

JUNE 2015 EDITION

1000 USEFUL WORDS YOUR SPEAKING VOCABULARY WANTS YOU TO KNOW

ABET

v.t.- encourage or assist someone to do something wrong, in particular to commit a crime or other offense -

ABIDE

v.- accept or act in accordance with; tolerate; continue without fading or being lost -

ABJECT

adj.- utterly hopeless, humiliating; despicable, contemptible -
. . . an *abject* coward, shamelessly servile . . .

ABJURE

v.t.- solemnly renounce a belief, cause, or claim -

ABLATION

n.- removal, esp. of organs, abnormal growths, or harmful substances from the body by mechanical means, as by surgery; reduction in volume of glacial ice, snow, or firn by the combined process of melting, evaporation, and calving; (Rocketry) removal or falling away of the parts of a nose cone that are melted by the heat generated by hypersonic reentry speeds -

ABNEGATE

v.- relinquish; renounce -

ABODE

n.- house or home -

ABORIGINAL

adj.- inhabiting or existing in a land from the earliest times or from before the arrival of colonists; indigenous; of or relating to the Australian Aboriginals or their languages -
n.- an aboriginal inhabitant of a place; a person belonging to one of the indigenous peoples of Australia -

ABROGATE

v.t.- repeal or do away with a law, right, or formal agreement -

ABSTRUSE

adj.- difficult to understand; obscure -

ACADIAN

adj.- of or pertaining to Acadia (Nova Scotia) or its inhabitants -
. . . *acadian* nights with cajun chic . . .

n.- a native of Acadia or a descendant of such natives or inhabitants who lives in Louisiana -

ACCEDE

v.- assent or agree to a demand, request, or treaty; assume an office or position; become a member of a community or organization -

ACEDIA (accidie)

n.- sloth; laziness or indifference in religious matters -

ACERBIC

adj.- sour or astringent in taste; harsh, sharp, forthright, or severe in temper, expression, etc. -

ACRID

adj.- having an irritatingly strong and unpleasant taste or smell; angry and bitter -

ADEPTS

n.- a person who is skilled or proficient at something -

. . . they are *adepts* at cooking and canasta . . .

ADMONISH

v.- rebuke -

ADO

n.- trouble or difficulty; fuss, esp. about something that is unimportant -

ADROIT

adj.- adept, dextrous, skillful, resourceful or ingenious -

ADUMBRATE

v.- foreshadow vaguely, disclose partially -

ADVERT

v.i.- refer to in speaking or writing -

. . . he had failed to *advert* to the consequences that his conduct was having . . .

AEGIS

n.- protection; sponsorship -

AESTHETIC

adj.- pertaining to a sense of the beautiful or to the science of aesthetics: 2) having a sense of the beautiful; 3) pertaining to, involving, or concerned with pure emotion and sensation as opposed to pure intellectuality -

n.- a philosophical theory or idea of what is aesthetically valid at a given time and place -

the clean lines, bare surfaces, and sense of space that bespeak the machine-age *aesthetic*

AFFABLE

adj.- pleasantly easy to talk to; showing warmth and friendliness; benign -

. . . witty, urbane, and as *affable* as Gene Kelly . . .

AFFECT

n.- an observed emotional state -

AFFECTIVE

adj.- relating to moods, feelings, and attitudes -

AFFLATUS

n.- inspiration; an impelling mental force acting from within; divine communication of knowledge -
Waugh was no believer in artistic *afflatus*.

AFFRAY

n.- an instance of group fighting in a public place that disturbs the peace -

AGGLOMERATION

n.- a mass or collection of things; an assemblage -

AGONIST

n.- a biochemistry substance that initiates a physiological response when combined with a receptor; 2) a muscle whose contraction moves a part of the body directly, often contrasted with antagonist; 3) another term for protagonist -

AGONISTIC

adj.- combative; polemical -

AGORA

n.- (in ancient Greece) a public open space used for assemblies and markets; 2) a monetary unit of Israel equal to one hundredth of a shekel -

ALACRITY

n.- brisk and cheerful readiness -

ALBEDO

n.- the ratio of the light reflected by a planet or satellite to that received by it -

The moon's *albedo* is 7% meaning that 93% of the light that hits it is absorbed, and 7% is reflected back into space. The earth's *albedo* is 39%

ALBEIT

conj. - although; even if -

. . . a peaceful, albeit inglorious retirement . . .

ALEATORY

adj.- depending on the throw of a die or on chance; random; relating to or denoting music or other forms of art involving elements of random choice (sometimes using statistical or computer techniques) during their composition, production, or performance.

ALGORITHM

n.- any particular procedure for solving a certain type of problem, as the rule for finding the greatest common denominator -

ALLAY

v.t.- diminish or put to rest fear or worry; relieve or alleviate pain or hunger -

ALLEGORY

n.- a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one; the genre to which such works belong; a symbol -

ALLITERATION

n.- the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words -

ALLUSION

n.- a passing or casual reference; an incidental mention of something either directly or by implication -

ALLUVION or ALLUVIUM

n.- a gradual increase of land on a shore or river bank by the action of water, whether from natural or artificial causes; overflow; flood -

AMANUENSIS

n.- a literary or artistic assistant, in particular one who takes dictation or copies manuscripts -

AMATORY

adj.- of or expressing sexual love -

Chabon's chief preoccupation was with domestic life and *amatory* affairs.

AMBIENCE

n.- that which surrounds or encompasses; environment; the mood, character, quality, tone, atmosphere, etc., particularly of an environment or milieu -

AMBIENT

adj.- completely surrounding; encompassing: *ambient* noises; moving freely; circulating: *ambient* air -

AMBIGUOUS

adj.- open to various interpretations; having several possible meanings or interpretations; equivocal -
an *ambiguous* answer -

AMBIT

n.- the scope, extent, or bounds of something -
within the *ambit* of federal law

AMBIVALENCE

n.- uncertainty or fluctuation, esp. when caused by inability to make a choice or a simultaneous desire to say or do two opposite things -

AMELIORATE

v.t.- make better; improve -

AMORALITY

n.- a state of having no moral standards, restraints, or principles -

AMORPHOUS

adj.- without a clearly defined shape or form; vague; ill-organized; unclassifiable -

ANALOG

n.- a person or thing seen as comparable to another -

adj.- signals or information represented by a continuously variable physical quantity, in contrast to fragmentary digital -

ANALYSIS

n.- the separating of any material or abstract entity into its constituent elements (opposite of synthesis); this process as a method of studying the nature of something or of determining its essential features and their relations; a presentation usually in writing, of the results of this process -

ANATHEMA

n.- a formal ecclesiastical curse involving excommunication; any imprecation of divine punishment; a curse; execration; a person or thing accursed or consigned to damnation or destruction; a person or thing detested or loathed -

His misbehavior brought upon him his father's *anathema*.

ANCILLARY

adj.- subordinate; additional; auxiliary -

These two principal forces are among many *ancillary* ones.

ANDROCENTRIC

adj.- dominated by males or masculine interests -

ANGULAR MOMENTUM (or moment of momentum)

n.- the product of the moment of inertia of a body about an axis and its angular velocity with respect to the same axis -

ANGULAR VELOCITY

n.- the time rate of change of angular position of a rotating body (speed of rotation), usually expressed in radians per second or radians per minute -

ANIMA

n.- Jung's term for the feminine part of a man's personality, often contrasted with animus; the part of the psyche that is directed inward, and is in touch with the subconscious, often contrasted with persona -

ANIMA MUNDI

n.- as an important component of most Neoplatonic systems: an intrinsic connection between all living things on the planet, which relates to our world in much the same way as the soul is connected to the human body; world soul; Gaia; qi -

ANIMADVERSION

n.- a censorious remark, criticism, or adverse comment, aspersion, reflection, derogation -
. . . to make *animadversions* on his conduct . . .

ANIMADVERT

v.i.- to comment critically -

ANIMATE

adj.- having life -

v.- give life or vigor to; make appear to move; to give zest and spirit to -

ANIMUS

n.- hostile feeling or attitude; antagonism; animosity; purpose; intention; animating spirit -

ANNEAL

v.t.- to heat glass, earthenware, metals, etc. to remove or prevent internal stress; to toughen or temper -

. . . to *anneal* the mind . . .

ANODYNE

adj.- not likely to provoke dissent or offense; non-contentious or inoffensive -

n.- a pain-killing drug or medicine; something that alleviates a person's mental distress -

ANOMALOUS

adj.- deviating from the common rule -

ANOMALY

n.- a deviation from the common rule or form or norm; an odd, peculiar or strange quality or condition -

ANOMIE

n.- a state or condition of individuals or society characterized by a breakdown or absence of social norms, values and ethical standards as in the case of uprooted people -

ANONYM

n.- an assumed or false name; an anonymous person or publication -

ANTAGONIST

n.- a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary; 2) a biochemistry substance that interferes with or inhibits the physiological action of another; 3) a muscle whose action counteracts that of another specified muscle -

ANTEBELLUM

adj.- occurring or existing before a particular war, esp. the American Civil War -

ANTEDILUVIAN

adj.- ancient; antiquated; primitive -

n.- a very old or old-fashioned person -

ANTHROPOCENTRIC

adj.- regarding humankind as the central or most important element of existence, esp. as opposed to God or animals -

ANTIPATHY

n.- a natural or habitual repugnance; an instinctive contrariety or opposition in feeling -

ANTIPATHETIC

adj.- having a basic aversion to something or someone; causing antipathy

He remains the Wehrmacht's least *antipathetic* general.

ANTIPHONY

n.- alternate or responsive singing by a choir in two divisions; a psalm, verse, etc., so sung; an antiphon; a responsive musical utterance -

ANTITHETIC

adj.- of the nature of or involving antithesis; directly opposed or contrasted -

APLOMB

n.- imperturbable self assurance; the perpendicular, or vertical, position -

Dale suffers him with seigneurial *aplomb*, cadging money for booze in exchange for rambling, impenetrable penses on the nature of art and the universe.

APOCRYPHAL

adj.- a story or statement of doubtful authenticity, although widely circulated as being true - (see PUTATIVE and SPECIOUS)

APOLLONIAN

adj.- pertaining to the cult of Apollo; serene, calm, or well balanced; poised and disciplined; having or preferring classic beauty -

APOLOGIA or APOLOGIAS

n.- defense of one's opinions or actions -

APOLOGY

n.- formal justification -

APOPLEXY

n.- incapacity or speechlessness caused by extreme anger -

APOPLECTIC

adj.- overcome with anger; extremely indignant

APORIA

n.- an irresolvable internal contradiction or logical disjunction in a text, argument, or theory -

APOSTASY

n.- abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief or former loyalty -

APOSTATE

n.- one who forsakes his religion, cause, party -

adj.- of or characterized by apostasy -

APOTHEOSIS

n.- the highest point in the development of something; culmination or climax -

his appearance as Hamlet was the *apotheosis* of his career.

2) the elevation of someone to divine status; deification -

APPARITION

n.- a ghost or ghostlike image of a person - the appearance of something remarkable or unexpected, typically an image of this type -

APPELLATION

n.- a name, title or designation; the act of naming -

APPEND

v.- add something as an attachment or supplement -

APPETITIVE

adj.- characterized by a natural desire to satisfy bodily needs -

. . . the appetitive behavior of animals . . .

APPOSITE

adj.- suitable, well adapted, pertinent, relevant -

APPREHEND

v.- arrest; look forward to in dread; understand or grasp intuitively on a direct and immediate level -

APPROBATE

v.t.- approve formally; sanction -

. . . a letter *approbating* the affair . . .

APPURTENANCE

n.- something subordinate to another, more important thing; an adjunct; accessory; a right, privilege, or improvement belonging to and passing with a principal property -

ARCADIAN

adj.- simple, rustic, bucolic, pastoral -

ARCANE

adj.- mysterious, secret, obscure -

ARCH

adj.- most important, principal; roguish, cunning, mischievous -

The IDLER magazine is the work of young minds prematurely wise and preternaturally *arch*.

ARGOSY

n.- a large merchant ship with rich cargo; a fleet of such ships; an opulent supply -

ARGUFY

v.- to argue or wrangle obstinately over something insignificant -

ARRANT

adj.- thoroughgoing, flagrant, notorious -

ARRAY

n.- an ordered arrangement or impressive display of a particular type of thing; elaborate or beautiful clothing -

v.t.- display or arrange things in a particular way; (usually **be arrayed in**) dress someone in a certain way; empanel a jury -

ARRHYTHMIC

adj.- not rhythmic; without rhythm or regularity -

the *arrhythmic* clip-clop of pony steps

ARROGATE

v.t.- take or claim something for oneself without justification -

ART

n.- a window to a non-standard reality; that which produces a higher level of reality than the literal action taken -

ARTIFICE

n.- clever or cunning devices or expedients, esp. as used to trick or deceive others -

ASCETIC

adj.- characterized by or suggesting the practice of severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons -

n.- a person who practices such self-discipline and abstention -

ASPERITY

n.- roughness or sharpness of tone, temper, or manner; harshness; severity; acrimony; hardship; difficulty; rigor -

ASSAY

v.- to try or test; put to trial; to examine or analyze; to endeavor to make or do; to attempt -
... to *assay* one's strength ...

ASSONANCE

n.- in poetry, the repetition of a sound of a vowel or diphthong in non-rhyming stressed syllables near enough to each other for the echo to be discernible (compare with ALLITERATION)

ASSUAGE

v.- make less intense; alleviate; satisfy an appetite or desire -

ASTRINGENT

adj.- causing the contraction of body tissues, typically of the skin; sharp or severe in manner or style; (of taste or smell) sharp or bitter

n.- a substance that causes the contraction of body tissues, typically used to protect the skin and to reduce bleeding from minor abrasions.

ATAVISM

n.- the occurrence in an individual of features or qualities of a more primitive or underdeveloped nature -
On a collegiate circuit that is learning once again the beauty of guitar noise, Mr. Dale is a revered *atavism*.

ATROPHY

n.- the condition or practice of atrophying; the gradual decline in effectiveness or vigor due to underuse or neglect -

v.i.- waste away, typically due to the degeneration of cells -

ATTENUATE

v.- make or become thin; weaken -

AUDACIOUS

adj.- extremely bold or daring, fearless; blatantly original, without restriction to prior ideas; free from constraint and formality -

AUDACITY

n.- temerity, foolhardiness, boldness; effrontery or insolence -

AUSPICIOUS

adj.- promising success; propitious; opportune; favorable; favored by fortune; prosperous; fortunate -

AUTODIDACT

n.- a self-taught person -

AVATAR

n.- a manifestation of a deity or released soul in bodily form on earth; an incarnate divine teacher; an incarnation, embodiment or manifestation of a person or idea -

AVER

v.- declare positively -

AVIDITY

n.- extreme eagerness or enthusiasm -

AVUNCULAR

adj.- suggestive of an uncle, especially in kindness -

BABYLON

n.- an ancient city in the lower Euphrates valley famed for its magnificence and culture; the capital of Babylonia and later of the Chaldean empire; any rich and magnificent city believed to be a place of excessive luxury and wickedness -

BABYLONIA

n.- an ancient empire in SW Asia, great from 2800 to 1750 B.C. -

BACCALAUREATE

n.- a college bachelor's degree; an examination intended to qualify successful candidates for higher education; a religious service held before commencement -

BACKRONYM

n.- a fanciful expansion of an existing acronym or word such as "Never Twice the Same Color" for the TV standard NTSC -

BANDWIDTH

n.- the energy or mental capacity to deal with a situation; the range of frequencies within a given band used for transmitting a signal -

BEHEST

n.- a person's orders or command -

BEHOLDEN

adj.- owing thanks or having a duty to someone in return for help or a service -

BEHOOVE

v.t.- it is a duty or responsibility for someone to do something; it is incumbent on -
it *behooves* any coach to study his predecessors

BELIE

v.- to misrepresent; to show to be false; contradict; to act unworthily according to the standards of a tradition or one's ancestry -

His trembling hands *belied* his calm voice.

BELLICOSE

adj.- inclined or eager to fight; aggressively hostile; belligerent; pugnacious -

BEMUSE

v.t.- puzzle, confuse, or bewilder someone -

BERATE

v.- to scold; rebuke -

BEREFT

adj.- deprived of or lacking something, esp. a non-material asset -

BESEECH

v.- ask (someone) urgently and fervently to do something; implore; entreat -

BESET

v.- trouble or threaten persistently; surround and harass; assail on all sides; hem in; enclose -

BIGHT

n.- a curve or recess in a coastline, river, or other geographical feature; 2) a loop of rope, as distinct from the rope's ends -

BINDLE STIFF

n.- a hobo -

BIOPHILIA

n.- a love of life and the living world; the affinity of human beings for other life forms -

BIOTA

n.- the animal and plant life of a region -

Biologists have scarcely begun to survey the ocean's *biota*.

BLANDISHMENT

n.- a flattering or pleasing statement or action used to persuade someone gently to do something -

BLATHER

n.- foolish talk -

v.- to talk foolishly, babble -

BLATHERSKITE

n.- a person who talks at great length without making much sense; nonsense; a scoundrel -

BLITHE

adj.- showing a casual and cheerful indifference considered to be callous or improper; happy or joyous -

BLOVIATE

v.i.- to speak at length in a pompous or boastful manner -

BLOWHARD

n.- a person who blusters and boasts in an unpleasant way -

BLUSTER

n.- loud, aggressive, or indignant talk with little effect -

v.- to talk that way -

BOCAGE

n.- a mass of trees or shrubs, wood, grove, or thicket -

. . . piloting his Audi through the Cheeverish *bocage* . . .

BOILERPLATE

n.- writing that is cliched or expresses a generally accepted opinion or belief; standardized pieces of text for use as clauses in contracts or as part of a computer program -

BOKEH

n.- the visual quality of the out-of-focus areas of a photographic image, especially as rendered by a particular lens -

BONHOMIE

n.- geniality; frank and simple good-heartedness; a good-natured manner -

BON MOT (bon mo)

BONS MOTS (bon moz) pl.

n.- an especially fitting word or expression; clever saying; witticism -

BOSKY

adj.- woody, cover with bushes -

BRAVURA

adj.- display of daring; brilliant performance -

BRICOLAGE

n.- construction or creation from a diverse range of available things -

BRIGAND

n.- a member of a gang that ambushes and robs people in forests and mountains -

BRIO

adj.- vivacity; vigor -

Bernstein conducted w/amazing *brio*.

BROOK

v.t.- to bear, suffer, tolerate -

I will *brook* no interference.

BROMIDE

n.- a trite and unoriginal idea or remark, typically intended to soothe or placate -

feel-good *bromides* create the illusion of problem solving

BROUGHAM (broo'-am)

n.- a four wheeled, boxlike, closed carriage, having the driver's perch outside -

BRUSQUE

adj.- curt or blunt in manner -

BUCOLIC

adj.- of or relating to the pleasant aspects of the countryside and country life -

CABAL

n.- a secret political clique or faction -

CADGE

v.- to obtain by imposing on another's generosity or friendship; to borrow without intent to repay; to beg or obtain by begging

Dale suffers him with seigneurial aplomb, *cadging* money for booze in exchange for rambling, impenetrable penses on the nature of art and the universe.

