

abandon

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

With her parents out of town, Kelly danced all night with abandon.

abide

v. endure; put up with; bear; tolerate

Oh, don't bother ME, I could not abide figures!

abnormal

a. unusual; not typical; not normal

Fujitsu, Toshiba, HP, and Lenovo all insist that their designs are sufficiently different to Dell and Apple, that there is no abnormal risk of fire.

absurd

a. preposterous; ridiculously incongruous or unreasonable; foolish

Alice thought the whole thing very absurd, but they all looked so grave that she did not dare laugh.

abuse

n. improper use or handling; misuse

The commenter said that he had stopped seven years of girl abuse in this area, thanks to Vito.

access

n. approach; entry; entrance

The only access to the village is by boat.

accidental

a. unexpected; happening by chance, unintentionally

Its curves are arbitrary and what we call accidental, but one after another follows it as if he were guided by a chart on which it was laid down.

accomplice

n. partner in crime; associate in wrongdoing

Because your accomplice is a stranger, it's safer than asking a friend to participate in your ruse.

acquaintance

n. personal knowledge or information about someone or something

He also reconnected with Doris Schmitz, an acquaintance from the University of Frankfurt.

activate

v. make active or more active; stimulate; make radioactive

The carriers say they want to encrypt and store the credentials in the phone's SIM card, the small chips to activate access to mobile networks.

acute

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

Her early writing was grounded in acute observation of the natural world.

adamant

a. extremely hard; inflexible; stubbornly unyielding

Speaker Pelosi came out of that meeting, and she was once again adamant about saying a public option must be in the bill.

addiction

n. the compulsive physiological and psychological need for a substance; being abnormally dependent on something

No matter what form we find it in, addiction is not fun; drugs, alcohol, overeating, overworking, smoking or sex.

ado

n. doing; bother; troublesome business; fuss; bustle
So, without more ado, let me introduce tonight's guests.

adopt

v. accept; take on; raise; take into one's family
In a late-night session, the United States, which has blocked most recent efforts to adopt resolutions on the Middle East, put forward its own proposal.

adorable

a. deserving to be adored; worthy of divine honors
I just can't resist that adorable face and those amazing blue eyes!

adore

v. worship with profound reverence; pay divine honors to; regard with the utmost esteem and affection
All the girls in our school adore the handsome mathematics teacher who happens to be a bachelor.

affected

a. speaking or behaving in an artificial way; emotionally stirred or moved; infected or attacked
The other boys laughed so unmercifully at what they termed my affected accent.

affection

n. fondness; tender feeling toward another; fondness
I happen to think that the physical expression of love and affection is just about the best thing we humans do.

affirmative

a. confirmative; ratifying; giving assent or approval; confirming
The result will allow schools to know what they can do and not do in affirmative action programs.

agenda

n. items of business at a meeting; list or program of things to be done or considered
His agenda is certainly different from the President's and the administration's, but we will seek additional opportunities to work together with him.

aggressive

a. making assaults; unjustly attacking; combative; hostile; tending to spread quickly
During his tenure in Beijing, Huntsman was an aggressive advocate for human rights and pushed to expand U.S. economic ties with China.

agitated

a. disturbed; excited; expressing agitation
His face was very much agitated and very much flushed.

agony

n. the extreme pain of mind or body; anguish; last struggle of life; death struggle
'Oh, PLEASE mind what you are doing!' cried Alice, jumping up and down in an agony of terror.

agreement

n. state of agreeing; harmony of opinion, statement, action, or character
We are in agreement with their decision.

airborne

a. aloft; flying; in the air

It provides air-data and GPS-inertial solutions for airborne measurement.

alias

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

Since the alias is already defined in our management pack, it should work fine.

allegiance

n. loyalty to a nation, sovereign, or cause; fidelity to any person or thing; devotion

They didn't want to salute the flag, saying that kind of allegiance is only for God.

allergic

a. excessively sensitive; susceptible; having an allergy

An attack by a swarm of reddish-brown insects can cause allergic reactions, which can be fatal in extremely rare cases.

allergy

n. hypersensitivity reaction; abnormally high sensitivity to certain substances

Food allergy is distinct from food intolerance, which is not caused by an immune reaction.

alley

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

In 1958, he tore down the dance hall and built a six-lane bowling alley, which is still there.

ally

n. confederate; partner; collaborator

The trouble is that selling arms to this particular ally regularly involves commissions - in plain language, bribes - to well-placed people.

altar

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

In answer to my inquiries, she informed me it was a covering for the altar of a new church lately erected.

ambrosia

n. something with delicious flavor or fragrance; fruit dessert made of oranges and bananas with shredded coconut

Hughes got a taste of that ambrosia, and he'll never forget the satisfaction it brings.

ambush

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

They separated into three hostile tribes, and darted upon each other from ambush with dreadful war-whoops, and killed each other by thousands.

amendment

n. a change or changes made to the words of a text; revision

America and Britain oppose this amendment, but some other European countries, particularly Germany, have always been lukewarm on debt relief and might be swayed.

