild; agreeable

She kept her gaze level and her expression bland, but her teeth were gritted.

blandishment

flattery; speech or action expressive of affection or kindness, and tending to win the heart

Despite the salesperson's blandishment, the customer did not buy the outfit.

blare

loud, harsh roar or screech; dazzling blaze of light

Then there was a louder blare from the organ, and everyone in the church stood up and faced backward.

blasphemy

act of claiming for oneself the attributes and rights of God; utterance or writing concerning God or a sacred entity

By our very nature, every single one of us believes in blasphemy.

blatant

flagrant; conspicuously obvious; loudly offensive

To the unemployed youth from Dublin, the "No Irish Need Apply" placard in the shop window was a blatant mark of prejudice.

bleak

cold or cheerless; unlikely to be favorable

The frigid, inhospitable Aleutian Islands are bleak military outposts.

blemish

mark with deformity; injure or impair, as anything which is excellent; make defective, either the body or mind

A newspaper article alleging he had taken bribes may blemish his reputation.

blight

blast; prevent the growth and fertility of; destroy the happiness of; ruin; frustrate

I wish to foster, not to blight -- to earn gratitude, not to wring tears of blood -- no, nor of brine: my harvest must be in smiles, in endearments, in sweet -- That will do.

blighted

suffering from a disease; destroyed, ruined, or spoiled

The extent of the blighted areas could be seen only when viewed from the air.

bloated

swollen or puffed as with water or air

Her bloated stomach came from drinking so much water.

bludgeon

short heavy club, usually of wood; heavy-headed weapon

Attacked by Dr. Moriarty, Holmes used his walking stick as a bludgeon to defend himself.

blues

gloom; depressed spirits

He had a bad case of the blues.

bluff

pretense of strength; mislead or deceive

If only, I thought, he had called our bluff from the start and told us firmly that he knew the figures but wouldn't say.

blunder

serious mistake typically caused by ignorance or confusion

The criminal's fatal blunder led to his capture.

blunt

having a dull edge or end; not sharp; lacking in feeling; insensitive

Public employee unions are demanding in blunt terms that Democrats make the tax code more progressive.

blurt

utter suddenly and impulsively

Before she can stop you, you should blurt out the news.

blush

become rosy or reddish; turn red, as if in embarrassment or shame

We all saw the girl blush when a young man whistled as she walked by.

bluster

blow in heavy gusts; speak in a loudly arrogant or bullying manner

"Let the stormy winds bluster," cried Jack, "we'll set sail tonight anyway."

bode

foreshadow; indicate by signs; be an omen of; predict

The gloomy skies and the odors from the mineral springs seemed to bode evil to those who settled in the area.

bogus

counterfeit or fake; not authentic; not genuine

The police quickly found the distributors of the bogus twenty-dollar bills.

bohemian

unconventional in an artistic way

Gertrude Stein ran off to Paris to live an eccentric, bohemian life with her writer friends.

boisterous

rough and stormy; loud, noisy, and lacking in restraint or discipline

The unruly crowd became even more boisterous when he tried to quiet them.

bolster

support or prop up with or as if with a long narrow pillow or cushion

The debaters amassed file boxes full of evidence to bolster their arguments.

bolt

dash or dart off; move or jump suddenly

Jack was set to bolt out the front door.

bombardment

attack with missiles; continuous attack with shot and shell upon a town, fort, or other position

The enemy bombardment demolished the town.

bombastic

pompous; using inflated language; high-sounding but with little meaning

The biggest military power on Earth was acting belligerent and its president was indulging in bombastic nationalistic grandstanding.

boon

blessing; benefit bestowed, especially in response to a request

The recent rains that filled our empty reservoirs were a boon to the whole community.

boorish

rude and clumsy in behavior; ungentlemanly; awkward in manners

Natasha was embarrassed by her fellow spy's boorish behavior.

boost

raise; advance; push or shove upward

It shows political parties could boost their share of the vote considerably.

