

**abbreviation**

n. shortening something by omitting parts of it

*For example, the word abbreviation can itself be represented by the 'abbrev.'*

**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.*

**abort**

v. stop; terminate before completion; terminate a pregnancy

*However, most women say that the decision to abort is a difficult one.*

**abrasive**

a. rubbing away; tending to grind down

*The ash can also cause long-term abrasive damage to planes that could lead to later disasters if not dealt with.*

**absence**

n. state of being absent; state of being away

*The other guests had taken advantage of the Queen's absence and were resting in the shade.*

**absolutely**

ad. utterly; not viewed in relation to other things or factors

*For their part, the ambassadors expressed appreciation for the Italian Prime Minister's efforts to clarify that terrorism is absolutely separate from Islam.*

**abstract**

a. theoretical; not concrete; not applied or practical; difficult to understand

*To him, hunger was an abstract concept; he had never missed a meal.*

**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.*

**accompany**

v. travel with; be associated with

*But the night being wet and inclement, Mr. Rochester did not accompany them.*

**accomplished**

a. skilled; experienced; having many social graces; polished or refined

*More poems should tell stories in accomplished ways.*

**accounting**

n. a system that provides quantitative information about finances

*Recent changes in accounting rules have forced companies in Britain to state much more accurately the true financial state of their pension funds.*

**acid**

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

*There is a barrage of acid comments in today's newspapers.*

**acidic**

a. tasting sour like acid; being or containing an acid

*The chart below categorizes food as either acidic or alkaline based on its effective consumption of urine pH.*

**actual**

a. true; real; being, existing, or acting at the present moment; current

*And the defense secretary retraced what he called the actual history of how the U.S. got involved in Iraq.*

**acupuncture**

n. treatment of pain or disease by inserting the tips of needles at specific points on the skin

*Acupuncture therapy intends to promote health and alleviate pain and suffering.*

**adequate**

a. sufficient; enough to meet a purpose

*England missed key players through injury, lacked adequate preparation, and could not match Australia's skill.*

**adhere**

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

*That is why the claying is necessary; it makes the grain adhere to the earth; otherwise, it would float.*

**adhesive**

a. sticky; glutinous; tending to persist

*Today adhesive binding is the most popular approach for industrial booklet production.*

**adjunct**

n. something added on or attached generally nonessential or inferior

*Although I don't absolutely need a second computer, I plan to buy a laptop to serve as an adjunct to my desktop model.*

**admit**

v. permit to enter; receive; provide the right or a means of entrance to

*But what she absolutely refuses to admit is that none of us wants to be a hack.*

**adventure**

n. something happens without design; chance; hazard; risk; danger

*I can't even decide which step of this adventure is the most aggravating.*

**adventurous**

a. valiant; venturesome; inclined or willing to incur hazard or engage in adventures

*Tom's younger brother Sid was already through with his part of the work, for he was a quiet boy and had no adventurous, troublesome ways.*

**adversity**

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

*A young boy whose strength in adversity is an inspiration to all who know him.*

**advocate**

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

*Some doctors advocate a smoking ban in the entire house.*

**aerodynamics**

n. study of how objects move through the air or water

*As mentioned, aerodynamics is an important factor to consider when learning how to build a rocket.*

**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.*

**affective**

a. sentimental; emotional; emotionally charged

*It's fairly well known that 'light therapy' is sometimes used to help those suffering from depression, especially seasonal affective disorder.*

**aggravate**

v. worsen; make worse or more troublesome

*Ridiculous, offensive comments like this do nothing but aggravate the situation.*

**aggregation**

n. several things grouped together or considered as a whole

*It provides an overview of a diverse set of more than thirty digital library aggregation services, organizes them into functional clusters.*

**ailment**

n. sickness; a slight but often persistent illness

*And the number closely matches a finding of an earlier international study that estimated some 10.1 percent of people globally suffer from the ailment.*

**aircraft**

n. a vehicle that can fly, such as an airplane, helicopter, balloon

*This aircraft is also equipped with a spear, which the Geneva War Crimes Handbook forbids.*

**alert**

n. the warning serves; alarm; condition of heightened watchfulness or preparation for action

*And although the main ports are on alert, Nigeria, in particular, has many small river ports in the Cross River and Niger deltas.*

**alike**

a. similar; in the same manner or to the same degree

*Friends are generally alike in background and tastes.*

**allegation**

n. suggestion without proof that someone has done something wrong

*The allegation has angered the Brazilian authorities and has been strongly denied.*

**alliteration**

n. repetition of a beginning sound in poetry

*'The furrow followed free' is an example of alliteration.*

**alone**

a. solitary; by oneself, not with any other people

*Alice cried with a sudden burst of tears, 'I do wish they would put their heads down! I am so very tired of being all alone here!'*

**alteration**

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

*Both sides can make a pretty plausible argument that the alteration is what they want it to be.*

**alternation**

n. successive change from one thing or state to another and back again

*Now go back to the diagram at the top of the page and trace through the cycle of generations' alternation.*

**aluminum**

n. silvery ductile metallic element

*Services include mold aluminum casting, heat treating, machining.*

**amazement**

n. wonder; state of extreme surprise or wonder; astonishment

*My daughter and I looked at each other in amazement, and with beaming smiles, threw our arms around each other.*