amnesia

n. partial or total loss of memory, usually resulting from shock or illness

Selective amnesia is a politically valuable trait.

amulet

n. object worn, especially around the neck, as a charm against evil or injury; charm

In Thailand, the Jatukam Ramathep amulet is popular with everyone from Bangkok bankers to village taxi drivers.

anemia

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

Long-standing illnesses often result in anemia, loss of weight, and occasional bleeding from the stomach.

ankle

n. the joint which connects the foot with the leg; tarsus

There was a place on my ankle that got to itching, but I didn't scratch it, and then my ear began to itch; and next to my back, right between my shoulders.

anonymous

a. having no name; having an unknown or unacknowledged name

The buyer, who wished to remain anonymous, is a foreigner with homes in Europe.

anticipate

v. act in advance of; deal with ahead of time; predict

I thought she loved me, outcast as I was, and I, who from man could anticipate only mistrust, rejection, insult, clung to her with filial fondness.

antidote

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

They believe that because this anti-heroin antidote is what finally worked with some of the victims.

apology

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

The consequence of those measures will be the best apology for my conduct.

appalling

a. causing or fitted to cause dismay or horror; frightful

I don't know why she's marrying that appalling man; I wouldn't touch him with a barge-pole.

appeal

n. attraction; charm; attract; fascinate; challenge

Oxfam is making a big appeal for humanitarian aid to Darfur and neighboring Chad, where millions of people have been made homeless by fighting.

appealing

a. attractive or interesting; charming

The poor creature dropped on his knees before the stolid murderer and clasped his appealing hands.

appetite

n. instinctive physical desire, especially one for food or drink

China's urban young are developing a growing appetite for the cool white look of platinum jewelry.

appropriate

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

The ranch owners appropriate the lands that have originally been set aside for the Indians' use.

apron

n. an article of dress, of cloth or other stuff, worn on the forepart of the body, to

keep the clothes clean

At home, my apron is coated with food remains within minutes of starting to cook.

archer

n. Bowman, one skilled in the use of the bow and arrow

I am the best archer in our college.

archives

n. public records; place where public records are kept

These documents should be part of the archives so that historians may evaluate them in the future.

arena

n. a playing field where sports events take place; a large structure for open-air sports or entertainments

For your convenience, arena locations have been divided into two categories; East and West.

arrogance

n. overbearing pride; haughtiness; manifest feeling of personal superiority in rank, power, or estimation

I also think his arrogance is also turning people off.

arrogant

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

He often speaks in an arrogant tone, which doesn't encourage others to discuss with him.

arson

n. malicious burning of a dwelling house or outhouse of another man, which by the common law is a felony

According to police, at least 29 vehicles were destroyed in arson attacks this year; most of them are luxury cars.

arsonist

n. criminal who illegally sets fire to property

No matter how big the fire, it was always put down to a discarded cigarette unless the arsonist was arrested.

artillery

n. large weapons, such as cannon and missile launchers operated by crews; army branch in use of large weapons

Our rocket artillery is simply a mass of rounds pointed at the general area of the enemy.

assault

n. a violent attack; an onslaught

He's charged with interfering with the performance of a flight crew by assault or intimidation.

asset

n. properties; advantage; useful or valuable quality

Hilary Rosen of the Recording Industry Association of America: American intellectual property is our nation's greatest trade asset.

assurance

n. promise or pledge; certainty; self-confidence; freedom from doubt

Even in BP CEO Tony Hayward's new television commercial, his assurance is ambiguous.

assured

a. made sure; exhibiting confidence or authority; indubitable

We are surprised to see the little girl paint with an assured hand.

asthma

n. chronic respiratory disease, often arising from allergies

Indoor air pollution may have contributed to the increase in asthma rates since the 1980s.

asylum

n. place of refuge or shelter; protection

The refugees sought asylum from religious persecution in a new land.

attic

n. story or room directly below the roof of a building, especially a house;

Of the various things you mentioned, the attic is a likely source of heat loss.

attorney

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

Did this attorney mean to throw away his client's life without an effort?

auction

n. public sale of property to the highest bidder

The auction is over, and the winning bid was 1000 dollars.

audition

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

She scheduled to audition for a role on Broadway.

authentic

a. not counterfeit or copied; valid; trustworthy

It is authentic, genuine, and a true and correct copy of the original.

authorization

n. act of giving authority or legal power; establishment by authority; sanction or warrant

Foreigners wishing to marry a Mexican citizen must obtain authorization from the National Institute for Migration

authorize

v. empower; give permission for; sanction

President Bush and House Leaders agreed on a resolution to authorize force against Iraq.

autopsy

n. examination of dead body; post-mortem

The medical examiner ordered an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

awe

n. mixed emotion of reverence, respect, dread, and wonder; fear, as of something evil

The tourists gazed with awe at the tremendous expanse of the Grand Canyon.

bacon

n. back and sides of a pig salted and smoked

They built a fire against the side of a great log and then cooked some bacon in the frying-pan for supper.

badge

n. a distinctive mark, token, or sign worn on the person

He was awarded a merit badge for his bravery in the battle.