CADGY

adj.- cheerful; merry; amorous; wonton -

CAIRN

n.- memorial heap of stones -

CALLOW

adj.- immature or inexperienced -

CALUMNY

n.- a false and malicious statement designed to injure the reputation of someone or something; slander, defamation -

CANARD

n.- an unfounded rumor or story; 2) a small winglike projection attached to an aircraft forward of the main wing to provide extra stability or control, sometimes replacing the tail -

CANDOR

n.- candidness, frankness, openness; freedom from bias, impartiality -

CANT (1)

n.- insincere statements, esp. conventional expressions of enthusiasm for high ideals, goodness, or piety; the jargon of criminals, gypsies, etc.; the phraseology peculiar to a particular class or profession; whining or singsong speech, esp. of beggars -

. . . it was a pure expression of her contempt for *cant* . . .

Like Allan Bloom, Richard Mitchell is vehemently opposed to contemporary *cant* in all its forms, whether psychobabble or bureaucratese or academic jargon.

v.i.- to use cant, esp. to make religious remarks hypocritically; pretend goodness or piety; to speak in the whining singsong tone of a beggar; beg -

CANT (2)

n.- a salient angle; a sudden movement that tilts or overturns a thing; a slanting or tilted position -

v.t.- to bevel; to form an oblique surface upon; to tilt, turn; to throw with a sudden jerk -

CAPITULATE

v.- cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; surrender -

CARBUNCLE

n.- a severe abscess or multiple boil in the skin, typically infected with staphylococcus bacteria; a bright red gem, in particular a garnet cut en cabochon -

CARCERAL

adj.- relating to a prison -

CAREWORN

adj.- tired and unhappy because of prolonged worry -

CARTE BLANCHE

n.- a signed blank sheet of paper; unconditional authority, full discretionary power -

CARTESIAN DOUBT

willful suspension of experiences that are not absolutely certain, used as a method of deriving, by elimination of such uncertainties, axioms upon which to base theories -

CARTESIAN LOGIC

of or pertaining to Decartes, to his mathematical methods, or to his philosophy, esp. with regard to its emphasis on logical analysis, and its mechanistic interpretation of physical nature; 2) one who advocates the philosophy of Decartes -

CATAFALQUE

n.- a raised structure on which the body of a deceased person lies or is carried in state -

CATALYST

n.- a substance that causes a chemical change by the addition of a substance which is not permanently affected by the reaction; 2) that which causes activity between two or more persons or forces without itself being affected -

CATARRH

n.- inflammation of the respiratory tract accompanied by excessive secretions; common cold -

CATERWAUL

v.- to cry as cats in rutting time; to quarrel like cats -

CATHARSIS

n.- the process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions -

CATTY

adj. catlike; feline; quietly or slyly malicious; spiteful -

. . . a *catty* gossip . . .

CAVEAT

n.- any warning or caution -

On a clear day, you can watch the river unwind for 30 or 35 miles. (*Caveat*: New Orleans is notorious for haze.)

CAVEAT EMPTOR

the principle that the seller cannot be held responsible for the quality of his product unless guaranteed in a warranty; let the buyer beware -

CEDE

v.- to yield or formally resign and surrender to another; to grant as by treaty -

. . . to *cede* territory. . .

CELESTIAL

adj.- positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space as observed in astronomy : a *celestial* body;
2) belonging or relating to heaven : the *celestial* city; 3) supremely good : the *celestial* beauty of music.

CERUMEN

n.- earwax

CHAGRIN

n.- distress or embarrassment at having failed or been humiliated -

CHAKRA

n.- (in Indian thought) each of the seven centers of spiritual power in the human body -

CHANGLING

n.- a child believed to have been secretly substituted by fairies for the parents' real child in infancy -

CHARY

adj.- wary; cautious about the amount one gives or reveals -

CHASTEN

v.- have a restraining or moderating effect on -

CHASTISE

v.- to discipline, esp. by corporal punishment; castigate; whip -

CHAUVINISM

n.- excessive devotion to any cause, esp. zealous and belligerent patriotism or blind enthusiasm for military glory -

CHIAROSCURO

n.- the distribution of light and shade in a picture; the use of deep variations in and subtle gradations of light and shade, esp. to enhance the delineation of character and for general dramatic effect -

. . . depicting symbols that were a familiar language of painting in the past, and *chiaroscuro* lighting . . .

CHIMERA

n.- a grotesque monster having disparate parts, esp. as depicted in decorative art; a horrible or unreal creature of the imagination; a thing that is hoped or wished for but in fact is illusory or impossible to achieve; an organism containing a mixture of genetically different tissues, formed by processes such as fusion of early embryos, grafting, or mutation -

CHOLERIC

adj.- irascible, characterized by anger; wrathful, irritable -

CHREOD

n.- (biology) necessary path or trajectory to which a developing or changing organism tends to return following an interruption or disturbance - (see homeorhesis)

CINEAST (sin-e-ast)

n.- a movie enthusiast; a person involved in filmmaking -

CIPHER

n.- a secret or disguised way of writing, a code; a person or thing of no importance -

v.t.- put a message into secret writing, encode -

CIRCADIAN

adj.- (of biological processes) recurring naturally on a twenty-four-hour cycle, even in the absence of light fluctuations : a *circadian* rhythm

CLEAVE

v.t.- split or sever something, esp. along a natural line or grain; split a molecule by breaking a particular chemical bond; make a way through something forcefully, as if by splitting it apart -
they watched a coot *cleave* the smooth water

CLEMENT

adj.- mild weather; 2) merciful action by someone -

CLOACA

n.- a common cavity at the end of the digestive tract for the release of both excretory and genital products in birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and monotremes -

CLOY

v.t.- to weary by an excess in food, sweetness, pleasure - 2) to become uninteresting or distasteful thru overabundance -

CLOYING

adj.- causing disgust or aversion thru excess as food, sentimentality, or flattery -

COEVAL

adj.- of the same age, date, or duration; equally old; contemporary; coincident -

COGENT

adj.- a clear, logical, and convincing argument -

COGNATE

adj.- a word from the same original root; 2) related; connected -

COGNOSCENTI

n.- people with specialized or inside information -

COHORT

n.- any group of warriors; a group or company; a companion or associate -

This group constituted only three tenths of one % of the 1985 *cohort*.

COL

n.- the lowest point of a ridge or saddle between two peaks, typically affording a pass from one side of a mountain range to another -

COLLOQUIUM

n.- an academic activity, typically a single lecture given to colleagues in the same field. Colloquia provide scholars the opportunity to face and respond to criticism in the early stages of the development of new ideas.

COLLOQUY

n.- a formal conversation -

COLOPHON

n.- inscription at the end of a book -

. . . the last books bearing the company *colophon* will appear . . .

COMITY

n.- mutual courtesy; civility -

. . . restore *comity* to the community . . .

COMPATHY

n.- feelings, as happiness, grief, etc., shared with another or others -

COMPENDIUM

n.- a brief treatment or account of a subject, esp. an extensive subject; concise treatise; a summary; a full list or inventory -

I wanted to put the entire debate in one *compendium*.

COMPLAISANT

adj. - willingness to please; syn: amiable, easy, obliging -

(pronunciation is unfortunately the same as *complacent*)

COMPORT

v.t.- to bear or conduct oneself; behave; to be in agreement, harmony, or conformance with -

His remark simply does not *comport* with his known attitude.

COMPORIMENT

n.- bearing; demeanor; behavior -

We have no secrets; the issue is his *comportment* in carrying out the contract, and certainly not our behavior.

COMPUNCTION

n.- a feeling of guilt or moral scruple that follows the doing of something bad -

CONATION

n.- the part of mental life having to do with striving, including desire and volition -

CONATUS

n.- an effort or striving; 2) a force or tendency simulating a human effort; 3) the force in every animate creature toward the preservation of its existence (from Spinoza) -

CONCATENATE (kon-kat-n-eyt)

v. - link things together in a chain or series; integrate, articulate -

CONCEPTUAL THINKING (LATERAL THINKING)

n.- problem solving or thinking based on the cognitive process of conceptualization—is a process of independent analysis in the creative search for new ideas or solutions, which takes as its starting point that none of the accepted constraints of "today's reality" need necessarily to apply to or to shape the future. Thus it does not accept received wisdom, the status quo nor inertia as necessary determinants of every bit of the future.

Conceptual thinking can be a valuable analytic or problem solving tool in any field; for instance, Environment Canada, in a note on "competencies of meteorologists", defines it as follows:

Conceptual thinking is the ability to understand a situation or problem by identifying patterns or connections, and addressing key underlying issues. Conceptual thinking includes the integration of issues and factors into a conceptual framework. It involves using past professional or technical training and experience, creativity, inductive reasoning, and intuitive processes that lead to potential solutions or viable alternatives that may not be obviously related or easily identified.

Conceptual thinking requires an openness to new ways of seeing the world and a willingness to explore. But once the work of analysis is completed and a new concept or mind map emerges, the hard work of communicating this new vision begins. Conceptual thinkers, if they are to succeed, must understand that new, and to many people unfamiliar ideas, need nurturing and support.

CONCILIATE

v.t.- to overcome the distrust or hostility of; placate; win over; to gain regard or favor; to make compatible; reconcile; to bring together, unite -

He *conciliated* the respect of his associates with his cooperativeness.

CONCINNITY

n.- a close harmony of tone as well as logic among the elements of a discourse; an instance of this harmony -

CONCISION (noun form of the adjective CONCISE)

n.- information clearly given in a few words; brief but comprehensive -

CONFABULATION

n.- conversation; discussion -

CONFLATE

v.- combine two or more graphics, texts, or ideas into one -

CONIFER

n.- evergreen tree or shrub including pine, fir, spruce and other cone bearing trees and shrubs -

CONJUNCTURE

n.- a combination of events; a state of affairs -

. . . the wider political *conjuncture* . . .

CONJURE

v.- to call upon or command by invocation or spell; - to affect or produce by magic -

CONNOTE

v.t.- imply or suggest a quality or characteristic of a feeling, idea, or fact that is in addition to the literal or primary meaning; The word *mother* denotes 'a woman who is a parent' but connotes qualities such as 'protection' and 'affection.'

CONSECRATE

make or declare (something, typically a church) sacred; dedicate formally to a religious or divine purpose; ordain (someone) to a sacred office, typically that of bishop; informal devote (something) exclusively to a particular purpose -

CONSONANCE

n.- agreement or compatibility between opinions or actions; accord; 2) the recurrence of similar sounds, esp. consonants, in close proximity; the use of the repetition of consonants or consonant patterns as a rhyming device -

CONSUMMATE

v.t.- complete; make perfect -

his scheme of colonization was *consummated* through bloodshed

adj.- showing a high degree of skill and flair; complete or perfect -

she dressed with *consummate* elegance

CONTENTIOUS

adj.- tending to argument or strife; quarrelsome; causing, involving, or characterized by argument or controversy -

CONTRAVENE

v.t.- to be in conflict with; go or act against; deny or oppose: to contravene a statement; 2) to violate, infringe, or transgress: to contravene the law -

CONTRETEMPS

n.- embarrassing event; 2) an unexpected and unfortunate occurrence; 3) a minor dispute or disagreement -

The ratings *contretemps* grew out of the film's legitimate shock value.

CO-OPT

v.t.- divert or use in a role different from the usual or original one; adopt an idea or policy for one's own use -

COQUETTE

n.- a girl or woman who flirts lightheartedly with men to win their admiration and affection; a flirt -

CORIOLIS EFFECT

the apparent deflection of a body in motion attributed to a hypothetical force known as the Coriolis force, but actually caused by the rotation of the earth; 2) the consequence of the difference between the angular velocity (speed of rotation) at different latitudes on earth or on any sphere that rotates on an axis -- This can be seen in the counterclockwise spin of Hurricane Ivan. This spin direction results from these two qualities: A) the eastward rotation of the earth, and B) on the poleward (toward the north pole in this case) side of the hurricane, the earth has a lower angular velocity than it does on the equatorial side. The equator is a speed-demon relative to the more poleward latitudes, and because atmosphere currents move with the speed of rotation of the earth's surface, this speed-demon has its way with phenomena like hurricanes, which is why a southern hemisphere hurricane spins in the opposite or clockwise direction.

CORIUM

n.- the sensitive vascular layer of the skin beneath the epidermis; derma (see epidermis & integument)

-

CORNY

adj.- old-fashioned; trite; banal; hackneyed; stale; mawkish; insipid; inane; irritating -

CORPOREAL

adj.- of or relating to a person's body, esp. as opposed to their spirit -

CORRIGIBLE

adj.- capable of being corrected, rectified, or reformed -

COSSET

v.t.- to treat as a pet, pamper, coddle -

A Jaguar *cossets* its occupants in luxury.

COURTESAN

n.- prostitute -

Being a *courtesan* is an awfully hard way to earn a living.

COUNTERCULTURATI

n.- folks with values and mores that run counter to those of established society -

Cocaine, which seemed harmless to *counterculturati* for years, came to be recognized as quite insidious.

COW

v.- cause someone to submit to one's wishes by intimidation; to frighten with threats, violence, etc. -

COXCOMB

n.- a conceited, foolish dandy; pretentious fop; dude; popinjay; jackinapes -

COY

adj.- shy; modest; 2) artfully or affectedly shy or reserved; coquettish -

CRAVEN

adj.- cowardly; contemptibly timid; pusillanimous -

They are afraid to present political satire. That is quite *craven*.

n.- a coward -

v.t.- to make cowardly -

CRESTFALLEN

adj.- sad and disappointed -

CRONE

n.- an old woman who is thin and ugly -

CRUCIBLE

n.- a vessel of metal or refractory material employed for heating substances to high temperatures; a severe, searching test -

CUCKOLD

n.- the husband of an adultress, often regarded as an object of derision -

CUDGEL

n.- a short thick stick used as a weapon -

CULPABLE

adj.- deserving blame or censure; blameworthy -

His peers were morally *culpable* for not having made greater effort.

CURSIVE

adj.- handwriting in flowing strokes with the letters joined together -

CURTILAGE

n.- the area immediately surrounding a home, an area for the intimate activity associated with the privacies of life; privacy expectations are heightened in this area -

A man's home is his castle, but his back yard is just the castle's *curtilage*, and enjoys a lot less privacy.

CYBORG

n.- a fictional or hypothetical person whose physical abilities are extended beyond normal human limitations by mechanical elements built into the body -

DAUNT

v.t.- to overcome with fear; intimidate; dishearten; dismay; frighten; dispirit -

. . . a writer of *daunting* talents . . .

DAUNTLESS

adj.- fearless; intrepid; bold; undaunted; daring; indomitable -

DEBASE

v.t.- reduce something in quality or value; degrade -

the love episodes *debase* the dignity of the drama

lower the moral character of someone -

war *debases* people

lower the value of coinage by reducing the content of precious metal -

DEBAUCH

v.t.- to corrupt by sensuality, intemperance; seduce; to corrupt, pervert; deprave -

His honesty was *debauched* by the prospect of easy money.

DEBRIDEMENT

n.- surgical removal of foreign matter and dead tissue from a wound -

DECIMATE

v.t.- kill, destroy, or remove a large percentage or part; drastically reduce the strength or effectiveness of something -

DECOROUS

adj.- characterized by propriety in conduct, manners, appearance, character, etc. -

antonym- irreverent, perverse -

DEFT

adj.- neatly skillful and quick in one's movements; demonstrating skill and cleverness -

DEFROCKED

adj.- deprived of professional status or membership in a prestigious group -
a *defrocked* psychiatrist

DEIGN

v.i.- do something that one considers to be beneath one's dignity -

DELECTATION

n.- pleasure or delight -

DELETERIOUS

adj.- injurious to health; pernicious; noxious -

DELIRIOUS

adj.- wild with excitement, enthusiasm -

DELUDE

v.t.- impose a misleading belief upon someone; deceive; fool -

DEMAGOGUE

n.- a political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires and prejudices rather than by using rational argument -

DEMENTIA

n.- severe impairment or loss of intellectual capacity and personality integration -

DEMUR

v.i.- raise doubts or objections or show reluctance -

n.- the action or process of objecting to or hesitating over something -

DEMURE

adj.- characterized by shyness and modesty; reserved; 2) affectedly or coyly decorous -

DENIGRATE

v.t.- to speak damagingly of; criticize in a derogatory manner; sully; defame; to blacken-

The rain clouds *denigrated* the sky.

DENOTE

v.t.- imply or suggest the literal or primary meaning of an idea or feeling or fact; CONNOTE refers to other less direct characteristics or qualities of a thing -

DEPRECATE

v.t.- to express earnest disapproval of; to urge reasons against; protest against (a scheme purpose, etc.); belittle -

DEPREDATION

n.- the act of preying upon or plundering; robbery; ravage -

DERISION

n.- the act of deriding, ridicule, mockery; an object of ridicule -

v.- deride

DERMA

n.- the corium or true skin; integument -

DESCRY

v.- catch sight of; espy -

DESIDERATUM

n.- something wanted or needed -

DESIST

v.i.- cease; abstain -

DESUETUDE

n.- the state of being no longer used or practiced -

The power of music in the soul has been recovered after a long period of *desuetude*.

DESULTORY

adj.- lacking a plan, purpose, or enthusiasm; in conversation, going from one subject to another in a half-hearted way; unfocused; occurring randomly or occasionally -

DETRITUS

n.- any disintegrated material; debris -

. . . the *detritus* of pop culture . . .

DEVOLVE

v.t.- transfer or delegate (power) to a lower level, esp. from central government to local or regional administration -

v.i.- pass to (a body or person at a lower level); degenerate or be split into -

DIALECTIC

n.- the art or practice of logical discussion as employed in investigating the truth of a theory or opinion; any formal system of reasoning or thought; [dialectics (often construed as singular)] the arguments or bases of *dialectical materialism*, including the elevation of matter over mind and a constantly changing reality with a material basis; [Kantian epistemology] a fallacious metaphysical system arising from the attribution of objective reality to the perceptions by the mind of external objects -

adj.- pertaining to the nature of logical argumentation -

DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

n.- a form of materialism developed chiefly by Karl Marx, noted esp. for the application of the *Hegelian Dialectic* in its philosophy of history -

HEGELIAN DIALECTIC

an interpretive method, originally used to relate specific entities or events to the absolute idea in which some assertable proposition (thesis) is necessarily opposed by an equally assertable and apparently contradictory proposition (antithesis), the mutual contradiction being reconciled on a higher level of truth by a third proposition -

I think there is too much subterfuge and indirectness in our lives. I'm a believer in *dialectic materialism*.

DIAPHANOUS

adj.- of a fabric, light, delicate, and translucent -

DIASPORA

n.- the scattering of the Jews to countries outside of Palestine after the Babylonian captivity; the body of Jews living in such countries; such countries collectively; any religious group living as a minority among people of the prevailing religion -

The fact that most Jews have remained in the *Diaspora* bewilders and angers him.

DIASTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE

n.- the pressure on the arteries when the heart is at rest (systolic pressure occurs when the heart contracts) -

DIATRIBE

n.- a bitter, sharply abusive denunciation, attack, or criticism -

DIDACTIC

adj.- intended for instruction; instructive: didactic poetry; inclined to teach or lecture others too much; teaching or intended to teach a moral lesson -

He called me an *autodidact*. It's funny to have a guy who is a lifelong teacher bawl out a lifelong student for continuing to learn.

DILATORY

adj.- slow to act; intended to cause delay -

DILETTANTE

n.- an admirer or lover of the arts; a person having a superficial interest in an art or a branch of knowledge; a dabbler -

DIMINUTION

n.- the act, fact, or process of diminishing or reducing -

DINT

n.- force or power -

DIODE

n.- a device consisting of an anode and cathode with asymmetric volt-ampere characteristics -

DIONYSIAN

adj.- pertaining to Dionysus or Bacchus; recklessly uninhibited; unrestrained; undisciplined; frenzied; orgiastic -

Being quite *Dionysian*, he was a world apart from his Apollian brother.

