

INDEX

Contents	Page
Introduction	5
Etymology	7
Vocabulary – Top 250	41
Foreign Words and Phrases	47
Special Lists	
Archy / Cracy	57
Phobias	58
Manias	59
Isms	60
Ologies	62
Animal words	65
Idioms and Phrases	67
Main Wordlist	69

PGGA

Introduction

Words are the instruments by means of which men and women grasp the thoughts of others and with which they do much of their own thinking. They are the tools of thought.

Vocabulary forms an important part of one's life, especially that of aspirants in their exam-prep phase. A good manager requires effective communication skills. Inter-personal relations hinge on the use of language, which could make or mar a relationship. Everyone—from beginning learners in English to veterans in journalism—knows the frustration of not having *the right word* immediately available in that lexicon one carries between one's ears. Sometimes it's a matter of not being able to recall the right word; sometimes we never knew it. It is also frustrating to read a newspaper or homework assignment and run across words whose meanings elude us.

Increasing your vocabulary is a continuous process. The best way is reading.

Read journals and newspapers that challenge you in terms of vocabulary. Pursue words actively and become alert to words that you simply overlooked in the past. Write down the words in one column; then, later, when you have a dictionary at your disposal, write down a common definition of the word; in a third column, write a brief sentence using the word, underlined.

Most bookstores carry books on building a more powerful vocabulary. Books that group words according to what they have in common—more in meaning than in spelling—are especially useful.

Newspapers often carry brief daily articles that explore the meanings of words and phrases. These articles often emphasize peculiar words that won't find themselves into your working vocabulary. Often you'll find that learning one new word leads to other new words. Make reading these articles one of your daily habits, an addiction, even.

A thesaurus is like a dictionary except that it groups words within constellations of meaning. It is often useful in discovering just the right word you need to express what you want to say. Make sure you correctly understand the definition of a word (by using a dictionary).

Using the PGA Wordlist

The PGA Wordlist is a large, easy-to-use reference book in itself. It is a handy guide to a carefully chosen list of around 4000 of the most troublesome and difficult words that usually appear in the GRE, SAT and other MBA entrance examinations—showing you at a glance their proper spelling, root, meaning and usage. The words have been selected on basis of their being part of a register that is similar to the register used in these examinations. The student can use it to review what he or she has learnt the preparatory process and refer to it whenever needed, in order to increase vocabulary and chances in the examinations.

This wordlist resembles a dictionary in some respects, but it smaller, more selective, handier and easier to use. It is exhaustive but not all encompassing. Otherwise it would be a dictionary. The student is well advised to use the wordlist to learn new and unfamiliar words, belonging to registers they are usually not conversant with, but to look up meanings of words they come across elsewhere, they should get used to the habit of using a dictionary. This Wordlist is essentially meant to be an adjunct to your preparation for the examinations and not the only basis.

Most of the words listed here have got explanations and sentences using these have been given, so that the student knows the exact connotation and usage of the word. However, this has not been done for all words, partly because some of them are too simple and quite obvious, and partly because students are encouraged to do some information searching of their own, and not become dependent on what is termed "spoon-feeding."

Besides the words, this book has a very useful lists section where we have attempted to list down some common types of words and phrases which a student usually might come across in day to day reading but which might not be found in a dictionary at one glance. To get the most out of this book, don't let your eyes just passively read this book—get your mind actively involved in it. This will help you increase your word power and master a large vocabulary.

Ten Commandments for learning words

1. **Break up the task into bite-size pieces** - Don't try to learn hundreds of words in one session. You'll overload your mental circuits. Try tackling perhaps 20–30 words at a time.
2. **Take meaningful breaks between sessions** - Limit yourself to three or four sessions per day (20–25 words per session), depending on how much time you have to prepare for your exam. Take healthy breaks—at least a few hours—between study sessions.
3. **Sleep on it** - Study a new batch of words just before bedtime. Your mind is more likely to retain information received just prior to sleep.
4. **It helps to write the word** - both the definition and a sentence you make up using the word - perhaps on an index card that can later be reviewed. Review your index cards periodically to see if you have forgotten any of your new words.
5. **Vocalize as you learn** - Saying words aloud or hearing somebody else say them helps you to recall them later. Try reading sample sentences and definitions aloud as well.
6. **Learn words in the context of a story** - You remember new words more easily if you learn them in the context of a brief “story”—an interesting and instructive sentence or short paragraph. Words make up your own stories. Try to include at least two or three test-worthy words in each story.
7. **Picture the word** - You may create pictures of the word's meaning that involve strong emotions. Think “the GARGANTUAN creature was going to rip me apart and then eat me!” Use of mnemonics (memory tricks) can be of use too. For example, consider the word EGREGIOUS (extremely bad). Think EGG REACH US - imagine we've made a mistake so bad that they are throwing eggs at us and a rotten EGG REACHes US. Such funny little word pictures will help you remember what words mean.
8. **Incorporate new words into everyday conversation** - This may seem like hackneyed advice, but it's nevertheless good advice. Use new words as you converse with friends. Pause to explain what the word means, and ask your friends if they know any similar or contrary words. You're bound to discover even more test-worthy words this way!
9. **Get excited about words** - Come to appreciate the sometimes-subtle differences between them. Do you know the difference between something that denotes something else and something that connotes something else? If not, go look it up and learn to say what you really mean.
10. **Review, review, review** - It's not enough to “learn” a word once. Unless you review it, the word will soon vanish from your memory banks.

So, get on with the business of enriching your vocabulary. Language, after all, is power.

Etymology

A good way to begin is to get to the root of the matter. Etymology involves not only the root of the word per se, but also reveals a score of other words and a wealth of information relating to various other subjects. At least half of the words in the English language are derived from Greek and Latin roots.

For instance, we know that *sophomores* are students in their second year of college or high school. What does it mean, though, to be *sophomoric*? The "sopho" part of the word comes from the same Greek root that gives us *philosophy*, which we know means "love of knowledge." The "ic" ending is sometimes added to adjectival words in English, but the "more" part of the word comes from the same Greek root that gives us *moron*. Thus sophomores are people who think they know a lot but really don't know much about anything, and a sophomoric act is typical of a "wise fool," a "smart-ass"!