**ambivalence**

n. state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes, such as love and hate

*Torn between loving her parents one minute and hating them the next, she was confused by her feelings' ambivalence.*

**amenable**

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

*He was amenable to any suggestions that came from those he looked up to.*

**analogy**

n. the similarity in some respects; comparison based on similarity

*This analogy is almost always noted without further comment, although it may be taken further.*

**analysis**

n. study; investigation; the process of breaking down a substance into its constituent parts

*You can read more about those studies here, and my analysis is here.*

**anecdote**

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

*Of all the millions who are moved by this historic occasion, my anecdote is and would be far less remarkable while I am amongst these.*

**anesthetic**

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

*His monotonous voice acted as an anesthetic; his audience was soon asleep.*

**angular**

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

*Mr. Spock's features, though angular, were curiously attractive in a Vulcan way.*

**annually**

ad. yearly; each year; returning every year; year by year

*It says an immediate commitment of three billion dollars annually is needed to provide basic healthcare across sub-Saharan Africa.*

**anthem**

n. song of praise or patriotism; the song of devotion or loyalty

*Let us now all join in singing the national anthem.*

**anthropology**

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

*The strength of anthropology is its diversity of approach and perspective, unified by a common theme: the study of human variation and adaptability.*

**anticipation**

n. something expected; pleasurable expectation; wishing with confidence

*Please hold your breath in anticipation of that event.*

**antiquated**

a. too old to be fashionable, suitable, or useful; obsolete; aged

*We are tolerably conversant with the early English poets; and can discover no resemblance whatever, except in antiquated spelling and a few obsolete words.*

**antiquity**

n. ancient times, especially the times preceding the Middle Ages; extreme oldness

*There have been many republics in the past, both in what we call antiquity and what we call the Middle Ages.*

**antiseptic**

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

*Regular washing with antiseptic is often enough to heal a skin infection.*

**appointment**

n. act of putting a person into a non-elective position; arrangement

*His appointment as Foreign Secretary has triggered speculation in London about the Prime Minister's motives for the change.*

**apprentice**

n. works for an expert to learn a trade; beginner; learner

*One of the greatest opportunities for the out-of-school unemployed youth will always be found in apprentice programs.*

**approval**

n. official approbation; endorsement; an act of approving

*First, Ehrlich knows it would be extremely unlikely to win approval from the Democratic-dominated General Assembly.*

**approve**

v. ratify; consider right or good; think or speak favorably of

*He said failure to approve the pact would have led to a forced opening and importing much more rice.*

**aquamarine**

a. of bluish-green color; of pale blue to light greenish-blue

*I see an aquamarine swimming pool, an aluminum garage, a suburban lawn.*

**aquarium**

n. tank or pool or bowl filled with water for keeping live fish and underwater animals

*This is the world's largest aquarium with 8 million gallons of fresh and marine water and more than 100000 animals representing 500 species from around the globe.*

**arboreal**

a. tree-dwelling; treelike; living in trees

*Learn about the arboreal emblems that represent the provinces and territories of Canada.*

**archaeology**

n. study of artifacts and relics of early humankind

*The professor of archaeology headed an expedition to the Gobi Desert in search of ancient ruins.*

**architect**

n. one who designs and supervises the construction of buildings or other large structures

*Simon Conder, a British architect, is responsible for this beautiful conversion of a group of farms.*

**arithmetic**

n. theory of numerical calculations

*He found a way to set up equations about integers and other constructs in arithmetic.*

**armor**

n. shield; defensive covering, as of metal, wood, or leather, worn to protect the body against weapons

*Where we do see cracks in armor is in new-home construction, both in single-family sales and condos.*

**arms**

n. weapons considered collectively; official symbols of a family

*The first man to be held - said to be a British arms dealer - was reportedly arrested when he met undercover FBI agents posing as terrorists wanting to buy the weapon.*

**array**

v. set out for display or use; place in orderly arrangement

*He requested to array the whole regiment on the parade ground.*

**arsenal**

n. storage place for military equipment; a stock of weapons

*People are forbidden to smoke in the arsenal because a stray spark might set off the munitions stored there.*

**artery**

n. one of the vessels or tubes which carry either venous or arterial blood from the heart; major transit corridor

*The Yangtze River is the main artery of traffic in center China.*

**articulate**

v. speak clearly and distinctly; utter a speech sound; be jointed; make clear or effective

*The author was trying to articulate that his encrypted file system is effective.*

**ascent**

n. upward slope or grade; movement upward

*An unforgettable 2-hour ascent follows a 30-minute hike up to the base of the ferrate up the cliff.*

**assignment**

n. a task that was given to students; job; distribution; appointment

*I believe that this assignment is the most challenging of them all.*

**association**

n. connection, whether of persons or things; a union of persons in a company or society for some particular purpose

*I benefited a lot from my association with him.*

**assorted**

a. varied; consisting of various types mixed together

*Watching the large and varied bird population or following assorted trails on horseback.*

**assortment**

n. variety; collection containing a variety of sorts of things

*A great assortment of cars was on display.*

**assume**

v. suppose; presume; take on; bear

*He looked at me long and hard: I turned my eyes from him, fixed them on the fire, and tried to assume and maintain a quiet.*