DIORAMA

n.- a scene often in miniature, reproduced in three dimensions by placing objects, figures, etc., in front of a painted background; 2) a spectacular picture, partly translucent for exhibition through an aperture, made more realistic by various illuminating devices; 3) a building for exhibiting such a scene or picture

-

DIPHTHONG

n.- a sound formed by the combination of two vowels in a single syllable, in which the sound begins as one vowel and moves toward another, as in *coin, loud, side* -

DISABUSE

v.t.- to free a person from deception or error -

I thought what made sense on paper would make sense with people. I have since been *disabused* of that notion.

DISCOMFITURE

n.- defeat in battle; rout; 2) frustration of hopes or plans; 3) disconcertion; confusion -

DISCURSIVE

adj.- passing aimlessly from one subject to another; digressive; rambling; 2) proceeding by reasoning or argument; not intuitive -

DISENTHRALL

v.t.- to free from bondage; liberate -

We must *disenthrall* ourselves, then we will save our country.

DISHABILLE

n.- a disorderly or disorganized state of mind or way of thinking; the state of being dressed in a careless, disheveled, or disorderly style or manner; a loose morning dress; undress -

DISINGENUOUS

adj.- lacking in frankness or sincerity; not candid, typically by pretending that one knows less about something than one really does -

In saying that Helga was a secret, Wyeth was *disingenuous*.

DISJUNCT

adj.- disjointed or separated; music progressing melodically by intervals larger than a second -

DISNATURE

v.t.- to deprive (something) of its proper nature or appearance; make unnatural -

DISPARAGE

v.t.- regard or represent as being of little worth -

DISPARATE

adj.- distinct in kind; essentially different; dissimilar -

We live entirely, especially if we are writers, by the imposition of a narrative line upon *disparate* images, by the 'ideas' with which we have learned to freeze the shifting phantasmagoria which is our actual experience.

DISPORT

v.- to divert or amuse oneself; 2) to display oneself in a sportive manner -

. . . *disporting* himself like the complacent "bourgeois squire" he says he is . . .

DISQUISITION

n.- a formal discourse or treatise in which a subject is examined and discussed; dissertation -

. . . a *disquisition* on the merits of the merlot grape . . .

DISSEMBLE

v.- to give a false appearance to; conceal the real nature of; to put on the appearance of; feign; speak or act hypocritically -

DISSENSION

n.- disagreement that leads to discord -

DISSENT

v.i.- hold or express opinions that are at variance with those previously, commonly, or officially expressed -

n.- refusal to accept the doctrines of an established orthodoxy; nonconformity -

DISSENTIENT

adj.- in opposition to a majority or official position -

n.- a person who opposes a majority or official opinion -

DISSOLUTE

adj.- lax in morals; licentious -

DISSONANCE

n. - an inharmonious or harsh sound; discord - 2) music,..a simultaneous combination of tones conventionally accepted as being in a state of unrest and needing completion - 3) disagreement or incongruity -

DISSUADE

v.- to deter by advice or persuasion; persuade not to do something -

DISTELFINK

n.- a stylized bird motif traditional in Pennsylvania Dutch art -

DOLEFUL

adj.- expressing sorrow; mournful; causing grief or misfortune -

. . . *doleful* consequences . . .

DOLOR

n.- a state of great sorrow or distress -

DOTAGE

n.- excessive fondness; foolish affection -

DOTE

v.i.- be extremely and uncritically fond of -

DOULA

n.- a person, usually a woman, who is professionally trained to assist a woman during childbirth and who may provide support to the family after the baby is born

DRACONIAN

adj.- excessively harsh and severe laws or their application -

DRECK

n.- excrement; dung; 2) worthless trash; junk -

DROIT DE SEIGNEUR

n.- the alleged right of a medieval feudal lord to have sexual intercourse with a vassal's bride on her wedding night -

DROIT DE SUITE

n.- (right to follow) is a right granted to artists or their heirs to receive a fee on the resale of their works of art. This should be contrasted with policies such as the American first sale doctrine. where artists do not have the right to control or profit from subsequent sales.

DRUTHER

n.- a person's preference in a matter -

adv.- rather; by preference -

if I had my druthers, I would prefer to be a writer

DUCAL

adj.- of, like, or relating to a duke or dukedom -

DUDE

n.- a man excessively concerned with his clothes, grooming, and manners; 2) a person reared in a large city -

DUDGEON

n.- a feeling of offense or resentment; anger; indignation; pique -

President Vidal himself comes to the door. "I didn't want to be president," he sputters at once in mock *dudgeon*. That's the way Mitchell writes when in high *dudgeon*.

DULCET

adj.- (of a sound) sweet and soothing -

DUPLICITY

n.- deception -

DYSPHORIA

n.- a state of dissatisfaction, anxiety, restlessness or fidgeting; malaise, discomfort -

DYSTOPIA

n.- an imagined place or state in which everything is unpleasant or bad -

EBULLIENCE (ih-**buhl**-yuhns)

n.- a boiling over; overflow; 2) high spirits; exhilaration; enthusiasm; exuberance; cheerful and full of energy -

ECLECTIC

adj.- deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources -

n.- a person who derives ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources -

ECLOGUE (**ek**-lawg)

n.- a short poem, esp. a pastoral dialogue -

ECRU

adj.- off white, very light tan as raw silk -

. . . an *ecru* color . . .

EDUCATION

n.- enlightenment that is obtained by eclectic observation, by teaching methods that are free of doctrinaire values transfer or pre-existing dogma -

A significant component of an *education* may well be the realization that enlightenment is facilitated by an environment which honors the sanctity of each sovereign mind by allowing values, beliefs, ideals, ideas to be created and selected by personal choice eclectically in an environment in which parents and teachers are oriented toward teaching by example and understatement, who mindfully avoid didactic, preachy ways. These views are illustrated in "Dead Poets Society" by Tom Schulman & "Siddhartha" by Hermann Hesse.

EFFABLE

adj.- able to be described in words -

EFFETE

adj.- affected, overrefined, and ineffectual; no longer capable of effective action -

EFFICACY

n.- capacity for serving to produce effects, effectiveness -

Consider the *efficacy* of the copper bracelets in a medical context.

EFFLUVIA

n.- slight or invisible exhalations or vapors, esp. those that are disagreeable or noxious -

Isn't Monica's blue dress more important than Archie Bunker's chair, or the leather jacket worn by The Fonz - Smithsonian treasured *effluvia* from the most disposable aspects of American culture.

EFFUSIVE

adj.- expressing feelings of gratitude, pleasure, or approval in an unrestrained or heartfelt manner; 2) igneous rock poured out when molten and later solidified; relating to the eruption of large volumes of molten rock -

EGOISM

n.- an ethical theory that treats self-interest as the foundation of morality -

EGREGIOUS

adj.- remarkable or extraordinary in some bad way; glaring; flagrant -

. . . an *egregious* mistake; an *egregious* liar . . .

EIDETIC

adj.- mental images having unusual vividness and detail, as if actually visible -

n.- a person able to form or recall eidetic images -

EKPHRASIS

n.- artists may use their own literary and artistic genre of art to work and reflect on another art to illuminate what the eye might not see in the original, to elevate it and possibly even surpass it -

ELAN

n.- energy, style, and enthusiasm -

ELIDE

v.- omit a sound or syllable when speaking, as in a contraction; the result of an omission (ELISION)
where two elements are merged or compressed or mingled or combined -

ELLIPSIS

n.- the omission from speech or writing of a word or words that are superfluous or able to be understood from contextual clues as indicated by a set of dots -

ELYSIAN FIELDS (ELYSIUM)

n.- (class. myth.) the abode of the blessed after death; any place or state of perfect happiness -

EMANATE

v.i.- issue or spread out from (a source); originate from; be produced by -

v.t.- give out or emit -

he *emanated* a powerful brooding air

EMBRYONIC

adj.- in a rudimentary stage with potential for further development -

EMERGENCE

n.-

1) the process of coming into view or becoming exposed after being concealed -

2) the phenomenon of navigation of each fish in a swarm that makes a thousand little fish move as a single unit and spontaneously redirect as a unit when confronted by a predator -

3) the way complex systems and patterns arise out of a multiplicity of relatively simple interactions -

EMINENT

adj.- someone famous and respected; IMMINEENT - about to happen; IMMANENT - inherent -

EMPIRICAL

adj. - verifiable by experiment or experience -

EMPYREAN

adj.- belonging to or deriving from heaven -

n.- heaven, in particular the highest part of heaven -

ENAMOR

v.- to enflame with love; charm; captivate; bewitch; enchant -

ENCOMIUM

n.- a formal expression of high praise, eulogy, commendation -

ENDEMIC

adj.- peculiar to a particular people or locality; indigenous -

ENERVATE

v.- to deprive of nerve, force or strength; to weaken; castrate -

ENGENDER

v. - to produce, cause, or give rise to; 2) to beget; procreate -

ENIGMA

n.- a person or thing that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand; a riddle or paradox -

EN MASSE

adv.- in a group; all together -

ENMITY

n.- a feeling or condition of hostility; hatred; animosity; antagonism -

ENNUI

n.- a feeling of weariness and discontent resulting from satiety or lack of interest; boredom -
... the endless lecture produced an unbearable *ennui* . . .

ENRAPTURE

v.t.- give intense pleasure or joy to -

ENSUE

v.- to follow in order; come afterward, esp. in immediate succession; 2) to follow as a consequence;
result -

ENTENTE (on-tont)

n.- a friendly understanding or informal alliance between states or factions; a group of states in an
informal alliance -

ENTREATY

n.- earnest request or petition; supplication -

ENTROPY

n.- a thermodynamic quantity representing the unavailability of a system's thermal energy for conversion
into mechanical work, often interpreted as the degree of disorder or randomness in the system. (Symbol:
S); 2) figurative lack of order or predictability; gradual decline into disorder -

EPEE (a-pa')

n.- a fencing sword or rapier w/guard over the tip; 2) the sport of fencing with the epee -
You half expect Basil Rathbone to leap around a corner, *epee* drawn and ready.

EPHEMERA

n.- anything short-lived or transitory, such as Mickey Mouse memorabilia -

EPHEMERAL

adj.- lasting a very short time; fleeting; evanescent -

General Fraser sees Rommel's triumphs as *ephemeral*.

EPICURE

n.- a person who takes particular pleasure in fine food and drink -

EPIGONE

n.- n.- one who labors under the delusion that the present era is less distinguished than its predecessor;
an undistinguished imitator, follower, or successor of an important writer, painter, etc. -

EPIGONIC

adj.- a yearning for a golden age that one never personally experienced -

EPISTOLARY

adj.- contained in or carried on by letters, as an *epistolary* friendship -

EPISTOLARY NOVEL

n.- a novel written in the form of a series of letters -

EPONYM

n.- a person from whom something is said to take its name -

. . . Hershey Park, the candy company's *eponymous* theme park . . .

EQUANIMITY

n.- mental or emotional stability or composure, esp. under tension or strain; calmness; equilibrium -

EQUANIMOUS

adj.- having or showing equanimity; even tempered -

ERISTIC

adj.- pertaining to controversy or disputation; controversial; n.- a person who engages in disputation; controversialist -

. . . a question of purely *eristic* interest . . .

ERSATZ

adj.- synthetic or phony; an inferior substitute; not real or genuine -

They all speak the same generic, prettified *ersatz* poetry in the same generic, prettified *ersatz* southern accent.

ERSTWHILE

adj.- former; of times past -

ESCHEW

v.- to abstain from; shun; avoid -

It takes courage to *eschew* euphemism--courage that many pols lack.

ESPERANTO

n.- an artificial language devised in 1887 as an international medium of communication, based on roots from the chief European languages -

ESPY

v.- to see at a distance; catch sight of -

she *espied* her daughter rounding the corner

ESTIMABLE

adj.- worthy of esteem -

ETHNOCENTRIC

adj.- evaluating other peoples and cultures according to the standards of one's own culture -

EUGENICS

n.- the science of improving a human population by controlled breeding to increase the occurrence of desirable heritable characteristics -

EUPHEMISM

n.- the substitution of a mild, indirect, or vague expression for one thought to be offensively harsh or blunt -

Beyond *euphemism* we enter the tortured realm of obfuscation in which no politician--with the possible exception of Al Haig--was ever more comfortable than Nelson Rockefeller.

EUPHONIOUS

adj.- pleasant in sound; agreeable to the ear; characterized by euphony -

EURHYTHMIC

adj.- characterized by a pleasing rhythm; harmoniously ordered or proportioned; 2) of or pertaining to eurhythmics -

EURHYTHMICS (eurhythmics)

n.- the art of interpreting in bodily movements the rhythm of musical compositions; 2) applied to a method invented by Emile Jaques-Dalcroze, a Swiss composer, aiming to develop the sense of rhythm and symmetry -

EURHYTHMY (eurhythm)

n.- rhythmical movement or order; harmonious motion or proportion; gracefulness -

EURIPIDES

n.- Greek dramatist, c480 - 406 B.C. -

EUTHANASIA

n.- mercy killing of a person suffering from an incurable and painful disease -

EVANESCENT

adj.- vanishing, passing away, fleeting; scarcely perceptible, tending to become imperceptible -

EVINCE

v.t.- reveal the presence of a quality or feeling; be evidence of; indicate -

EX NIHILO

adv. out of nothing -

EXCORIATE

v.- to strip off or remove the skin from; 2) to denounce or berate severely; flay verbally -

EXCULPATE

v.- to clear from a charge of guilt or fault; free from blame; vindicate -

EXEGESIS

n.- critical explanation or interpretation of a text, esp. of scripture -

EXIGENT

adj.- requiring immediate action or aid; urgent; pressing; 2) requiring a great deal more than is reasonable -

. . . scribbling with the *exigent* urgency of a schoolboy late with homework . . .

EXISTENTIAL PSYCHOLOGY

that limited to the observation and description of existent data as the content of experience. 2) doctrines dealing with man's situation in a universe seen as purposeless or irrational -

EXISTENTIALISM

n.- the doctrine that man forms his essence in the course of the life he chooses to lead. 2) a movement based on this doctrine, emphasizing man's responsibility for making his own nature as well as the importance of personal freedom, personal decision, and personal commitment -

EXPIATE

v.t.- atone for guilt or sin -
their sins must be *expiated* by sacrifice

EXPLICATE

v.t.- to develop (a principle, theory, etc.); to make plain or clear; explain; interpret -

EXPROPRIATE

v.t.- to take possession of, esp. for public use by the right of eminent domain; to dispossess a person of ownership -

EXPUNGE

v.- to strike or blot out; erase; obliterate; 2) to efface or destroy -

EXTANT

adj.- still existing; not destroyed or lost -
Hollywood is the last *extant* stable society.

EXTEMPORIZE

v.i.- to speak extemporaneously; to sing or play an instrument composing as one proceeds; improvise; to do or manage something in a makeshift way -

EXTEROCEPTIVE

adj.- relating to stimuli that are external to an organism; awareness of where you are located in space; Compare with interoceptive and proprioceptive

FABULIST

n.- a person who composes or relates fables; 2) a liar, esp. a person who invents elaborate, dishonest stories -

FACILE

adj.- appearing neat and comprehensive only by ignoring the true complexities of an issue; having a superficial or simplistic knowledge or approach; acting or done in a quick, fluent, and easy manner -

FACTOTUM

n.- a person employed to do all kinds of work, as the chief servant of a household -

FAIT ACCOMPLI

n.- an accomplished fact; a thing already done -

FALLOW

adj.- inactive; 2) farmland plowed and harrowed but left unsown for a period in order to restore its fertility as part of a crop rotation or to avoid surplus production -

v.t.- leave land fallow -

n.- a piece of fallow or uncultivated land; 2) a pale brown or reddish yellow color -

FARRAGO

n.- a confused mixture; hodgepodge; medley -

His emotional life was a *farrago* of entanglements.

FARRIER

n.- a craftsman who trims and shoes horses' hooves -

FATUOUS

adj.- foolish or inane, esp. in an unconscious, complacent manner, silly, dimwitted; unreal, illusory -

FEALTY

n.- loyalty, fidelity, faithfulness -

FEBRILE

adj.- having or showing the symptoms of a fever; 2) having or showing a great deal of nervous excitement or energy -

a *febrile* imagination

FECKLESS

adj.- ineffective; incompetent; feeble; 2) without worth, spirit or value; indifferent; lazy -

FEINT

n.- a deceptive or distracting movement esp. in boxing or fencing; a mock attack or movement in warfare, made to distract or deceive an enemy -

FELICITY

n.- intense happiness; 2) the ability to find appropriate expression for one's thoughts -
speech that pleased by its accuracy, *felicity*, and fluency

n.- a particularly effective feature of a work of literature or art -

FENG SHUI

n.- Chinese philosophy of design & decor regarding chi, or flow of life force -

FERAL

adj.- an animal in a wild state, esp. after escape from captivity or domestication -

FETTERS

n.- a chain or manacle used to restrain a prisoner; a restraint or check on someone's freedom -

FETTLE

n.- condition -

v.t.- trim or clean the rough edges of a metal casting or a piece of pottery before firing -

FEY

adj.- doomed; fated to die; appearing to be under a spell; marked by an apprehension of death, calamity, or evil; 2) supernatural; unreal; enchanted -

. . . a mist of the *fey* overlaying the terror; elves, fairies, and other *fey* creatures . . .

FILCH

v.- to steal furtively -

FILIBUSTER

n.- the use of irregular or obstructive tactics by a member of a minority in a legislative assembly to prevent the adoption of a measure generally favored, or to force a decision almost unanimously disliked

-

Ms. Guinier recognizes that her ideas could result in stalemate, which the filibuster -- America's form of supermajority rule -- usually produces.

FINITUDE

n.- the state of having limits or bounds -
one quickly senses the *finitude* of his patience

FIXITY

n.- the state of being unchained or permanent -
. . . the *fixity* of his stare . . .

FLACCID

adj.- soft and limp; not firm; flabby -
. . . but its sensibilities were scarcely *flaccid* . . .

FLAGITIOUS

adj.- shamefully wicked, as persons, actions, or times; 2) heinous or flagrant, as a crime; infamous -

FLORID

adj.- reddish, ruddy, rosy; flowery, excessively ornate, showy -
The late Victorians relished *florid* writing.

FOMENT

v.t.- to instigate or foster; to promote the growth or development of; incite; provoke; arouse; inflame -

FOOZLE

v.- to bungle; play clumsily as a bad stroke in golf -

FOP

n.- a man who is excessively vain and concerned about his manners and appearance -

FORESTALL

v.- to prevent, hinder, or thwart by action in advance; obstruct; preclude; 2) to prevent sales at a fair market price by buying up or diverting goods -

FORFEND

v.- to defend, secure or protect -

FORSWEAR

v.- to reject or renounce upon oath or with protestations; to deny vehemently; to perjure oneself -
Women were acceptable when they *forswore* sex.

FORTHWITH

adv.- immediately; at once; without delay -

FORTUITOUS

adj.- happening or produced by chance; accidental -

FOSTER

v.t.- encourage or promote the development of something, typically regarded as good -

the teacher's task is to *foster* learning

v.t.- develop a feeling or idea in oneself -

appropriate praise helps a child *foster* a sense of self-worth

v.t.- bring up (a child that is not one's own by birth).

adj.- denoting someone that has a specified family connection through fostering rather than birth -

foster parent; *foster* child.

adj.- involving or concerned with fostering a child -

foster care; *foster* home.