Let's explore further. Going back to *philosophy*, we know the "sophy" part is related to knowledge and the "phil" part is related to love (because we know that Philadelphia is the City of Brotherly Love and that a *philodendron* loves shady spots). What, then, is *philanthropy*? "Phil" is still love, and "anthropy" comes from the same Greek root that gives us *anthropology*, which is the study ("logy," we know, means study of any kind) of *anthropos*, humankind. So a *philanthropist* must be someone who loves humans and does something about it—like giving money to find a cure for cancer or to build a Writing Center for the local community college. (And an *anthropoid*, while we're at it, is an animal who walks like a human being.) Learning the roots of language can even be fun!

Recognising words from roots

Knowing roots helps us to grasp the meaning of words before we look them up in the dictionary. It also helps us to see how words are often arranged in families with similar characteristics.

Let us consider the word **derma**, meaning **skin**. Once the word is identified as meaning skin, it is easier to comprehend other words with the same root:

- Dermatitis** : a skin disease (derma + **itis** which added to nouns, forms names of diseases).
- Dermatologist** : one who treats skin diseases (derma + **logos**: study, knowledge).
- Logos** can provide words such as psychology (psukhe + logos); anthropology, etc.
- Epidermis** : the outermost layer of skin (derma + **epi**: above).
- From epi, we also have words such as epicardium, epicontinental, etc.)
- Hypodermic** : under the skin (derma + **hypo**: under).
- Taxidermy** : preparation, stuffing and mounting of animal skin (derma + **taxis**: arrangement).

Roots can be broadly classified as Prefixes, Suffixes and Base Roots. A prefix is *fixed* before another root to form a word while a suffix is fixed after another root to do so. By breaking a word apart into root, prefix and suffix, you will be able to determine its literal meaning. Since you have encountered the word in context, you can then guess at its present meaning. The secret to increasing your vocabulary is in knowing how to combine different prefixes and suffixes with a root word to make new words. For example, let's take the Latin word *gressum* which means 'to walk, to step or move forward' and by combining the prefixes, A(D)-, CON-, DI-, E-, PRO-, RE-, RETRO- and TRANS- with the combining word "-GRESS-", we get 8 more words. If we add the suffixes -ION, -IVE, and -OR in turn to each of these words we derive 24 additional words for a total of 32 words. By knowing the meaning of the root word, and the 8 prefixes and 3 suffixes you also know the meaning of the 32 derived words.

1. LATIN PREFIXES

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
a-	not, without	amoral, apathy, anomaly
ab-, abs-	away from, off, apart	abrupt, abscond, abstract
ad-, ac-, an-, as-	toward, against	advent, accurate, annotate, assent
ambi-, amb-	around, about, on both sides	ambiguous, ambivalent
ante-	before, in front of, early	antecede, antedate, antebellum
arch	main, chief	archangel, archbishop, archenemy
bi-	Two	bifurcate, biannually
bene-	Well	benefactor, benefit, beneficial
circum-, cira-	around, about	circumflex, circumference, circa
cis-	on this side of	cislunar, cisalpine
con-	with, together	concur, concede, conscript
com-, cor-, col-	together, with, very	comprise, corrode, collateral
contra-	Against	contradict, controversy, contravene
counter-	Against	counterfeit, counterclockwise
de-	down, down from, off, utterly	deformed, defoliate, descend, depress
demi-	half, partly belongs to	demisemiquaver, demigod
dis-, di-, dif-	apart, in different directions	digress, divorce, dispute, discern
du-, duo-	Two	duet, duplicate
em- en-	in, into	embrace, enclose
ex-, e-, ef-, ec-	out, out of, from, away	extol, event, expel, evade, elucidate
extra-, extro-	outside of, beyond	extraordinary, extrovert, extrapolate
fore	Before	forestall, forgo, forebear
in-, i-, il-, im-, ir-	in, into, on, toward, put into, not, lacking, without	incision, impel, impulse, irrigate, illegal, ignominious, impure, immoral, immodest, indecent, incoherent
indu-, indi-	a strengthened form of in-	Indigent
infra-	below, beneath, inferior to, after	infrared, infrasonic
inter-, intel-	among, between, at intervals	intercede, intercept, intellect
intra-	in, within, inside of	intramural, intravenous
intro-	in, into, within	introduce, introspective
juxta	near, beside	juxtapose, juxtaposition
mal-, male-	evil, badly	malformed, malicious, malaise, maladroit
medi-, medio-	Middle	median, mediocre
milli-, mille-	Thousand	millennium, millimeter
mono-	one	monarch, monotone
multi-, multus-	much, many	multifaceted, multiply, multilevel
ne-	not	neuter, neutral
non-	not (less emphatic than in or un)	nonresident, nonconformity
nul-, null-	none, not any	nullify, nullification
ob-, of-, oc-,	toward, against, across, down, for	oblong, obdurate, offer, occasion, occur
op-, o-	toward, against, across, down, for	oppose, opposite, omit, offer
omni-	all, everywhere	omniscient, omnivorous
ped-, pedi-	foot	pedestrian, pedicure
per-, pel-	through, by, thoroughly, away	permeate, perfidy, pellucid

post-	behind, after (in time or place)	postpone, postnatal, postorbital
pre-	before, early, toward	precedent, precept, preposition
pro-, pur-	before, for, forth	proceed, purport, pursue, prolong
quadri-, quadr-	four times, four fold	quadriceps, quadrisection, quadrangle
re-, red-	back, again, against, behind	repel, relegate, redeem, redemption
retro-	backwards, behind	retrogressive, retrofit, retrograde
se-, sed-	aside, apart, away from	secure, seduce, seclude, sedition, select
semi-	half	semicircle, semiprivate
sine	without	Sinecure
sub-, suc-, suf-	under, beneath, inferior,	suffer, submissive, succumb,
sug-, sum-, sup-	less than, in place of, secretly	suggest, subtract, suffuse, support
sur-, sus-	(same as above meanings)	suspend, surplus
subter-	beneath, secretly	Subterfuge
super-, supra-	over, above, excessively	superficial, supercilious
sur-	over, above, excessively	surcharge, surtax, surplus, surrealism
trans-, tra-	across, over, beyond, through	transoceanic, transgression, transit, transition
tri-	three	triangle, triceps
ultra-	beyond, on other side	ultrasound, ultraconservative
un- (old english)	no, not, without	unabashed, unashamed