bound

tied; held; committed; limit; constraint; leap; jump

Supreme Court ended a term bound to affect our lives in significant ways in the months ahead.

bountiful

abundant; graciously generous; giving freely and generously

Thanks to the good harvest, we had a bountiful supply of food.

bourgeois

middle class; selfishly materialistic; dully conventional

Technically, anyone who belongs to the middle class is bourgeois, but, most people resent it if you call them that.

bout

contest between antagonists; contest or fight; a period of time spent in a particular way, as in illness

She's still recovering from a bout of flu.

bovine

dull, slow-moving, and stolid, like an ox; placid and dull

Nothing excites Esther; even when she won the state lottery, she still preserved her air of bovine calm.

bowdlerize

edit by omitting or modifying parts considered offensive, vulgar, or otherwise unseemly

After the film editors finished to bowdlerize the language in the script, the motion picture's rating was changed from "R" to "PG."

braggart

boaster; one given to loud, empty boasting; very talkative person

Modest by nature, she was no braggart, preferring to let her accomplishments speak for themselves.

braid

weave; interweave three or more strands

Have you ever wanted to braid your own hair or someone else's hair?

brand

burning piece of wood; mark made by burning with a hot iron; distinctive mark upon in any way

He has his own brand of humor and always brings laugh for us.

brandish

move or wave, as a weapon; raise and move in various directions

Doctor Watson began to wildly brandish his gun until Holmes told him to put the thing away before he shot himself.

bravado

defiant or swaggering behavior; pretense of courage; false show of bravery

The bravado of the young criminal disappeared when he was confronted by the victims of his brutal attack.

brawl

fight; noisy quarrel or fight; loud party

Last week, two local men were killed in a brawl.

brawn

solid and well-developed muscles, especially of the arms and legs

People think in farming community you don't need a brain, only brawn.

brazen

having loud, usually harsh, resonant sound; shameless

His entire premiership has become an exercise in brazen dishonesty.

breach

breaking of contract or duty

Jill sued Jack for breach of promise, claiming he had broken his promise to marry her.

breadth

measure or dimension from side to side; width; extent

We were impressed by the breadth of her knowledge.

breed

raise; produce offspring; give birth to or hatch; mate

In a fast neutron reactor, this process is optimized so that it can breed fuel, often using a depleted uranium blanket around the core.

brevity

quality or state of being brief in duration; concise expression

Brevity is essential when you send a telegram or cablegram; you are charged for every word.

brim

brink; edge

She shut her book and slowly looked up; her hat brim partially shaded her face, yet I could see, as she raised it, that it was a strange one.

brindled

of brownish, tawny colour, with streaks, spots, or patterns

He was disappointed in the litter because the puppies were brindled, he had hoped for animals of a uniform color.

brink

edge, margin, or border of a steep place verge

Beyond the verge of provocation I never ventured; on the extreme brink I liked well to try my skill.

brisk

marked by speed, liveliness, and vigor; energetic; swift; keen or sharp in speech or manner

"Come in!" called a brisk, familiar voice, as Ronny knocked lightly on the almost closed door.

bristling

rising like bristles; showing irritation

The dog stood there, bristling with anger.

brittle

easily broken; having little elasticity

My employer's self-control was as brittle as an egg-shell.

broach

introduce; bring up for discussion or debate; announce

Jack did not even try to broach the subject of religion with his in-laws.

brochure

pamphlet; small book usually having paper cover

This brochure on farming was issued by the Department of Agriculture.

broil

cook by direct exposure to heat over fire; subject to great heat; be subjected to the action of heat; be greatly heated

I have to broil in this hot sun to get them back!

brooch

ornamental clasp; decorative pin worn by women

The brooch was a gift from Burton and she wore it when she wed him.

brood

think long and anxiously; be in a state of gloomy, serious thought

It's no use to brood over one's past mistakes.

brook

creek; stream

At the bottom of the hill ran a little brook, and on the opposite side of it was a bank.