FOUNDER

n.- a person who manufactures articles of cast metal; the owner or operator of a foundry -

v.i.- fill with water and sink; 2) fail or break down, typically as a result of a particular problem or setback -

FRAUGHT

adj.- involving; full of; accompanied by -

. . . in the midst of an increasingly *fraught* relationship with his married lover . . .

FRISSON

n.- a moment of intense excitement; a shudder, thrill -

It was expected to have a *frisson* of sex or violence.

FROWARD

adj.- someone difficult to deal with; contrary -

FULGURANT

adj.- flashing like lightning -

He was embroiled in *fulgurant* enmities as well as sustained by unshakable friendships.

FULMINATE

v.i.- to explode with a loud noise; detonate; to issue denunciations or the like -

v.t.- to cause to explode; to issue or pronounce with vehement condemnation -

She talks like that, *fulminating* with half sentences.

FULSOME

adj.- complimentary or flattering to an excessive degree; 2) of large size or quantity; generous or abundant -

FUNGIBLE

adj.- able to replace or be replaced by another identical item; mutually interchangeable -

FUSTIAN

n.- a stout fabric of cotton and flax; 2) inflated or turgid language; bombast; rant; claptrap -

adj.- made of fustian; 2) pompous or bombastic; 3) worthless; cheap -

FUSTY

adj.- smelling stale, damp, or stuffy; old-fashioned in attitude or style -

GADFLY

n.- an annoying person, esp. one who provokes other into action by criticism; one who upsets the status quo by posing upsetting or novel questions

GARRULOUS

adj.- excessively talkative, esp. on trivial matters -

GENOTYPE

n.- the genetic constitution of an organism or group of organisms -

GENRE (zhahn-ruh)

n.- genus, kind, sort, or style; a class or category of artistic endeavor having a particular form or technique; realism paintings in which scenes of everyday life form the subject matter -

The *genre* of great last words faded years ago.

GENTRY

n.- people of good social position, specifically (in the UK) the class of people next below the nobility in position and birth; 2) people of a specified class or group -

a New Orleans family of Creole *gentry*

GENUFLECT

v.i.- to bend the knees in reverence or worship; to express a servile attitude -

She did not *genuflect* to the ivy league statisticians.

GERMANE

adj.- closely or significantly related, relevant, pertinent, apposite, applicable -

GESTALT

n.- an organized whole that is perceived as more than the sum of its parts -

GHOUL (gool)

n.- an evil demon supposed to feed on human beings, and especially to rob graves, prey on corpses, etc.;

2) a person who revels in what is revolting -

GIBBER

v.i.- speak rapidly and unintelligibly, typically through fear or shock -

GIBBOUS

adj.- the moon having the observable illuminated part greater than a semicircle and less than a circle;

2) convex or protuberant -

gibbous eyes

GIDDY

adj.- having a sensation of whirling and a tendency to fall or stagger; dizzy; disorienting and alarming, but exciting; excitable and frivolous -

v.- make someone feel excited to the point of disorientation -

GLYPH

n.- a sculptured symbol; a pictograph; a small graphic symbol; an ornamental carved groove or channel, as on a Greek frieze -

GNOMON (noh-mon)

n.- an early astronomical instrument consisting of a vertical shaft, column, or the like, for determining the altitude of the sun or the latitude of a position by measuring the length of its shadow cast at noon; 2) the raised part of a sundial that casts the shadow -

GOBSMACKED

adj.- utterly astonished; astounded; clapping a hand to one's mouth in astonishment -

GONZO

adj.- a type of journalism that is subjective and often covers the way that the journalist's participation affects the outcome of the subject or event -

GORMLESS

adj.- lacking intelligence; stupid -

GRANDILOQUENT (gran-dil-uh-kwuhnt)

adj.- pompous or extravagant in language, style, or manner, esp. in a way that is intended to impress

-

GRATUITOUS

adj.- given, bestowed or obtained without charge or payment; free; 2) being without apparent reason, cause, or justification; superfluous; unnecessary -

How do you keep those who were hurt by the Gary Hart behavior itself from being *gratuitously* hurt a second time by the publicity?

GRAVITAS

n.- dignity, seriousness, or solemnity of manner -

GRISAILLE (gri-zahy)

n.- a monotone painting in shades of gray -

GROK

v.t.- to understand profoundly through intuition or empathy -

GUFF

n.- trivial, worthless, or insolent talk or ideas -

GUILE

n.- insidious cunning; duplicity; artful deception; trickery; fraud -

GUILELESS

adj.- devoid of guile; innocent and without deception -

GULLIBLE

adj.- easily deceived or cheated; suggestible -

GUMPTION

n.- shrewd or spirited initiative and resourcefulness -

HAGIOGRAPHY (hag-ee-og-ruh-fee)

adj.- the writing and critical study of the saints; a biography idealizing its subject -

HALCYON

adj.- calm, peaceful, tranquil - (halcyon weather) rich, wealthy, prosperous - (halcyon times of peace)

happy, joyful, carefree - (halcyon days of youth)

HALLOW

v.t.- honor as holy; 2) make holy; consecrate -

HAMAL (huh-**mahl**)

n.- a porter; a male house servant -

HAPLESS

adj.- unfortunate; unlucky -

HAPTIC

adj.- relating to the sense of touch, in particular the perception and manipulation of objects using the senses of touch and proprioception -

HAUGHTY

adj.- disdainfully proud, snobbish, arrogant, supercilious -

HAUTEUR (hoh-**tur**)

n.- haughty manner or spirit -

He carries just the right air of stoic *hauteur*.

HECTOR

v.t.- talk to someone in a bullying way -

HEDONIC CALCULUS (in utilitarianism)

appraisal of possible alternative choices in terms of the amount of pleasure to be gained and pain to be avoided in each -

HEDONISM

n.- the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good; 2) devotion to pleasure as a way of life -

HEGEMONY

n.- leadership or dominance, esp. by one country or social group over others -

HEGEMONIC

adj.- ruling or dominant in a political or social context -

HEINOUS

adj.- hateful, odious, abominable, totally reprehensible -

. . . a *heinous* offense . . .

HERESIARCH

n.- the founder of a heresy or the leader of a heretical sect -

HERETIC

n.- a professed believer who maintains religious opinions contrary to those accepted by his church, or rejects doctrines prescribed by his church -

HERITABLE

adj.- capable of being inherited; hereditary -

HERMENEUTIC

adj.- concerning interpretation, esp. of the Bible or literary texts -

HERMETIC

adj.- made airtight by fusion or sealing; pertaining to occult science, esp. alchemy -

HETERODOX

adj.- not in accordance with established or accepted doctrines or opinions, esp. in theology; 2) holding unorthodox doctrines or opinions -

HIE

v.i.- go quickly -

I hied down to New Orleans

HINDI

n.- language of Hindus -

HINKY

adj.- dishonest or suspect; unreliable -

he knew the guy was *hinky*

HIRSUTE

adj.- hairy -

HISTRIONIC

adj.- overly theatrical or melodramatic in character or style; denoting a personality disorder marked by shallow, volatile emotions, and attention-seeking behavior -

HISTRIONICS

n.- exaggerated dramatic behavior designed to attract attention -

HOARY

adj.- gray or white with age -

. . . he is *hoary* headed . . .

HOI POLLOI

n.- the common people; the masses -

HOLOCENE

adj.- of the present epoch, which is the second epoch in the quaternary period following the Pleistocene; The Holocene epoch has lasted from about 10,000 years ago to the present day. It covers the period since the ice retreated after the last glaciation and is sometimes regarded as just another interglacial period.

HOMEORHESIS

n.- from the Greek for "similar flow", is a concept encompassing dynamical systems which return to a trajectory (chreod), as opposed to systems which return to a particular state, which is termed homeostasis -

HOMEOSTASIS

n.- the tendency of a system, esp. the physiological system of higher animals, to maintain internal stability, owing to the coordinated response of its parts to any situation or stimulus tending to disturb its normal condition or function -

HOMILY

n.- a religious discourse, sermon; an admonitory or moralizing discourse -

There was more brimstone here than the priest would ever employ in a *homily*.

HOMOPHONE

n.- each of two or more words having the same pronunciation but different meanings, origins, or spelling

-

HOMUNCULUS

n.- a diminutive human; midget; 2) an artificially made dwarf, supposedly produced in a flask by an alchemist -

. . . the woman (Jackie O.) who stunned the world by marrying leathery *homunculus* and shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis . . .

HOPI (**hoh**-pee)

n.- a member of a Shoshonean Pueblo Indian people of northern Arizona -

HOWDAH

n.- a seat commonly with a railing and a canopy, placed on the back of an elephant -

HUBRIS

n.- excessive pride or self-confidence, arrogance -

. . . this cult of arrogance, of *hubris*, of conceit,- that they knew it all . . .

HUSBAND

v.- to manage esp. with prudent economy; to use frugally; conserve -

. . . *husband* the saffron . . .

HYPERBOLE

n.- obvious and intentional exaggeration; 2) an extravagant statement or figure of speech not intended to be taken literally -

HYPNAGOGIC

adj.- of or relating to the state immediately before falling asleep -

IAMB

n.- a metrical foot consisting of one short (unstressed) syllable followed by long (stressed) syllable -

ICON

n.- a picture, image, or other representation, often of some sacred personage; a sign or representation that stands for its object by virtue of a resemblance or analogy to it -

Ginsberg lived the life of a culture hero, an *icon* incarnate.

ICONOCLAST

n.- a breaker or destroyer of images, especially those set up for religious veneration; one who attacks cherished beliefs, traditional institutions, etc., as being based on error or superstition -

He renounced God at age 27, the institution of marriage at 28, conventional career path at 38, and conventional concepts of love at 40. Perhaps that means he is an *iconoclast*.

IDIOMATIA

n.- a condition in which words are so poorly articulated that speech is either unintelligible or appears to be a made-up language -

IDYLL (**ahyd-l**)

n.- a poem or prose composition, usually describing pastoral scenes or events or any charmingly simple episode, appealing incident, or the like -

IMBRICATE

adj.- having adjacent edges overlapping; Compare with valvate -

IMBUE

v.t.- to impregnate or inspire as with feelings, opinions; infuse; to saturate or impregnate with moisture or color -

IMMANENT

adj.- remaining within, inherent; 2) taking place within the mind of the subject, and having no effect outside of it -

IMMINENT

adj.- likely to occur at any moment; impending -

IMMISERATION

n.- economic impoverishment -

IMMORAL

adj.- not conforming to accepted standards of morality - (AMORAL - not concerned with or possible aware of moral standards) - (immoral is judgemental, amoral is not)

IMPART

v.t.- 1. to make known; tell; relate; [disclose; reveal; divulge] 2. to give; bestow; communicate; [grant; cede; confer] 3. to grant a part or share of -

IMPERIOUS

adj.- domineering, dictatorial, overbearing; urgent, imperative, necessary -

On the surface he is an *imperious* pedant, inside he is vulnerable.

IMPERIUM

n.- absolute power -

IMPERTINENT

adj.- intrusive or presumptuous, as persons or their actions; rude; uncivil -

IMPETUOUS

adj.- characterized by sudden or rash energy, action, emotion, etc.; impulsive; 2) having great impetus; moving with great force; violent -

IMPLACABLE

adj.- not to be appeased or pacified; inexorable -

He has always been against me, *implacable*, always hostile.

IMPLICIT

adj.- implied though not plainly expressed; 2) with no qualification or question; absolute -

IMPRIMATUR

n.- an official to print or publish a book, pamphlet, etc.; license; sanction; approval -

His book has the *imprimatur* of leading critics.

IMPROVIDENT

adj.- not having or showing foresight; spendthrift; thoughtless -

IMPUGN

v.t. - call in question; challenge as false; cast doubt upon -

. . . should not *impugn* the honor of people who have given their lives . . .

IMPUNE

adj.- unpunished -

IMPUTE

v.t.- represent as being done by someone; attribute -

INAMORATA

n.- a female lover -

INAMORATO

n.- a male lover -

INANE

adj.- lacking sense or ideas; silly; vapid; insipid; irritatingly corny; way uncool; 2) empty; void -

INAUSPICIOUS

adj.- boding ill; unfavorable -

INCARNATE

adj.- embodied in flesh; given a bodily, esp. a human, form; 2) personified or typified, as a quality or idea -

INCHOATE

adj.- just begun; incipient; 2) rudimentary; imperfect; incomplete; 3) not organized; lacking order -

But more troubling than any narrative limitations of "Girl With a Pearl Earring" is something more *inchoate* having to do with the way cinema--more than fiction or any other medium--can appropriate and colonize the visual imagination.

INCIPIENT

adj.- beginning to exist or appear; in an initial stage -

INCISIVE

adj.- penetrating, cutting, trenchant (an *incisive* tone of voice) sharp, keen, acute (an *incisive* method of summarizing) acid, mordant; sarcastic, sardonic -

INCULCATE

v.t.- to impress by repeated statement or admonition; teach persistently and earnestly; to cause or influence someone to accept an idea or feeling; instill, implant, ingrain -

Socrates *inculcated* his pupils with the love of truth.

INCURIOUS

adj.- not eager to know something; lacking curiosity -

INDENTURE

n.- a contract by which a person agreed to work for a set period for a landowner in a British colony in exchange for passage to the colony; the fact of being bound to service by such an agreement: an agreement binding an apprentice to a master -

v.t.- bind someone by an indenture as an apprentice or laborer -

INDICT

v.t.- to charge with an offense or crime, accuse of wrongdoing -

INDIVIDUATE

v.t.- distinguish from others of the same kind; single out -

it is easy to *individuate* and enumerate the significant elements

INFIDEL

n.- a person who does not believe in religion or adheres to a religion other than one's own -

INFLECT

v.t.- change the form of a word to express a particular grammatical function or attribute, typically tense, mood, person, case and gender -

v.i.- vary the intonation or pitch of the voice, esp. to express mood or feeling; influence or color in tone or style; bend or deflect something, esp. inward -

INEFFABLE

adj.- too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words -

Music can give form to otherwise *ineffable* emotions.

INELUCTABLE

adj.- unable to be resisted or avoided; inescapable -

INERT

adj.- lacking the ability or strength to move; lacking vigor; 2) chemically inactive -

INEXORABLE

adj.- impossible to stop or prevent; someone impossible to persuade by request or entreaty -

INFINITESIMAL

adj.- indefinitely or exceedingly small; minute; immeasurably small; less than an assignable quantity -

INGENIOUS

adj.- cleverly and originally devised and well suited to its purpose -

INGENUUE

n.- an innocent or unsophisticated young woman -

INGENUOUS

adj.- innocent and unsuspecting -

INIMICAL

adj.- adverse in tendency or effect, harmful; unfriendly, hostile -

INIQUITY

n.- wickedness; gross injustice; 2) a violation of right or duty; wicked act; sin -

INJUNCTION

n.- an authoritative warning or order -

INNOCUOUS

adj.- not harmful or offensive -

INNUENDO

n.- an indirect intimation about a person or thing, esp. of a derogatory nature -

INSCRUTABLE

adj.- not easily understood, mysterious; impenetrable to investigation -

Some material in the IDLER will be *inscrutable* to non-Canadian readers.

Strange Mrs. Danvers slithers around like a cobra, smiling *inscrutably* and saying things like "it is for you to say, madam."

INSIDIOUS

adj.- intended to entrap or beguile; 2) stealthily treacherous or deceitful; 3) operating or proceeding inconspicuously but with grave effect -

INSINUATE

v.t.- suggest or hint something bad in an indirect and unpleasant way; maneuver oneself into a position of favor by subtle manipulation -

INSIPID

adj.- without distinctive, interesting, or attractive qualities; without sufficient taste to be pleasing as in food or drink; pointless; vapid; feeble; wholly without merit -

IN SITU (Latin)

in place; in its original place -

INSOLENT

adj.- boldly rude or disrespectful; contemptuously impertinent; insulting -

n.- an insolent person -

INSOUCIANT (in-soo-see-ant)

adj.- free from concern; without anxiety; carefree -

INSULAR

adj.- of or pertaining to an island or islands; dwelling or situated on an island; detached, standing alone, isolated; narrowly exclusive, illiberal -

. . . *insular* attitudes towards foreigners . . .

INSUPERABLE

adj.- impossible to overcome -

INSURGENT

n.- one who rises in active revolt; a rebel or revolutionary -

INTEGER (**in**-ti-**jer**)

n.- a whole number; a number that is not a fraction; 2) a thing complete in itself -

INTEGUMENT (see corium & epidermis)

n.- a natural covering, as a skin, shell, rind -

INTEL (informal)

n.- military intelligence; information -

INTER ALIA

adv.- among other things -

INTERCALARY

adj.- of the nature of an insertion -

INTERCEDE

v.i.- intervene on behalf of another -

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

addresses the uneven burden for the national debt that exists when the beneficiary of funds borrowed is different from those obligated to pay the debt -

INTERLOCUTOR (**in**-ter-**lok**-yuh-ter)

n.- a person who takes part in a conversation or dialogue; 2) a person who questions; interrogator -

INTERNECINE

adj.- mutually destructive; 2) of or pertaining to conflict or struggle within a group; 3) characterized by great slaughter -

INTEROCEPTIVE

adj.- relating to stimuli produced within an organism, esp. in the gut and other internal organs. Compare with exteroceptive -

INTERREGNUM

n.- a period when normal government is suspended, esp. between successive reigns or regimes; 2) an interval or pause -

INTERSTICE

n.- an intervening space, esp. a very small one -

INTRACTABLE

adj.- not docile; stubborn; obstinate; 2) hard to shape or work with; unmanageable; 3) resisting treatment or cure -

n.- an intractable person -

She is alone in finding the situation *intractable*.

INTRANSIGENT

adj.- uncompromising, unyielding, adamant or inflexible as in politics -

INURE

v.t.- to accustom to accept something undesirable -

. . . to *inure* a person to hardship . . .

v.i.- to come into use; take or have effect; 2) to become beneficial or advantageous -

INVECTIVE

n.- insulting, abusive, or highly critical language -

INVEIGH

v.- to protest strongly or attack vehemently with words; rail -

INVEIGLE (in-vee'-gl)

v.- to entice, lure, or ensnare by flattery or artful talk or inducements; 2) to acquire, win, or obtain by beguiling talk or methods -

. . . to *inveigle* a theater pass from a person . . .

INVETERATE

adj.- having a particular habit, activity, or interest that is long-established and unlikely to change -

he was an *inveterate* gambler

INVIDIOUS

adj.- causing or tending to cause animosity, resentment, or envious dislike; 2) calculated to excite ill will or give offense; hateful; 3) unfairly discriminating; injurious -

INVOLUTION

n.- the shrinkage of an organ in old age or when inactive; 2) the process of involving or complicating, or the state of being involved or complicated -

IPSO FACTO

n.- by the fact itself; by the very nature of the deed -

. . . to be condemned *ipso facto* . . .

IPSO JURE

n.- by the law itself; by operation of law -

IRASCIBLE

adj.- easily provoked to anger; testy, irritable, choleric -

IRONY

n.- a state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects -

ITINERANT

n. & adj.- traveling from place to place -

IT'S

it is (contraction)

ITS

possessive

JABBERWOCKY

n.- invented or meaningless language; nonsense -

JACKANAPES

n.- an impertinent, presumptuous young man; 2) an impudent, mischievous child -

JADED

adj.- worn out or wearied, as by overwork or overuse; 2) dulled or satiated by overindulgence -

JAPE - JAPERY

n.- a practical joke -

v.i.- say or do something in jest or mockery -

JEJUNE

adj.- dull or childish -

. . . while at the same time its penetration of deeper issues seems *jejune* . . .