bait

v. harass; tease; lure, entice, or entrap

The school bully will bait the smaller children, terrorizing them.

bald

a. hairless; lacking a natural or usual covering

Although he carried, under his wig, a perfectly bald and shiny head, he had only reached middle age.

ballroom

n. large room used mainly for dancing

Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Toronto offers ballrooms and Latin dancing lessons, including waltz, tango, and other popular dances.

bane

n. something causes misery or death; curse; fatal injury or ruin

Lucy's little brother was the bane of her existence: his attempts to make her life miserable worked so well that she could have poisoned him.

bankrupt

a. penniless, without any money; financially ruined

But opposition leaders say he's morally bankrupt and must now step down.

banner

n. flag; sign; a newspaper headline that runs across the full page

The red top refers to the color of the banner at the top of the paper.

barb

n. sharp projection from fishhook; openly cutting remark

If you were a politician, would you prefer being caught on the barb of a fishhook?

barbecue

n. a rack to hold meat for cooking over hot charcoal usually out of doors

The authorities believe it could have been started by a barbecue that had not been put out properly and have announced that they will be questioning suspects in the morning.

barge

n. flatboat; long, large boat for transporting freight that is unpowered and towed or pushed by other craft

Another barge with fresh water from the U.S. military arrived at the site Friday to assist in the cooling operations.

bark

n. a sound made by a dog; harsh sound uttered by a dog

She set off at once and ran till she was quite tired and out of breath and till the puppy's bark sounded quite faint in the distance.

barn

n. an outlying farm building for storing grain or animal feed and housing farm animals

I daresay it is only a rat scrambling along the rafters of the adjoining schoolroom: it was a barn before I had it repaired and altered, and rats generally haunt them.

barrier

n. obstacle; structure built to bar passage; boundary or limit

The study says police must undo community distrust, which it calls a barrier to outreach.

batch

n. quantity of bread baked at one time; a collection of things or persons to be handled together

But the last of this batch is the most important and the best of the whole.

beacon

n. signal fire to notify of the approach of an enemy, or to give any notice, commonly of warning

This is a beacon to help aircraft discover their position.

beam

n. ray of light; a long piece of metal or wood; long piece fixed or movable in structure, machine, or tool

During a severe earthquake, each beam will absorb the shock by crumpling, thereby preventing severe damage to the tower.

beat

v. whip; strike; defeat; hit repeatedly

Speak roughly to your little boy; And beat him when he sneezes; He only does it to annoy; Because he knows it teases.

beaver

n. amphibious rodent about two feet in length; fur of the beaver; tall hat, originally made from beaver fur

To him, a beaver is a quarter of a fur coat for his wife or a nice hat.

behold

v. have in sight; see clearly; look at; perceive by the visual faculty

We can behold a tiny figure in the distance.

benign

a. kindly; favorable; not malignant

Though her benign smile and gentle bearing made Miss Marple seem a sweet little old lady, in reality, she was a tough-minded lady.

betray

v. be unfaithful; reveal unconsciously or unwillingly

The two spies betray their country by selling military secrets to the enemy.

beverage

n. liquids for drinking, usually excluding water; refreshment

How fragrant was the steam of the beverage and the scent of the toast!

bizarre

a. fantastic; violently contrasting; strangely unconventional in style or appearance

The plot of the novel was too bizarre to be believed.

blackmail

n. extortion of money or value from a person by threat of exposing a criminal act or discreditable information

Apparently, bribery and blackmail are legal if you work for Congress.

blade

n. the flat part of the leaf, of any plant, especially of gramineous plants; cutting part of an instrument

A dull blade is best for this job to avoid cutting fabric accidentally.

bless

v. make or pronounce holy; consecrate; make happy

My family and I will be praying along with Rick that God will again bless your country.

blizzard

n. a severe snowstorm with strong winds

A blizzard is a severe winter storm condition characterized by low temperatures, strong winds, and heavy blowing snow.

blur

n. something hazy and indistinct to the sight or mind; dim, confused appearance; moral stain or blot

The blur is a visible condensation cloud that often occurs close to the speed of the sound barrier.

bodyguard

n. guard to protect or defend person; lifeguard

Having a female bodyguard is more than just a status symbol in Russia.

bogus

a. counterfeit or fake; not authentic; not genuine

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

bolt

v. dash or dart off; move or jump suddenly

Jack was set to bolt out the front door.

boost

v. raise; advance; push or shove upward

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

booster

n. device for increasing power or effectiveness; enthusiastic promoter, as of a sports team or school

On the other hand, the booster was a public benefactor, no matter how ill-grounded his optimism.

booze

n. drink greedily or immoderately, especially alcoholic liquor

If you think you like a drink, it means I like booze.

bore

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

Three types of protein that enable the cells to bore in and out of blood vessels.

bouquet

n. small cluster or arrangement of flowers; an arrangement of flowers that is usually given as a present

They are usually created with flowers that have definite form and add character to a bouquet.

bout

n. a 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.

brace

n. something which holds anything tightly or supports it firmly, as bandage, cord, or rod;

After the brace is on, the strap is tightened to pull the foot into a better position.

