

GRE Big Book Words List (1)

abase

v. humiliate; lower or depress in rank or esteem

abbess

n. the lady superior of a nunnery.

abbey

n. the group of buildings which collectively form the dwelling-place of a society of monks or nuns.

abbot

n. the superior of a community of monks.

abdicate

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

abdomen

n. belly, or that part of the body between the thorax and the pelvis

abdominal

n. of, pertaining to, or situated on the abdomen.

abduction

n. criminal act of capturing and carrying away by force

abed

adv. in bed; on a bed.

aberration

n. deviation from a right, customary, or prescribed course.

abet

v. aid, usually in doing something wrong; encourage

abeyance

n. suspended action; temporary cessation or suspension

abhorrence

n. the act of detesting extremely.

abhorrent

adj. very repugnant; hateful.

abidance

n. an abiding.

abject

a. being of the most miserable kind; wretched; lacking pride; brought low in condition or status

abjure

v. renounce upon oath; abandon forever

able-bodied

adj. competent for physical service.

ablution

n. washing or cleansing of the body, especially as part of religious rite

abnegate

v. give up or surrender; deny something to oneself

abnormal

a. unusual; not typical; not normal

abominable

a. detestable; extremely unpleasant; very bad

abominate

v. to hate violently.

abomination

n. a very detestable act or practice.

aboriginal

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

aborigines

n. the original or earliest known inhabitants of a country.

abrade

v. wear away by friction; scrape; erode

abrasion

n. scratch; friction

abridge

v. condense; shorten; reduce length of written text

abridgment

n. a condensed form as of a book or play.

abrogate

a. abolish, do away with, or annul, especially by authority

abrupt

a. broken off; very steep; having sudden transitions from one subject to another

abscess

n. a collection of pus in a cavity formed within some tissue of the body.

abscission

n. the act of cutting off, as in a surgical operation.

abscond

v. leave quickly and secretly and hide oneself, often to avoid arrest or prosecution

absence

n. state of being absent; state of being away

absent-minded

adj. lacking in attention to immediate surroundings or business.

absolution

n. act of absolving or the state of being absolved; formal remission of sin imparted by a priest

absolve

v. let off hook; relieve of requirement or obligation

absorb

v. assimilate or incorporate; suck or drink up; occupy full attention

absorption

n. process of absorbing nutrients into the body after digestion; state of mental concentration

abstain

v. refrain; hold oneself back voluntarily from an action or practice

abstemious

a. sparing or moderation in eating and drinking; temperate

abstinence

n. restraint from eating or drinking; refraining from indulging appetite or desire

abstruse

a. obscure; profound; difficult to understand.

absurd

a. preposterous; ridiculously incongruous or unreasonable; foolish

abundant

a. plentiful; possessing riches or resources

abusive

a. coarsely insulting; physically harmful; characterized by improper or wrongful use

abut

v. border upon; adjoin; touch or end at one end or side; lie adjacent

abyss

n. enormous chasm; vast bottomless pit; any deep, immeasurable space; hell

academic

a. related to school; not practical or directly useful; relating to scholarly organization; based on formal education

academician

n. a scholar who is skilled in academic disputation

academy

n. school for special instruction; society of scholars, scientists, or artists

accede

v. agree; give consent, often at insistence of another; concede

accelerate

v. move faster; cause to develop or progress more quickly; occur sooner than expected

accept

v. to take when offered.

access

n. approach; entry; entrance

accessible

a. easily approached or entered; obtainable; easy to talk to or get along with

accession

n. induction or elevation, as to dignity, office, or government.

accessory

n. additional object; useful but not essential thing; subordinate or supplementary item

acclaim

v. applaud; announce with great approval

accommodate

v. do a favor or service for; provide for; supply with; make suitable; adapt; allow for

accompaniment

n. act of accompanying someone or something

accompanist

n. one who or that which accompanies.

accompany

v. travel with; be associated with

accomplice

n. partner in crime; associate in wrongdoing

accomplish

v. succeed in doing; bring to pass; achieve; reach the end of; complete

accordion

n. a portable box-shaped free-reed instrument; reeds that are made to vibrate by air from the bellows controlled by the player

accost

v. approach and speak to boldly or aggressively, as with demand or request

account

n. narrative or record of events; reason given for a particular action or event

accouter

v. equip; provide with military equipment

accredit

v. authorize; commission; give credit for

accumulate

v. pile up; collect; mount up; increase

accuracy

n. quality of nearness to the truth or the true value

accurate

a. capable of providing a correct reading or measurement; performing with care and precision

accursed

adj. doomed to evil, misery, or misfortune.

accusation

n. indictment; charge of wrongdoing that is made against a person or other party

accusatory

adj. of, pertaining to, or involving an accusation.

accuse

v. blame; condemn

accustom

v. to make familiar by use.

acerbity

n. bitterness of speech and temper; sourness or acidness of taste, character, or tone

acetate

n. a salt of acetic acid.

acetic

a. having properties of vinegar; sour

ache

v. to be in pain or distress.

achillean

adj. invulnerable.

achromatic

adj. colorless,

acid

n. sour; water-soluble compounds having a sour taste; quality of being sarcastic, bitter, or scornful

acidify

v. to change into acid.

acknowledge

v. declare to be true or admit; express obligation, thanks

acknowledgment

n. recognition.

acme

n. the highest point or level, as of achievement or development; maturity or perfection of animal

acoustic

adj. pertaining to the act or sense of hearing.

acquaint

v. inform about; cause to come to know personally; make familiar

acquiesce

v. assent; agree without protesting

acquiescence

n. passive consent.

acquit

v. to free or clear, as from accusation.

acquittal

n. state of being found or proved not guilty; judgment of not guilty

acquittance

n. release or discharge from indebtedness, obligation, or responsibility.

acreage

n. quantity or extent of land, especially of cultivated land.

acrid

a. unpleasantly sharp or bitter to taste or smell; bitterly pungent

acrimonious

a. bitter and sharp in language, tone, or manner

acrimony

n. sharpness or bitterness of speech or temper.

actionable

adj. affording cause for instituting an action, as trespass, slanderous words.

actuality

n. any reality.

actuary

n. an officer, as of an insurance company, who calculates and states the risks and premiums.

actuate

v. put into motion or action; activate

acumen

n. mental keenness; quickness of perception

acute

a. quickly perceptive; keen; having a sharp point or tip; extremely sharp or severe

adamant

a. extremely hard; inflexible; stubbornly unyielding

addendum

n. something added or to be added, especially a supplement to a book

addle

v. muddle; drive crazy; become confused

adduce

v. to bring forward or name for consideration.

adhere

v. stick fast; stick to firmly; be compatible or in accordance with

adherence

n. attachment.

adherent

n. person who adheres; one who follows or upholds a leader, party, cause

adhesion

n. the state of being attached or joined.

adieu

inter. good-by; farewell.

adjacency

n. the state of being adjacent.

adjacent

a. adjoining; neighboring; close to; lying near

adjudge

v. to award or bestow by formal decision.