browbeat

bully; intimidate; discourage or frighten with threats

Billy resisted Ted's attempts to browbeat him handing over his lunch money.

browse

graze; skim or glance at casually

"How now, brown cow, browsing in the green, green grass." I remember lines of verse that I came across while I browse through the poetry section of bookstore.

bruise

injure, as by a blow or collision; contuse; fight with the fists

She fell, but did not bruise her knee in such a soft land.

brunt

main impact or shock; main burden

Tom Sawyer claimed credit for painting the fence, but the brunt of the work fell on others.

brusque

abrupt and curt in manner or speech; rudely abrupt, unfriendly

Was Bruce too brusque when he brushed off Bob's request with a curt "Not now!"?

buccaneer

pirate; robber upon the sea

At Disneyland a pirate of the Caribbean sings a song about his live as bloody buccaneer.

bucolic

rustic; pastoral; agricultural; relating to country affairs, or to shepherd's life and occupation

Filled with browsing cows and bleating sheep, the meadow was a charmingly bucolic sight.

buffoon

one who makes a practice of amusing others by low tricks, antic gestures; droll; mimic; clown

This buffoon is the most self-centered idiot I have ever seen or heard.

buffoonery

clowning; arts and practices of buffoon, as low jests, ridiculous pranks, vulgar tricks and postures

In the Ace Ventura movies, Jim Carrey's buffoonery was hilarious: like Bozo the Clown, he's a natural buffoon.

bulge

cause to curve outward; swell up; stick out; protrude

When the inserted balloon is filled with water, they bulge out in a variety of shapes.

bulk

majority; main part; volume; mass

Canada's largest bulk food retailer, it has more than 112 stores.

bullion

gold and silver in the form of bars

Much bullion is stored in the vaults at Fort Knox.

bully

noisy, blustering fellow; one who is threatening and quarrelsome; insolent, tyrannical fellow

I found early in life that the best way to defeat a bully is a punch to the nose.

bulwark

earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends

The navy is our principal bulwark against invasion.

bump

impact as from a collision; lump on the body caused by a blow

Have you ever found a small lump or a bump on your body?

bungle

mismanage; blunder; work or act in clumsy, awkward, or blundering manner

Don't botch this assignment; if you bungle the job, you're fired!

buoyant

able to float; cheerful and optimistic

When the boat capsized, her buoyant life jacket kept Jody afloat.

bureaucracy

over-regulated administrative system

The Internal Revenue Service is the ultimate bureaucracy; taxpayers wasted so much paper filling out IRS forms to comply with the Paper-work Reduction Act.

burgeon

grow forth; send out buds; grow or develop rapidly

In the spring, the plants that burgeon are a promise of the beauty to come.

burlesque

give an imitation that ridicules; imitate mockingly or humorously

In Spaceballs, we see Rick Moranis burlesque Darth Vader of Star Wars, outrageously parodying Vader's stiff walk and hollow voice.

burnish

make shiny by rubbing; polish

I burnish the brass fixtures until they reflect the lamplight.

buttress

support physically; prop up; support something or someone by supplying evidence

The attorney came up with several far-fetched arguments in a vain attempt to buttress his weak case.

buxom

healthily plump and ample of figure; full-bosomed; vigorous; jolly

A generation ago, fat babies were considered healthy and buxom actresses were popular, but society has since come to worship thinness.

cabal

small group of persons secretly united to promote their own interests

The number of Republicans who support this man and his cabal is astonishing, but nothing will change the minds of that percentage.

cache

hiding place; secret store of valuables or money

The detectives followed the suspect until he led them to the cache where he had stored his loot.

cacophonous

discordant; inharmonious; sounding harshly; ill-sounding

Do the students in the orchestra enjoy the cacophonous sounds they make when they're tuning up? I don't know how they can stand the racket.

cadaver

corpse; dead body, especially one intended for dissection

In some states, it is illegal to dissect cadaver.

cadaverous

like corpse; pale; Having appearance or color of dead human body

By his cadaverous appearance, we could see how the disease had ravaged him.