2. LATIN SUFFIXES

SUFFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
-able, -ably	able to, capable of being.	unalienable, insuperable
-acy	state or quality of being	intricacy, democracy
-age	belonging to, related to	marriage, acreage, postage
-al	pertaining to, act of	infinitesimal, ephemeral
-ana	sayings, writings, facts of	Americana
-an, -ant, -ent	one who is	charlatan, blatant, strident
-ance	act of, state of being, thing that	Abeyance
-ary	belonging to, a relation to.	hereditary, subsidiary
-ate	having	alienate, incarnate, insensate
-ation, -ition	the act of, result of	alteration, compilation, nutrition
-ar	relating to, like; the nature of	singular, polar, vicar, scholar
-bulum, -ble	means, instrument, place	fable, stable
-cide, -cidal	killer; having power to kill	insecticide, suicidal
-crat, -cracy	to govern	bureaucracy, plutocracy
-culum, -cle	means, instrument, place	curriculum, fulcrum
-en	to become, or cause to be	darken, weaken
-ence	act, fact, quality, state	conference, excellence, despondence
-ency	state of being	clemency, dependency
-er, -or	one who	interlocutor, volunteer
-ent	has, shows, or does	circumvent, inadvertent
-ery, -ry	a place to/for; occupation of	tannery, vinery, dentistry, jewelry
-esce	becoming	obsolescent, coalesce
-fy	to make, cause to be, or become	clarify, horrify

-hood	state, quality; group of	childhood, priesthood
-ian	belonging to, a relation to	vulgarian, plebian
-ier	a person concerned with	soldier
-ible	able to be.	susceptible, flexible
-ic	pertaining to	ascetic, prosaic, endemic
-ice	state or quality of being	avarice
-il, -ile	having to do with	docil, missile, civil, fossil
-ion	the act or result of, one who	legion, opinion
-ium, -y, -ce, -ge	the act of	colloquium, colloquy, refuge
-cium, -tium, -gium	something connected with the act	consortium, compendium
-ish	of, or belonging to; like	devilish, boyish, foolish, bookish
-ist	a person who does, makes, practices	altruist, artist
-itious	having the nature of.	nutritious, seditious
-itude, (-tude)	state of being.	verisimilitude, aptitude
-ity	state, character, condition	animosity, stability
-ive	one who, that which is	pensive, elusive, deductive
-less	(oe) without, lacking.	relentless, tireless
-like	characteristic of; suitable for	manlike, childlike, godlike
-ly	specified manner, extent, direction	harshly, hourly
-men	result, or means	acumen, specimen
-mentum, -ment	result, or means of an act	armament, impediment, moment
-ness	state, quality of being	greatness, sadness
-oon	one who	buffoon
-or	act, or condition of	error, terror, precursor
-ory	relating to, thing which, place where	ambulatory, laboratory
-ose, -ous	having, full of, characterized by	impervious, unctuous, perilous
-ship	quality, condition, state of	fellowship, friendship
-some	like, tending to be	tiresome, lonesome
-tion	state of that which	convocation, commotion
-tude	state of being	verisimilitude, aptitude
-ulus, -ulous	tending to	credulous, pendulous
-ure	state or act of	censure, tenure
-uus, -uous	tending to	innocuous
-vorous, -vore	eating, feeding on	omnivorous, herbivore
-wise	direction, manner, in regard to	clockwise
-y	state of being.	nullity, apathy

3. LATIN NUMBER FORMS

SUFFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
uni-	one	uniform, unicorn, unilateral
prim-, primo-	first	primary, primitive, primogenitor
du-	two	duet, dual
bi-, bin-	two, twice	bicycle, binoculars

second-	second	secondary
tri-	three	triangle, tricycle, trinity
terti-	third	tertiary
quadr(u)-	four	quadrangle, quadruple
quart-	fourth	quarter
quinque-, quint-	five, fifth	quintet, quintessence
sex-, sext-	six, sixth	sextet, sextant
sept(em)-	seven	septet, september
oct-	eight	octet, october
octav-	eighth	octave, octagon
novem-	nine	november
non-	ninth	nonagon
decem-	ten	december
decim-	tenth	decimal, decimate
cent-	hundre	century, centennial
mill-	thousand	millimeter, millennium
sesqui-	one and a half times	sesquicentennial
semi-	half, partly	semiannual

4. LATIN BASE ROOTS

LATIN WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLES
abstinere	to hold back	abstain, abstinence
accollare	to embrace	accolade
acerbus, ac, acr	sharp, bitter, sour	acerbic, acrid, acumen, acrimony
actuare	to do, to move	actuate
actus, act	drive, lead, to do, to act	active, activate, activism, react
acurer	to sharpen	acute, acumen, acuity
adbaetere	witness, judge	arbiter
adjacere	to lie near	adjacent
aemulus	trying to equal, excel	emulate
aequus	equal	equivalent
affecere, affe	a state of feeling, to feign	affectation, affected
ager, agri, agro, agr	field	agronomy
agere, ag	drive, lead, to do, to act	agility, agitate, agenda
alacer	eager, quick, brisk	alacrity
albus	white	albino, albedo, albescent
alere, altum, al, alt	grow, nourish	altrical
alius	other, else	alias, alienate
alienus, alien	of another, other	alien, alienation, unalienable
alludere	to joke, jest	allude, allusion
alter, alter	other, another	alternative, altercation, adulterate
alter	other of two	alternative
altus	high, deep	alto, altimeter, exaltation
amare, am, amat	to love, friend	amiable, enamored, amorous
ambulare, amb	to walk, to go	amble, preamble, ambulatory
amicus	friend	amity