adjunct

n. something added on or attached generally nonessential or inferior

adjuration

n. a vehement appeal.

adjutant

adj. auxiliary.

administrator

n. one who manages a government agency or department

admissible

adj. having the right or privilege of entry.

admittance

n. entrance, or the right or permission to enter.

admonish

v. warn; counsel someone against something to be avoided

admonition

n. gentle or friendly reproof; cautionary advice or warning

ado

n. doing; bother; troublesome business; fuss; bustle

adoration

n. act of paying honor to a divine being; worship paid to God; act of addressing as a god

adroit

a. skillful and adept under pressing conditions

adulterant

n. an adulterating substance.

adulterate

v. make impure by adding inferior or tainted substances

adumbrate

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

advent

n. coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important

adverse

a. in opposing direction; harmful or unfavorable; acting or serving to oppose

adversity

n. state of misfortune, hardship, or affliction; misfortune

advert

v. to refer incidentally.

advertiser

n. one who advertises, especially in newspapers.

advisory

a. having power to advice; containing advice

advocacy

n. support; active pleading on behalf of something

advocate

v. speak, plead, or argue in favour of; plead for; push for something

aerial

a. of the air or atmosphere; produced by or found in the air; performed in the air

aeronaut

n. one who navigates the air, a balloonist.

aeronautics

n. the art or practice of flying aircraft

aerostat

n. a balloon or other apparatus floating in or sustained by the air.

aerostatics

n. the branch of pneumatics that treats of the equilibrium, pressure, and mechanical properties.

affable

a. easily approachable; warmly friendly

affect

v. have an emotional or cognitive impact upon

affectation

n. a studied or ostentatious pretense or attempt.

affiliate

v. associate; incorporate

affirmative

a. confirmative; ratifying; giving assent or approval; confirming

affix

v. fasten; append; add on; secure to something

affluence

n. abundance; a plentiful supply of material goods; wealth

affront

n. insult; offense; intentional act of disrespect

afoot

adv. in progress.

aforesaid

adj. said in a preceding part or before.

afresh

adv. once more, after rest or interval.

afterthought

n. a thought that comes later than its appropriate or expected time.

agglomerate

v. to pile or heap together.

aggrandize

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

aggravate

v. worsen; make worse or more troublesome

aggravation

n. the fact of being made heavier or more heinous, as a crime, offense, misfortune, etc.

aggregate

v. gather into a mass, sum, or whole; amount to

aggress

v. to make the first attack.

aggression

n. an unprovoked attack.

aggrieve

v. to give grief or sorrow to.

aghost

a. struck by shock, terror, or amazement

agile

a. moving quickly and lightly; mentally quick

agitate

v. cause to move with violence or sudden force; upset; disturb

agrarian

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

aide-de-camp

n. an officer who receives and transmits the orders of the general.

ailment

n. sickness; illness; affliction

airy

adj. delicate, ethereal.

akin

a. of the same kin; related by blood

alabaster

n. a white or delicately tinted fine-grained gypsum.

alacrity

n. cheerful promptness or willingness; eagerness; speed or quickness

albeit

ad. even though; although; notwithstanding

albino

n. a person with milky white skin and hair, and eyes with bright red pupil and usually pink iris.

album

n. a list of names; a register for visitors; a blank book, in which to insert autographs sketches, memorial writing of friends, photographs

alchemy

n. medieval chemistry; magical or mysterious power or process of transforming

alcohol

n. a volatile, inflammable, colorless liquid of a penetrating odor and burning taste.

alcoholism

n. a condition resulting from the inordinate or persistent use of alcoholic beverages.

alcove

n. nook; small, recessed section of a room

alder

n. north temperate shrubs or trees having toothed leaves and cone like fruit

alderman

n. a member of a municipal legislative body, who usually exercises also certain judicial functions.

aldermanship

n. the dignity, condition, office, or term of office of an alderman.

alias

n. assumed name; another name; name that has been assumed temporarily

alien

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

alienable

adj. capable of being alienated or alienated, as lands.

alienate

v. cause to become unfriendly or hostile; transfer property or ownership; isolate or dissociate emotionally

alienation

n. estrangement.

aliment

n. that which nourishes.

alkali

n. soda ash; caustic soda, caustic potash; one of a class of caustic bases, such as soda, potash, and ammonia

allay

v. calm; pacify; reduce the intensity of; relieve

allege

v. state without proof; assert to be true

allegory

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

alleviate

v. provide physical relief, as from pain; make easier; remove in part

alley

n. narrow passage, especially a walk or passage in a garden or park, bordered by rows of trees or bushes

alliance

n. state of being allied; act of allying or uniting; a union or connection of interests between families, states, parties

allot

v. parcel out in parts or portions; distribute to each individual concerned; assign as a share or lot

allotment

n. portion.

allude

v. refer casually or indirectly, or by suggestion

allusion

n. indirect reference; symbolical reference or comparison; metaphor

alluvion

n. flood.

ally

n. confederate; partner; collaborator

almanac

n. a series of tables giving the days of the week together with certain astronomical information.

aloof

a. apart; remote in manner; distant physically or emotionally; reserved and remote

altar

n. raised structure on which sacrifices are offered or incense burned to a deity

alter

v. modify; cause to change; make different; convert

alteration

n. passage from one form or state to another; change

altercate

v. to contend angrily or zealously in words.

alternate

a. happening or following in turns; succeeding each other continuously; substitute

alternative

a. one of two or more things, ideas or courses of action that may be used; option; choice

altitude

n. elevation especially above sea level; height

alto

n. the lowest or deepest female voice or part.

altruism

n. benevolence to others on subordination to self-interest.

altruist

n. one who advocates or practices altruism.

amalgam

n. an alloy or union of mercury with another metal.

amalgamate

v. combine; unite in one body; mix or alloy a metal with mercury

amateur

a. nonprofessional; lacking the skill of a professional, as in an art

amatory

adj. designed to excite love.

ambidextrous

a. capable of using either hand with equal ease

ambiguous

a. unclear or doubtful in meaning

ambitious

a. aspiring; having a strong desire for success or achievement

ambrosial

adj. divinely sweet, fragrant, or delicious.

ambulance

n. field hospital organized as to follow an army in its movements; wagon for conveying the wounded to hospital

ambulate

v. to walk about

ambush

n. disposition or arrangement of troops for attacking an enemy unexpectedly from a concealed station

ameliorate

v. make or become better; improve; grow better

amenable

a. responsive to advice or suggestion; responsible to higher authority; willing to comply with; agreeable

americanism

n. a peculiar sense in which an english word or phrase is used in the united states.

amicable

a. exhibiting friendliness or goodwill; not quarrelsome

amity

n. friendship; peaceful relations, as between nations

amorous

a. moved by sexual love; loving

amorphous

a. formless; lacking shape or definition

amour

n. a love-affair, especially one of an illicit nature.

ampere

n. the practical unit of electric-current strength.

amphibious

adj. living both on land and in water.