JEREMIAD

n.- a lamentation; mournful complaint -

JINGO

n.- a person who professes his patriotism loudly and excessively, favoring preparedness for war and an aggressive foreign policy; chauvinist -

adj.- of jingoes; characterized by jingoism -

JINGOISM

n.- bellicose chauvinism -

JOCUND

adj.- cheerful, merry, gay, blithe, glad, joyous -

She was seen with *jocund* high spirits.

JOLLIFY

v.- to make or become jolly or merry -

JOLLIFICATION

n.- jolly merrymaking; jolly festivity -

She has produced utter *jollification* throughout the entire environment.

JUGGERNAUT

n.- any large, overpowering, destructive force or object; 2) anything requiring blind devotion or cruel sacrifice -

KEF

n.- a state of drowsy contentment, esp. from the use of a narcotic -

KEEF

n.- a substance, esp. a smoking preparation of hemp leaves, used to produce a state of pleasurable well-being, which with regular use may effect a state of increased lethargy, decreased ambition, motivation, or drive in otherwise able-bodied adults, with the possible consequence of a psychologically debilitating dependence on others -

Keef is one route to kef.

KERFUFFLE

n.- a commotion or fuss, esp. one caused by conflicting views -

KITSCH

n.- something of tawdry design, appearance, or content created to appeal to popular or indiscriminating taste -

KOAN

n.- a nonsensical question to a student for which an answer is demanded; the stress of meditation on the question often being illuminating -

KORAN

n.- the sacred text of Islam, regarded by Muslims as the foundation of law, religion, culture and politics -

KOWTOW

v.i.- to touch the forehead to the ground while kneeling, as an act of worship, reverence, apology; to act in an obsequious manner; show servile deference -

KUDOS

n.- glory, renown, praise, approval -

He received *kudos* from everyone on his performance.

LACHRYMOSE (lak'ramose)

adj.- tearful or given to weeping; inducing tears; sad -

LASCIVIOUS

adj.- feeling or revealing an overt and often offensive sexual desire -

LACONIC

adj.- using few words; expressing much in few words; concise; pithy; terse; succinct -

At 272 pages, Wm. Gaddis' "Carpenter's Gothic" is positively *laconic*.

If you're *laconic*, you are brief to the point of being curt, brusque, or even uncommunicative (: his laconic reply left many questions unanswered).

LAICIZE (ley-uh-sahyz)

v.t.- secularize something that had been religious -

LAMBENT

adj.- running or moving lightly over a surface; 2) dealing lightly and gracefully with a subject; brilliantly playful; 3) softly bright or radiant -

With luck, even the most *lambent* visual seductions of the screen will never supplant the enigmatic power of the real thing.

LAMPOON

n.- a sharp, often virulent satire directed against an individual, a social institution, a government, etc.; 2) a work of literature, art, or the like, ridiculing severely the character or behavior of a person, society, etc.

-

LARGESSE

n.- money or gifts given generously -

LASSITUDE

n.- weariness of body or mind from strain; languor; a condition of indolent indifference -

LEAVEN

n.- a mass of fermenting dough reserved for producing fermentation in a new batch of dough. (2) an agent or element that acts in or upon something to produce a gradual change or modification.-

She lacks the wit to *leaven* her outrage and the polemic skills to make it persuasive.

LEGERDEMAIN

n.- skill or practice of feats of magic, jugglery; trickery, deception; any artful trick -

LEITMOTIF

n.- a recurrent theme throughout a musical or literary composition, associated with a particular person, idea, or situation -

LEST

con.- with the intention of preventing; to avoid the risk of something -

LESTOBIOSIS

n.- characterized by furtive thievery -

LIBERTARIAN

n.- an adherent of libertarianism; 2) a person who advocates civil liberty; 3) a person who believes in the doctrine of free will -

LICENTIOUS

adj.- sexually unrestrained; lascivious; libertine; lewd; 2) unrestrained by law or morality; immoral; disregarding the rules -

LIGATURE

n.- a thing used for tying or binding something tightly; a cord or thread used in surgery, esp. to tie up a bleeding artery; 2) in music, a slur or tie; 3) in printing, a character consisting of two or more joined letters, e.g., æ, fl; a stroke that joins adjacent letters in writing or printing -

v.t.- bind or connect with a ligature -

LIMINAL

adj.- of or relating to a transitional or initial stage of a process; occupying a position at, or on both sides of, a boundary or threshold -

LIMN

v.t.- to represent in drawing or painting; to portray in words, describe -

. . . published essays *limning* a new academic frontier . . .

LIMPID

adj.- clear, transparent, or pellucid, as water, crystal, air, etc. ; 2) free from obscurity, lucid; 3) completely calm, without stress or worry -

LINEAMENTS

n.- a distinctive feature or characteristic of the face or the earth's surface -

LISSOME

adj.- lithesome, or lithe, esp. of body; limber; supple; flexible; agile or active -

LITTORAL (**lit**-er-uhl)

adj.- situated on the shore of the sea or a lake -

n.- a region lying along a shore -

LOCUTION

n.- a particular form of expression; phrase, expression, or idiom; 2) a style of speech or verbal expression; phraseology -

LODESTAR

n.- a star that is used to guide the course of a ship, esp. Polaris; a person or thing that serves as a guide -

LOQUACIOUS

adj.- tending to talk a great deal; talkative; motormouth -

LOTHARIO

n.- a man who behaves selfishly and irresponsibly in his sexual relationships with women -

LOVE

n.- the profoundly tender or passionate affection for another; a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend; affection, concern for the well-being of others (a *love* of little children); strong predilection or liking for anything (her *love* of books) -

v.t.- to have affection for (all her pupils *love* her); to take great pleasure in (she *loves* to go dancing); to have a strong liking for; to need or require, benefit greatly from (plants *love* sunlight) -

LUCENT

adj.- shining; 2) translucent; clear -

His dialogue (and other writing) has become trim, flexible, and *lucent*.

LUDDITE

n.- a person opposed to increased industrialization or new technology -

LUMMOX

n.- a clumsy, stupid person -

LURID

adj.- very vivid in color, esp. so as to create an unpleasantly harsh or unnatural effect; a description presented in vividly shocking or sensational terms, esp. giving explicit details of crimes or sexual matters -

MACHIAVELLIAN

adj.- characterized by subtle or unscrupulous cunning, deception, or dishonesty -

MAGNETOGRAPH

n.- a recording magnetometer, used esp. for recording variations in the earth's magnetic field -

MAGPIE

n.- a crow with a raucous voice; 2) used in similes or comparisons to refer to a person who collects things, esp. things of little use or value; a person who chatters idly -

MALADY

n.- a disease or ailment -

MALAISE

n.- a general feeling of discomfort, illness, or uneasiness whose exact cause is difficult to identify -

MAMMON

n.- wealth regarded as an evil influence or false object of worship and devotion -

MANIFEST DESTINY

the belief or doctrine, held chiefly in the middle and latter parts of the 19th century, that it is the destiny of the U.S. to expand its territory over the whole of North America and to extend and enhance its political, social, and economic influences -

MANIFESTO

n.- a public declaration of intentions, opinions, objectives or motives -

MANNA

n.- an unexpected or gratuitous benefit -

MANQUE (man-kay')

adj.- having failed, missed, or fallen short, esp. because of circumstances or a defect of character; unsuccessful; unfulfilled -

MANSUETUDE (man'-swa-tood)

n.- mildness; gentleness -

MARAUD

v.i.- to rove in quest of plunder; to make raid for booty -

MASHUP

n.- a computer product that combines or is derived from various parts of existing pieces -

MAVEN

n.- an expert or connoisseur -

MAW

n.- a cavernous opening that resembles the jaws of an animal; 2) the symbolic or theoretical center of a voracious hunger or appetite of any kind -

Her clothes caught in the *maw* of a subway escalator.

MAWKISH

adj.- having a faint sickly flavor; slightly nauseating; insipid; 2) characterized by sickly sentimentality; feebly emotional -

MEGALOMANIA

n.- a form of mental illness marked by delusions of greatness, wealth, etc.; an obsession with doing extravagant or grand things -

MELLIFLUOUS

adj.- sweetly or smoothly flowing; sweet-sounding -

MEME

n.- an element of culture or a system of behavior that may be considered to be passed from one individual to another by non-genetic means, esp. imitation -

MENDACIOUS

adv.- false or untrue; 2) lying; untruthful; dishonest -

. . . created out of whatever materials are available--not *mendaciously*, but just sort of instinctively as a way of telling a story . . .

MENDACITY

n.- untruthfulness -

MERCENARY

adj.- a person primarily concerned with making money at the expense of ethics; a professional soldier hired to serve in a foreign army -

MERIDIAN

n.- a circle of constant longitude passing through a given place on the earth's surface and the terrestrial poles; 2) (Chinese medicine) each of a set of twelve pathways in the body associated with specific organs along which vital energy is said to flow -

METAPHYSICAL

adj.- of or relating to metaphysics; based on abstract reasoning; transcending physical matter or the laws of nature; 2) of or characteristic of the metaphysical poets -

METONYMY (mih-tahn'-a-me)

n.- the use of the name of one object or concept for that of another to which it is related, or of which it is a part, as "scepter" for "sovereignty," or "the bottle" for "strong drink," or count heads (or noses) for "count people" -

MIASMA

n.- noxious exhalations from putrescent organic matter; poisonous effluvia or germs infecting the atmosphere; a dangerous, foreboding, or deathlike influence or atmosphere -

MIEN (meen)

n.- a person's look or manner, esp. one of a particular kind indicating their character or mood; air or bearing esp. as expressive of attitude or personality -

MILITATE

v.i.- be a powerful or conclusive factor in preventing -

these fundamental differences will *militate* against the two communities coming together

MILLSTONE

n.- each of two circular stones used for grinding grain; 2) a heavy and inescapable responsibility -

MINCE

v.t.- cut up or grind food into very small pieces -

v.i.- walk with an affected delicacy or fastidiousness, typically with short quick steps -
there were plenty of secretaries mincing about

n.- something minced -

a mince of garlic

MINUTIAE

n.- small or trivial details; trifling circumstances or matters -

. . . what Ansel said his photos contained (regarding nature) . . .

MISANTHROPE

n.- a person who dislikes humankind and avoids human society -

MISCEGENATION

n.- the interbreeding of people considered to be of different racial types -

MISCELLANY

n.- a group or collection of different items; a mixture; 2) a book containing a collection of pieces of writing by different authors -

MISCREANT

n.- a person who behaves badly or in a way that breaks the law -

adj.- behaving badly or in a way that breaks a law or rule -

MISE EN SCENE (me-zahn-sen')

n.- the act or art of placing a play, scene, or the like, on the stage, with regard to the arrangement of actors, scenery, properties, technical equipment, etc.; 2) surroundings; environment -

Eventually, some atonal warning chimes rang out, giving a strangely ethereal atmosphere to the *mise en scene*, as the players were herded into the concert hall.

MISOCAINEA

n.- an abnormal aversion to anything new -

MISOGAMY

n.- hatred of marriage -

MISOGYNY

n.- hatred of women -

MISOLOGY

n.- distrust or hatred of reason or reasoning -

MISONEISM

n.- hatred or dislike of what is new or represents change -

MISOPEDIA

n.- hatred of children, esp. one's own -

MOLDER

v.i.- to turn to dust by natural decay, crumble, waste away -

MOOT

adj.- having no practical significance, typically because the subject is too uncertain to allow a decision -

MORDANT

adj.- caustic or sarcastic as wit -

She is an alert and subtle observer, with a *mordant* intelligence and a sense of humor.

n.- having the property of fixing colors, as in dyeing -

MORIBUND

adj.- a person at the point of death; a thing in terminal decline; lacking vitality or vigor -

MOROSE

adj.- gloomily or sullenly ill humored, as a person, mood, etc. -

MORPHEME

n.- a meaningful morphological unit of language that cannot be further divided -

MOUNTEBANK

n.- a person who deceives others, esp. in order to trick them out of their money; a charlatan -

MUNDI

n.- Latin word for world -

MUTABLE

adj.- liable to change; temporary -

MUZZY

adj.- confused, muddled, dull, mentally hazy -

MYOPIC

adj.- pertaining to or having myopia; near-sighted; 2) unable to think clearly or objectively; lacking knowledge, tolerance, or foresight -

For Lorca, New York is a symbol of spiritual *myopia*.

NACRE

n.- mother-of-pearl -

NAIF

adj.- naive -

. . . a wayward *naif*, played by doe-eyed, baby-voiced Vanessa Paradis . . .

NAINSOOK

n.- a fine, soft-finished cotton fabric, usually white, used for lingerie and infants' wear -

NAINSUKH

n.- eye pleasure (Hindi); 2) an Indian painter born 1710 -

NAMASKAR (gesture) NAMASTE (vocal)

n.- a traditional Indian greeting or gesture of respect, made by bringing the palms together before the face or chest and bowing -

NARCISSISM

n.- excessive or erotic interest in oneself and one's physical appearance -

NARCOLEPSY

n.- a condition characterized by a frequent and uncontrollable need for short periods of deep sleep that is possibly brought on or aggravated by regular use of caffeine which jangles the homeostatic system that regulates sleep patterns -

NARCOSIS

n.- a state of stupor, drowsiness, or unconsciousness produced by drugs -

NARCOTIC

n.- any of a class of substances that blunt the senses, as opium, morphine, belladonna, and alcohol, that in large quantities produce euphoria, stupor, or coma, that when used constantly can cause habituation or addiction, and that are used in medicine to relieve pain, cause sedation, and induce sleep -

NASCENT

adj.- beginning to exist or develop; being born, arising -

. . . cameras swooped upon us in our *nascent* protests, our excessive youthfulness . . .

NEAT

adj.- (of a liquid, esp. liquor) not diluted or mixed with anything else -

NEFARIOUS

adj.- excessive or erotic interest in oneself and one's physical appearance -

NEIGH (nay)

v.i.- to whinny -

n.- the cry of a horse -

NEMESIS

n.- an agent or act of retribution or punishment; 2) that which a person cannot conquer; 3) an opponent or rival whom a person cannot best -

. . . what he thinks is his career-long *nemesis*: the critics . . .

NEOLOGISM

n.- a newly coined word or expression; the coining or use of new words -

NETHER

adj.- lying, or believed to lie beneath the earth's surface -

NEVE

n.- granular snow accumulated on high mountains and subsequently compacted into glacial ice; also called FIRN -

NEXUS

n.- a means of connection, tie, link; a connected series or group -

NIGGLE

v.i.- to spend excessive time and effort on inconsequential details; (2) to criticize esp. constantly or repeatedly in a peevish manner or over petty details -

NIGH

adj.- near in space, time, or relation; short or direct -

. . . to take the *nighest* route . . .

NOB

n.- a person of wealth or high social position -

NOBLESSE OBLIGE

the moral obligation of the rich or highborn to display honorable or charitable conduct -

NOISOME

adj.- disagreeable; unpleasant -

NOMENCLATURE

n.- the body or system of names in a particular field; a name applied to something -

NON SEQUITUR

n.- a conclusion or statement that does not logically follow from the previous argument or statement -

NOODLE

v.i.- improvise or play casually on a musical instrument -

NOTIONAL

adj.- existing only in theory or as a suggestion or idea; existing only in the imagination; 2) in teaching, a syllabus that aims to develop communicative competence -

NOUMENON

n.- a thing as it is in itself, as distinct from a thing as it is knowable by the senses through phenomenal attributes -

NUBILIOUS

adj.- cloudy or foggy; 2) obscure; vague; indefinite -

NUGATORY

adj.- of no value or importance; useless; futile -
a *nugatory* and pointless observation

NUMEN

n.- the spirit or divine power presiding over a thing or place -

NUMINOUS

adj.- having a strong religious or spiritual quality; indicating or suggesting the presence of a divinity -

OBDURATE

adj.- unmoved by persuasion, pity, or tender feelings; unyielding; 2) stubbornly resistant to moral influence; persistently impertinent -
. . . an *obdurate* sinner . . .

OBEISANCE (o-bay'-sens)

n.- a movement of the body expressing deep respect or deferential courtesy, as before a superior; a bow, curtsy, or similar gesture; deference or homage -
The nobles gave *obeisance* to the new king.

OBFUSCATE

v.- to confuse, bewilder, or stupefy; 2) to make obscure with extraneous information; cloud -
Beyond euphemism we enter the tortured realm of *obfuscation*.

OBJECTIFY

v.t.- express (something abstract) in a concrete form; degrade to the status of a mere object -
a deeply sexist attitude that *objectifies* women

OBLATE

n.- a person offered to the service of and living in a monastery, but not under monastic vows or full monastic rule; 2) a layman devoted to special religious work -

OBSEQUIOUS

adj.- excessively attentive or flattering; showing servile complaisance or deference -

OBSTREPEROUS

adj.- noisy and difficult to control -

OBTUSE

adj.- not sharp, acute, or pointed; blunt in form; 2) not quick or alert in perception, feeling, or intellect; not sensitive or observant; dull; stupid -

OBTUSE ANGLE

n.- an angle greater than 90 degrees but less than 180 -

OCCLUDE

v.- to close, shut, or stop up a passage, opening, etc.; 2) to shut in, out, or off -

ODALISQUE

n.- a female slave or concubine in a harem -

. . . the one that emerges from the pages of women's magazines, which hold up Ms. Lewinsky as the embodiment of the modern woman -- an independent-minded *odalisque*, unshackled from sexual modesty and constantly celebrating her zaftig sensuality . . .

ODIOUS

adj.- deserving or causing hatred; repugnant; detestable; highly offensive -

He always played some *odious* minor character.

OEUVRE

n.- (Fr.) the works of a writer, painter, or the like, taken as a whole or singly -

. . . drugstore romance and the *oeuvre* of Erich Segal . . .

OLIVACEOUS

adj.- the color of an olive -

OMNIVORE

n.- an animal or person that eats food of both plant and animal origin -

ONANISM

n.- withdrawal in sexual intercourse so that ejaculation takes place outside the vagina; 2) masturbation -

ONEIRIC (oh-**nahy**-rik)

adj.- of or relating to dreams or dreaming -

ONEROUS

adj.- oppressive; burdensome; troublesome; causing hardship; 2) having or involving obligations or responsibilities, esp. legal ones, that outweigh the advantages -

OPALESCENT

adj.- exhibiting a play of colors like that of the opal; having a milky iridescence -

OPINE

v.- to hold or express an opinion -

OPPROBRIUM

n.- the disgrace or the reproach incurred by conduct considered outrageously shameful; infamy -

The very convention of proscribing such expressions is an unmistakable societal message that prejudice is to be accompanied by shame and *opprobrium*.

OPPUGN (uh-pyoon)

v.- to assail by criticism, argument, or action; 2) to call in question; dispute -

ORB

n.- a spherical body; a globe; a celestial body -

ORDER OF MERIT

one of Britain's most prestigious organizations, membership does not exceed 24; it contained Sir John Geilgud as of 12/96 when he replaced Frank Whittle, jet engine inventor; Sir John died 5-21-00 at his home in Buckinghamshire, west of London -

OROTUND

adj.- speech that is full, round, and imposing; 2) writing that is pompous, pretentious -

OSCILLATE

v.i.- move or swing back and forth at a regular speed : a pendulum oscillates about its lowest point; waver between extremes of opinion, action, or quality : he was oscillating between fear and bravery; 2) vary in magnitude or position in a regular manner around a central point; cause the electric current or voltage running through it to behave in this way -

OSSEOUS

adj.- consisting of or turned into bone -

OSSIFY

v.- to become bone or harden like bone; 2) to become rigid or inflexible in habits, attitudes, opinions -

The Russians have no monopoly on intellectual rigidity, bureaucratic *ossification*.