brake

n. a piece of mechanism for retarding or stopping motion by friction

A lot of the cost of maintenance goes into renewing the brake of my old car.

breach

n. breaking of contract or duty; breaking of waves or surf; fissure or gap

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

brilliant

a. full of light; shining; bright; sharp and clear in tone

The refreshing meal, the brilliant fire, the presence, and kindness of her beloved instructress had roused her powers among them.

brink

n. 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.

brutal

a. like a brute; savage; cruel; inhuman; merciless

In many cases, a rich businessman reached the top by trampling others in the most brutal way.

brutality

n. quality of being brutal; inhumanity; savageness; pitilessness

To write down his success simply to brutality is to oversimplify.

bubble

n. foam; dome-shaped covering made of transparent glass or plastic; fantastic or impracticable idea or belief

This is the most anticipated public offering since the dot-com bubble burst four years ago.

buckle

v. fold or collapse; bend out of shape, as under pressure or from heat

Then, to make sure the edges didn't buckle from the glue, I laid wax paper over it and put a weight on it.

budge

v. move off; move or stir slightly; alter a position or attitude

The trapped child was stuck tight and couldn't budge.

bug

n. general name applied to various insects

It might have seemed to him a waste of ammunition to kill a bug with a battery of artillery.

bulb

n. the rounded part of a cylindrical structure; electric lamp consisting of a glass ball

The light bulb hasn't changed a whole lot in its 120 years -- the original design was just that good.

bully

n. 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.

bum

n. one who is devoted to a particular activity; murmuring or humming sound; lazy or shiftless person

Mike is such a beach bum. All he wants to do is getting a tan.

bumper

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

He insisted on changing the front bumper of the vehicle after an accident.

bust

n. the occasion for excessive eating or drinking; complete failure; sculpture of the head and shoulders of a person

With major debt repayments due over in 18 months, the business could go bust.

bypass

n. the channel used to conduct gas or liquid around another pipe or a fixture

Heart surgeons use PRP to strengthen tissues in bypass operations, and some plastic surgeons and dermatologists use it as an alternative to facial fillers.

cadet

n. 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.

canary

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

The canary is a small yellow songbird.

canyon

n. narrow chasm with cliff walls, cut into the earth by running water; a gorge

Valles Marineris on Mars is the largest known canyon in the solar system.

capacity

n. mental or physical ability; ability to accommodate

Mike had the capacity to handle several jobs at once.

carnival

n. festivity; traveling amusement show usually including rides, games, and sideshows

The armed thieves used a carnival street parade as cover for their getaway.

carol

n. round dance; a song of joy; a song of praise or joy, especially for Christmas

Digging a bit, it becomes clear that the carol is, in fact, an Easter song.

carve

v. make something by cutting into especially wood or stone; sculpt

I realize the Senate schedule will be very busy this year, but I hope that I may work with you to carve out just a small amount of time to consider this important issue.

cascade

n. 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.

category

n. group; class; a collection of things sharing a common attribute

Remember, all cars are priced, booked, and controlled by car category, not by car maker or model.

catholic

a. broadly sympathetic; universal; related to Roman Catholic Church

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

cavalry

n. part of military force which serves on horseback

The cavalry is behind the rows following the center, which is filled with men and materiel.

cavern

n. cave; large underground chamber, as in a cave

Four avenues opened out of the small cavern in which the great rock stood.

cavity

n. hole; cavern; hollow area within the body

What is a cavity in a tooth? Why do they drill it?

celebrated

a. famous; well-known; having illustrious past

Thanks to their race to break Roger Maris's home-run record, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire are two of America's most celebrated baseball players.

celebrity

n. a widely known person

He was a baseball celebrity.

cellar

n. room or rooms under a building, and usually below the surface of the ground

The New Zealand wineries are similar to the American wineries and welcome visitors to what they call the cellar door.

cemetery

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

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

cereal

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

I have a bowl of cereal every morning.

cerebral

a. relating to the brain or cerebrum; intellectual rather than emotional

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

chaos

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

Their job is to stop a repeat of the chaos that blighted the last election in 2002.

chap

n. crack, as in earth surface; splitting of skin, caused by cold or exposure; one of the jaws or cheeks; man or boy

And the boy is dying - that's the worst of it - oh! a poor little chap, that is the worst of it!

charitable

a. benevolent; kind and not judging people in a negative way

The entire organization is funded by charitable donations.

charity

n. activity or gift that benefits the public at large

This is potentially embarrassing for those involved in the concerts, as the rock stars use charity to disguise self-promotion.

charter

v. license; authorize; hold under a lease or rental agreement of goods and services

As a result, we decide to charter the school to use bigger writing for the French version.

chase

v. pursue to kill or take; hunt; follow as if to catch

He saw the policeman chase the mugger down the alley.

chateau

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

This elegant, 19th-century chateau has a total of some 800 square meters, over 4 floors.

chevron

n. badge consisting of stripes meeting at an angle, worn on the sleeve of military or police uniform to indicate rank

He has very large tattoos on his upper arms, including an army chevron about the size of a grapefruit - it is the rank of a Staff Sergeant that he claims he is.