amphitheater

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

amplitude

n. largeness.

amply

adv. sufficiently.

amputate

v. cut off part of body, especially by surgery; prune

amusement

n. diversion.

anachronism

n. anything occurring or existing out of its proper time.

anagram

n. the letters of a word or phrase so transposed as to make a different word or phrase.

analogous

a. comparable; similar or alike

analogy

n. similarity in some respects; comparison based on similarity

analyst

n. one who analyzes or makes use of the analytical method.

analyze

v. diagnose; examine

anarchy

n. absence of governing body; state of disorder; political disorder and confusion

anathema

n. solemn curse; someone or something regarded as a curse

anatomy

n. detailed analysis; branch of morphology that deals with the structure of animals

anecdote

n. short account of amusing or interesting event; short narrative; secret story of history or biography

anemia

n. condition in which blood lacks red corpuscles; deficiency of red blood cells; lack of vitality

anemic

adj. affected with anemia.

anemometer

n. an instrument for measuring the force or velocity of wind.

anesthetic

n. substance that causes loss of sensation; producing temporary loss or impairment of feeling

anew

adv. once more.

angelic

adj. saintly.

anglophobia

n. hatred or dread of england or of what is english.

anglo-saxon

n. the entire english race wherever found, as in europe, the united states, or india.

angular

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

anhydrous

adj. withered.

animadversion

n. the utterance of criticism or censure.

animadvert

v. to pass criticism or censure.

animalcule

n. an animal of microscopic smallness.

animate

a. endowed with life; alive; living; animated

animosity

n. bitter hostility; active hatred; hostile feeling or act

annalist

n. historian.

annals

n. chronological record of the events of successive years

annex

v. append or attach; take possession of; incorporate into an existing political unit

annihilate

v. destroy completely; reduce to nonexistence

annotate

v. comment; make explanatory notes

annual

a. occurring or payable every year

annuity

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

annunciation

n. proclamation.

anode

n. the point where or path by which a voltaic current enters an electrolyte or the like.

anonymous

a. having no name; having unknown or unacknowledged name

antagonism

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

antarctic

a. opposite to the northern or arctic pole; relating to the southern pole or to the region near it

ante

v. in the game of poker, to put up a stake before the cards are dealt.

antecede

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

antecedent

n. one who or that which precedes or goes before, as in time, place, rank, order, or causality.

antechamber

n. a waiting room for those who seek audience.

antedate

v. be earlier in time; go back further

antediluvian

a. antiquated; extremely old and ancient; belonging to very ancient times

antemeridian

adj. before noon.

antenatal

adj. occurring or existing before birth.

anterior

a. before in time; antecedent; placed before or in front

anteroom

n. a room situated before and opening into another, usually larger.

anthology

n. book of literary selections by various authors

anthracite

n. hard coal.

anthropology

n. social science that studies origins and social relationships of human beings

anthropomorphous

adj. having or resembling human form.

antic

n. a grotesque, ludicrous, or fantastic action.

antichrist

n. any opponent or enemy of christ, whether a person or a power.

anticlimax

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

anticyclone

n. an atmospheric condition of high central pressure, with currents flowing outward.

antidote

n. medicine to counteract a poison or disease; agent that relieves or counteracts

antilogy

n. inconsistency or contradiction in terms or ideas.

antipathize

v. to show or feel a feeling of antagonism, aversion, or dislike.

antiphon

n. a response or alteration of responses, generally musical.

antiphony

n. an anthem or other composition sung responsively.

antipodes

n. a place or region on the opposite side of the earth.

antiquary

n. one who collects and examines old things, as coins, books, medals, weapons, etc.

antiquate

v. make obsolete or old-fashioned

antique

n. any furniture old and valuable; out of fashion

antiseptic

n. substance that prevents infection; substance that restricts the growth of disease-causing microorganisms

antislavery

adj. opposed to human slavery.

antispasmodic

adj. tending to prevent or relieve non-inflammatory spasmodic affections.

antistrophe

n. the inversion of terms in successive classes, as in "the home of joy and the joy of home".

antitoxin

n. a substance which neutralizes the poisonous products of micro-organisms.

antonym

n. word of opposite meaning; counter term

anxious

a. eager; keen; worried; uneasy and apprehensive about an uncertain event or matter

apathy

n. lack of caring; indifference

aperture

n. opening; diameter of such an opening; hole

apex

n. highest point; vertex; summit; climax

aphorism

n. definition or concise statement of principle; tersely phrased statement of truth or opinion

apiary

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

apogee

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

apology

n. acknowledgment expressing regret or asking pardon for a fault or offense; explanation or excuse

apostate

n. one who abandons his religious faith or political beliefs

apostle

n. any messenger commissioned by or as by divine authority.

apothecary

n. one who keeps drugs for sale and puts up prescriptions.

apotheosis

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

appall

v. depress or discourage with fear; grow faint or become weak

apparent

a. capable of being seen, or easily seen; open to view; visible to eye

apparition

n. ghostly figure; sudden or unusual sight; appearance; state of being visible

appease

v. bring peace, quiet, or calm to; satisfy or relieve

appellate

adj. capable of being appealed to.

appellation

n. name; title; act of naming; act of appealing for aid, sympathy

append

v. attach; add as supplement or appendix

appertain

v. to belong, as by right, fitness, association, classification, possession, or natural relation.

apposite

a. strikingly appropriate and relevant; well-suited

apposition

n. the act of placing side by side, together, or in contact.

appraise

v. estimate value of; evaluate, especially in official capacity

appreciable

a. considerable; perceptible

apprehend

v. take into custody; arrest a criminal; grasp mentally; perceive

apprehensible

adj. capable of being conceived.

approbation

n. expression of warm approval; praise

appropriate

v. acquire; take possession of for one's own use; set apart for specific use

aqueduct

n. a water-conduit, particularly one for supplying a community from a distance.

aqueous

adj. of, pertaining to, or containing water.

arbiter

n. person with power to decide a dispute; judge

arbitrary

a. randomly chosen; determined by chance or impulse, and not by reason or principle

arbitrate

v. to act or give judgment as umpire.

arbor

n. a tree.

arboreal

a. tree-dwelling; treelike; living in trees

arborescent

adj. having the nature of a tree.

arboretum

n. place where different tree varieties are exhibited

arboriculture

n. the cultivation of trees or shrubs.

arcade

n. covered passageway, usually lined with shops; simple arched opening in a wall; vault or vaulted place

archaeology

n. study of artifacts and relics of early mankind

archaic

a. no longer current or applicable; antiquated

archaism

n. obsolescence.

archangel

n. an angel of high rank.

archbishop

n. the chief of the bishops of an ecclesiastical province in the greek, roman, and anglican church.

archdeacon

n. a high official administrator of the affairs of a diocese.

archetype

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

archipelago

n. group of closely located islands

ardent

a. displaying or by strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate

ardor

n. intensity of passion or affection.