cadence

rhythmic rise and fall of words or sounds; beat

Marching down the road, the troops sang out, following the cadence set by the sergeant.

cadet

younger of two brothers; student at a military school who is training to be an officer

A cadet should understand that the war he or she joins four or five years from now will be a different war altogether.

cajole

influence or urge by gentle urging or flattering

Diane tried to cajole her father into letting her drive the family car.

calamity

event that brings terrible loss, lasting distress, or severe affliction; disaster; misery

As news of the calamity spread, offers of relief poured in to the stricken community.

calculated

deliberately planned; carefully thought out in advance

Her conventional suit was one calculated to appeal to the conservative judges.

caliber

ability; degree or grade of excellence or worth; diameter of tube or gun barrel

Einstein's cleaning the blackboards again? Albert, quit it! A man of your caliber shouldn't have to do such tasks.

calligraphy

beautiful writing; excellent penmanship

As we examine ancient manuscripts, we become impressed with the calligraphy of the scribes.

callous

emotionally hardened; unfeeling; toughened

He had worked in the hospital for so many years that he was callous to the suffering in the wards.

callow

youthful; immature; inexperienced; without feathers

As a freshman, Jack was sure he was a man of the world; as a sophomore, he made fun of freshmen as callow youths.

calorific

capable of producing heat; causing heat; heating

Coal is much more calorific than green wood.

calumny

false statement maliciously made to injure another's reputation; slander

He could endure his financial failure, but he could not bear the calumny that his foes heaped upon him.

camaraderie

good-fellowship; companionship; close friendship in friends or teammates

What he loved best about his job was the sense of camaraderie he and his coworkers shared.

candor

frankness; quality of being honest and straightforward in attitude and speech

Jack can carry candor too far: when he told Jill his honest opinion of her, she nearly slapped his face.

canine

related to dogs; dog-like; affecting or derived from dogs

They will then incubate the viruses in canine tissue cells to see how well they grow.

canker

corroding or sloughing ulcer; anything which corrodes, corrupts, or destroys; disease incident to trees, causing the bark to rot and fall off

Drug addiction is a dangerous canker in society.

canny

having pleasing or useful qualities; gentle; knowing; cautious; cunning; shrewd

The first and most immediate of these is a certain canny captain of many wars whose regiment is still at the disposal of either army.

cant

inclination or slope; slanted or oblique surface; jargon, especially of thieves; dialect

I strayed from my own voice and slipped into jargon, cant, or false sentiment.

cantankerous

ill humored; irritable; marked by ill-tempered contradiction or opposition; ugly; malicious

Constantly complaining about his treatment and refusing to cooperate with the hospital staff, he was a cantankerous patient.

cantata

story or poem set to music that can be sung by chorus

The choral society sang the new cantata composed by its leader.

canter

slow gallop; moderate running pace of horse

Because the racehorse had outdistanced its competition so easily, the reporter wrote that the race was won in a canter.

canto

part or division of poem of some length

This is the first canto of Dante's poetic masterpiece The Divine Comedy.

canvass

determine votes; examine carefully or discuss thoroughly; scrutinize

After volunteers helped canvass the sentiments of his constituents, the congressman was confident that he represented the majority opinion of his district.

capacious

capable of containing a large quantity; spacious or roomy

In the capacious rotunda of the railroad terminal, thousands of travelers lingered while waiting for their train.

capacity

mental or physical ability; ability to accommodate

Mike had the capacity to handle several jobs at once.

capillary

long and slender with a very small internal diameter

It passed from a capillary tube.

capitulate

surrender; end all resistance; give up; go along with or comply

The enemy was warned to capitulate or face annihilation.

caprice

sudden, unexpected fancy; impulsive change of mind

Some revolutions may have originated in caprice, or generated in ambition.

capricious

fickle; impulsive and unpredictable; apt to change opinions suddenly

The storm was capricious: it changed course constantly.