chic

n. good form; style; elegance under being fashionable

Of course, most regular folks aren't greeted by name stand in front of this chic Beverly Hills beauty salon.

chimera

n. monster represented as vomiting flames, and as having lion head, goat body, and dragon tail

Now that's an interesting political animal or chimera or whatever.

choir

n. band or organized company of singers, especially in church service

Some people will say that being in a choir is lots of involvement because you have both rehearsals and services, which is true.

chop

v. hew; cut by striking with a heavy sharp tool, such as an ax

Jim told me to chop off the snake's head and throw it away, and then skin the body and roast a piece of it.

chorus

n. any utterance produced simultaneously by a group

'But who is to give the prizes?' quite a chorus of voices asked.

chubby

a. of a person, slightly overweight, somewhat fat and hence soft; rounded, and plump

Hi Pille, chubby is definitely better if it means more chocolate!

chuck

v. toss or throw smartly out of hand; make noise or call, as a hen calls her chickens

Let's chuck all these old papers away.

chump

n. short, thick, heavy piece of wood; stupid or foolish person

He would be much more than some chump pretending to play guitar and sing with his musical talent.

chunk

n. a thick mass or piece, amount

Mary, get me a silk thread and a chunk of fire out of the kitchen.

cider

n. beverage made from juice pressed from apples

When my parents have too much cider, they let some of it turn into vinegar.

civilian

a. of or relating to non-military life

The first is integrating former rebels back into civilian life.

clam

v. be moist or glutinous; stick or adhere; produce or cause to clang

It just takes a conscious effort to clam when everyone around you is hysterical, and consider some other tips included in this book.

clamp

n. any of various devices used to join, grip, support, or compress mechanical or structural parts

Her hand darted out, fastening over Lawanda's emaciated wrist like a clamp.

clarity

n. clearness of thought or style; brightness; splendor

With the re-designed screens on the new iPad, the clarity is much better than most all papers.

clientele

n. clients of professional person; the body of customers or patrons

Her clientele is slightly different from the average movie store because most of her customers only have a limited interest in a film due to busy schedules.

closure

n. act of shutting; closing

We finally brought the project to closure.

clot

n. thick, viscous, or coagulated mass or lump, as of blood; compact group

You can see a clot of automobiles blocking the tunnel's entrance.

clumsy

a. awkward; showing lack of skill or aptitude

I did the same thing except with a Bunker Buster, but the shock wave made me stumble and made me look like a clumsy loser.

coalition

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

The Rainbow coalition united people of all races in a common cause.

coincidence

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

Was it just a coincidence that she and John had chanced to meet at the market, or was he deliberately trying to seek her out?

collision

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

The collision of the particles resulted in an exchange of energy and a change of direction.

colossal

a. of extraordinary size; huge; gigantic

Radio City Music Hall has a colossal stage.

coma

n. state of profound insensibility from which it is difficult or impossible to rouse a person

A person in a coma is alive but unconscious.

commence

v. have a beginning or origin; originate; start; begin

Mrs. Fairfax swallowed her breakfast and hastened away to commence operations.

commitment

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

My main commitment is to promote human values; this is what I consider the key factor for a happy life at the individual level, family level, and community level.

commotion

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

For the Mouse was swimming away from her as hard as it could go and making quite a commotion in the pool as it went.

compact

a. closely and firmly united or packed together; briefly giving a gist of something

His short, compact body was better suited to wrestling than to basketball.

compassion

n. the sensation of sorrow excited by the distress or misfortunes of another; pity; commiseration

Many men were moved, and many women's compassion testified itself in tears.

compassionate

a. having a temper or disposition to pity; sympathetic; merciful

The plight of the refugees arouses the compassionate older man.

compatible

a. harmonious; having similar disposition and tastes

They were compatible neighbors, never quarreling over unimportant matters.

compelling

a. overpowering; drivingly forceful; urgently requiring attention

They had better not succeed in compelling anyone to work the proposed shift to midnight.

compliment

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

A compliment is a gift, not to be thrown away carelessly unless you want to hurt the giver.

compromise

v. adjust or settle by making mutual concessions; endanger the interests or reputation of

Sometimes the presence of a neutral third party can help adversaries compromise their differences.

compulsive

a. having the power to compel; exercising or applying compulsion.

There were hundreds of warrior robots of various sizes walking about, waving arms and rods, having no tasks to do but in compulsive, meaningless motion.

con

ad. against the affirmative side; in opposition; on the negative side

They debated the issue pro and con but cannot get any result.

concede

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

Despite all the evidence Monica had assembled, Mark refused to concede that she was right.

conceive

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

I asked, was it a mere nervous impression - a delusion? I could not conceive or believe it: it was more like an inspiration.

concussion

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

Harris suffered a concussion from the hit and did not return to the game.

condemn

v. blame; denounce; express strong disapproval of

They are more than twice as likely as other Americans to condemn gambling as 'always morally wrong.'

confide

v. disclose; reveal; tell in confidence

I rely implicitly on his power and confide wholly in His goodness.