arid

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

aristocracy

n. hereditary nobility; privileged class

aristocrat

n. one of the aristocracy or people of rank in a community; one of a ruling class; a noble

armada

n. a fleet of warships; a large group of moving things

armful

n. as much as can be held in the arm or arms.

armory

n. arsenal; a place where arms are manufactured

aroma

n. fragrance; scent; pleasant characteristic odor, as of a plant, spice, or food

arraign

v. officially charge someone in a court of law

arrange

v. put in proper order; dispose in the manner intended, or best suited for the purpose

arrangement

n. composition; order

arrant

adj. notoriously bad.

arrear

n. something overdue and unpaid.

arrival

n. a coming to stopping-place or destination.

arrogant

a. arising from feeling or assumption of one's superiority toward others

arrogate

v. claim without justification; claim for oneself without right

artesian

well n. a very deep bored well. water rises due to underground pressure

artful

adj. characterized by craft or cunning.

arthurian

adj. pertaining to king arthur, the real or legendary hero of british poetic story.

artifice

n. subtle but base deception; trickery; cleverness or skill; ingenuity

artless

a. free of artificiality; natural; open and honest

ascendant

adj. dominant.

ascension

n. the act of rising.

ascent

n. upward slope or grade; movement upward

ascetic

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

ascribe

v. inscribe or dedicate; attribute to a specified cause, source, or origin; assign as a quality

asexual

adj. having no distinct sexual organs.

ashen

a. ash-colored; very pale; consisting of ashes

askance

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

asperity

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

aspirant

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

aspire

v. seek to attain; long for; strive toward an end

assailant

n. one who attacks.

assassin

n. one who kills, or tries to kill, treacherously or secretly.

assassinate

v. to kill, as by surprise or secret assault, especially the killing of some eminent person.

assassination

n. act of assassinating; killing by treacherous violence; murder of public figure by surprise attack

assay

v. analyze; evaluate; examine by trial or experiment; put to test

assent

v. express agreement to what is alleged or proposed; accept

assess

v. estimate value; judge worth of something

assessor

n. an officer whose duty it is to assess taxes.

assets

n. pl. property in general, regarded as applicable to the payment of debts.

assiduous

a. constant in application or attention; diligent; unceasing or persistent

assignee

n. one who is appointed to act for another in the management of certain property and interests.

assimilate

v. incorporate and absorb into mind; make similar; cause to resemble

assonance

n. resemblance or correspondence in sound.

assonant

adj. having resemblance of sound.

assonate

v. to accord in sound, especially vowel sound.

assuage

v. ease or lessen pain; satisfy or appease

astringent

a. causing contraction; having the effect of drawing tissue together; stern or austere

astute

a. wise or keen; shrewd; with sharp intelligence

atheism

n. the denial of the existence of god.

athirst

adj. wanting water.

athwart

adv. from side to side.

atomizer

n. an apparatus for reducing a liquid to a fine spray, as for disinfection, inhalation, etc.

atone

v. make amends, as for sin or fault; pay for; turn away from sin

atonement

n. amends, reparation, or expiation made from wrong or injury.

atrocious

adj. outrageously or wantonly wicked, criminal, vile, or cruel.

atrocious

n. brutal deed; atrocious condition, quality, or behavior; monstrosity

attache

n. a subordinate member of a diplomatic embassy.

attest

v. testify; authenticate, affirm to be true

attorney-general

n. the chief law-officer of a government.

auburn

adj. reddish-brown, said usually of the hair.

audacious

a. fearlessly, often recklessly daring; bold

audible

a. perceptible; heard or perceptible by the ear

audition

v. take part in a trial performance; evaluate in a trial performance

auditory

a. of or relating to hearing, the organs of hearing, or the sense of hearing

augment

v. make greater, as in size, extent, or quantity

augur

v. to predict.

augustinian

adj. pertaining to st. augustine, his doctrines, or the religious orders called after him.

aura

n. pervasive psychic influence supposed to emanate from persons

aural

adj. of or pertaining to the ear.

auricle

n. one of the two chambers of the heart which receives the blood from the veins.

auricular

adj. of or pertaining to the ear, its auricle, or the sense of hearing.

auriferous

adj. containing gold.

aurora

n. the first light of day; an atmospheric phenomenon consisting of bands of light caused by charged solar particles following the earth's magnetic lines of force

auspice

n. favoring, protecting, or propitious influence or guidance.

austere

a. strict or severe in discipline; severely simple and unornamented

autarchy

n. unrestricted power.

authentic

a. not counterfeit or copied; valid; trustworthy

authenticity

n. the state or quality of being genuine, or of the origin and authorship claimed.

autocracy

n. absolute government.

autocrat

n. dictator; ruler having unlimited power

automaton

n. mechanism that imitates actions of humans

autonomous

a. self-governing; not controlled by others or by outside forces; independent

autonomy

n. independence; self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination

autopsy

n. examination of dead body; post-mortem

autumnal

adj. of or pertaining to autumn.

auxiliary

a. helper, additional or subsidiary

avalanche

n. great mass of falling snow and ice

avarice

n. greediness for wealth; insatiable desire of gain

aver

v. declare to be true; affirm

averse

a. reluctant; disinclined; turned away or backward; unwilling

aversion

n. firm dislike; turning away; avoidance of a thing, situation, or behavior because of dislike

avert

v. prevent; turn or cause to turn off or away

aviary

n. large cage, building, or enclosure in which birds are reared or kept

avidity

n. greediness.

avocation

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

avow

v. declare openly; acknowledge openly, boldly, and unashamedly

awaken

v. to arouse, as emotion, interest, or the like.

aye

adv. an expression of assent.

azalea

n. a flowering shrub.

azure

a. sky blue; light purplish-blue

baconian

adj. of or pertaining to lord bacon or his system of philosophy.

bacterium

n. single celled organism with no nucleus

badger

v. pester; annoy persistently; persuade through constant efforts

baffle

v. frustrate as by confusing or perplexing; impede force or movement of

bailiff

n. an officer of court having custody of prisoners under arraignment.

baize

n. a single-colored napped woolen fabric used for table-covers, curtains, etc.

bale

n. a bundle or package of goods in a cloth cover, and corded for storage or transportation

baleful

a. portending evil; harmful in intent or effect.

ballad

n. popular kind of narrative poem, adapted for recitation or singing

balsam

n. a medical preparation, aromatic and oily, used for healing.

banal

a. obvious and dull; commonplace; lacking originality

barcarole

n. a boat-song of venetian gondoliers.

baritone

adj. having a register higher than bass and lower than tenor.

barograph

n. an instrument that registers graphically and continuously the atmospheric pressure.

barometer

n. instrument for determining the weight or pressure of the atmosphere

barring

prep. apart from.

bask

v. luxuriate; take pleasure in warmth

bass

adj. low in tone or compass.

baste

v. to cover with melted fat, gravy, while cooking.

baton

n. staff or truncheon for various purposes, as one of a conductor in musical performances, one transferred by runners in a relay race

battalion

n. a body of infantry composed of two or more companies, forming a part of a regiment.