amplus	large, spacious	ample
anecdota	unpublished	anecdote
angere, anxius	to give pain	anxious, anxiety
angulus	a corner	angle, angular
anima	breath, spirit, soul	animosity, inanimate, unanimous
animus, anim	reason, mind, soul, life	animate, magnanimous
annus, annu, enni	year	annual, biennial, centennial, perennial
anomalia	inequality	anomaly
antiquus	old, ancient	antiquity, antique, antiquated
apertum, apert	open, uncovered	aperture
apparere	to come forth	apparent, appearance, apparition
appellare, appell	address, entreat, call	appellation
apprehendere	to take hold of	apprehend, apprehensive
apprenare	to teach	apprise
aptare, aptus, apt, ept	to fit, suitable	aptitude, adapt, inept
aqua	water	aqueous, aqueduct, aquifer, aquarium
arabilis	to plow	arable
arbit	judge	arbitration, arbitrary
arbor	tree	arboretum, arboreal
archein, arch	to rule	monarch
ardere ard	be on fire, to burn	ardor, arduous
arere	to be dry	arid
arguere	make clear	argument
arma	implements, weapons	arm, armament, armada
arrogare	full of pride	arrogant, arrogance
arsum, ars	be on fire	arson
ars, artis, art	skill, craft, method	art, artisan, artist
articulare	jointed; utter distinctly	articulate, inarticulate
artificium	art-craft + facere-to make	artifact, artifice, artificial
ascendere	to scale, climb	ascend, ascendancy
aspergere	to sprinkle on	asperse, aspersion
assidere	to sit beside, assist	assess, assist
assiduitas	constant presence	assiduity, assiduous
astus	crafty, cunning	astute
auctor	author, enlarger	authority, authorize
audere, aud	to dare, be bold	audacious, audacity
augere, augtum	to increase	augmentation, augur, august
audire, aud	to hear	audible, audio
auditum, audit	to hear	audition
augere, aug, aux	to increase	augment, auxiliary
auctum, auct	increase	auction
auris	ear	auricle, auriform
auspiciu	good omen, approval	auspice, auspicious
authenticus	real, genuine	authentic
avarus	greedy	avarice, avaricious
avertere	to turn away	avert

avis	bird	avian, aviary, aviation, avionics
beatus	happy, blessed	beatific, beatitude
bella, bellus	beautiful	embellish
bellum, bel, bell	to wage war	bellicose, rebellious, belligerent
bene, ben	well, good	benevolence, beneficent, benign
bibere	to drink	bibulous, imbibe
blaterare	to babble, to roar	blatant
bonus, bon	good	bonanza, bonny, bon voyage, bonus
melior	better	ameliorate
optimus	best	optimum
brachium	an arm	embrace
brevis, bri, brev	brief, short	brevity, abbreviate, abridge
burla	a jest	burlesque
cadere, cad	to fall, happen by chance	decadent, cadaver, cascade
cidere, cid	to fall, happen by chance	coincidence, recidivism
casum, cas	to fall, happen by chance	cascade
caedere, cide	to cut, kill	incision, pesticide
calere, cal	be warm, glow	caloric, calorie
callum	hard skin	callus
calx, calc	pebble, to reckon	calculate, calculus
candere, cand	glow, pure, sincere	incandescence, candor, candid
canere, cant, chant	to sing	recant, chant, enchant
canis	dog	canine
capere, cap, capt	to take, to seize	captive, capture, intercept, captious
capra	a she goat (impulsive)	capricious, caprice
capere, cip, cept	to take, to seize	incipient, precept, susceptible
caput, cap, capit	head, headlong	cape, chapter, capital, principle
cardo, cardin	hinge	cardinal
caro, carn	flesh	carnal, incarnate, carnivore
castigare	to purify, chastise	castigate
cauda	a tail	coda
causa	cause, reason	causal, causation
cavare, cavus	to make hollow	cavernous, cavity, excavate
cedere, ced, cede	to go, to yield	recede, precede, exceed, predecessor
cessum, cess	to go, to yield	concession, access, recess
celeber, celebr	honored	celebrant, celebrity, celebrate
cella	storeroom	cell, cellar
censere, cens	assess, rate, estimate	census, censure
centrum, centr	center	concentric, concentrate, eccentric
centum, centi	hundred, tenth, ten	percent, centimeter, century
cernere, cern, cert	distinguish, separate, decide	discern, certitude, discernment
cerebrum	brain	cerebral, cerebrate, cerebellum
cerratanus	seller of papal indulgences	charlatan
cessare	to cease	incessant
ciere, citum, ci	move, stir, rouse, call	cite, citation
citum, cit	move, stir, rouse, call	excite, incite, solicit, solicitous

civis	citizen, community	civic, civility, civilian
clamere, claim	to shout, claim, cry out	clarify, acclaim, reclaim
clamatum, clam	to shout, claim, cry out	clamor, proclaim, declaration
clarus	bright, clear, famous	clarion, clarity
clausum, clu	to close, shut	recluse, exclude, include, conclusion, preclude
clavis	key	clavicle, clavier, enclave
clemens	mild, merciful	clemency
clinatum, cli, clin	lean, slope	incline, inclination, clinometer
coagulare	to curdle	coagulate
codex, codic	book, tree trunk	code, codicil
coercere	to surround, restrain	coerce
cogitare, cog	to think	cogent, cogitative
cogitatum, cogitat	to think	cogitate
cognoscere, cognitum	to know	incognito, cognition, ignorant cognizant
cohaerere	co-together + haerere-stick	cohere, coherence, incoherent
colare	to strain, filter	percolate, colander
color	to hide, conceal	coloration, color
commodus	suitable	commodity
complacere	to be pleased	complacency, complaisant
complere	to fill up	complete, comply, compliant
computare	to compute	count, discount
consentire (com + sentire)	to feel with	consent, consensus
concidere	to cut off	concise
conciliare	bring together, win over	conciliate, conciliatory, reconcile
conterere, contritio	ground to pieces, grief	contrite, contrition
condensus	dense, compact	condense
condere	to put together, hide	recondite
condescendere	to let oneself down	condescend
congruere	come together	congruent, incongruous
contemnere	con-with + temnere-scorn	contempt
contendere	stretch out, strive after	contentious, contend, contention
copia	abundance	copious
cor, cord, cour	heart	courage, cordial, accord
corium	skin, hide	excoriate
cornu copia	(cornu) horn (copia) plenty	cornucopia
corona	crown	corona, coronary, coronation
corpus, corpor	body	corporeal, corporation
corroborare	to strengthen	corroborate
corrumpere	destroy, spoil, bribe	corrupt
creare, crea	create, grow	create, creative
crescere, cresc	grow, increase	crescendo, accretion
cretum, cre, cret	grow, increase	increase, increment
credere, cred	to believe, to trust	credentials, incredible, credence
creditum, credit	to believe, to trust	credit
cretum, cret, crim	distinguish, separate, decide	secret, discriminate, recrimination