### **assumption**

n. something taken for accepted as true without proof; taking over or taking possession of

*The young princess made the foolish assumption that the regent would not object to power.*

### **assure**

v. tell someone confidently that something is true; guarantee; convince

*I know it, and I don't wish to palliate them, I assure you.*

### **astonish**

v. surprise someone very much; shock

*From this wonderful writer who continues to astonish us, now comes a chilling ghost story.*

### **astute**

a. wise or keen; shrewd; with sharp intelligence

*The painter was an astute observer, noticing every tiny detail of her model's appearance and knowing exactly how important each one was.*

### **asymmetrical**

a. unbalanced; uneven; having parts on either side or half that do not match

*The attraction of asymmetrical balance to artists is its lack of formula.*

### **athlete**

n. a sportsman; one who contended for a prize in public games

*Our goal is to help the athlete get the best performance.*

### **atomization**

n. act of reducing to atoms, or very minute particles

*Atomization is the conversion of bulk liquid into a spray or mist, often by passing the liquid through a nozzle.*

### **atrophy**

n. wasting away; decrease in size; reduction in the functionality of an organ caused by disease

*It confirms earlier research showing a link between brain atrophy and low levels of B12.*

### **attempt**

n. the action of trying at something

*I also want to claim that this attempt is a romantic one.*

### **audience**

n. a group of people within hearing; crowd seeing a stage performance

*You should have a clear idea about who your audience is and how you can exploit your product through the correct platform.*

### **aurora**

n. a natural appearance of coloured light in the sky, that is usually seen nearest the Arctic or Antarctic

*When I was young, I was lucky enough to see a display of the northern lights or the aurora.*

### **autonomous**

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

*Although the University of California at Berkeley is just one part of the state university system, it is autonomous in many ways.*

**avenue**

n. way or opening for entrance or exit place; passage by which a place may be reached; broad street

*The procession moved along the main avenue some three-quarters of a mile.*

**average**

a. typical; mean; achieve or reach on average

*Other scientists predict that the average human life span will grow to 130 years.*

**averse**

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

*The reporter was averse to revealing the sources of his information.*

**aviator**

n. someone who operates an aircraft

*We did not hear very much about the 'Red Wing' in the United States because the aviator was a Canadian.*

**avoid**

v. shield away from; prevent

*If you are the press secretary to the President of the United States, the main thing to avoid is becoming the story yourself.*

**axis**

n. the center around which something rotates; pivot

*Then Tehran was bracketed, along with its old enemy Iraq, and North Korea, in President Bush's evil axis.*

**bachelor**

n. unmarried men; the first or lowest academic degree conferred by universities and colleges

*A soon-to-be-married man's friends throw him the ultimate bachelor party.*

**backbone**

n. support; mainstay; vertebrate spine or spinal column

*The people will have to put the bone back in the backbone for state leaders.*

**balloonist**

n. someone who flies a balloon

*Steve Fossett achieves his goal of becoming the first solo balloonist to circle the globe.*

**bankruptcy**

n. state of being unable to pay your debts

*That holding company has been in bankruptcy proceedings since last June.*

**bar**

n. a counter where you can obtain food or drink; cafe; strip; stick

*For low-paid male workers the cafeterias are a social focus: the equivalent of a bar or pub in non-Muslim countries, a place to meet friends and workmates.*

**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?*

**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.*



**barrel**

n. vessel; large cylindrical container

*With the oil price soaring above thirty dollars a barrel and the pumps going nearly at full capacity, Gulf Arab coffers are overflowing with unforeseen wealth.*

**barrenness**

n. property of not supporting life, no children, or unable to have children; defect of emotion, sensibility, or fervency

*They are messengers of hope, springing forth from the barrenness and bitter cold of winter and heralding a new season of warmth and sunshine.*

**barter**

v. trade goods or services without the exchange of money

*Trashbank is an online site where you can barter, buy, sell, trade, or swap your items or services.*

**bean**

n. various edible seeds; small oval or roundish seed, berry, nut, or lump

*Bean is a common name for large plant seeds of several genera used for food or feed.*

**bear**

v. support; sustain; carry; have; yield; give birth; hold up or support

*They studied the ways in which the relativity theory can bear on the history of science.*

**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.*

**behalf**

n. represent; advantage, benefit, the interest of someone

*And I'm going to work to assure that that voice that is heard on their behalf is a roar and not a whisper.*

**below**

ad. under, or lower in place; beneath not so high; inferior to in rank; unworthy of

*All she could see when she looked down was an immense length of neck, which seemed to rise like a stalk out of a sea of green leaves that lay far below her.*

**besiege**

v. surround with armed forces; harass with requests

*When the bandits besiege the village, the villagers hole up in the town hall and prepare to withstand a long siege.*

**bilateral**

a. two-sided; mutual; involving two groups or countries

*In general, China does not consider them as refugees but economic migrants and has repatriated those caught on its territory under a bilateral treaty with North Korea.*

**billion**

n. the number that is represented as a one followed by 9 zeros

*Money from migrant workers now exceeds the combined total of all direct foreign investment and foreign aid to Latin America 62.3 billion dollars.*