confront

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

Here in the heart of conservative Texas, young criminals, murderers and thugs are forced to confront military-style discipline, a traditional view of right and wrong.

confrontation

n. state of being confronted, especially a meeting face to face; clash of opinions and ideas

The daily confrontation was not often caught on camera 10 years ago, but more electronic monitors and smartphones have been changing it.

conjure

v. call on or summon by sacred name or in a solemn manner; implore earnestly; practice magical arts

The magician will conjure a rabbit out of his hat.

consolation

n. act of consoling; state of being consoled; refreshment of spirit; comfort

Your kindness was a consolation to me in my grief.

console

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

With him, I was at perfect ease because I knew I suited him; all I said or did seem either to console or revive him.

conspiracy

n. plot; intrigue; agreement to perform together an illegal, wrongful, or subversive act

Information minister Jerry Gana released a statement in which he says there has been an international media conspiracy against Nigeria.

constellation

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

The brightened comet in the constellation Virgo may even be visible to the naked eye, allowing members of the public worldwide to join in this historic moment in astronomy.

contagious

a. infectious; of or relating to communicable diseases

The Hurley Hospital's isolation building presents a solution to the problem for the care of contagious diseases.

contempt

n. state of being despised or dishonored; disgrace; disobedience to, or open disrespect of

The poor fools, who hold science in contempt, have no ability to realize that science proves them wrong at every turn.

continent

n. one of the large landmasses of the earth

The links between the world's largest developing country, China, and the world's largest developing continent could challenge Europe and Africa's links.

contingency

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

Once relative health and relative safety were sufficient, we demanded absolute health and utter safety against the remotest contingency.

contract

v. constrict; make smaller; compress or concentrate

The heat will contract the woolen garment.

convert

n. change something into another form; transform

However, he suggests that this only be done if the convert is also willingly accepted into his position by the community.

convertible

a. capable of being converted; susceptible of change; transmutable; transformable

We plan to settle the remaining \$10 million of short-term convertible debt in cash when it is exercised before August 2011.

convict

v. find or declare guilty

If the jury decided to convict him of manslaughter, he could face up to 20 years in prison.

conviction

n. the judgment that someone is guilty of a crime; strongly held belief

Even her murder conviction did not shake Peter's judgment that Harriet was innocent of the crime.

coop

n. barrel or cask for liquor; enclosure or cage, as for poultry or small animals

I would say they are very valid from a quality price point of view, you see them in coop supermarkets priced at 5-6 Euros.

corny

a. producing corn or grain; furnished with grains of corn; strong, stiff, or hard, like a horn;

The only odor is a little bit corny - as it's made from corn!

corporal

a. belonging or relating to the body; bodily; noncommissioned officer, next below a sergeant

A teacher should not give students corporal punishment.

corporate

a. united or combined into one body; collective; belonging to a corporation or

incorporated body

The demonstrators inspired thousands of allies to take to the streets to protest economic inequality and corporate greed.

cosmic

a. of the universe; vast

Cosmic rays derive their name from the fact that they bombard the earth's atmosphere from outer space.

costume

n. dress; attire; a set of clothes appropriate for a particular occasion or season

His dark eyes and swarthy skin suited the costume exactly.

couch

n. sofa; arrange or dispose as in a bed

His black leather couch looks expensive.

counterfeit

v. make a copy of, usually with the intent to defraud; forge

Toad doesn't actually change his ways but instead simply learns to counterfeit socially acceptable virtues in order to be accepted by his society.

coup

n. sudden stroke; sudden appropriation of leadership or power; a takeover

I'd rather see the craziest policies coming out of democracy than excellent ones coming after a coup from a military junta.

covert

a. secretive, not openly shown

The covert military operation was not disclosed until weeks later after it was determined to succeed.

coy

a. quiet; still; tending to avoid people and social situations; reserved

He is neither coy nor subtle; he is courting his own distorted view of the truth.

cram

v. pack; force, press, or squeeze into an insufficient space

At its peak, a million people cram onto the streets over the two-day festival.

cramp

n. something that confines or contracts; restraint; hindrance

The swimmer got cramp in his legs and had to be helped out of the water.

cramped

a. jammed; stuffed; uncomfortably small or restricted

The report says some masters house their workers in bad conditions - cramped, damp dormitory blocks with poor sanitation.

crank

n. device for rotary motion, by handle or arm; bend, turn, or winding, as of a passage; twist or turn in speech

I was laughed at, ridiculed, and generally called a crank to write that article; however, every word has become true.

cranky

a. having a bad disposition; having eccentric ways; odd; full of bends and turns; crooked

For most of her life, she lived in cranky desperation.

crate

n. large basket, used for moving china or similar wares; box or case whose sides are of wooden slats with interspaces

A large glass or plastic bottle is usually encased in a protective basket or crate and often used to hold corrosive liquids.

crave

v. ask with earnestness or importunity; ask with submission or humility; beg

He knows that if they trust him, he can give them the happiness which they crave.

craving

n. vehement or urgent desire; longing for; consuming desire; yearning

If your chocolate craving is getting to you, try diet hot-chocolate packets.