batten

n. a narrow strip of wood.

batter

v. beat with successive blows; beat repeatedly and with violence

bauble

n. small, showy ornament of little value; child's plaything or toy

bawl

v. cry out with a loud, full sound; cry with vehemence, as in calling or exultation; shout

beatify

v. to make supremely happy.

beatitude

n. blessedness; state of extreme happiness

beau

n. an escort or lover.

becalm

v. keep from motion, or stop progress of; make calm or still

beck

v. to give a signal to, by nod or gesture.

bedaub

v. to smear over, as with something oily or sticky.

bedeck

v. to cover with ornament.

bedlam

n. madhouse.

befog

v. to confuse.

befriend

v. to be a friend to, especially when in need.

beget

v. produce; give rise to

begrudge

v. resent; give or expend with reluctance; be envious of

belate

v. to delay past the proper hour.

belay

v. to make fast, as a rope, by winding round a cleat.

belie

v. contradict; give a false impression

believe

v. to accept as true on the testimony or authority of others.

belittle

v. disparage or depreciate; put down

belle

n. a woman who is a center of attraction because of her beauty, accomplishments, etc.

bellicose

a. warlike or hostile in manner or temperament; showing or having impulse to be combative

belligerent

a. inclined or eager to fight; aggressive

bemoan

v. regret strongly; express disapproval of

benediction

n. blessing; invocation of divine blessing; expression of good wishes

benefactor

n. gift giver; person who gives people or institutions with financial help

benefice

n. a church office endowed with funds or property for the maintenance of divine service.

beneficent

adj. characterized by charity and kindness.

beneficial

a. helpful; tending to promote physical well-being

beneficiary

n. person entitled to benefits or proceeds of an insurance policy or will

benefit

n. advantage; something that aids or promotes well-being ; welfare; gain

benevolence

n. any act of kindness or well-doing.

benevolent

a. generous in providing aid to others; charitable

benign

a. kindly; favorable; not malignant

benignant

adj. benevolent in feeling, character, or aspect.

benignity

n. kindness of feeling, disposition, or manner.

benison

n. blessing.

bequeath

v. leave to someone by a will; hand down

bereave

v. to make desolate with loneliness and grief.

berth

n. space for ship to dock or anchor; allotted place; place to sleep or stay; appointment or job

beseech

v. beg; plead with; ask for or request earnestly

beset

v. attack from all sides; trouble persistently; hem in

besmear

v. to smear over, as with any oily or sticky substance.

bestial

a. beastlike; brutal; lacking in intelligence or reason

bestrew

v. to sprinkle or cover with things strewn.

bestride

v. to get or sit upon astride, as a horse.

bethink

v. to remind oneself.

betide

v. to happen to or befall.

betimes

adv. in good season or time.

betroth

v. become engaged to marry; promise to marry

betrothal

n. engagement to marry.

bevel

n. any inclination of two surfaces other than 90 degrees.

bewilder

v. lead into perplexity or confusion; perplex with mazes

bibliography

n. list of works of a specific author or publisher; list of writings relating to a given subject

bibliomania

n. the passion for collecting books.

bibliophile

n. one who loves books.

bibulous

adj. fond of drinking.

bide

v. to await.

biennial

a. every two years; lasting or living for two years

bier

n. a horizontal framework with two handles at each end for carrying a corpse to the grave.

bigamist

n. one who has two spouses at the same time.

bigamy

n. the crime of marrying any other person while having a legal spouse living.

bight

n. a slightly receding bay between headlands, formed by a long curve of a coast-line.

bilateral

a. two-sided; mutual

bilingual

n. using or able to use two languages, especially with equal or nearly equal fluency

biograph

n. a bibliographical sketch or notice.

biology

n. the science of life or living organisms.

biped

n. an animal having two feet.

birthright

n. a privilege or possession into which one is born.

bitterness

n. sharp and bitter manner

blase

adj. sated with pleasure.

blaspheme

v. to indulge in profane oaths.

blatant

a. flagrant; conspicuously obvious; loudly offensive

blaze

n. brilliant burst of fire; destructive fire; flame

blazon

v. to make widely or generally known.

bleak

a. cold or cheerless; unlikely to be favorable

blemish

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

blithe

a. gay; joyous; carefree and lighthearted

blithesome

adj. cheerful.

blockade

n. shutting up of a place by troops or ships; obstruction to passage

boatswain

n. a subordinate officer of a vessel, who has general charge of the rigging, anchors, etc.

bodily

adj. corporeal.

boisterous

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

bole

n. the trunk or body of a tree.

bolero

n. a spanish dance, illustrative of the passion of love, accompanied by casté nets and singing.

boll

n. a round pod or seed-capsule, as a flax or cotton.

bolster

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

bomb

n. a hollow projectile containing an explosive material.

bombard

v. to assail with any missile or with abusive speech.

bombardier

n. a person who has charge of mortars, bombs, and shells.

bombast

n. inflated or extravagant language, especially on unimportant subjects.

boorish

a. rude and clumsy in behavior; ungentlemanly; awkward in manners

bore

v. drill; make a hole in or through, with or as if with a drill

borough

n. incorporated town that is not a city; association of men who gave pledges to the king for the good behavior of each other

bosom

n. the breast or the upper front of the thorax of a human being, especially of a woman.

botanical

adj. connected with the study or cultivation of plants.

botanize

v. to study plant-life.

botany

n. science which treats of the structure of plants, the functions of their parts, their places of growth, their classification

bountiful

a. abundant; graciously generous; giving freely and generously

bowdlerize

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

bowler

n. in cricket, the player who delivers the ball.

boycott

v. refrain from buying or using

brae

n. hillside.

braggart

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

brandish

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

bravado

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

bravo

interj. well done.

bray

n. a loud harsh sound, as the cry of an ass or the blast of a horn.

braze

v. to make of or ornament with brass.

brazier

n. an open pan or basin for holding live coals.

breach

n. breaking of contract or duty

breaker

n. one who trains horses, dogs, etc.

breech

n. the buttocks.

brethren

n. pl. members of a brotherhood, guild, profession, association, or the like.

brevity

n. quality or state of being brief in duration; concise expression

bric-a-brac

n. objects of curiosity or for decoration.

bridle

n. headgear with which a horse is directed and which carries a bit and reins

brigade

n. a body of troops consisting of two or more regiments.

brigadier

n. general officer who commands a brigade, ranking between a colonel and a major-general.

brigand

n. one who lives by robbery and plunder.

brimstone

n. sulfur.

brine

n. water saturated with salt.

bristle

n. one of the coarse, stiff hairs of swine: used in brush-making, etc.

britannia

n. the united kingdom of great britain.

briticism

n. a word, idiom, or phrase characteristic of great britain or the british.

brittle

a. easily broken; having little elasticity

broach

v. introduce; bring up for discussion or debate; announce

broadcast

n. message that is transmitted by radio or television; radio or television show

brogan

n. a coarse, heavy shoe.