**biologist**

n. a scientist who studies living organisms

*A marine biologist insisted that dolphins, which are considered one of the most intelligent mammals, like to help the helpless.*

**bitterness**

n. sharp and bitter manner

*I had left this woman in bitterness and hate, and I came back to her now with no other emotion than a sort of compassion for her great sufferings.*

**blink**

v. shut eyes briefly; wink

*The TV announcer never seems to blink.*

**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.*

**blossom**

n. reproductive organ of plants, especially one having showy or colorful parts

*The locust-trees were in bloom, and the fragrance of the blossom filled the air.*

**boast**

v. show off oneself; speak of with excessive pride

*Many of the sports facilities are already in place, and the city can boast one of the most compact proposals running alongside the Moscow river.*

**bolster**

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

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

**boredom**

n. tedium; dullness; state of being a bore, or the tendency to become tiresome and uninteresting

*The cure for boredom is curiosity, but there is no known cure for curiosity.*

**boring**

a. uninteresting and tiresome; dull

*However, the opposite can also be true; something that is too easily understood, simple or transparent, can also be boring.*

**boulder**

n. a rounded rock lying on the surface of ground or embedded in soil

*A boulder is a rock with a grain size of usually no less than 256 mm (10 inches) diameter in geology.*

**bound**

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

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

**bowl**

v. throw or roll a ball; move quickly and smoothly, especially by rolling

*We were now outside Thornfield gates, to bowl lightly along the smooth road to Millcote, where the dust was well laid by the thunderstorm.*

**braid**

v. weave; interweave three or more strands

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

**breathe**

v. respire; inhale and exhale air

*Even the air you breathe is micro-filtered for outside contaminants.*

**brehtaking**

a. very surprising or shocking

*Beneath the curious mixture is the kind of breathtaking skyscraper shell, balanced in space, that modern technology makes possible.*

**briny**

a. salty; any huge body of saltwater

*Bobbing along, bobbing along, at the bottom of the beautiful briny sea.*

**broaden**

v. widen; grow broad or broader

*Its size, style, and expression broaden the car's appeal, making it more appropriate for a wider range of circumstances.*

**bud**

n. one that is not yet fully developed; sprout

*The first thing to be thought of is to pluck the disease in its bud, which is best done by injections.*

**buggy**

n. small, lightweight carriage; drawn by a single horse

*A fine way to travel through Quebec City in Canada is by horse buggy.*

**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.*

**bundle**

v. tie, wrap, or gather together; hurry; hasten; dress oneself warmly

*Remember to bundle children up in winter clothes.*

**burrow**

n. tunnel; hole in the ground made by an animal for shelter; moving through by or as by digging

*They will return to breed in the fall, and the male will reclaim his burrow, waiting to reconnect with his mate.*

**cab**

n. taxi; a one-horse vehicle for public hire

*I was supposed to meet Mrs. Girard at the building in five minutes; she called a cab to drive me to the station.*

**cabal**

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

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

**cabin**

n. a small room on a ship or boat where people sleep

*British Airways says passengers reported a slight smell of petrol in the cabin of BA flight 003 bound for New York.*

**cadence**

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

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

**calculator**

n. a small machine that is used for mathematical calculations

*Blaise Pascal invented the first digital calculator to help his father with his work collecting taxes.*

## cancel

v. revoke; call off; omit or delete

*The meeting in Addis Ababa has heard Chinese promises to cancel debts and increase Chinese investments in Africa.*

## candid

a. straightforward; frank; free from prejudice; impartial

*In private, I gave them my candid opinion.*

## carat

n. unit of weight for precious stones; a measure of fineness of gold

*He gave her a three carat diamond mounted in a gold band.*

## career

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

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

## cargo

n. freight carried by ship, an aircraft, or another vehicle

*The nation's security forces were active this weekend after U.S. authorities intercepted two packages laden with explosives in Yemen's cargo shipments.*

## caricature

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

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

## cater

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

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

## cause

n. something produces a result; the basis for an action or response; a reason

*The main cause is not having enough fluids in your body to keep your core temperature down.*

## cease

v. stop; terminate; put an end to; discontinue

*We must not only cease the acts of sin, but we must get the vicious habits and inclinations weakened and destroyed.*

## ceremonial

n. ritual; ceremony or rite

*Officials said this first flight was largely ceremonial and that most of the passengers were French diplomats and business leaders.*

## chafe

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

*The high collar used to chafe against my neck.*

## chalk

n. soft, earthy substance, of a white, grayish, or yellowish-white color, used as a drawing implement

*The teacher wrote on the blackboard with a piece of chalk.*

**championship**

n. status of being a champion; position or title of a winner

*Winning a championship is about more than having the best team.*

**characteristic**

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

*Treating people differently based on a certain characteristic is called discrimination.*

**chat**

n. talk without exchanging too much information; informal conversation

*Inviting others into the chat is as simple as sending them a human-readable URL, and nobody has to sign up or answer an invitation email.*

**check**

v. stop motion; curb or restrain

*Young man, you'd better check your temper.*

**checkup**

n. thorough physical examination

*Answer the following questions, and we'll provide you with a personalized checkup checklist that you can take to your doctor.*