creed

n. definite summary of what is believed; confession of faith for public use

The laws apply to everyone irrespective of race, creed, or color.

creek

n. a small stream, often a shallow tributary to a river; brook

There was a creek leading out of it on the other side that went miles away; I don't know where, but it didn't go to the river.

cripple

n. person or animal that is partially disabled or unable to use a limb or limb

I have no muscle left in my leg; it's like a true cripple leg.

crook

v. bend, turn, or curve; curvature; flexure

She used to crook her little finger as she drinks tea.

crooked

a. having or marked by bends or angles; not straight or aligned; curved

Well, I guess if being crooked is good enough for Illinois, it's good enough for the U.S.

crude

a. being in an unrefined or natural state; raw; lacking tact or taste; blunt or offensive

Nigeria is the sixth-largest exporter of crude oil within OPEC.

crumb

n. small fragment or piece, especially a small piece of bread or other food; broken or cut off

She swept up extremely carefully, and no crumb was left anymore.

crunch

v. chew with force and noise; crush, grind or tread noisily

We have to left cars and crunch through the snow in the dark.

cryptic

a. having hidden meaning; mystifying; using code or cipher

Here are a couple of verses written in cryptic rhyme from some of my currently published books.

cub

n. young animal; awkward, rude, ill-mannered boy; a stall for cattle

As a cub reporter, he would learn the facts of life in the newspaper world.

cubicle

n. sleeping place partitioned off from a large dormitory; small compartment, as for work or study

I didn't enjoy sitting in a cubicle, getting nervous about the annual review, and wondering if I would or would not get my 2 percent raise.

cuddle

v. lie close or snug; crouch; nestle; embrace closely

The little girl wants to cuddle her pet cat.

cuff

n. fold at the end of the sleeve; part of sleeve turned back from the hand; any ornamental appendage at the wrist

The dress pattern doesn't really explain how the cuff joins onto the sleeve.

cuisine

n. kitchen or cooking department; food; manner or style of cooking; cookery

It appears that much of the cuisine is an intuitive affair, based on the state and available ingredients.

cult

n. religion or religious sect generally considered to be extremist or false; community of religious worship and ritual

You do realize that being under the control of a cult is not a good condition.

curb

v. bend or curve; guide and manage, or restrain

Paradoxically, Ray's strong-arming may be helping to curb violence in Bangalore.

curt

a. having been shortened; effectively cut short; rudely brief or abrupt, as in speech or manner

The grouchy shop assistant was curt with one of her customers, which resulted in a reprimand from her manager.

cushion

n. soft pillow or pad usually used for sitting, reclining, or kneeling

I knelt down by him; I turned his face from the cushion to me; I kissed his cheek; I smoothed his hair with my hand.

custody

n. keeping or guarding; care, watch, inspection, for keeping, preservation, or security

There were no arches left, and all the players, except the King, the Queen, and Alice, were in custody and under sentence of execution.

cute

a. ingenious; delightfully pretty or dainty

We just remembered when our husky was a puppy; how small and cute it was.

cynical

a. skeptical of motives of others; selfishly calculating; negative or pessimistic

I find it sad and cynical that this guy is essentially saying things will not be better by 2012.

dandy

n. man who affects extreme elegance in clothes and manners; something very good or agreeable

He said that being a dandy was a way of being an individual in an age of mass culture.

darn

v. mend, with interlacing stitches of yarn or thread by the needle; sew together with yarn or thread

I don't want to darn your trousers.

dart

v. move suddenly and rapidly

Your eyes take them in, then dart away to something else.

debris

n. remains of something that has been destroyed or broken up

A full year after the earthquake in Mexico City, they were still carting away the debris.

debut

n. beginning or first attempt; first appearance before the public

The reporters are waiting for the debut of a new foreign policy in the news hall.

decoy

n. lure or bait; means used to mislead or lead into danger

The decoy did not fool the wild ducks.

decree

n. order from one having authority; decision, order, or sentence by a court

The decree is signed establishing the School for Primary School Teachers, which later becomes the National Teachers.

deed

n. something that is carried out; act or action; feat or exploit

I was pleased to have done something; trivial, transitory though the deed was, it was yet an active thing.

defendant

n. one required to make answer in an action or suit

The courtroom buzzed as the defendant was led in.

definition

n. clarity of outline; concise explanation

Exercise had given his muscles superior definition.

deliberate

v. consider; think about carefully; weigh

Offered the new job, she asked for time to deliberate before she told them her decision.

delirious

a. having a delirium; wandering in mind; insane; raving; wild

He found Huck still in the bed that had been provided for him and delirious with fever.

delta

n. an area of flat land where a river spreads out into several smaller rivers before entering the sea

The Chevron Texaco oil company in Nigeria uses aircraft to evacuate hundreds of villagers from areas affected by unrest in the country's oil-producing southern delta region.

delusion

n. false belief; mistaken or unfounded opinion

Don suffers from grandeur delusion: he thinks he's a world-famous author when he's published just one paperback book.

dent

n. cavity; a depression scratched or carved into a surface

I said it would be simpler to get the discount since the dent is cosmetic, not structural.