OSTENSIVE

adj.- directly or clearly demonstrative; denoting a way of defining by direct demonstration, e.g., by pointing -

OTIOSE

adj.- leisured; idle; indolent; 2) superfluous or useless -

OUTLIER

n. - one who or that which lies outside; 2) a person residing outside the place of his business, duty, etc.; 3) a part of a formation left detached thru the removal of surrounding parts by denudation -

OUTRE

adj.- unusual and startling -

OVERWEENING

adj.- conceited, overconfident, or presumptuous; exaggerated, excessive, or arrogant -

. . . a brash *overweening* fellow . . .

OXYMORON

n.- a figure of speech that is a seeming self-contradiction, as in "cruel kindness" or "to make haste slowly" -

PACIFIC

adj.- tending to make peace; conciliatory -

PAEAN

n.- a song of praise or triumph; a thing that expresses enthusiastic praise -

PALAUVER

n.- prolonged and idle discussion -

v.i.- talk unnecessarily at length -

PALEONTOLOGY

n.- the branch of science concerned with fossil animals and plants -

PALIMPSEST

n.- a parchment or the like from which writing has been partially or completely erased to make room for another text -

PALINDROME

n.- word, phrase, or number that reads the same backward or forward -

. . . rats live on no evil star . . .

PALLIATIVE

adj.- relieving pain or alleviating a problem without dealing with the underlying cause -

n.- a remedy or medicine of such a kind -

PALLID

adj.- pale, wan, faint or deficient in color; lacking in vitality or interest -

PALPABLE

adj.- able to be touched or felt physically; a feeling so intense as to be almost touched or felt; 2) clear to the mind or plain to see -

PANACHE

n.- an ornamental plume of feathers, tassels, or the like, esp. one worn on a helmet or cap; 2) a grand or flamboyant manner; verve; style; flare -

PANDER

n.- a go-between in amorous intrigues; pimp; a person who caters to or profits from the weaknesses or vices of others -

v.t.- to act as a *pander* for -

v.i.- to act as a *pander*; cater basely -

. . . to *pander* to the tastes of vulgar persons . . .

PANDOWDY

n.- a pudding or deep pie made with apples, and usually sweetened with molasses -

PANOPLY

n.- a complete or impressive collection of something; a splendid display -

PANTHEON

n.- a public building containing tombs or memorials of the illustrious dead of a nation; 2) the place of the heroes or idols of any group, individual, movement, party, etc. -

. . . in the *pantheon* of French literature . . .

PARADIGM

n.- a typical example or pattern of something; a model; 2) a worldview underlying the theories and methodology of a particular scientific subject -

PARIAH

n.- an outcast; 2) a member of a low caste or of no caste in southern India -

PARLANCE

n.- a way or manner of speaking; vernacular; idiom; speech, esp. a formal discussion or debate -

PARLOUS

adj.- perilous; dangerous; 2) clever; shrewd -

. . . given Chrysler's *parlous* finances, gambling on design . . .

PARODY

n.- a humorous or satirical imitation of a serious piece of literature or writing; 2) the genre of literary composition represented by such imitations -

PAROXYSM

n.- a sudden attack or violent expression of a particular emotion or activity; 2) a sudden recurrence or attack of a disease; a sudden worsening of symptoms -

PARSE

v.- to describe grammatically, telling the part of speech, inflectional form, syntactic relations, etc. -

. . . people whose sentences I could not *parse*. . .

PARSIMONY

n.- extreme unwillingness to spend money or use resources -

PARTISAN

n.- a strong supporter of a party, cause, or person; 2) a member of an armed group formed to fight secretly against an occupying force -

adj.- prejudiced in favor of a particular cause

newspapers have become increasingly *partisan*

PARVENU

n.- a person who has recently or suddenly acquired wealth, importance, position, but has not yet developed the appropriate manners, dress, surroundings, etc. -

PASTICHE

n.- an artistic work consisting of a medley of pieces taken from various sources; 2) a confused mixture or jumble -

PATENT

n.- a government authority conferring a right or title -

adj.- easily recognizable; obvious -

PATHOS

n.- a quality that evokes pity or sadness -

PATOIS

n.- the dialect of the common people of a region, differing in various respects from the standard language of the rest of the country -

PATRICIAN

n.- a member of an influential and hereditary ruling class in certain medieval German, Swiss, and Italian free cities; 2) any person of noble or high rank; aristocrat -

PAUCITY

n.- the presence of something only in small or insufficient quantities or amounts; scarcity -
a paucity of information.

PECCADILLO

n.- a small, relatively unimportant offense or sin -

PECULATE

v.t.- embezzle or steal money, esp. public funds -

PEDAGOGUE

n.- schoolteacher; 2) a person who is pedantic, dogmatic, and formal -

PEDANT

n.- a person who makes an excessive or inappropriate show of learning; a person who overemphasizes rules or minor details; a person who adheres rigidly to book knowledge without regard to common sense

-

On the surface, an imperious *pedant*, inside he is vulnerable.

PEDERASTY

n.- unnatural sexual relations between two males, esp. when one is a young boy -

. . . articles on *pederastic* priests . . .

PEJORATIVE

adj.- having a disparaging or belittling effect or force; deprecatory -

PELLUCID

adj.- translucently clear; lucid in style or meaning; easily understood; clear and pure in tone -

PENETRANT

n.- one who or that which penetrates; 2) a substance that lowers the surface tension of water; wetting agent -

. . . random but *penetrant* reflections on art and life . . .

PENSÉE (pahn-sey)

n.- (Fr.) a reflection or thought put into literary form; an aphorism -

Dale suffers him with seigneurial aplomb, cadging money for booze in exchange for rambling, impenetrable *pensees* on the nature of art and the universe.

PENTAMEROUS (pen-**tam**-er-uhs)

adj.- having parts arranged in groups of five; consisting of five joints or parts -

PENTAMETER (pen-**tam**-i-ter)

n.- in poetry, a line of verse consisting of five metrical feet, or of two halves each of two feet and a long syllable -

PENURY

n.- extreme poverty; destitution; 2) scarcity; dearth; inadequacy; insufficiency -

Penury and fear of the big city drove the young family to Nashville.

PEON

n.- a person who does menial work; a drudge -

PERDITION

n.- (in Christian theology) a state of eternal punishment and damnation into which a sinful and unpenitent person passes after death -

PERFIDIOUS

adj.- deliberately faithless; treacherous; deceitful; disloyal -

. . . a *perfidious* lover . . .

PERFIDY

n.- deceitfulness; untrustworthiness -

PERIODICITY (peer-ee-uh-**dis**-i-tee)

n.- the quality of being periodic; the tendency to recur at intervals -

PERIPATETIC (per-uh-puh-**tet**-ik)

adj.- of or pertaining to Aristotle, who taught philosophy while walking in the Lyceum of ancient Athens; 2) of or pertaining to the Aristotelian school of philosophy; 3) walking or traveling about; itinerant -

PERISTALSIS (per-uh-**stawl**-sis)

n.- the involuntary constriction and relaxation of the muscles of the intestine or another canal, creating wavelike movements that push the contents of the canal forward -

PERNICIOUS (per-**nish**-uhs)

adj.- 1) having a harmful effect, esp. in a gradual or subtle way; 2) ruinous; injurious; 3) deadly; fatal -

PERSPICACITY (pur-spi-**kas**-i-tee)

n.- keenness of mental perception; discernment; penetration; the quality of having a ready insight into things; shrewdness -

PERTINACIOUS

adj.- holding firmly to an opinion or course of action -

PERVERSE

adj.- showing a deliberate and obstinate desire to behave in a way that is unreasonable or unacceptable, often in spite of the consequences -

PERVIOUS

adj.- allowing water to pass through -

PETARD

n.- a small bomb made of a metal or wooden box filled with powder, used to blast down a door or to make a hole in a wall -

PETULANT

adj.- sudden, impatient irritation, esp. over some trifling annoyance; peevish; pettish -

PHAETON

n.- an automobile of the touring-car type; 2) a light four wheeled carriage -

PHANTASM

n.- an apparition or specter; 2) a creation of the imagination or fantasy; 3) an illusive likeness of something; ghost; vision; hallucination; illusion -

PHANTASMAGORIA

n.- a shifting series of phantasms, illusions, or deceptive appearances, as in a dream, or as created by the imagination; a changing scene made up of many elements; optical illusions that are produced by a magic lantern or the like and in which figures increase or diminish in size, pass into each other, dissolve, etc. -

We have learned to freeze the shifting *phantasmagoria* which is our actual experience.

PHATIC

adj.- trite; denoting or relating to language used for general purposes of social interaction, rather than to convey information or ask questions -

utterances such as *hello, how are you?* and *nice morning, isn't it?* are *phatic*

PHENOTYPE

n.- the set of observable characteristics of an individual resulting from the interaction of its genotype with the environment -

PHILIPPIC

n.- a bitter verbal attack or denunciation -

PHILISTINE

n.- a person who is hostile or indifferent to culture and the arts, or who has no understanding of them -

PHLEGMATIC

adj.- not easily excited to action or display of emotion; apathetic; sluggish; self-possessed; cool; stoical -

PHOENIX

n.- a mythical bird of great beauty, the only one of its kind, fabled to live 500 or 600 years in the Arabian wilderness, to burn itself on a funeral pile, and to rise from its ashes in the freshness of youth and live through another cycle of years; often an emblem of immortality; a person or thing of peerless beauty or excellence; paragon; a person or thing that has become renewed or restored after suffering calamity or apparent annihilation -

PHONEME

n.- smallest distinguishable unit of speech -

PHYLUM

n.- a principal taxonomic category that ranks above class and below kingdom -

PICARESQUE

adj.- of or relating to an episodic style of fiction dealing with the adventures of a rough and dishonest but appealing hero -

PIEBALD

adj.- an animal having irregular patches of two colors, typically black and white -

PIED

adj.- having two or more different colors -

pied dogs from the Pyrenees

PIED PIPER

n.- a person who entices people to follow them, esp. to their doom -

PIKER

n.- a gambler who makes only small bets; a stingy or cautious person; 2) a person who withdraws from a commitment -

PITH

n.- spongy tissue lining the rind of citrus fruits; 2) the essence of something; 3) a forceful and concise expression -

the *pith* and core of socialism

PITHY

adj.- containing much pith; concise and forcefully expressive -

PLACATE

v.t.- to appease or pacify; conciliate; satisfy -

PLAINTIVE

adj.- expressing sorrow or melancholy; wistful -

PLANO

adj.- level; flat -

PLANOGRAPHY

n.- the art or technique of printing from a flat surface directly or by offset -

PLEBEIAN (PLEB)

n. & adj.- an ordinary person, esp. one from the lower social classes; commoner; lacking in refinement

-

PLENARY

adj.- unqualified; absolute; 2) a meeting to be attended by all participants at a conference or assembly, who otherwise meet in smaller groups -

a plenary session of the European Parliament.

n.- a meeting or session of this type -

PLENIPOTENTIARY

adj.- invested with full power or authority, as a diplomatic agent -

PLIANT

adj.- one who is easily bent or manipulated -

PLINTH

n.- a slab like member beneath the base of a column or pier; 2) a square base or a lower block, as of a pedestal -

. . . architects erected bizarre *plinths* . . .

PLOSIVE

n.- the speech sound in English of t, k, and p (voiceless) and d, g, and b (voiced) -

PLUCKY

adj.- having or showing determined courage in the face of difficulties -

PLUVIAL

adj.- relating to or characterized by rainfall -

PNEUMA

n.- (Philosophy - in Stoic thought) the vital spirit, soul, or creative force of a person -

POGROM

n.- an organized massacre, esp. of Jews -

It doesn't have to be a *pogrom* to be unbearable for us.

POLEMIC

n.- a controversial argument, as one against some opinion, doctrine, etc.; a person who argues in opposition to another; controversialist -

She lacks the wit to leaven her outrage and the *polemical* skills to make it persuasive.

POLITY

n.- a particular form or system of government; 2) a state or other organized community or body -

POLLYANNA

n.- an excessively or blindly optimistic person -

POLYGLOT

adj.- knowing or using several languages; having text translated into several languages -

n.- a person who knows and is able to use several languages -

POMPOSITY

n.- pompous parading of dignity or importance; an instance of being pompous, as by ostentatious loftiness of language, manner, or behavior -

POMPOUS

adj.- ostentatiously lofty or high-flown; inflated, turgid, bombastic -

POPINJAY

n.- a person given to vain displays and empty chatter; coxcomb; fop -

PORTENT

n.- a sign or warning that something, esp. something momentous or calamitous, is likely to happen -

PORTMANTEAU (pawrt-**man**-toh)

n.- a large trunk or suitcase, typically made of stiff leather and opening into two equal parts -

adj.- consisting of or combining two or more separable aspects or qualities -

a *portmanteau* movie composed of excerpts from his most famous films

a well-known *portmanteau* word is "Spanglish", referring to speaking a mix of both Spanish and English spoken between bilingual people

POSER

n.- one who poses; a difficult or baffling question or problem -

POSEUR (po zur')

n.- one who attempts to impress others by assuming or affecting a manner, degree of elegance, sentiment, etc., other than his true one -

POSIT

v.t.- assume as a fact; put forward as a basis of argument -

POSTPRANDIAL (pohst-pran-dee-uhl)

adj.- during or relating to the period after dinner or lunch -

POTHER

n.- a commotion or fuss -

don't make such a *pother*!

PRATE

v.t.- talk foolishly or tediously about something -

PRAXIS

n.- practice as distinguished from theory; accepted practice or custom -

PRECEPT

n.- a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought -

PRECIPITOUS

adj.- dangerously high or steep; sudden and dramatic change; done suddenly and without careful consideration -

PREDATION

n.- the preying of one animal on others -

PREDICATE

v.t.- to proclaim, declare, affirm, assert; to connote, imply -

His retraction *predicates* a change of attitude.

v.t.- to found; to base on -

She *predicated* her behavior on her faith in humanity.

v.i.- to make an affirmation or assertion -

PREDILECTION

n.- a preexisting tendency to think favorably of something -

If all relations are suffused with power plays, then a personal *predilection*, like celibacy, becomes a political imperative. And simplistically equating the personal and political spheres

not only allows you to tell other people how to conduct their lives, it also transforms your problems and preferences into important public issues. So Sally Cline (Women, Passion & Celibacy) can girlishly list her favorite "passions" in the belief that she's engaging in political debate. (Wendy Kaminer, NYT 5-8-94 -- author of "I'm Dysfunctional, Your Dysfunctional")

PREFIGURE

v.t.- be an early indication or version of something -

PREPOSSESS

v.- to possess or dominate mentally beforehand, as a prejudice does; 2) to prejudice or bias, esp. favorably; 3) to impress favorably beforehand or at the outset -

. . . the *unprepossessing* seeing eye assistant . . .

PRESAGE

n.- a sign or warning that something, typically something bad, will happen; an omen or portent -

PRESCIENT

adj.- having or showing knowledge of events before they take place -

PRESTIDIGITATION

n.- sleight of hand, legerdemain -

PRETENSE

n.- pretending or feigning; make-believe; a false show of something; insincere or false profession -

PRETENSION

n.- an allegation of doubtful veracity; a claim or title to something -

PRETENTIOUS

adj.- characterized by assumption of dignity or importance; pompous; showy -

PRETERNATURAL

adj.- out of the ordinary; exceptional or abnormal -

The IDLER is the work of young minds prematurely wise and *preternaturally* arch.

PREVARICATE

v.i.- to speak falsely or misleadingly; deliberately misstate or create an incorrect impression; lie; evade; shift -

PRIAPISM

n.- continuous erection of the penis, esp. due to disease -

PRIG

n.- one who displays or demands of others pointlessly precise conformity, fussiness about trivialities, or exaggerated propriety, esp. in a self-righteous or irritating manner -

PRINCOX

n.- a self-confident young fellow; coxcomb -

PRIVATION

n.- a state in which things that are essential for human well-being such as food and warmth are scarce or lacking -

PROBITY

n.- the quality of having strong moral principles; honesty and decency -

PROGENITOR

n.- a biologically or non-biologically related ancestor; forefather; 2) one who or that which first indicates a direction, originates something, or serves as a model; predecessor -

PROGENY

n.- decendent(s) of a person, animal, or plant; offspring -

PROLE

n.- a member of the working class; a worker -

PROLETARIAT

n.- the unpropertied class; the class that is dependent for support on daily or casual employment; 2) the working class; the class of manual workers who do not possess capital or property and must sell their labor to survive -

PROLOGUE

n.- preliminary discourse; introduction -

PROMETHEUS

n.- a demigod, one of the Titans in Greek mythology who was worshiped by craftsmen -

PROMULGATE

v.t.- promote or make widely known -

PROPINQUITY

n.- the state of being close to someone or something; proximity -

PROPITIATE

v.t.- win or regain the favor of (a god, spirit, or person) by doing something that pleases them -

PROPITIOUS

adj.- presenting favorable conditions; disposed to bestow favors or forgive; auspicious -

PROPRIOCEPTION

n.- relating to stimuli that are produced and perceived within an organism, esp. those connected with the position and movement of the body. Compare with exteroceptive and interoceptive .

PROSCENIUM

n.- (in theater) a decorative arch, sometimes including the wall, that separates the stage from the auditorium -

. . . deathbed was a *proscenium* from which to issue one last dramatic utterance . . .

PROSCRIBE

v.t.- to denounce or condemn a thing a dangerous or harmful; prohibit; to put outside the protection of the law; outlaw; to banish or exile; to announce the name of a person as condemned to death and subject to confiscation of property -

PROSELYTE

n.- a person who has changed from one opinion, religious belief, sect, or the like, to another; convert;
neophyte; disciple -

PROSODY (pros-uh-dee)

n.- the patterns of rhythm and sound used in poetry; the theory or study of these patterns, or the rules governing them; 2) the patterns of stress and intonation in a language -

PROTEAN

adj.- readily assuming different forms or characters; extremely variable; 2) changeable in shape or form as an amoeba; 3) versatile; able to play many kinds of roles -

PROTEGE

n.- a person who is guided and supported by an older and more experienced or influential person -

PROVENANCE

n.- place or source of origin -

PROVIDENCE

n.- the foreseeing care and guardianship of God over his creatures; 2) provident or prudent management of resources -

PRURIENT

adj.- characterized by lascivious or lustful thoughts, desires; 2) causing lasciviousness or lust; 3) having a restless desire or longing -

PSALM

n.- a sacred song or hymn; a poem of similar nature to the hymns or prayers in the Book of Psalms -

PUDENCY (pyood-n-see)

n.- modesty; bashfulness; shamefacedness -

PUERILE (pyoo-er-il)

adj.- childishly silly and trivial -

PUGILIST

n.- a professional boxer -

PUGNACIOUS

adj.- eager or quick to argue, quarrel or fight; having the appearance of a willing fighter -

PURLIEU (pur-loo)

n.- a piece of land on the border of a forest; a place where one may range at large; one's bounds; one's haunt or resort -

PURLIEUS (pur-loo)

n.- environs or neighborhood -

. . . the pedestrian *purlieus* of Jamaica, Queens . . .