**chili**

n. very hot and finely tapering pepper of special pungency

*You can reduce the amount of heat in a chili pepper by removing the ribs and seeds.*

**choppy**

a. having many small waves; rough with small waves

*Smaller is sometimes best on calm days, but bigger is better in choppy water.*

**chronology**

n. time sequence; an arrangement of events in time

*You can access a chronology of important dates in the development of mathematics.*

**cipher**

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

*Lacking his codebook, the spy was unable to decode the message sent to him in cipher.*

**circle**

n. round; something shaped like such a ring; a group of people sharing an interest, activity, or achievement

*This circle is a foundation for each of our lives.*

**circular**

a. round; shaped like or nearly like a circle

*What should you do before start cutting with a circular saw?*

**circulation**

n. spread or transmission of something to a wider group or area

*We have studied the statistical mechanics of money circulation in a closed economic system.*

**circumstance**

n. situation; condition; detail accompanying or surrounding an event

*Her heart is broken, but then a change in circumstance forces them to be together every day.*

**citizenship**

n. status of a citizen with rights and duties

*Migrants applying for Australian citizenship will have to know about indigenous people's traditions and the colors of the nation's flag in tests.*

**clam**

n. soft edible body of such as mollusk

*Up here in clam and lobster country, some of our best BBQ joints do fried catfish, and it's always a treat.*

**clause**

n. sentence; phrase; distinct article, stipulation, or provision in a document

*Congress insisted on an exclusion clause for seventeen-year-olds.*

**clay**

n. very fine-grained soil that is plastic when moist but hard when fired

*There will be much interest centered on Raphael Nadal of Spain, who won the French Open on the red clay of Roland Garros in Paris in spectacular style.*

**climate**

n. weather condition; atmosphere; environment

*In his remarks, Obama spoke out against what he called a climate of politics as usual.*

**cling**

v. hold fast or adhere to something; stick together and resist separation; remain emotionally

*Boys cling to the rope to keep from falling.*

**clip**

n. a small section of filmed or filed material

*Phil's job at Fox Sports involved selecting the most important clip of the day's sporting highlights for later broadcast.*

**coach**

n. tutor; teacher; a vehicle carrying many passengers

*When the players and coach arrive back later today, they'll be greeted as national heroes in the stadium where the first modern Olympics were held.*

**coalescence**

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

*We present a detailed molecular-dynamics study of the coalescence of gold.*

**coarse**

a. rough; harsh; of low, common, or inferior quality

*Trade in coarse grains, dairy products, and beef is also the subject of special attention, looking towards freer and better managed trading arrangements.*

**coffeepot**

n. tall pot in which coffee is brewed

*British potteries began making pieces like this lusterware coffeepot in the early nineteenth century to imitate fine silver.*

**cohesion**

n. a tendency to keep together

*A firm believer in the maxim 'Divide and conquer,' the evil emperor sought to disrupt the cohesion of the federation of free nations.*

**coin**

n. small piece of metal, usually flat and circular, authorized by a government for use as money

*While it has been lightly dipped and lightly cleaned, the overall look of the coin is appealing.*

**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?*

**collaborate**

v. work together, especially in a joint intellectual effort

*The easy way to collaborate is to pay attention to the small things in life.*

**collaboration**

n. act of working together; act of cooperating with an enemy, especially it occupying one's own country

*This is something that I can see as a potential long-term relationship rather than a short-term collaboration.*

**collusion**

n. a secret agreement for any illegal purpose; conspiracy

*They're in collusion with the government and just want a piece of the pie like everyone else.*

**colonize**

v. migrate to and settle in; plant

*Portuguese attempts to colonize Asia were generally unsuccessful, though it did retain major colonies in Africa until the mid-twentieth century.*

**combine**

v. blend; fuse; merge

*Re-branded as one-army recruitment, the latest drive will, for the first time, combine recruiting to both the regular and territorial army.*

**commerce**

n. trade; business; intellectual exchange or social interaction

*The underlying objective is to make international commerce easier and cheaper and to boost incomes around the world.*

**committee**

n. special group delegated to consider some matter

*He was director of the central bank's monetary policy committee, which sets Brazil's interest rates.*

**community**

n. society; a group of people living in the same locality and under the same government

*Where governments manage public life, human freedom in a community is compromised.*

**commuter**

n. someone who regularly travels from home in a suburb to work in a city

*Vancouver is increasingly becoming a commuter city.*

**compact**

n. small and economical car; small cosmetics case

*I decide to buy a compact because a small car helps to save gas.*

**comparable**

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

*People whose jobs are comparable in difficulty should receive similar pay.*

**comparative**

a. relative; based on, or involving comparison

*Elsewhere in the report which covers a wide range of comparative data, girls continue to reduce the gender gap in educational performance.*

## **compensation**

n. something given or received as payment as for a service or loss or injury

*There are an estimated 86000 survivors worldwide, and almost half of them could be eligible for payments from the compensation fund.*

## **compensatory**

a. serving to compensate or as compensation; making amends; repaying

*Can a compensatory education program make up for the inadequate schooling he received in earlier years?*

## **competition**

n. struggle; rivalry; an act of competing as for a profit prize

*There she's against tough competition such as Meryl Streep, but this award will give her extra momentum towards what's undoubtedly the bigger prize in movies.*