deposition

n. testimony under oath; the act of depositing, especially laying down of matter by natural process

He made his deposition in the judge's chamber.

deputy

n. one appointed as the substitute of another, and empowered to act for him; substitute in office

I must find someone to act as a deputy for me during my absence.

desirable

a. worthwhile; worth doing or achieving; advisable

Some other factors coincide to make a June election desirable for the government.

despicable

a. fit or deserving to be despised; contemptible; mean; vile; worthless

You make me out all that is narrow-minded, mean, and despicable, which is very unjust.

destruction

n. havoc; event that completely destroys something

The inspectors have no idea, by these documents, whether Iraq has weapons of mass destruction.

detour

n. a turning; circuitous route; deviation from a direct course

Drivers who slow down briefly or who make a detour from the main route will still be caught because up to 50 of the cameras will work together in the network.

devastating

a. destructive; highly critical; causing or capable of causing complete destruction

Five to ten rhinos are killed every year on average, mostly during Assam's devastating floods because they have to flee Kaziranga's low marshy lands to higher hills.

devious

a. departing from the correct and accepted way; misleading; not straightforward

The story of Byzantine art, though not precisely devious, is not straightforward either.

devotion

n. faithfulness; ardent, often selfless affection and dedication

Prince Charles spoke of his grandmother's fortitude and devotion to duty after her husband's death, King George.

diabetes

n. a polygenic disease characterized by abnormally high glucose levels in the blood

If diabetes is not diagnosed early or poorly managed, he said it can result in blindness, heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure.

diabolical

a. extremely evil or cruel; expressive of cruelty or befitting hell

Cabinet's approval of the draft legislation was diabolical and contradicted the Bible, he said in a statement.

dictate

v. prescribe; rule as a dictator

I guess we should just let McEachin dictate the dialogue for us.

dilemma

n. predicament; state of uncertainty or between equally unfavorable options

It could create a painful dilemma for the group's members: either accept a lower price or give up additional production quotas they have just given themselves.

diplomatic

a. relating to diplomacy; marked by tact and sensitivity in dealing with others

The secretary of state's trip to Canada is putting a brand new spin on the term diplomatic relations.

dirk

n. a kind of dagger or poniard

The dirk mentioned by Wolf Larsen rested in its sheath on my hip.

disaster

n. catastrophe; great harm, damage, or death, or serious difficulty

He's asked President Bush to declare the area a disaster zone to free up federal funds.

disastrous

a. extremely bad; terrible; dreadful

The Haddan School was built in 1858 on the sloping banks of the Haddan River, a muddy location that had proven disastrous from the start.

discharge

v. relieve of a burden or of contents; unload; pour forth or release; complete or carry out; give off

There is local warm water to discharge from a power plant.

discreet

a. free from ostentation or pretension; distinct; distinguishable

Some areas for the ladies to consider: hair cut, color, makeup, shoes, purses, clothing, jewelry, and certain discreet cultural factors.

discretion

n. knowing how to avoid embarrassment or distress; the trait of judging wisely and objectively

The servants showed great tact and discretion.

disguise

n. dress or exterior put on for purposes of concealment or of deception

The ring, Adele, is in my breeches-pocket, under the disguise of a sovereign.

dispatch

n. act of sending off something; the property of being prompt and efficient; message usually sent in haste

He sent a dispatch to headquarters informing his commander of the great victory.

distinction

n. excellence or eminence; note or mark of difference

A slave, of course, in distinction from a free woman, is not permitted complaints.

distinguished

a. prominent; celebrated, well-known, or eminent because of past achievements

Lord Oxburgh is a geologist; at the end of a long and distinguished career in science, he has now found himself in the Shell chairman's seat.

distracted

a. having the attention diverted; suffering conflicting emotions; distraught

His face was wan, and his expression distracted, his eyes darting from face to face.

distraught

a. deeply agitated, as from emotional conflict; mad; insane

Her father had recently died, and her mother was still distraught from the loss.

distress

n. discomfort; cause strain, anxiety, or suffering to

Nations have been in distress from the days of Julius Caesar.

disturbance

n. disorder; turmoil; mental or emotional unbalance or disorder

The disturbance comes just as India's government is trying to reform the country's police services.

dock

v. deprive someone of benefits; remove or shorten the tail of an animal

They will dock us of two days of our annual leave.

dodge

v. avoid a blow by moving or shifting quickly aside; a shifty or ingenious trick

Before summer, one challenge lawmakers can't dodge the budget.

dome

n. building or house, especially as the great hall, church, or temple; anything shaped like a cupola

There is a transparent dome on the top of the aircraft, through which celestial observations are made for navigation.

don

v. put clothing on one's body

When Clark Kent has to don his Superman outfit, he changes clothes in a convenient phone booth.

dose

n. quantity of medicine given; sufficient quantity; portion

Since the additional dose is not harmful and provides extra protection, everyone is recommended to get the second one.

drool

v. drivel, or drop saliva; let run from the mouth; talk nonsense; silly talk or write

Here is the chance for him to make much more money, so much that even his peers will drool in envy.