PURVIEW

n.- the scope of the influence or concerns of something; a range of experience or thought -
such a case might be within the purview of the legislation

PUSILLANIMITY (pyoo-suh-luh-nim-i-tee)

n.- lack of courage or determination; timid -

PUTATIVE

adj.- generally considered or reputed to be - (see APOCRYPHAL)

the *putative* father of a boy of two

PYGMALION (pig-mey-lee-uhn)

n.- *from classical mythology* - a sculptor who carved an ivory statue of a maiden and fell in love with it. It was brought to life in response to his prayer, by Aphrodite, and was called Galatea. 2) a 1916 comedy by George Bernard Shaw. The 1938 musical and 1964 movie "My Fair Lady" was based on this Bernard Shaw classic. 3) a man who tries to craft or change a woman into a more perfect or desirable or refined person -

QUATRAIN

n.- a stanza of four lines, esp. one having alternate rhymes -

QUIDDITY

n.- the inherent nature or essence of someone or something; a distinctive feature; a peculiarity -

. . . . his quirks and *quiddities*

QUID PRO QUO

n.- one thing in return for another; substitute -

The idea of withdrawing missiles from Turkey as a *quid pro quo* for the Soviet Union remained appealing to the president.

QUIESCENT

adj.- in a state or period of inactivity or dormancy -

QUINTESENCE

n.- the pure and concentrated essence of a substance; 2) the most perfect embodiment of something -

QUISLING

n.- a traitor who collaborates with an enemy force occupying their country -

QUIXOTIC (kwik-sot-ik)

adj.- resembling or befitting Don Quixote; extravagantly chivalrous or romantic; visionary, impractical; fanciful -

People are reluctant to tilt at windmills, and I think they do feel that this is a *quixotic* enterprise.

QUOTIDIAN

adj.- something recurring daily ; everyday ; ordinary -

Dancers washed in the the surf of sound, dappled and splashed by light, shed the dull gravitational tug of *quotidian* life, and lost themselves in what was at once a voyeuristic jostle, like a fairground, and a domain of the self-absorbed, like a ballet for prima donnas only.

RAFFIA

n.- fiber from an African palm tree's 60 foot long leaves, used for making hats, baskets, and mats -

RAFFISH

adj.- garish, vulgar -

RAMIFY

v.i.- form branches or offshoots; spread or branch out -

v.t.- cause to branch or spread out -

RAMPANT

adj.- violent in action or spirit; raging; furious; 2) in full sway; prevailing unbridled -

RAMPART

n.- anything serving as bulwark or defense; fortification -

RANCOR

n.- bitterness or resentment, esp. when long-standing -

he spoke without *rancor*

RANDY

adj.- sexually aroused or excited -

RAPACIOUS

adj.- aggressively greedy or grasping -

. . . so *rapacious* in his desire for land that he forced dozens of families from their homes.

REBUKE

v.- to express sharp, stern disapproval of; reprove; reprimand; censure; admonish -

RECEIVED STANDARD

n.- the form of educated English spoken generally in southern England and specifically in the English public schools and at Oxford and Cambridge Universities -

RECEIVED WISDOM

n.- that which is bound by status quo, mental rigidity, tradition, inertia - (see "conceptual thinking")

RECENSION

n.- a revised edition of a text; an act of making a revised edition of a text -

RECIDIVISM (ri-**sid**-uh-viz-uhm)

n.- the chronic tendency toward repetition of criminal or antisocial behavior patterns -

RECOMPENSE

n.- remuneration, reward as for service, compensation -

What is often described as an epidemic of anorexia may well be women's *recompense* for sexual freedom, not the backlash to new economic opportunity it is commonly supposed to be. (Wendy Kaminer)

RECONDITE

adj.- dealing with very profound, difficult, or abstruse subject matter; beyond ordinary knowledge or understanding, esoteric; obscure -

RECTITUDE

n.- morally correct behavior or thinking; righteousness -

RECUMBENT

adj.- lying down, reclining, leaning; inactive, idle -

RECURSIVE

adj.- characterized by recurrence or repetition -

REDEEM

v.- compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; do something that compensates for poor past performance or behavior; atone or make amends for error or evil; save someone from sin, error, or evil -

RED HERRING

n.- an idiom referring to a device which intends to divert the audience from the truth or an item of significance; a distraction -

REDOLENT

adj.- having a pleasant odor ; suggestive or reminiscent of something -

The book is *redolent* of sadness.

REDUCTIVE

adj.- tending to present a subject or problem in a simplified form, esp. one viewed as crude; minimal art; 2) relating to chemical reduction -

REGICIDE

n.- the action of killing a king; a person who kills or takes part in killing a king -

REICH

n.- the former German state, most often used to refer to the Third Reich, the Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945. The First Reich was considered to be the Holy Roman Empire 962-1806, and the Second Reich the German Empire, 1871-1918, but neither of these terms are part of normal historical terminology.

REIFY

v.t.- make something abstract more concrete or real -

RELIQUARY

n.- a repository or receptacle for relics -

REMISS

adj.- negligent; careless; lacking force or energy; sluggish -

REMIT

n.- the task or area of activity officially assigned to an individual or organization; an item referred to someone for consideration -

v.t.- cancel or refrain from exacting or inflicting a debt or punishment -

RENOUNCE

v.t.- to give up or put aside voluntarily; to repudiate, disown; abdicate; disown; forsake; forswear -

REPARTEE

n.- conversation or speech characterized by quick, witty comments or replies -

REPRESSIVE

adj.- inhibiting or preventing the awareness of certain thoughts or feelings -

REPRISAL

n.- retaliation against an enemy, for injuries received, by the infliction of equal or greater injuries; 2) using force, short of war, against another nation, to secure redress of a grievance -

REQUITE

v.t.- to make repayment or return for service; to make retaliation for a wrong; avenge; to give or do in return -

RESIDUAL

adj.- pertaining to or constituting a residue or remainder; leftover -

RESOLUTE

adj.- firmly resolved or determined; set in purpose or opinion; 2) characterized by firmness and determination -

RESPIRE

v.i.- breathe; (of a plant) carry out respiration, esp. at night when photosynthesis has ceased; recover hope, courage, or strength after a time of difficulty -

RETINUE (ret'noo)

n.- a body of aides and retainers attending an important person, royalty, etc. -

RETRIBUTION

n.- requital according to merits or deserts, esp. for evil; retaliation; repayment; recompense -

REVELATOR

n.- a person who makes a revelation -

REVELATORY

adj.- showing or disclosing an emotion, belief, or quality; revealing something hitherto unknown -
... a poem *revelatory* of the author's deep personal sorrow ...

REVERBERANT

adj.- (of a loud noise) be repeated several times as an echo; appear to vibrate or be disturbed because of a loud noise; 2) have continuing and serious effects -

REVERIE

n.- a state of being pleasantly lost in one's thoughts; a daydream; 2) an instrumental piece of music suggesting a dreamy or musing state -

RHEUM

n.- a thin, serous or catarrhal discharge; 2) catarrh; cold -

Lurching from ponderous historical lessons to thick satire, the movie has a *rheumy* muzziness.

Maybe Wajda (the director) had a ten week head cold.

RHOTIC

adj.- of, relating to, or denoting a dialect or variety of English, e.g., Midwestern American English, in which r is pronounced before a consonant (as in hard) and at the ends of words (as in far) -

RIPARIAN

adj.- of or relating to wetlands adjacent to rivers and streams -

RIPOSTE (ri-pohst)

n.- a quick clever reply to an insult or criticism -

RIVE

v.- split or tear apart violently -

ROBUST

adj.- strong and healthy; hearty; vigorous -

ROTE

n.- mechanical or habitual repetition of something to be learned -

RUBRIC

n.- a direction in a liturgical book; a statement of purpose or function; a category -

RUDIMENTARY

adj.- involving or limited to basic principles; of or relating to an immature, undeveloped, or basic form -

RUEFUL

adj.- expressing sorrow or regret, esp. when in a slightly humorous way -

RUFOUS - RUFESCENT

adj.- reddish-brown in color -

n.- a reddish-brown color -

RUSE

n.- trick

SACCHARINE

adj.- of a sugary sweetness: a *saccharine* smile -

SACROSANCT

adj.- especially or superlatively sacred or inviolable; made holy by sacred rite -

We are *sacrosanct*, we are ends in ourselves.

SAGACIOUS

adj.- having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgement; shrewd -

SALACIOUS

adj.- lustful or lecherous; obscene; grossly indecent; lewd, wanton, lascivious, libidinous -

. . . could have been presented in sensationalist, even *salacious* terms . . .

Lolita was written by Nabakov as a serious novel but sold well for *salacious* reasons.

SALIENT

adj.- most noticeable or important; prominent or conspicuous -

n.- a piece of land that juts out to form an angle -

SALLY

n.- a sudden charge out of a besieged place against the enemy; a sortie; a brief journey or sudden start into activity; 2) a witty or lively remark, esp. one made as an attack or as a diversion in an argument; a retort -

v.i.- set out from a place to do something -

I made myself presentable and *sallied* forth

SALUBRIOUS

adj.- favorable to or promoting health -

SALUTARY

adj.- producing good effects; beneficial -

SANCTIMONIOUS

adj.- making a show of being morally superior to others -

SANGFROID

n.- coolness of mind; calmness; composure -

. . . uttered with such *sangfroid* that it is easy to understand the fear she inspires . . .

SARDONIC

adj.- characterized by bitter or scornful derision; expressing disdain; cynical; sneering; mordant; contemptuous -

War is the "classic male experience" as he *sardonically* labels it.

SATE

v.t.- supply someone with as much as or more of something than is desired or can be managed -

SATIRE (see lampoon & parody)

n.- the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule in exposing, denouncing, or deriding vice, folly, etc.; 2) a literary genre comprising such compositions -

SATURNINE (sat-er-nahyn)

adj.- a person's slow and gloomy manner; 2) dark in coloring and moody or mysterious -

SCABROUS

adj.- indecent; salacious -

SCHADENFREUD

n.- joy in the suffering of others -

SCINTILLA

n.- a spark, a minute particle, trace -

There isn't one *scintilla* of evidence.

SCION

n.- a young shoot or twig of a plant, esp. one cut for grafting or rooting; 2) a descendant of a notable family or one with a long lineage -

SCOW

n.- a wide beamed sailing dinghy -

SCREED

n.- a long discourse or essay, esp. a diatribe; 2) an informal letter, account, or other piece of writing; 3) a board or form used to mold or shape concrete or plaster while it dries -

"Playing God in Yellowstone" is a *screed* that decries the N.P.Service.

SCRIM

n.- strong, coarse fabric; a thing that conceals or obscures something -

SCRIMMAGE

n.- a rough or vigorous struggle -

. . . the social *scrimmage*--the dinner party, the cocktail scene, the promenade . . .

SCRUM

n.- informal or disorderly crowd of people or things -

SCUMBLE

v.t.- modify a painting or color by applying a very thin coat of opaque paint to give a softer or duller effect; modify a drawing in a similar way with light shading in pencil or charcoal -

n.- a thin opaque coat of paint or layer of shading applied to give a softer or duller effect; the effect produced by adding such a coat or layer -

SCURF

n.- flakes on the surface of the skin that form as fresh skin develops below, occurring esp. as dandruff -

SCURRILOUS

adj.- making or spreading scandalous claims about someone with the intention of damaging their reputation; humorously insulting -

SEDITION

n.- incitement of discontent or rebellion against a government; any action, esp. in speech or writing, promoting such discontent or rebellion; insurrection; mutiny -

SEDULOUS

adj.- diligent in application or attention; persevering; persistently or carefully maintained; assiduous; tireless -

SEGUE

n.- an uninterrupted transition made between one musical section or composition and another; performed at once without a break; performed in the manner or style of the preceding section -

. . . his playfully ornate production includes delicate segues between the 14 songs and intriguing textures coaxed from . . .

SEIGNEUR

n.- (Fr.) a feudal lord; a member of the landed gentry -

Dale suffers him with *seigneurial* aplomb, cadging money for booze in exchange for rambling impenetrable penses on the nature of art and the universe.

SELECTION

n.- a process in which environmental or genetic influences determine which types of organism thrive better than others, regarded as a factor in evolution -

SELVAGE

n.- an edge produced on woven fabric during manufacture that prevents it from unraveling -

SEMAPHORE

n.- a system of sending messages by holding the arms or two flags or poles in certain positions according to an alphabetic code; a signal sent by semaphore -

SEMBLANCE

n.- the outward appearance or apparent form of something, esp. when the reality is different -

SEMINAL

adj.- having possibilities of future development; highly original and influencing the development of future events -

James Fallows wrote a *seminal* article observing that the burden of the Vietnam war fell mainly on lower-class kids without the wit or connections to avoid the draft.

SEMIOTIC (often SEMIOTICS)

adj.- pertaining to signs -

n.- a general theory of signs and symbolism, usually divided into the branches of pragmatics, semantics, and syntactics -

SENESCENCE

n.- the condition or process of deterioration with age; loss of a cell's power of division and growth -

SENTENTIOUS

adj.- abounding in pithy aphorisms or maxims; given to excessive moralizing; self-righteous -

Younger's confidence falters and he resorts to some *sententious* profit-taking.

SEPTIC

n.- a drainage system incorporating a septic tank -

adj.- infected with bacteria -

SEPULCHRAL

adj.- of or relating to a tomb or interment; gloomy; dismal -

SERF

n.- an agricultural laborer bound under the feudal system to work on his lord's estate -

SHEEN

n.- a soft luster on a surface -

v.- shine or cause to shine softly -

SHIBBOLETH

n.- a peculiarity of pronunciation, behavior, mode of dress, etc., which distinguishes a particular class or set of persons -

Today's movies generally subserve the fashionable ideologies and spout the current *shibboleths*.

SHIBUMI n - SHIBUI adj

n.- in Japanese culture, a simplicity of spirit; an attitude of refinement without pretension, honesty without apology, beauty without artifice; In Soetsu Yanagi's book, *The Unknown Craftsman*, he refers to *shibui* as "beauty with inner implications," while discussing the topic of imperfection in art and craft within the context of beauty. "It is not a beauty displayed before the viewer by its creator; creation here means, rather, making a piece that will lead the viewer to draw beauty out of it for himself. In this sense, *shibui* beauty, the beauty of Tea ceremony, is beauty that makes an artist of the viewer."

SHORT SHRIFT

n.- rapid and unsympathetic dismissal; curt treatment -

SHRIFT

n.- confession, esp. to a priest; absolution by a priest -

SIBILANT

adj. - hissing sound -

SIDEREAL

adj.- regarding the distant stars rather than our sun and planets -

. . . *sidereal* cereal goes down a little faster than solar cereal . . .

SIMIAN

n.- an ape or monkey -

adj.- relating to, resembling, or affecting apes or monkeys -

SIMPATICO

adj.- having shared attributes or interests; compatible; a likable person, easy to get along with -

SIMULACRUM

n.- a slight, unreal, or superficial likeness or semblance; 2) an effigy, image, or representation -

. . . a *simulacra* of success . . .

SINUOUS

adj.- having many turns, curves, or bends, winding; indirect, devious; serpentine; roundabout -

SKEIN

n.- a length of yarn or thread wound on a reel or swift preparatory for use in manufacturing -

SLUICE

n.- a sliding gate or other device for controlling the flow of water, esp. one in a lock gate; (also sluiceway) an artificial water channel for carrying off overflow or surplus water; an act of rinsing or showering with water -

SMALL

adj.- characterized by littleness of mind or character; mean-spirited; petty -

. . . a small, miserly man . . .

SMARMY

adj.- excessively or unctuously flattering, ingratiating, servile -

SMIRCH

v.t.- make something dirty; soil : the window was smirched by heat and smoke; discredit (a person or their reputation); taint -

n.- a dirty mark or stain; a blot on someone's character; a flaw -

SMITE

v.t.- attack or affect severely; be strongly attracted to someone or something -

SNARKY

adj.- sharply critical; cutting; snide; cranky; irritable -

SNUFFLE

v.- to draw air into the nose for the purpose of smelling something; snuff; 2) to draw the breath or mucus through the nostrils in an audible or noisy manner -

SODDEN

adj.- soaked with liquid or moisture; saturated; 2) heavy, lumpy, or soggy, as food that is poorly cooked; 3) expressionless, dull, or stupid -

SOLICITOUS

adj. anxious or concerned; 2) anxiously desirous; 3) eager -

He was always *solicitous* to please.

SOLILOQUY

n.- a dramatic or literary form of discourse in which a character talks to oneself or reveals one's thoughts without addressing a listener -

SOLIPSISM

n.- the theory that only the self exists, or can be proven to exist -

In the end, the movie "Vagabond" may be just as pictorial as those other films, only in a different style: coolly *solipsistic* & merely esthetic.

SOMATIZATION

n.- the production of recurrent and multiple medical symptoms with no discernible organic cause -

SOMNAMBULISM

n.- sleepwalking -

SOMNOLENT

adj.- sleepy; drowsy; 2) tending to cause sleep

Liberal writers are also yearning for "committed" youth and disgusted with the *somnolent*, materialistic majority who are not.

SONORITY

n.- impressive sound; loud, deep or rich in sound -

SONOROUS

adj.- giving out or capable of giving out a sound, esp. a deep resonant sound, as a thing or place; 2) rich and full in sound, as language, verse, etc.; 3) high-flown; grandiloquent -

. . . a *sonorous* address . . .

SOOTHSAYER

n.- a person who professes to foretell events -

SOPHISTRY

n.- the use of fallacious arguments, esp. with the intention of deceiving; a fallacious argument -

SOUGH

v.- (of the wind in trees, sounds of the sea) make a moaning, whistling, or rushing sound -

SOUK (sook)

n.- an Arab market or marketplace; a bazaar -

SPADES

n.- in the extreme; positively; without restraint; outspokenly -

If Stone wanted to breathe life into the debate over classical antiquity he succeeded in *spades*.

SPECIOUS

adj.- apparently good or right though lacking real merit; superficially pleasing; plausible; 2) pleasing to the eye, but deceptive -

SPECTER

n.- a visible incorporeal spirit, esp. one of a terrifying nature; ghost; phantom; apparition; 2) some object or source of terror or dread -

STATIVE

adj.- a verb expressing a state or condition rather than an activity or event -

STENTORIAN

adj.- very loud or powerful in sound -

She declared in *stentorian* tones that the time had arrived.

STIGMATA

n.- (pl. of stigma) characteristic marks or signs of defect, degeneration, disease, etc.; 2) marks resembling the wounds of the crucified body of Christ, said to be supernaturally impressed on the bodies of certain persons, esp. nuns, tertiaries, and monastics -

The agile wrist fluttering before me was free of any *stigmata* of arthritis.

STIPULATE

v.t.- demand or specify a requirement, typically as part of a bargain or agreement -
he *stipulated* certain conditions before their marriage

STOAT

n.- a small carnivorous mammal of the weasel family that has chestnut fur with white underparts and a black-tipped tail -

STOIC

n.- a person who can endure pain or hardship without showing their feelings or complaining -

STOLID

adj.- a person who is calm, dependable, and showing little emotion or animation -

STRIDENT

adj.- making or having a harsh sound; grating; creaking -

STULTIFY

v.t. - to make, or cause to appear, foolish or ridiculous; 2) to render absurdly or wholly futile or ineffectual, esp. by degrading or frustrating means -

SUBJUGATE

v.t.- to bring under complete control or subjection, conquer, master; to make submissive or subservient, enslave; overpower, vanquish -

SUBLIMATE

v.t.- divert or modify something into a culturally higher or socially more acceptable activity -

he sublimates his hurt and anger into humor

SUBORN

v.t.- bribe or otherwise induce (someone) to commit an unlawful act such as perjury -

SUBSTRATE

n.- something which underlies or serves as a basis or foundation -

SUBSUME

v.t.- include or absorb something in something else -

SUBTERFUGE

n.- an artifice or expedient used to evade a rule, escape a consequence, hide something, etc. -

I think there is too much *subterfuge* and indirectness in our lives.