caption

title; chapter heading; text under illustration

We got an caption error in The Far Side cartoons shown yesterday.

captious

intended to confuse in an argument

I resent the way he asked that was captious question.

carapace

hard outer covering or case of certain organisms such as arthropods and turtles

The top shell is the carapace while the bottom is called the plastron.

cardinal

chief; serving as an essential component

If you want to increase your word power, the cardinal rule of vocabulary-building is to read.

cardiologist

doctor who specializes in medical problems related to heart

When the physician noticed Philip had a slight heart murmur, she referred him to a cardiologist for further tests.

careen

lean to one side, as a ship under press of sail; sway from side to side

He saw the taxicab careen wildly as it rounded the corner.

career

profession or occupation; individual's work and life roles over their lifespan

The Italian Prime Minister and media tycoon Sylvia Berlusconi bought AC Milan in 1986 and the team's fortunes have mirrored his colorful career in politics.

caricature

representation that is deliberately exaggerated to produce a comic effect

The caricature he drew yesterday emphasized a personal weakness of the people he burlesqued.

carnage

destruction of life; savage and excessive killing of many people

The film The Killing Fields vividly depicts the carnage wreaked by Pol Pot's followers in Cambodia.

carnal

fleshly; of or relating to body or flesh; bodily

This wasn't about love, this was about raw animal attraction, about kindred spirits in carnal lust.

carnivorous

eating or feeding on flesh; predatory

The lion's a carnivorous beast. A hunk of meat makes up his feast.

carping

fault-finding; excessive complaining; of unreasonable criticism or censure

A carping critic is a nit-picker: he loves to point out flaws.

cartographer

one who makes maps or charts

Though not a professional cartographer, Tolkien was able to construct a map of his fictional world.

cascade

small waterfall; sudden downpour

We were too tired to appreciate the beauty of this cascade because we had to detour around it to avoid watering down.

caste

any of the hereditary social classes and subclasses of South Asian societies

The caste refers to social system based on rigid distinctions of birth, rank, and wealth.

casual

informal; purposeless; occurring by chance

The wildlife officer, in casual conversation, asks Hunter Joe where that deer came from.

casualty

serious or fatal accident; someone injured or killed in an accident

On holiday weekends this city usually has at least one automotive casualty.

cataclysm

an event resulting in great loss and misfortune; deluge or overflowing of water

A cataclysm such as the French Revolution affects all countries.

catalyst

agent which brings about chemical change while it remains unaffected and unchanged

Many chemical reactions cannot take place without the presence of a catalyst.

catapult

slingshot; hurling machine; military machine for hurling missiles, used in ancient and medieval times

The airplane is launched from battleship by catapult.

cataract

large or high waterfall; eye abnormality

She gazed with awe at the mighty cataract known as Niagara Falls.

catastrophe

calamity; disaster; state of extreme ruin and misfortune

The 1906 San Francisco earthquake was a catastrophe that destroyed most of the city.

catcall

shout of disapproval; shout or whistle expressing dislike, especially from crowd or audience

Every major league pitcher has off days during which he must learn to ignore any catcall and angry hiss from the crowd.

catechism

book for religious instruction; instruction by question and answer

He taught by engaging his pupils in a catechism until they gave him the correct answer.

categorical

absolute; having no exception; of using category or categories

Though the captain claimed he was never, never sick at sea, he finally had to qualify his categorical denial: he was "hardly ever" sick at sea.

cater

supply what is needed or desired; provide food professionally for special occasion

The chef was happy to cater to the tastes of his highly sophisticated clientele.

catharsis

purging or cleansing of any passage of body

Aristotle maintained that tragedy created a catharsis by purging the soul of base concepts.

catholic

broadly sympathetic; universal; related to Roman Catholic Church

He was extremely catholic in his taste and read everything he could find in the library.

caucus

private meeting of members of a party to select officers or determine policy

At the opening of Congress, the members of the Democratic Party held a caucus to elect the Majority Leader of the House and the Party Whip.