crimen, crimin	accusation, charge	incriminate, criminology
cruce	pot, jug	crucible
culminare	peak, summit	culminate
culpa, culp	fault, blame, guilt	culprit, culpable, exculpate
cultus, cult	to till, care	cultivate, culture, cult
cumbere, cub, cumb	to lie down	incubate, recumbent, succumb
cura, cur, curat	to care for	sinecure, secure
currere, curr	to run	recur, current
cursum, curs	to run	cursory, cursive
crux, cruc	cross, to torture	crucial, crucify, excruciating, crusade
debere, deb	to owe	debt, debtor
debitum, debit	to owe	debit
debilitare	to weaken	debilitate
decorus	fit; proper	decorum, decorous, indecorous
deffere	to bring down, yield	defer, deference
delectar	to charm	delectable, dilettante
deliberare	to consider, weigh well	deliberate
delirare	(to plow crooked) to rave	delirium, delirious
deminuere	to lessen from	deminish, diminutive
dens, dentis	tooth	denture, dentifrice, endodontia
denuntiare	to announce, denounce	denunciation, denounce
depravare	to make crooked	deprave, depravity
desiccare	to dry up completely	desiccate
determinare	to set bounds from	determined
deus, dei	god, godly	deify, deity, deism
devotus	to show reverence	devout, devotion
dexter	right, right hand	dexterous, ambidextrous
dicere, dic	to say, to spea	indict, abdicate, predicament
dictum, dict	to say, to speak	dictate, verdict, edict, indict
dies,	day	diurnal
difficilis	hard to do	difficult
diffidere	to distrust	diffidence, diffident
dignari	to consider, worthy	deign, disdain, indignant
dignus, dign	worthy	dignify, dignitary, indignant
dilatare	dis-apart + latus-wide	dilate, dilation
discordia	dis-apart + cor-heart	discord, discordant
discurrere (dis + currere)	to run to and fro	discourse
distare	to stand apart	distant
distinguere	to separate	distinguished
docere, doc	teach	doctrine, document
doctum, doct	teach	doctor
dolere, dol	be in pain, grieve	doleful, dolorous. indolent
domitare	to tame	indomitable
dominus, dominium	a lord, right of ownership	domain, dominate, domineer
domus	house, home	domesticity, domesticate, domicile
donare, don, dot	give, forgive	condone, donation, donor

dormire, dorm	to sleep	dormitory
dotare	to endow	endow, endowment
dubius, dub	doubt	dubious, indubitable
ducere, duc	to lead	seduce, induce, subduce, subdue
ductum, duct	to lead	conduct, ductile
durare, durus, dur	to harden, hard	duress, obdurate, durable, endurance
ebullire	to boil up	ebullient
effectu s	bring to pass, accomplish	effective, effectual
effluere	to flow out	effluence, effluvium
elicere	to draw out	elicit
emendare	to correct	emend, amend
emoliri	accomplish	emolument
enhaucere	to raise high	enhance
equis, equ, iqu	equal, even	equidistant, iniquity, equivalent
errare, err	wander, go astray	errant, error, err, erroneous
erraticus, errat	wander, go astray	erratic, aberration
erudire	to instruct	erudite
essentia	to be	essence, essential
ethicus	character, custom	ethical
evitare	to shun, avoid	evitable, inevitable
exemplum	a pattern, example	exemplary, exemplify
exhaustus	to draw out, exhaust	exhaustive
exhortari	ex-out + hortari-to urge	exhort, exhortation
exigere, exigens	to drive out	exigency, exigent
exoticus	foreign, strange	exotic, exotica
exorbitare	to go out of the track	exorbitant
expeditus	hasen, dispatch	expedite, expedient
exponere	to put forth	expound, expose, exposition
expungere	mark for omission, erase	expunge
extirpare	to root out	extirpate
extraneare	to treat as a stranger	estrangle
extremus	last, outermost	extreme, extremity
extricatus	to disentangle	extricate
exuberare	to come forth in abundance	exuberant, exuberance
fabula	story	fable, fabulous
facilis	easy, to make easy	facile, facility, facilitate
facere, factum, fac, fic	to do, to make	facsimile, efface, fiction, surfeit
facetia	a jest, witty	facetiae, facetious
factum, fact	to do, to make	manufacture, factory
fallere	to deceive, disappoint	fallacious, infallible
fama	fame, reputation	famous, infamous
fanaticus	enthusiastic	fanatic
fanus, fanum	a temple	profane, profanity
fari, fab, fam	speak	fame, fable, affable, famous
fastidium	loathing, disgust	fastidious
fatuus	silly	fatuous, fatuity