brogue

n. any dialectic pronunciation of english, especially that of the irish people.

brokerage

n. the business of making sales and purchases for a commission; a broker.

bromine

n. a dark reddish-brown, non-metallic liquid element with a suffocating odor.

bronchitis

n. inflammation of the bronchial tubes.

bronchus

n. either of the two subdivisions of the trachea conveying air into the lungs.

brooch

n. ornamental clasp; decorative pin worn by women

brotherhood

n. spiritual or social fellowship or solidarity.

browbeat

v. bully; intimidate; discourage or frighten with threats

brusque

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

buffoon

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

buffoonery

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

bulbous

adj. of, or pertaining to, or like a bulb.

bullock

n. an ox.

bulrush

n. any one of various tall rush-like plants growing in damp ground or water.

bulwark

n. earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends

bumper

n. something as bars at edges to absorb shock and prevent serious damage

bumptious

a. offensively self-assertive; liable to give or take offense; forward; pushing

bungle

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

buoyancy

n. power or tendency to float on or in a liquid or gas.

buoyant

a. able to float; cheerful and optimistic

bureau

n. a chest of drawers for clothing, etc.

bureaucracy

n. over-regulated administrative system

burgess

n. in colonial times, a member of the lower house of the legislature of maryland or virginia.

burgher

n. an inhabitant, citizen or freeman of a borough burgh, or corporate town.

burnish

v. make shiny by rubbing; polish

bursar

n. treasurer or keeper of funds; purser or treasurer of college or other community

bustle

v. move or cause to move energetically and busily; teem

butt

v. to strike with or as with the head, or horns.

butte

n. a conspicuous hill, low mountain, or natural turret, generally isolated.

buttress

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

by-law

n. a rule or law adopted by an association, a corporation, or the like.

cabal

n. small group of persons secretly united to promote their own interests

cabinet

n. group of persons appointed by a head of state or a prime minister; hut; cottage; small house; small room; closet

cacophony

n. a disagreeable, harsh, or discordant sound or combination of sounds or tones.

cadaverous

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

cadence

n. rhythmic rise and fall of words or sounds; beat

cadenza

n. an embellishment or flourish, prepared or improvised, for a solo voice or instrument.

caitiff

adj. cowardly.

cajole

v. influence or urge by gentle urging or flattering

cajolery

n. delusive speech.

calculable

adj. that may be estimated by reckoning.

calculus

n. a concretion formed in various parts of the body resembling a pebble in hardness.

callosity

n. the state of being hard and insensible.

callow

a. youthful; immature; inexperienced; without feathers

calorie

n. unit of heat; unit of heat equal to the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 kilogram of water by 1 degree

calumny

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

calvary

n. the place where christ was crucified.

calvinism

n. the system of doctrine taught by john calvin.

calvinize

v. to teach or imbue with the doctrines of calvinism.

came

n. a leaden sash-bar or grooved strip for fastening panes in stained-glass windows.

cameo

n. piece of jewelry; a small scale used as a jewel for adornment; famous actor's special appearance in a minor role in film

campaign

n. battle ;a series of actions advancing a principle or tending toward a particular end

canaanite

n. a member of one of the three tribes that dwelt in the land of canaan, or western palestine.

canary

n. pale yellowish color; wine made in the Canary Islands; canary bird; quick and lively dance

candid

a. straightforward; frank; free from prejudice; impartial

candor

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

canine

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

canon

n. law or rule; decision, regulation, code, or constitution made by authority; books of the Bible officially accepted; a group of literary works

cant

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

cantata

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

canto

n. part or division of poem of some length

cantonment

n. the part of the town or district in which the troops are quartered.

capacious

a. capable of containing a large quantity; spacious or roomy

capillary

n. long and slender with a very small internal diameter

capitulate

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

caprice

n. sudden, unexpected fancy; impulsive change of mind

caption

n. title; chapter heading; text under illustration

captious

a. intended to confuse in an argument

captivate

v. charm; enthrall; seize by force, as an enemy in war, or anything belonging to enemy

carcass

n. dead body of an animal especially one slaughtered and dressed for food

cardiac

a. of or relating to the heart

cardinal

a. chief; serving as an essential component

caret

n. a sign (^) placed below a line, indicating where omitted words, etc., should be inserted.

caricature

n. representation that is deliberately exaggerated to produce a comic effect

carnage

n. destruction of life; savage and excessive killing of many people

carnal

a. fleshly; of or relating to body or flesh; bodily

carnivorous

a. eating or feeding on flesh; predatory

carouse

v. to drink deeply and in boisterous or jovial manner.

carrion

n. dead and putrefying flesh.

cartilage

n. an elastic animal tissue of firm consistence.

cartridge

n. a charge for a firearm, or for blasting.

caste

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

castigate

v. criticize severely; punish; revise or make corrections to publication

casual

a. informal; purposeless; occurring by chance

casualty

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

cataclysm

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

cataract

n. large or high waterfall; eye abnormality

catastrophe

n. calamity; disaster; state of extreme ruin and misfortune

cathode

n. the negative pole or electrode of a galvanic battery.

catholicism

n. the system, doctrine, and practice of the roman catholic church.

catholicity

n. universal prevalence or acceptance.

cat-o-nine-tails

n. an instrument consisting of nine pieces of cord, formerly used for flogging in the army and navy.

caucus

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

causal

a. implying cause-and-effect relationship

caustic

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

cauterize

v. to burn or sear as with a heated iron.

cede

v. yield or formally resign and surrender to another

censor

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

ensorious

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

census

n. official examination of the details of a country's population

centenary

a. relating to a 100-year period; occurring once every 100 years

centiliter

n. a hundredth of a liter.

centimeter

n. a length of one hundredth of a meter.

centurion

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

cereal

n. grass such as wheat, oats, or corn, the starchy grains of which are used as food.

ceremonial

n. ritual; ceremony or rite

ceremonious

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

cessation

n. bringing or coming to end; ceasing

cession

n. yielding to another; ceding or surrendering

chameleon

n. lizard that changes color in different situations

chancery

n. a court of equity, as distinguished from a common-law court.

chaos

n. disorder; condition or place of great disorder or confusion; disorderly mass

characteristic

n. feature that helps to identify, tell apart, or describe recognizably; a distinguishing mark or trait

characterize

v. distinguish; be characteristic of; be a distinctive trait or mark of

charlatan

n. quack; one who pretends to knowledge, skill, or importance

chasten

v. rid of excess; refine or purify; correct by punishment or reproof

chastise

v. punish, as by beating; criticize severely; rebuke

chastity

n. state of being chaste; purity of body; freedom from unlawful sexual intercourse

chateau

n. impressive country house or castle in France; large country house

chattel

n. any article of personal property.

check

v. stop motion; curb or restrain

chiffon

n. a very thin gauze used for trimmings, evening dress, etc.

chivalry

n. courtesy towards women

cholera

n. an acute epidemic disease.

choleric

a. hot-tempered; easily angered; bad-tempered; expressing anger

choral

adj. pertaining to, intended for, or performed by a chorus or choir.