causal

implying cause-and-effect relationship

The psychologist maintained there was a causal relationship between the nature of one's early childhood experiences and one's adult personality.

caustic

capable of burning, corroding, dissolving, or eating away by chemical action

The critic's caustic remarks angered the hapless actors who were the subjects of his sarcasm.

cavalcade

ceremonial procession or display; succession or series

As described by Chaucer, the cavalcade of Canterbury pilgrims was a motley group.

cavalier

offhand or casual; given to haughty disregard of others

The disguised prince resented the cavalier way in which the palace guards treated him. How dared they handle a member of the royal family so unceremoniously!

cavil

criticise for petty or frivolous reasons; raise trivial objections

It's fine when you make sensible criticisms, but it really bugs me when you cavil about unimportant details.

cede

yield or formally resign and surrender to another

Eventually the descendants of England's Henry II were forced to cede their French territories to the King of France.

celerity

swiftness of action or motion; speed

Hamlet resented his mother's celerity in remarrying within a month after his father's death.

celestial

relating to the sky or the heavens; supremely good; god or angel

She spoke of the celestial joys that awaited virtuous souls in the hereafter.

celibate

unmarried; abstaining from sexual intercourse

The perennial bachelor vowed to remain celibate.

cemetery

place or ground set apart for the burial of the dead; graveyard

A vehicle for conveying a coffin is to a church or cemetery.

ensor

overseer of morals; official responsible for removal of objectionable or sensitive content

Soldiers dislike having their mail read by a censor but understand the need for this precaution.

ensorious

critical; addicted to censure; severe in making remarks on others, or on their writings or manners; implying or expressing censure

But it is childish to waste our time in censorious judgment on the individual who does no worse than represent a ruling type.

censure

expression of strong disapproval or harsh criticism; blame

Today's paper will censure the senator for behavior inappropriate to a member of Congress.

centigrade

measure of temperature, used widely in Europe

On the centigrade thermometer, the freezing point of water is zero degrees.

centrifugal

radiating; departing from the center

Many automatic drying machines remove excess moisture from clothing by centrifugal force.

centripetal

tending toward center; moving or directed toward center or axis

Does centripetal force or the force of gravity bring orbiting bodies to the earth's surface?.

centurion

officer of ancient Roman army, in command of a century of soldiers or minor division

Because he was in command of a company of one hundred soldiers, he was called a centurion.

cerebral

relating to the brain or cerebrum; intellectual rather than emotional

The content of philosophical works is cerebral in nature and requires much thought.

cerebration

act of cerebrating; thinking, mental activity

Mathematics problems sometimes require much cerebration.

ceremonious

marked by formality; strictly observant of or devoted to ceremony or ritual

Ordinary dress would be inappropriate at so ceremonious an affair.

certitude

state of being certain; complete assurance; confidence

Though there was no certitude of his getting the job, Lou thought he had a good chance of doing so.

cessation

bringing or coming to end; ceasing

The airline's employees threatened a cessation of all work if management failed to meet their demands.

cession

yielding to another; ceding or surrendering

The cession of Alaska to the United States is discussed in this chapter.

chafe

wear away or irritate by rubbing; make sore by rubbing; annoy; vex

The high collar used to chafe against my neck.

chaff

trivial or worthless matter; thin dry bracts or scales, especially

When you separate the wheat from the chaff, be sure you keep the wheat.

chaffing

joking; use of light, frivolous language by way of fun or ridicule

Chad's worthless remarks annoy us.; Chad's chaffing keeps us laughing.

chagrin

anxiety caused by humiliation or injured pride; disappointment

Embarrassed by his parents' shabby, working-class appearance, Doug felt their visit to his school would bring him nothing but chagrin.

chalice

goblet; bowl-shaped drinking vessel; large drinking cup, often having stem and base

In a small room adjoining the cathedral, visitors can see this ornately decorated chalice made by famous European goldsmith.

chameleon

lizard that changes color in different situations

Like the chameleon, he assumed the political thinking of every group he met.