## **complement**

n. something that completes or makes up a whole or brings to perfection

*I think we show complement each other on the court because we're both extremely positive.*

## **complementary**

a. serving to fill out or to complete; supplying mutual needs or offsetting mutual lacks

*John and Lisa's skills are complementary; he's good at following a daily routine, while she's great at handling emergencies.*

## **complicated**

a. difficult to analyze or understand

*Legally this is a hugely complicated case, and it will take months for the judge to reach the verdict.*

## **comply**

v. yield assent; accord; agree, or acquiesce; adapt one's self; fulfill; accomplish

*Everyone should comply with the law.*

## **compose**

v. write; create; make or create by putting together parts or elements

*As you begin to compose, improvise on that melody and see where it naturally wants to take you.*

## **comprehend**

v. take in the meaning, nature, or importance of; grasp

*In case you are too stupid to comprehend, the policies of this administration are ruining our country.*

## **comprehensible**

a. understandable; readily comprehended or understood; intelligible

*A good programmer makes her code look so simple and comprehensible that any other programmer can understand it and appreciate it.*

## **comprehensive**

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

*Mr. Skubel has since completed what he describes as a comprehensive two-week training program and is now setting up his franchise in his hometown.*

## **concept**

n. something formed in mind; thought or notion



*The local chain concept is simple: identify your customer, cater to their tastes and once successful, expand within a neighborhood.*

### **concurrent**

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

*The Winter War fought between Finland, and the Soviet Union was a concurrent war to World War II, and thus is covered in its own main article.*

### **condiment**

n. seasoning; something used to give relish to food; something used to enhance the flavor of food, like salt or pepper

*Indians rarely, if ever, use this condiment, which is so essential to the civilized white.*

### **condition**

n. mode or state of being; fitness; existing circumstances

*The Organization Man survives as a modern classic because it captures a permanent part of our social condition.*

### **conductivity**

n. transmission of heat or electricity or sound

*How does the electrical conductivity of water at the study site vary across seasons?*

### **confinement**

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

*After the verdict, his lawyers claimed he had mental stress caused by confinement and called for the court to suspend the appeals trial until it improved.*

### **confining**

a. restricting scope or freedom of action; crowded

*Obviously, you will travel in a confining ship with humans.*

### **confirm**

v. support or establish the certainty or validity of; verify

*In the aftermath of Saturday's mass poisoning, the authorities imposed a virtual news blackout, refusing even to confirm how many people had died.*

### **conformity**

n. similarity in form or character; agreement

*Their actions were in conformity with their declared intentions.*

### **congratulation**

n. act of acknowledging that someone has an occasion for celebration

*After Discovery's liftoff, NASA officials were in a jubilant mood, talking of the power and majesty of the launch and the congratulation and back-slapping at ground control.*

### **congruity**

n. relation or agreement between things; fitness; harmony; correspondence; consistency.

*There must be, in spite of all indifference and hostility of nature to human interests, some congruity of nature with man or life could not exist.*

### **connoisseur**

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

*A literature professor by training and a self-taught art connoisseur, Charles Ryskamp served three decades as a director, first of the Pierpont Morgan Library.*

### **consecutive**

a. following one after another without interruption; sequential

*The consecutive file saving method also created some problems.*

**consequence**

n. result; relation of a result to its cause; logical conclusion or inference

*Another consequence is the generation of distrust between the grassroots and the leadership.*

**consequent**

a. resulting; following as a logical conclusion

*His retirement and consequent spare time enabled him to travel more.*

**conservative**

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

*It's still far from clear whether he can persuade his more conservative colleagues in the regime to support the process.*

**conserve**

v. retain; protect from loss or harm; preserve; use carefully or sparingly, avoiding waste

*One way to conserve is to make cars more efficient.*

**considerably**

ad. substantially; significantly; to a degree worth considering

*While their mood improved, consumers' outlook had dimmed considerably from the mid-70s levels earlier in the year, when the economic recovery was faster.*

**considerate**

a. thoughtful; marked by consideration or reflection; deliberate

*I thanked her for her considerate choice, and as I really felt fatigued with my long journey, expressed my readiness to retire.*

**consistent**

a. agreeing with itself; coherent; regular

*He's recently signed a new 120 million dollar contract with his British-based record company after more than five years of consistent album hits and number one singles.*

**constrain**

v. restrain; keep within close bounds; confine

*His idea is to constrain commercial banks' lending.*

**constraint**

n. something that restricts or confines within prescribed bounds

*Given the budget constraint, it was impossible to accomplish my goals.*

**consult**

v. seek advice or information of; take into account; consider

*I will consult with our friends, but it's going to be what's in the interests of our country first and foremost.*

**container**

n. any object that can be used to hold things

*For the last thirty-two days, Hassan has been living in a three-by-four-meter glass container in a shopping center, sharing it with six thousand poisonous arachnids.*

**contaminate**

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

*Compact fluorescent light bulbs contaminate the environment with 30000 pounds of mercury each year.*

**content**

n. volume; something contained; material, including text and images

*The brain is hungry not for the method but for content, especially the latter, which contains powerful, precise, and explicit generalizations.*

## **contented**

a. satisfied or showing satisfaction with things as they are  
*When he heard this, he revealed a very contented smile.*