fecundus	fertile, fruitful	fecund, fatuity
femina	woman	female, feminine, femininity
fendere, fend	to resist, hit, strike	defend, offend, offense
ferre, fer	to carry, to bear	refer, transfer, conference, proffer
ferrum	iron	ferric, ferrous, ferrottype
fertilis	to bear fruit	fertile, fertility
fervere, ferv	boil, ferment	fervor, effervescent, fervid
fetidus	to stink	fetid
fidere, fides, fid	faith, trust, rely on	fidelity, perfidy, perfidious, fiduciary
figare, fixus	to fasten, attach	fixative, crucifix, suffix
firmare, firm	to make firm, strengthen	affirm, confirm, firmament
ingere	to touch, handle	feint, feign
finire, finis, fin	to end, limit	final, finite, infinity, confinement
fissum, fiss	split, burst	fissure
fictum, fict	form, shape, mold	fiction, fictitious
finis, fin	end, limit	final, definite
flagrare, flag, flam	to burn, flame, blaze	flammable, flagrant, conflagration
flare, flatus	blow	deflate, inflation
flectere, flect	bend, turn	deflection, inflection, reflect
flexum, flex	bend, turn	flexible
fligere, flict	to strike, drive, dash	afflict, inflict, conflict, profligate
florere, flor-	thrive, to flower	flourish, florid
fluitas, (superfluere)	to overflow	superfluous, superfluity
fluere, flu	flow	confluence, fluid, flume, influence
fluxum, flux	flow	influx
foris	out of doors, beyond	forfeit, forfeiture
forma, form	shape, beauty, constant	uniform, reform, formal
fortis, fort	strong, brave	fortify, force, forte, comfort, fortitude
fortuna, fort	chance, luck	fortunate, fortuitous
fundare, found, fund	bottom	foundation, fundamental, profound
frangere, frang	to break	frangible, fragment
frangere, frag	to break	fragment, fragile
fractrum, fract	to break	fraction, fracture
frater, fratr	brother	fraternal, fraternize
fraus, fraud	deceit, trickery	fraud, fraudulent
frivulus	fragile, silly	frivolous, frivolity
fructus, fruit, frug	fruit, produce	fruitful, fruition
frugalis	proper, worthy	frugal
fugere, fug	flee, escape	fugacious
fugitum, fugit	flee, escape	fugitive
fulmen	lightning, thunderbolt	fulminate
fumus	smoke	fumitory, fumarole
fundere, fund	to pour out, shed, scatter	refund, fusillade
fungi, fung	perform, do, discharge	function
functum, funct	perform, do, discharge	functionary
funus, funer	death, funeral	funeral, funereal

furere, fur	rave, rage	fury, furious, infuriate
furtum	theft, stealthy	furtive
fusum, fus	pour, shed, scatter	diffuse, profuse, effusive
futilis	worthless, untrustworthy	futile, futility
garrire	chatter	garrulous
genialis	of birth, generation	genial, congenital, congenial
genus, gen, gener	birth, race, kind	genre, generic, generous, generation
gestum, gest	carry, wear, wage	gestation, gesture
gladius	sword	gladiator, gladiate
globus	ball, sphere	globe, global
glutire	to devour	glutton, gluttonous
gradior, grad, gradi	walk, step; move forward	gradual, retrograde, gradient
gressum, gress	walk, step; move forward	progress, aggressive, regress
grandis, grand	great	grandeur, grandiose, grandiloquent, aggrandize
gratia	favor, grace	grace
gratus, grat	pleasing, favorable	gratitude, congratulate, ingratiate
gravis, grav, griev	heavy, serious	grave, grievance, aggravate, gravid, grief, aggrieve, gravity
grex, greg	flock, herd	congregate, segregate, gregarious
habere, hab	to have, hold, keep	habit, inhabit
habeo, habit	to have, hold, keep	habitual, habituate
haerere, her, hes	to cling, stick	adhesive, cohesive, adherent, inherent
haeresis	school of thought, sect	heretic, heresy
harmonicus	fitting, agreement	harmony, harmonic
heres, hered	heir	hereditary, heredity
herba	grass, herb	herbivorous, herbaceous
hilarare, hilaris	to gladden, merry	hilarious, exhilarate
histrion	actor	histrionics
homo, homin	man, human being	homicidal, hominize
horrere, horr	shudder, stand stiff	horrendous, abhor
hostis	enemy	hostile
humanus	mankind	humanity
humere, hum	be moist, damp	humid
humilis	lowly	humility, humiliate
id	one's own	idiom, idiosyncrasy
ignis	fire	ignite, ignition, igneous
ignorare	to have no knowledge of	ignore, ignorant
imbuer	to wet, soak	imbue
imitari, imit	to copy	imitative
imitatum, imitat	to copy	imitate, imitation
immunis	tax exempt	immune
impedire (im + pes)	"to hold the feet", entangle	impede
imponere	to place upon	impose
inanis	empty, vacant	inane
incidere	occur, to fall upon, likely	incident, incidental
incisio, incisus, cis	to cut	excise, incision, incisive, incisor

inchoare	to begin	inchoate
incurrere	to run into, attack	incur, incursion
indulgere	be kind to, yield to	indulge. indulgent
iners (in + ars)	without skill or art	inertia, inert
infere (in + ferre)	to carry in	infer
ingenerare	to beset	engender
ingenuus	native, inborn, frank	ingenuous
inhibere	hold back, restrain	inhibit
inimicus	hostile	inimical
iniquus	unequal	iniquity, iniquitous
innovare	to renew	innovate
inquirere	to seek	inquire, inquisitive
instigare	to incite, stimulate	instigate
insula, isola	island, to isolate	isolate, insulate, insular
integritas	whole, entire	integrity
intendere	aim at, stretch for	intend, intense, intensify
intricare	to entangle, perplex	intricate, intricacy
intus	within	intimate
iratus	to be angry	irate, irascible
ire, itum, it	to go	initiate, transit
iter, itiner	journey, walk	itinerant
jacere, jac	to throw, cast down	ejaculate, adjacent
jactum, ject	to throw, cast down	eject, reject, trajectory, ejecta, object, objective
jejunos	hungry or meager	jejune
jocus	joke	jocund, jocular, jocose, jocosity
jovis	roman god jupiter	jovial
judex, judic	judge, judgement	judicious, judicial, adjudicate
jugum	a yoke	subjugate
jungere, jung	to join, to meet	conjugal, conjugate, conjoin
junctum, junct	to join, to meet	junction, injunction
jus, jur, just	right, law, take an oath	abjure, perjury, conjure, jurisprudence
juvenile	young	juvenile, rejuvenate
labi, lab	slide, slip, fall	labile
laborare	to work	collaborate, elaborate
lapsus, laps	slide, slip, fall	lapse
labor	work, exertion	labor, laboratory, laborious
lacrima	a tear	lachrymal, lachrymose
lamentum	a mourning, wailing	lament
languere	to be faint, listless	languid, languish, languor
lassus	faint, weary	lassitude
latus, later	wide, sideways	latitude. lateral, unilateral
latere	to lie, hidden	latent
latum, -lat	to bear, to carry	relate, translate
laudare	to praise, glory	laudable
lavere, lut, lug, lav	to wash	dilute, deluge, lavatory