christ

n. a title of jesus

christen

v. to name in baptism.

christendom

n. that part of the world where christianity is generally professed.

chromatic

adj. belonging, relating to, or abounding in color.

chronology

n. time sequence; arrangement of events in time

chronometer

n. a portable timekeeper of the highest attainable precision.

cipher

n. secret code; an Arabic numeral or figure; a number

circulate

v. move through a space, circuit or system, returning to the starting point

circumference

n. boundary line of a circle, figure, area, or object

circumlocution

n. indirect or roundabout expression; evasion in speech or writing

circumnavigate

v. to sail quite around.

circumscribe

v. limit narrowly; confine; draw a line around; encircle

circumspect

a. carefully aware of all circumstances; cautious

citadel

n. fortress; fortified place which people could go for shelter during battle

cite

v. quote; adduce as an instance

claimant

n. one who makes a claim or demand, as of right.

clairvoyance

n. intuitive sagacity or perception.

clamorous

a. speaking and repeating loud words; full of clamor; calling or demanding loudly or urgently; vociferous; noisy; bawling; loud

clan

n. faction; tribe; division of a tribe tracing descent from a common ancestor; a large group of relatives

clandestine

a. secret; conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

clangor

n. loud, resounding noise; sharp, metallic, ringing sound; resonant, clanging sound

clarify

v. make clear and comprehensible; elucidate

clarion

n. a small shrill trumpet or bugle.

classify

v. declare unavailable, as for security reasons; arrange or order by classes or categories

clearance

n. act of clearing; space cleared; permission to proceed or trust

clemency

n. mildness, as of the weather; merciful, kind, or lenient act

clement

adj. compassionate.

close-hauled

adj. having the sails set for sailing as close to the wind as possible.

clothier

n. one who makes or sells cloth or clothing.

clumsy

a. awkward; showing lack of skill or aptitude

coagulant

adj. producing coagulation.

coagulate

v. cause transformation of liquid into or as if into soft, semisolid, or solid mass

coalescence

n. union of diverse things into one body or form or group; growing together of parts

coalition

n. partnership; league; state of being combined into one body

coddle

v. treat gently; cook in water just below boiling point

codicil

n. supplement or appendix, especially to a will

coerce

v. restrain by force, especially by law or authority; repress; curb

coercion

n. use of force to get someone to obey

coercive

adj. serving or tending to force.

cogent

a. reasonable and convincing; based on evidence; forcefully persuasive

cognate

a. related by blood; having common ancestor; related or analogous in nature, character, or function

cognizant

adj. taking notice.

cohere

v. stick or hold together in a mass that resists separation

cohesion

n. tendency to keep together

cohesive

a. cohering or tending to cohere; well integrated

coincide

v. occur at the same time as; correspond

coincidence

n. two or more things occurring at the same time by chance

coincident

a. concerning; simultaneous

collaborate

v. work together, especially in a joint intellectual effort

collapse

v. breakdown; failure

collapsible

adj. that may or can collapse.

colleague

n. fellow worker; associate; co-worker

collective

a. common; assembled into or viewed as a whole

collector

n. one who makes a collection, as of objects of art, books, or the like.

collegian

n. a college student.

collide

v. bump; hit; conflict

collier

n. one who works in a coal-mine.

collision

n. crash; conflict of opposed ideas or attitudes or goals

colloquial

a. of informal spoken language or conversation; conversational or chatty

colloquialism

n. colloquial expression; characteristic of spoken or written communication that seeks to imitate informal speech

colloquy

n. conversation.

collusion

n. secret agreement for an illegal purpose; conspiracy

colossus

n. any strikingly great person or object.

comely

a. pleasing or attractive to the eye; handsome; graceful

comestible

adj. fit to be eaten.

comical

a. arousing or provoking laughter

commemorate

v. serve as a memorial to; honor the memory of with a ceremony

commentary

n. written explanation or criticism or illustration that is added to a book or other textual material

commingle

v. to blend.

commissariat

n. the department of an army charged with the provision of its food and water and daily needs.

commission

n. fee for services; group of people appointed to find out about something; authorize

commitment

n. pledge, undertaking; act of binding yourself to a course of action

committal

n. the act, fact, or result of committing, or the state of being

commodity

n. goods; article of trade; advantage; benefit.

commotion

n. disturbed or violent motion; agitation; public disturbance; riot; excitement

commute

v. obtain or bargain for exemption or substitution; travel regularly from a place of residence to another place

comparable

a. similar or equivalent; being of equal regard; worthy to be ranked with

comparative

a. relative; based on, or involving comparison

comparison

n. examination of two or more objects with reference to their likeness or unlikeness.

compensate

v. make amends for; reimburse

competence

n. quality of being adequately or well qualified physically and intellectually

competent

a. capable; adept

competitive

a. of or pertaining to competition; producing competition; showing a fighting disposition

competitor

n. one who seeks what another seeks, or claims what another claims; one who competes; rival

complacent

adj. pleased or satisfied with oneself.

complaisance

n. politeness.

complaisant

a. trying to please; showing cheerful willingness to do favors for others

complement

v. complete; consummate; make perfect

complex

a. complicated in structure; a whole structure, as a building, made up of interconnected or related structures

compliant

a. yielding to request or desire; ready to accommodate; disposed or willing to comply

complicate

v. to make complex, difficult, or hard to deal with.

complication

n. complexity; intricacy; any disease or disorder that occurs during the course of another disease

complicity

n. participation; involvement as partner or accomplice, especially in crime or other wrongdoing

compliment

n. praise; commendation; say something to someone that expresses praise

component

n. element; ingredient; abstract part of something

comport

v. to conduct or behave (oneself).

composure

n. mental calmness; calm or tranquil state of mind

comprehensible

a. understandable; readily comprehended or understood; intelligible

comprehension

n. grasp; ability to understand

comprehensive

a. thorough; including all or everything; broad in scope

compress

v. close; squeeze or press together; contract

compressible

adj. capable of being pressed into smaller compass.

compression

n. applying pressure; encoding information while reducing the bandwidth or bits required

comprise

v. include; consist of; be composed of

compulsion

n. act of compelling, or the state of being compelled; act of driving or urging by force or by physical or moral constraint

compulsory

a. mandatory; obligatory; required by rule

compunction

n. feeling of deep regret; strong uneasiness caused by a sense of guilt

compute

v. reckon; make mathematical calculation

concede

v. admit; yield; give up physical control of another

conceit

n. overly high self-esteem; feelings of excessive pride

conceive

v. form or develop in the mind; devise; become pregnant with; begin or originate in a specific way

concerto

n. composition for orchestra and a soloist

concession

n. act of yielding; point yielded; acknowledgment or admission

conciliate

v. to obtain the friendship of.

conciliatory

a. making or willing to yield, or to make concessions

conclusive

a. definitive; decisive; final

concord

n. agreement of opinions; harmonious state of things

concordance

n. harmony.