## **contiguous**

a. sharing an edge or boundary; touching; neighboring  
*The two houses had contiguous yards, so the families shared the landscaping expenses.*

## **continuum**

n. sequence; succession; continuous extent, succession, or whole  
*So the practical continuum is now laptop - iPad - phone rather than desktop - laptop - iPad - phone.*

## **contrast**

v. set in opposition to show or emphasize differences; show differences when compared  
*The siblings who contrast sharply in interests and abilities make a common decision.*

## **convenience**

n. state of being suitable  
*The popularity of convenience foods means that many people no longer eat enough fresh produce.*

## **convention**

n. social or moral custom; formal meeting of members, representatives, or delegates; agreement between states  
*Moreover, following this convention is our friend's normal behavior when in such a mood.*

## **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.*

## **cooperate**

v. work or act together toward a common end or purpose  
*The best way to get Pakistan to cooperate is to find why it is so keen to retain influence in Afghanistan and try to meet its concerns.*

## **corn**

n. plants, such as wheat, maize, oats, and barley, that can be used to produce flour  
*The English apply the name corn to wheat, and the Scotch, to oats.*

## **cosmopolitan**

a. sophisticated; of worldwide scope  
*Her years in the capitol had transformed her into a cosmopolitan young woman highly aware of international affairs.*

## **counseling**

n. something that provides direction or advice as to a decision or course of action  
*The counseling services' mission is to help students, faculty, and staff gain all they can from their experience at the university.*

## **couple**

n. a male and female associated together; a pair who associate with one another  
*He caught a married couple from Chicago.*

**craft**

n. something made by people; vessel

*A space craft is a vessel to travel out of air.*

**crash**

n. smash; collision; falling down or in pieces with a loud noise of breaking parts

*She heard a little shriek and a fall and a crash of broken glass.*

**crayon**

n. stick of colored wax or chalk, used for drawing

*Whenever he finished a crayon drawing, he would lovingly present it to his mother.*

**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.*

**crippling**

a. causing someone to be physically disabled, especially unable to walk; causing severe damage or problems

*Their solution to crippling financial problems has been to merge in an attempt to get bigger and hopefully stronger.*

**critical**

a. urgently needed; absolutely necessary; essential; acute; crucial; decisive

*He says the international community has reached what he calls a critical time in the overall effort to bring stability to Afghanistan.*

**critique**

n. critical review or commentary, especially one dealing with works of art or literature

*It would help if you wanted a smart critique from the loyal opposition, and Phil Zelikow and Peter Feaver are certainly qualified.*

**crossbones**

n. two crossed bones used as a symbol of danger or death

*This is an aluminum skull and crossbones sign with a small hole in each corner to help hang in the location of your choice.*

**crossbreeding**

n. reproduction by parents of different races

*It has been well documented that crossbreeding improves the performance of beef cattle.*

**crossing**

n. traveling across; place at which roads, lines, or tracks intersect; intersection

*If my memory serves me correctly, the Santa Teresa crossing is about 15 miles west of the junction.*

**crumple**

v. fall apart; fold or collapse; crush together or press into wrinkles

*It's weird watching your leg to crumple in directions; it's not natural to go in.*

**crush**

v. press between opposing bodies so as to break or injure; extract or obtain by pressing or squeezing

*There's particular concern over reports of human rights abuses committed by the Indonesian security forces in Aceh as they try to crush the separatist movement there.*

**cube**

n. three-dimensional shape with six square or rectangular sides; cubicle, used for work or study

*Luckily, my cube is in the corner, so no one noticed!*

**curiosity**

n. desire to know or learn

*My main curiosity is how they're going to explain how Captain Barbossa has returned from the dead.*

**current**

n. stream; flow; up-to-date; present

*The current was so swift, and then I got into the dead water and landed on the side towards the Illinois shore.*

**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.*

**custom**

n. tradition; practice followed by people of a particular group or region

*John had a book in his hand - it was his unsocial custom to read at meals - he closed it and looked up.*

**customarily**

ad. usually; under normal circumstances, normally

*Yet until well into this century, men customarily gathered in pubs, cafes, parks, and village greens.*

**cyclone**

n. violent rotating windstorm

*The cyclone tore across the north Queensland coast and has left much of the area in ruins.*

**dart**

v. move suddenly and rapidly

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

**dawn**

n. time each morning at which daylight first begins; beginning; start

*When I again unclosed my eyes, a loud bell was ringing; day had not yet begun to dawn, and a rush light or two burned in the room.*

**dawning**

n. first light of day; first advent or appearance

*So, the order indicates the next day's dawning follows the end of one day.*

**dearth**

n. scarcity; shortage of food; famine from failure or loss of crops

*The dearth of skilled labor compelled employers to open trade schools.*

**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.*

**decadent**

a. self-indulgent; moral decay

*I'm not getting any younger, and seriously, I feel the excesses of my decadent life slowly catching up with me.*

**decent**

a. suitable; modest.; honorable; meeting accepted standards

*I wandered the theatre – an old one from the thirties - kept in decent repair by those that love movies.*

**declare**

v. state clearly; make known formally or officially

*A distinct and near voice said, 'The marriage cannot go on: I declare the existence of an impediment.'*