laxus	to be loose	lax, laxity
legare	to send	relegate, delegate
legere, leg	gather, choose, read	legend, elegant, elegance
lectum, lect	gather, choose, read	dialect, election, collect, select
lethargia	idle	lethargic, lethargy
lex, legis	law	legislature, illegitimate, legal
levare, lev	light, to lift, rise	levity, elevate, alleviate, relieve
liber	free	liberate, libertine, deliberate
liber, libr	book	library, libel
licere, lictum, lict	leave, quit, permitted	license, licet
ligare	to bind	allegiance, oblige, ligature
ligne, lign	line, cord	align
lignum	wood	ligneous
linqua	tongue, language	linguistics, lingual
linquere, linqu	leave, quit	relinquish
liquere, liqu	to flow, be fluid, clear	liquid, prolix
litigare	to dispute	litigate, litigant
littera	letter of the alphabet	literature, obliterate, literal, literati
livere	be black and blue	livid
locus	place	dislocate, allocate
longus	long	prolong
loquax, loquac	talkative	loquacious
loqui. loqu	speak, talk	eloquent, soliloquy
locutum, locut	speak, talk	elocution, circumlocution
lucere, luc, lum, lus	shine, be light	luminous, translucent, lucid, luster
lucidus	light, clear	elucidate
ludere, lud	to play, to mock	interlude, delude, ludicrous, elude, prelude
lugere, lugubris	to mourn	lugubrious
lusum, lus	to play, to mock	illusion, collusion
lumen	bright light	luminance, luminary, lumen
luna	moon	lunatic, lunate, lunation
lupus	wolf	lupine
lympa	water	lymph, lymphatic
macer	lean, thin	meager
macerare	make soft, or tender	macerate
magister, magistr	teacher, master	magistrate
magnus, magna	big, great, large	magnitude, magnify, magnanimous
major, maj	greater, bigger, larger	major, majestic
maximus, max	greatest, biggest, largest	maximum, maxim
manere, man	remain, dwell	manse, manor
mansum, mans	remain, dwell	mansion
malleare	to beat with a hammer	malleable
malus, mal	bad, evil, wrong	maladjusted, malice, malignant
malus, pejor	worse	pejorative
malus pessimus	worst	pessimist, pessimism, pessimistic

mandare (manus + dare)	to order, command	mandate, commandment, mandatory
manus, man, mani	hand	manual, manifest, manumit, manipulate
mare	sea	mariner, aquamarine
margo	boarderland	margin, marginal
martialis	of mars (the god of war)	martial
matea	a hoe, club	mace
mater, matr	mother, women	maternity, matriarch
materia	matter	material, materialism, materialize
mecari	to trade, buy	merchant, market
medius, mediocris	middle	intermediary, medieval, mediocre
melior	better	meliorate, ameliorate, melioration
mellifer	honey	mellifluous
memoria, memin	remember	memoir, memorable, memorandum
mendax, mendac	lying, false	mendacious, mendacity
mens	mind	mention
mensurare	to measure	measure, commensurate
merces	pay, wages	mercenary
mergere	to dip, sink	merge, merger
merx, merc	goods, wares	merchant, merchandise
metus, meticulosus	fear, fearful	meticulous
migrare. migr	move, change places	emigrant
migratum, migrat	move, change places	migratory, migration
militare, milit	to serve as soldiers	militia, military, demilitarize
ministre, ministr	attendant, servant, helper	minister, ministration
min	small	minute, miniature, diminish
minor	smaller. less	minor, minority
mimimus	smallest, least	minimal, minimize
minure	to lessen	diminish
mirare	to look at, wonder at	mirage, miracle, admiral
miscere. misc	to mix	admixture, miscellaneous, promiscuous
miser	wretched, unhappy	miser, miserable, miserly
miserari	to pity	misery, commiserate
mitigare	to make mild, soft, tender	mitigate
mittere, mit, mitt	send, let, go	emissary, remit, admittance, transmit
missum, mis, miss	send, let, go	missive, remission, demise, surmise
modestus	keeping due measure	modest, modesty
modus, mod	measure, manner, means	mode, modal, modify
moles	mass, bulk, pile	moleculr, molecular
monere, mon	to warn, advise, remind	monument, summons, remonstrate
monitum, monit	to warn, advise, remind	monitor, admonition, admonish
monotonus	one tone	monotone, monotony, monotonous
mons, mont	mountain	montage, monticule
morbus	disease	morbid
mordere, mord	bite	remorse, mordacious
morsum, mors	bite	morsel
morsus	peevish, fretful	morose