concur

v. to agree.

concurrence

n. agreement.

concurrent

a. simultaneous; coincident; occurring or operating at the same time

concussion

n. shaking or agitation; shock; injury to an organ, especially the brain, produced by a violent blow

condensation

n. compression

condense

v. change from a gaseous to a liquid state and fall in drops; compress or concentrate

condescend

v. stoop or descend; let one's self down; submit; waive the privilege of rank or dignity

condolence

n. expression of sympathy with another in sorrow or grief.

conduce

v. to bring about.

conducive

adj. contributing to an end.

conductible

adj. capable of being conducted or transmitted.

conduit

n. a means for conducting something, particularly a tube, pipe, or passageway for a fluid.

confectionery

n. the candy collectively that a confectioner makes or sells, as candy.

confederacy

n. alliance

confederate

n. ally; form a group or unite

confer

v. bestow; present; have a conference in order to talk something over

conferee

n. a person with whom another confers.

confessor

n. a spiritual advisor.

confidant

n. one to whom secrets are entrusted.

confide

v. disclose; reveal; tell in confidence

confidence

n. feeling secure or certain about something

confident

a. assured; having or marked by assurance

confinement

n. state of being confined; restraint within limits; any restraint of liberty by force

confiscate

v. seize as forfeited to the public treasury; appropriate to the public use

conflagration

a. large destructive fire; burning; large-scale military conflict

confluence

n. act of two things flowing together; junction or meeting place where two things meet

confluent

n. a stream that unites with another.

conformable

adj. harmonious.

conformance

n. the act or state of conforming.

conformation

n. general structure, form, or outline.

conformity

n. similarity in form or character; agreement

confront

v. be face to face with; oppose in hostility or competition; deal with

congeal

v. to coagulate.

congenial

a. compatible

congest

v. to collect into a mass.

congregate

v. assemble; convene; gather

coniferous

adj. cone-bearing trees.

conjecture

v. believe especially on uncertain or tentative grounds

conjoin

v. to unite.

conjugal

a. belonging to marriage; suitable or appropriate to the marriage state or to married persons; matrimonial

conjugate

adj. joined together in pairs.

conjugation

n. the state or condition of being joined together.

conjunction

n. state of being conjoined, united, or associated; union; association; league

connive

v. to be in collusion.

connoisseur

n. specialist; person with expert knowledge or training, especially in the fine arts

connote

v. to mean; signify.

connubial

adj. pertaining to marriage or matrimony.

conquer

v. gain or acquire by force; take possession of by violent means; gain dominion over

consanguineous

a. of the same lineage or origin; having common ancestor

conscience

n. motivation deriving logically from ethical or moral principles; source of moral or ethical judgment

conscientious

a. diligent; responsible; reliable

conscious

a. awake; alert

conscript

v. to force into military service.

consecrate

v. to set apart as sacred.

consecutive

a. following one after another without interruption; sequential

consensus

n. general agreement or accord; opinion reached by a group as a whole

conservatism

n. a political or theological orientation advocating the preservation of the best in society and opposing radical changes

conservative

a. favoring traditional views and values; tending to oppose change

conservatory

n. greenhouse; school of music or dramatic art

consign

v. give, transfer, or deliver in a formal manner, as if by signing over into the possession of another

consignee

n. a person to whom goods or other property has been entrusted.

consignor

n. one who entrusts.

consistency

n. harmonious uniformity or agreement among things or parts

console

v. cheer from distress or depression; alleviate grief and raise spirits of; relieve; comfort

consolidate

v. make solid; unite or press together into a compact mass; harden or make dense and firm

consonance

n. the state or quality of being in accord with.

consonant

a. compatible; harmonious

consort

v. associate; join

conspicuous

a. noticeable; prominent; easy to notice; obvious

conspirator

n. one who engages in a conspiracy; plotter

conspire

v. make a secret agreement, to do some act, as to commit treason or a crime, or to do some unlawful deed; plot together

constable

n. an officer whose duty is to maintain the peace.

constellation

n. a number of stars seen from the Earth as a group and often having a name

consternation

n. intense state of fear or dismay; astonishment combined with terror

constituency

n. the inhabitants or voters in a district represented in a legislative body.

constituent

n. component or part; citizen, voter

constrict

v. restrict; shrink; make smaller or narrower by binding or squeezing

consul

n. an officer appointed to reside in a foreign city, chiefly to represent his country.

consulate

n. the place in which a consul transacts official business.

consummate

a. carried to the utmost extent or degree; of the highest quality; complete; perfect

consumption

n. eating or drinking of something

consumptive

adj. designed for gradual destruction.

contagion

n. the communication of disease from person to person.

contagious

a. infectious; of or relating to communicable diseases

contaminate

v. make impure or unclean by contact or mixture; pollute; defile

contemplate

v. look at attentively and thoughtfully; observe deep in thought

contemporaneous

adj. living, occurring, or existing at the same time.

contemporary

a. modern; belonging to the same period of time

contemptible

a. worthy of contempt; deserving of scorn or disdain; mean

contemptuous

a. scornful; expressing contempt; showing a lack of respect

contender

n. contestant you hope to defeat

contiguity

n. proximity.

contiguous

a. sharing an edge or boundary; touching; neighboring

continence

n. self control; self restraint; partial or complete abstention from sexual activity

contingency

n. condition of being dependent on chance; uncertainty; possibility

contingent

a. possible, or liable, but not certain, to occur; incidental; casual.

continuance

n. permanence.

continuation

n. prolongation; extension by which something is carried to a further point

continuity

n. property of a continuous and connected period of time

continuous

adj. connected, extended, or prolonged without separation or interruption of sequence.

contort

v. to twist into a misshapen form.

contraband

n. trade forbidden by law or treaty.

contradiction

n. assertion of contrary; denial of the truth of a statement or assertion; opposition, whether by argument or conduct

contradictory

a. nature of, or being a contradiction; mutually exclusive; opposing

contraposition

n. a placing opposite.

contravene

v. to prevent or obstruct the operation of.

contribution

n. act of contributing; payment exacted for special purpose; impost or levy

contributor

n. one who gives or furnishes, in common with others, for a common purpose.

contrite

adj. broken in spirit because of a sense of sin.

contrivance

n. the act planning, devising, inventing, or adapting something to or for a special purpose.

contrive

v. form by an exercise of ingenuity; devise; invent; design

control

v. to exercise a directing, restraining, or governing influence over.

controller

n. one who or that which regulates or directs.

contumacious

adj. rebellious.

contumacy

n. contemptuous disregard of the requirements of rightful authority.

contuse

v. to bruise by a blow, either with or without the breaking of the skin.

contusion

n. injury that doesn't break the skin

convalesce

v. recover gradually from an illness

convalescence

n. the state of progressive restoration to health and strength after the cessation of disease.

convalescent

adj. recovering health after sickness.

convene

v. cause to come together formally

convenience

n. state of being suitable

converge

v. approach; tend to meet; come together

convergent

adj. tending to one point.