SUBVERT

v.- to overthrow; 2) to cause the downfall, ruin, or destruction of; 3) to undermine the principles of; corrupt -

SUCCINCT

adj.- briefly and clearly expressed -

use short, *succinct* sentences

Succinct is very close in meaning to concise, although it emphasizes compression and compactness in addition to brevity (*succinct* instructions for what to do in an emergency).

SUCCOR (pron. same as **sucker**)

n.- help; relief; aid; assistance in times of hardship and distress -

SUGGESTIBLE

adj.- subject to or easily influenced by suggestion; gullible -

SULLY

v.- to soil, stain, or tarnish; 2) to mar the purity or luster of; defile -

. . . to *sully* a reputation . . .

SUPERCILIOUS

adj.- haughtily disdainful or contemptuous; arrogant; scornful -

SUPERIMPOSE

v.t.- to impose, place, or set over, above, or on something else; to put on or join as an addition; 2) to print an image over another image so that both are seen at once -

the credits were superimposed over the opening scene

SUPERPOSE

v.t.- to place above or upon something else, or one upon another - (see Geometry section)

SUPERSTITION

n.- irrational fear of what is unknown or mysterious, esp. in connection with religion; 2) any blindly accepted belief or notion -

SUPINE

adj.- a person lying face upward; the hand with the palm upward; 2) failing to act or protest as a result of moral weakness or indolence -

SUPPLICATE

v.t.- to pray humbly; make humble and earnest entreaty or petition; to seek or ask for by humble entreaty -

SUPRA

adv.- above, esp. when used in referring to parts of a text -

SUPRARATIONAL

adj.- not understandable by reason alone; beyond rational comprehension -

SURFEIT

n.- excess; an excessive amount; overindulgence in eating or drinking; 2) general disgust caused by excess or satiety -

SUZERAIN

n.- a sovereign or a state exercising political control over a dependent state -

Due to a lack of planned development, each shelter works as a separate *suzerainty*.

SYBARITIC

adj.- loving luxury or sensuous pleasure, as a voluptuary -

. . . to wallow in *sybaritic* splendor . . .

SYCOPHANT

n.- a self-seeking, servile flatterer, fawning parasite, toady -

SYLLABARY

n.- a set of written characters representing syllables and sometimes serving the purpose of an alphabet -

SYLLABUS

n.- an outline of the subjects in a course of study -

SYLLOGISM

n.- an instance of a form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn (whether validly or not) from two given or assumed propositions (premises), each of which shares a term with the conclusion, and shares a common or middle term not present in the conclusion (e.g., all dogs are animals; all animals have four legs; therefore all dogs have four legs).

• deductive reasoning as distinct from induction : logic is rules or syllogism.

SYLPH (silf)

n.- an imaginary spirit of the air; a slender woman or girl; 2) a mainly dark green and blue hummingbird -

SYLVAN

adj.- consisting of or associated with woods; pleasantly rural or pastoral -

. . . trees and contours all add to a sylvan setting . . .

SYMBOLOGY

n.- the study or use of symbols -

SYNCRETISM (sing-kra-tism)

n.- the (attempted) amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought -

SYNECDOCHE (si-nek-duh-kee)

n.- a figure of speech in which a part is made to represent the whole or vice versa, as in Cleveland won by six runs (meaning "Cleveland's baseball team") -

SYNERGY

n.- the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects -

SYNESTHESIA

n.- the production of a sense impression relating to one sense or part of the body by stimulation of another sense or part of the body -

SYNTAX

n.- the study or presentation of the rules for the formation of grammatical sentences in a language; that branch of modern logic which studies the various kinds of signs that occur in a system, and the possible arrangements of those signs, complete abstraction being made of the meaning of the signs -

SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE

n.- occurs when the heart contracts (diastolic is the pressure on the arteries when the heart is at rest) -

SYZYGY (siz'-ah-jee)

n.- the conjunction or opposition of two or three heavenly bodies (like earth, moon, and sun at time of eclipse) -

TABULA RASA

n.- an absence of preconceived ideas or predetermined goals; a clean slate like the human mind at birth -

TACITURN

adj.- reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little -

TALISMAN

n.- a stone, ring, or other object engraved with figures or characters supposed to possess occult powers and worn as an amulet or charm; anything whose presence exercises a remarkable or powerful influence on human feelings or actions -

TALUS

n.- the large bone in the ankle that articulates with the tibia of the leg and the calcaneum and navicular bone of the foot. Also called astragalus; 2) a sloping mass of rock fragments at the foot of a cliff; the sloping side of an earthwork, or of a wall that tapers to the top -

TARN

n.- a small mountain lake or pool -

TATTERDEMALION

n.- a person dressed in ragged clothing; ragamuffin -

TAXONOMY

n.- the branch of science concerned with classification, esp. of organisms; systematics (kingdom - phylum - class) -

TCHOTCHKE (**chahch**-kuh)

n.- a small object that is decorative rather than strictly functional; a trinket; 2) a pretty girl or woman -

TENDENTIOUS

adj.- having or showing a definite tendency, bias, or purpose -

TENUOUS

adj.- thin in form or consistency; of slight importance, unsubstantial; lacking a sound basis; lacking clarity, vague -

TEPID

adj.- a liquid that is only slightly warm; lukewarm; 2) showing little enthusiasm -

TERCET

n.- a set or group of three lines of verse rhyming together -

TERGIVERSATE

v.- turn against an individual or cause one formerly supported -

TERSE

adj.- sparing in the use of words; abrupt -

an aphorism is a *terse* truth

TESSELLATE

v.t.- decorate (a floor) with mosaics; cover a plane surface by repeated use of a single shape, without gaps or overlapping -

TESSERA

n.- a small block of stone, tile, glass, or other material used in the construction of a mosaic -

TESTAMENT

n.- a will, esp. one that relates to the disposition of one's personal property; a covenant, esp. between God and man -

TESTUDO

n.- a tortoise shell-like portable overhead protection or shelter -

THEREFORE

adv.- before that time -

THEOSOPHY

Besant, Annie (Wood), 1847 - 1933, English theosophist and reformer. Rejecting Christianity and advocating free thought and socialism, Besant edited the National Reformer with Charles Bradlaugh. Her atheism and unconventionality led the courts in 1879 to take away her children. After embracing Theosophy in 1889, she went to India, where she campaigned for nationalism, founded the Central Hindu College (1898) and the Indian Home Rule League (1916), and became president (1917) of the Indian National Congress. In 1926 - 27, at age 80, Besant proclaimed the Indian mystic Jiddu Krishnamurti to be the new Messiah. She published prolifically, particularly works on theosophy.

THESAURUS

n.- a reference book, esp. a dictionary of synonyms and antonyms; 2) a storehouse, repository, or treasury -

THEURGY

n.- the operation or effect of a supernatural or divine agency in human affairs -

THRUM

v.- to play on a stringed instrument by plucking the strings esp. in an idle, monotonous, or unskillful manner; 2) to drum or tap idly with the fingers; 3) to recite or tell in a monotonous way -

Emmylou Harris has of course written and sung upbeat numbers and plain old love ballads and ramblin' songs, but her core repertory, and her new album *thrum* with self-reproach.

TIMOROUS

adj.- showing or suffering from nervousness, fear, or a lack of confidence -

a *timorous* voice

TINCTURE

n.- a medicine made by dissolving a drug in alcohol; 2) a slight trace of something -

TOADY

n.- an obsequious sycophant; a fawning flatterer; yes-man; parasite -

TORPID

adj.- inactive or sluggish, as a bodily organ; 2) slow; dull; apathetic; lethargic; 3) dormant, as a hibernating or estivating animal -

Director Peter Webber makes a confident if *torpid* debut here (*Girl With a Pearl Earring*), although his background as an editor is barely in evidence in the course of the film's long, languid scenes.

TORRENT

n.- a stream of water flowing with great rapidity and violence; 2) a rushing, violent, or abundant and unceasing stream of anything -

. . . the release of *torrents* of energy . . .

TOXIN

n.- any of a group of poisonous, usually unstable compounds generated by microorganisms or plants or of animal origin -

TRADUCE

v.- to speak maliciously and falsely of; slander; defame -

TRAGUS

n.- a fleshy prominence at the front of the external opening of the ear which produces bristles of hair in males of advanced age -

TRANSCENDENT

adj.- going beyond ordinary limits; surpassing; exceeding; superior or supreme (see *ineffable*) -

TRANSCENDENTAL

adj.- being beyond ordinary or common experience, thought, or belief; supernatural; abstract or metaphysical; idealistic, loft, or extravagant; explaining what is objective as the contribution of the mind; concerned with a priori elements in experience, which condition human knowledge -

TRANSCENDENTALISM

n.- any philosophy based upon the doctrine that the principles of reality are to be discovered by the study of the processes of thought; a philosophy emphasizing the intuitive and spiritual above the empirical; Chas. Ives was a practitioner, also Emerson, also Whitman, also Thoreau -

TRAVAIL

n.- painfully difficult or burdensome work; hardship induced pain; anguish; suffering -

TREACLE

n.- cloying sentimentality or flattery -

TRENCHANT

adj.- vigorous or incisive in expression or style -

TREPIDATION

n.- a feeling of fear or agitation about something that may happen -

TRIAGE

n.- the allocation of medical care on the basis of those who can survive -

TRIBUNE

n.- a person who upholds or defends the rights of the people; 2) a raised platform for a speaker; a dais, rostrum, or pulpit -

TRIVIA

n.- matters or things that are very unimportant, inconsequential, or inessential; trifles -

. . . *trivia*, such as, Who were the girlfriend and dog in the movie "Boy and His Dog"? Answer: Quilla June & Blood . . .

TROGLODYTE

n.- a person who is regarded as being deliberately ignorant or old-fashioned; a hermit -

TROLLOP

n.- a woman perceived as sexually disreputable or promiscuous -

TROPE

n.- a figurative or metaphorical use of a word or expression : he used the two-Americas trope to explain how a nation free and democratic at home could act wantonly abroad - a conventional idea or phrase : her suspicion of ambiguity was more a trope than a fact.

v.i.- create a trope

TRUNDLE

n.- a small wheel, roller or the like -

v.t.- to cause to roll along; to convey in a wheeled vehicle -

v.i.- to roll along; to move or run on wheels; to travel in a wheeled vehicle; to move or walk with a rolling gait -

He got into his car and *trundled* downtown.

TUMID

adj.- swollen, as a part of the body; pompous or inflated, as language; turgid; bombastic -

TURGID

adj.- tumid; swollen and distended or congested; (of language or style) tediously pompous or bombastic

TURPITUDE

n.- depravity; wickedness -

UBIQUITY

n.- the state or quality of being everywhere at the same time -

ULNA

n.- the bone of the forearm on the side opposite to the thumb -
. . . dangling from the *ulna* of a tan hairdresser . . .

UNAVAILING

adj.- achieving little or nothing; ineffective -

UNBIDDEN

adj.- without having been commanded or invited; 2) a thought or feeling arising without conscious effort -
unbidden tears came to his eyes

UNCOUTH

adj.- awkward, clumsy, or unmannerly; 2) strange and ungraceful in appearance or form -

UNCTUOUS

adj.- characterized by excessive piousness or moralistic fervor, esp. in an affected manner; excessively smooth, suave, or smug; 2) having an oily or soapy feel, as certain minerals -

UNEXCEPTIONABLE

adj.- not open to objection -
the *unexceptionable* belief that society should be governed by law

UNFETTER

v.t.- to release from fetters, free from restraint, liberate -

UNNERVE

v.t.- cause someone to lose courage or confidence -

UNPREPOSSESSING

adj.- not particularly attractive or appealing to the eye -

UNTENABLE

adj.- not able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection -

UNTOWARD

adj.- unexpected and inappropriate or inconvenient -

UTILITARIANISM

n.- the ethical doctrine that virtue is based on utility, and that conduct should be directed toward promoting the greatest happiness for the greatest number of persons -

VADE MECUM

n.- something a person carries with him for frequent or regular use; a book for ready reference; manual or handbook -

VAIN

adj.- without real significance, value or importance; baseless or worthless; excessively proud of or concerned about one's own appearance, qualities, achievements; conceited -

VALVATE

adj.- having adjacent edges abutting rather than overlapping; compare with imbricate -

VANITAS VANITATUM

vanity of vanities -

VANITY

n.- excessive pride in one's appearance, qualities, abilities, achievements; - a lack of real value; hollowness; worthlessness -

VANQUISH

v.t.- to conquer, defeat, subdue, quell, suppress -

VAPID

adj.- lacking spirit, liveliness, or zest -

VASSAL

n.- a holder of land by feudal tenure on conditions of homage and allegiance; 2) a person or country in a subordinate position to another -

a vassal state of the Chinese empire

VATIC

adj.- pertaining to or characteristic of a prophet -

VAUNT

adj.- praise excessively or boastfully -

. . . the vaunted Baltimore renaissance . . .

VENAL

adj.- willing to betray one's trust by improper use of authority or influence; corruptly open to a bribe; able to be purchased -

There was no *venality*, no negligence.

VENIAL

adj.- a slight and pardonable offense or fault -

VENDETTA

n.- any prolonged and bitter feud, rivalry or contention -

VENERABLE

adj.- deserving of respect -

VENERATE

v.- to regard or treat with reverence; revere -

VERACITY

n.- conformity to facts; accuracy; habitual truthfulness -

VERDANT

adj.- green with vegetation, covered with green plants or grass, inexperienced, unsophisticated -

VERDURE

n.- lush green vegetation; the fresh green color of such vegetation; a condition of freshness -

VERISIMILITUDE

n.- the appearance of being true or real -

VERISM

n.- the theory that rigid representation of truth and reality is essential to art and literature, and therefore the ugly and vulgar must be included -

VERITY

n.- the state or quality of being true; accordance with fact or reality -

Some difficult *verities* tumble from young lips.

VERNACULAR

adj.- native or originating in the place of its occurrence or use; nonstandard language; common, local speech -

VERTEX

n.- the highest point; the top or apex; a meeting point of two lines that form an angle; the point at which an axis meets a curve or surface -

VERTIGINOUS

adj.- whirling, spinning; affected with vertigo, dizzy; apt to change quickly, unstable -

No wonder industry watchers get that woozy, *vertiginous* feeling.

VET

v.t.- make careful and critical examination -

VICARIOUS

adj.- experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another; acting or done for another -

VICTORIA

n. an open touring car having a folding that usually covers only the rear seat -

VICTUALS

n.- food supplies, provisions -

The aroma suggests unforgettable *victuals*.

VIOLENCE (CULTURAL)

n.- aspects of a culture that can be used to justify or legitimize direct or structural violence, and may be exemplified by religion and ideology, language and art, empirical science and formal science

Cultural violence makes direct and structural violence look or feel "right", or at least not wrong. The study of cultural violence highlights the ways the act of direct violence and the fact of structural violence are legitimized and thus made acceptable in society.

VIOLENCE (STRUCTURAL)

n.- a form of violence wherein some [social structure](#) or [social institution](#) may harm people by preventing them from meeting their basic needs. Institutionalized [adulthoodism](#), [ageism](#), [classism](#), [elitism](#), [ethnocentrism](#), [nationalism](#), [racism](#), and [sexism](#) are some examples of structural violence

Structural violence is an "avoidable impairment of fundamental human needs". As it is avoidable, structural violence is a high cause of premature death and unnecessary disability. Because structural violence affects people differently in various social structures, it is very closely linked to social injustice. Structural violence and direct violence are said to be highly interdependent, including [family violence](#), [gender violence](#), [hate crimes](#), [racial violence](#), [terrorism](#), and [war](#).

VIRAGO

n.- a domineering, violent, or bad-tempered woman -

VIRIDESCENT

adj. slightly green, greenish -

VIRTUOSITY

n.- mastery, skill, brilliance, musicianship, artistry, artfulness, wizardry, bravura, pyrotechnics, razzle-dazzle -

adj.- virtuosic, showy -

VIRULENT

adj.- actively poisonous; intensely noxious; 2) highly infective; malignant or deadly -

"There exists an evil that cannot be explained - a *virulent*, terrifying evil - and humans are the only animals to possess it. An evil that is irrational and not bound by law. Cosmic.

Causeless." (Ingmar Bergman)

VISAGE (**viz**-ij)

n.- a person's face, with reference to the form or proportions of the features; a person's facial expression; 2) the surface of an object presented to view -

VITRIOLIC

adj.- something caustic, corrosive or biting -

VITUPERATIVE

adj.- bitter and abusive -

the criticism soon turned into a *vituperative* attack

VOCIFEROUS

adj.- crying out noisily; clamorous -

VOLANT (**voh**-luhnt)

adj.- engaged in or having the power of flight; 2) moving lightly; nimble -

VOLUBLE (*vol-yuh-buhl*)

adj.- fluent, glib, talkative, wordy -

VOLUPTUARY

n.- a person whose life is devoted to the pursuit and enjoyment of luxury and sensual pleasure, one who is sybaritic -

VORACIOUS

adj.- ravenous; rapacious; craving or consuming large quantities of food -

VULGATE

n.- common or colloquial speech; 2) the traditionally accepted text of any author -

WAG

n.- a person given to droll, roguish, or mischievous humor; wit -

WAGE

WAIF

n.- a homeless and helpless person, esp. a neglected or abandoned child; an abandoned pet animal; 2) a piece of property thrown away by a fleeing thief and held by the state in trust for the owner to claim -

WAMPUM

n.- a quantity of small cylindrical beads made by North American Indians from quahog shells, strung together and worn as a decorative belt or other decoration or used as money -

WAN

adj.- sickly or pale -

WEFT

n.- yarn carried by the shuttle and interlacing at right angles with the warp in woven cloth -
. . . the warp and *weft* of modern society . . .

WEND

v. -go in a specified direction, typically slowly or by an indirect route -

WHELP

n.- the young of the dog, wolf, bear, lion, etc.; (contemptuous) a youth -

WHIT

n.- a very small part or amount -

WILE

n.- devious or cunning stratagems employed in manipulating or persuading someone to do what one wants -

WILLING SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF

The audience makes a performance possible by allowing themselves to be fooled for the duration of the presentation.

WITTING

adj.- done in full awareness or consciousness of the facts of a situation; deliberate; TO WIT - that is to say -

WONT

n.- custom, habit, or practice -

adj.- accustomed -

XENOPHOBIA

n.- intense or irrational dislike or fear of people from other countries -

YAHOO

n.- a rude, noisy, or violent person; 2) an exclamation expressing great joy or excitement -

ZAFTIG

adj.- (of a woman) having a plump and sexually attractive figure; full-bodied -

ZEITGEBER

n.- a cue given by the environment, such as a change in light or temperature, to reset the internal body clock -

ZEITGEIST

n.- the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time -

ZENITH

n.- the highest point reached by a celestial or other object; the point in the sky or celestial sphere directly above an observer - the opposite of nadir; the time at which something is most powerful or successful -

ZUGESCHLAGEN

n.- a door being closed by a draft of air -