**decline**

n. change toward something smaller or lower; gradual falling off from a better state

*Dustan has a record of switching sides when convenient, and many supporters would do likewise if the fortunes of the puritan militia are on the decline.*

**defend**

v. make or keep safe from danger, attack, or harm

*The union said that they would take action to defend their member's jobs.*

**deference**

n. willingness to carry out the wishes of others; great respect

*In deference to the minister's request, please do not take photographs during the wedding service.*

**deferential**

a. showing deference; being respectful and considerate

*He nodded in a manner that could only be described as deferential and walked on to meet them.*

**deficiency**

n. scarcity; lack or shortage, especially of something essential to health

*It has been demonstrated that a blood protein deficiency is the cause of this inherited illness.*

**definitely**

ad. clearly; without question and beyond doubt

*And in a country where people depend on natural sources of water, people will definitely become poorer.*

**dehydrate**

v. remove water from; dry out; lose water or bodily fluids

*Running under a hot sun would quickly dehydrate the body; joggers soon learn to carry water bottles and frequently drink from them.*

**dehydrated**

a. suffering from excessive loss of water

*Fever resulted from becoming dehydrated.*

**deign**

v. condescend to give or grant; esteem worthy; consider worth notice

*Microsoft is accusing Google with regard to Google's new App Sync software, which allows Gmail users to tap into any records they might deign to keep in Outlook.*

**delegate**

n. a person authorized to act as a representative for another; deputy

*Some religious groups are boycotting the event, but one delegate told the BBC that it was vital to work with the Americans to get Iraq up and running again.*

**demobilize**

v. retire from military service

*A group of boys who were among about 250 child soldiers will demobilize in the village.*

## **demonstrate**

v. show clearly and deliberately; manifest; confirm; prove

*After a series of drug scandals, this was Major League Baseball's chance to demonstrate its determination to crack down on the cheats.*

## **denote**

v. indicate; signify directly; refer to specifically

*The word 'sex' is simply that—a word to denote whether a person is male or female.*

## **dense**

a. thick; crowded closely together; compact

*It's a mountainous country, just a few kilometers from Serbia's border; dense woodland surrounds the site.*

## **density**

n. thickness; the quantity of something per unit measure, especially per unit length, area, or volume

*They know the population, housing density, types of construction, and the extent of insurance cover.*

## **depart**

v. take off; leave; set out

*I have some to see and ask after in England before I depart forever.*

## **dependable**

a. reliable; worthy of being depended on; trustworthy

*Your dependable dog team will glide along the forested trails and frozen lakes in this winter wonderland north of Whitehorse.*

## **dependence**

n. reliance; lack of independence or self-sufficiency

*The power of either Russia or China to act independently from the United States is constrained by their economic dependence on the world's remaining superpower.*

## **dependent**

a. relying on or requiring the aid of another for support

*Some U.S. officials believe Pakistan wants the U.S. to remain dependent on the ISI for that intelligence.*

## **depict**

v. represent in a picture or sculpture; portray in words; describe

*Here, we can see how the author to depict Beatle John Lennon as a drug-crazed neurotic.*

## **deposit**

n. money given as a guarantee or security

*In the meantime, she could keep the \$400,000 in a secure investment such as a term deposit or money market fund.*

## **depressed**

a. sad; gloomy; low in spirits; dejected

*The tests' results indicated that the drug might increase the suicidal tendencies in some depressed children who took it.*

## **derivative**

a. unoriginal; derived from another source

*Although her early poetry was clearly derivative in nature, the critics thought she eventually would find her own voice.*

**desalination**

n. removal of salt; a process of removing salt from seawater to make drinking water  
*Canadian Clear Water has designed the most economical and efficient seawater desalination plants.*

**deserted**

a. remote from civilization; left desolate or empty; abandoned

*The majority of horror movies are set in deserted areas with limited proximity to towns and major cities.*

**desirable**

a. worthwhile; worth doing or achieving; advisable

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

**desolate**

a. unpopulated; providing no shelter or sustenance; devoid of inhabitants

*The sounds of Nature are detailed with great delicacy in this appeal, and we see that the Alps are referred to as desolate regions.*

**desperately**

ad. with great urgency; seriously; severely

*What a night it was for Germany: a desperately close race between the two candidates for Chancellor, declarations of victory by both.*

**despoiler**

n. someone who takes spoils or plunder; one who despoils or strips by force; a plunderer

*Some will use Earth Day to depict America as an energy wastrel and despoiler of the earth.*

**destination**

n. ultimate goal; the place to which one is going or directed

*It's an aging coaster and reportedly in poor condition, but even so, it should have got back to Benin - its declared destination - by now.*

**deterrent**

n. something that discourages; tending to deter

*In his view, North Korea is the main deterrent from a peaceful resolution.*

**devastate**

v. ruin; lay waste; destroy; make desolate

*She says the disease can devastate Sudan, as HIV spreads quickly among the nation's youth.*

**device**

n. technique or means; instrument; machine used to perform one or more relatively simple tasks

*An anti-gravity device could change air travel.*

**diagonal**

n. a straight line connecting any two vertices of a polygon that are not adjacent

*You can draw one diagonal across the page.*