mors, mort	death, to die	immortal, morgue, morbid, moribund
mos, mor	manner, custom	morality, mores
movere, mov	to move	locomotive, motive, motility
motum, mot	to move	motion, motor, motif
multus, multi	many	multitude, multiply, multimedia
munificus	bountiful	munificent
murmure	to murmur, roar	murmur
murus	wall	mural, intramural
mus, mur	mouse	murid, murine
musivus	artistic, of a muse	mosaic
mutare, mutatum, mut	to change	mutation, mutant, permutation, mutable, immutable
nasci, nat, nas, nai	to bear, be born	native, prenatal, natural, innate, renaissance
nativus	natural, native	naïve, naivete
navis	ship	navy, navigate
negare	to deny	negation, abnegate
nemus, nemor	wood, grove	nemophila
nervous	tendon, sinew	nervous, nervy, nerve
neuter	ne-not + uter-neither	neuter, neutral, neutrality
nihil, nihil	none, nothing, not any	annihilate, nihilism, nil
nocere, nec, noc, nox	to harm, injure	internecine, innocuous, obnoxious
momen, nom, nym	name	nominate, misnomer, nomenclature
norma	rule	normative
noster	ours	nostrum
notare	to mark, note	notation, connotation, annotation
notum, not	know	notable, notation
novus, nov, nou	new, fresh	renovate, novice, novel
nox, noct	night	nocturnal, equinox
nullus, nul, null	not any, none	null, annul, nullify
numerosus	number	enumerate, numerable, innumerable
numisma	a coin	numismatic, numismatist
nuntiare	to announce	denounce
nutrire	nourish	nutriment
nuntiare, nunc, nunc	to report, tell	announce, renounce, pronounce
nucella, nux, nuc	nut	nucellus, nuclear
obliterare	to blot out	obliterate
obscurus	covered over	obscure
obstare	to stand against, oppose	obstinate
obviare	to prevent	obviate
oculus	eye	monocle, binocular, ocular
odium	hatred	odium, odious
officius	to do work	office, officious
ominosus	evil omen	ominous
omnis, omni	all	omnipotent, omniscient
onus, oner	burden	onerous, exonerate
opacus	shady dark	opaque, apacity

opponere, oppositus	against	opposite, opposition
optare	choose	option, opinion
optimus, optim	best	optimum, optimism
opus, oper	work	operative, opus, opera, operate
ordo, ordin	rank, row, order	ordinal
oriri, ori	rise	origin, original
os, oss	bone	ossicle, ossify
oscillare	to swing	oscillate
ostendere	to show against	ostensible, ostentation
palatum	to the palate	palatable
palpare	to feel, stroke	palpable, palpitate
pallere, pall	be pale, yellow, or faded	pallid, palor
palliare	to conceal, cloak	palliate, palliative
par, parare	equal, to make equal	par, disparate
paradigma	to show, example	paradigm
parage	rank	peer
parcere	to spare	parsimony
parens, parere	to appear	apparent, transparent
parere, par	prepare, get ready, equal	disparate, parity, preparedness
pars, part	part	particle, partisan, bipartisan
passus, pati, passum	suffer, endure	patient, passive, passion
pater, patr	father	paternal, patronize, expatriate
pauci, pau	few	paucity, pauper
pauper, po, pov, pu	poor person, poor	poverty, impoverish, pauper
pax, pac, peac	peace	pacify, appease, pact
pecunia	money	pecuniary, impecunious
pejor	worst	pejorative
pellere, pell	driven, to push	compel, expel, propellant
pelsum, puls	to push	pulsate, impulsive
pendere, pend	to hang, weigh, play	impending, appendage, suspend, pending, penchant
penser, pensum, pens	to hang, weight, play	expense, dispense, pensive, indispensable
penuria	want, scarcity	penury, penurious
perfidia	faithlessness, to deceive	perfidy, perfidious
perfungi	get rid of, discharge	perfunctory
peroratus	to pray, speak, orate	perorate
perquisitum	something required	perquisite
pervadere (per + vadere)	to go through	pervade, pervasive
pervius	per (through) via (way)	pervious, impervious
pes, ped, pod	foot	pedal, pedestrian, expedition, podiatrist
pessimus	worst	pessimist, pessimism, pessimistic
pestis	plague	pestilence, pestiferous, pestilent
petere, pet, pit	aim at, seek, attack	impetuous, petulant, propitious
petitum, petit	aim at, seek, attack	petition
pictum, pict	paint, tattoo	picture, pictorial
pius	devoted to duty, godly	pious, piosity

placere, plac	please, be agreeable	placate, placebo, implacable
placitum, placit	please, be agreeable	placid, complacent
planus	flat, even	plane
plaudere, plaud	beat, clap, approve	applaud, plaudit, implode
plausum, plaus	beat, clap, approve, true	plausible
plexum, plex, plic	weave, plait, fold, tangle	complicate, implicate, complex
plenus,	full	plenty, replenish, plethora
plicare, plic, plicat	to fold, bend	complicate, explicit, implicit
plere, ple, plet, plen	to fill, full	complete, implement, deplete, replete
plus, pluris, plu	more, further	surplus, plurality, nonplus
poenalis, pen, pun	to pay, compensate	penalty, punitive, penance
pompa	solemn procession	pomp, pompous, pomposity
ponderare	to weigh	ponder, ponderous
ponere, pon	to place, put	component
positum, pos, pound	to place, put	position, opposite, expound
populus	people	populace, popularity
portere, port	carry	portable, portage, export, import
portio	share, portion	apportion, proportion
posterus	next, following	preposterous
potens	powerful, able	potentate, potent, potential
praecedere	to precede	precedence, unprecedented
praecipitare	before, ahead	precipice, precipitate
praedicare	to proclaim, declare	preach
precarius, prec	to request, beg, prayer	precarious, imprecate
prediligere	to prefer	predilection
prehendere,prehend	seize, grasp	apprehend, comprehend
prehensum, prehens	seize, grasp	reprehensible, comprehensive
prise	seize, grasp	comprise, reprisal
pressare	to press, squeeze	press, pressure, repress
pressum, press	squeeze	depress, oppress, impress, suppress
pretiare, prec	to value	precious, depreciation
primus, primo	first	primordial, primary, prime
pristinus	former	pristine
privare	separate, peculiar	privilege, deprive
probare, prob	to prove, test	probation, prove, probity
prodigere	wasteful	prodigal
prodigiosus	marvelous	prodigious, prodigy
profanus	before a temple	profane, profanity
progresse	to step, to go forward	progress, progressive
proles	offspring	prolific, proliferate
prolongare	lengthen, extend in time	prolong
promere	to bring forth	prompt
promittere	to promise	compromise
prope	near	approach, reproach
propendere	to hang or lean foreward	propend, propensity
propinquus	near	propinquity

proprius	ones' own, peculiar	property, proprietary, propriety
prosa	direct speech	prose, prosaic
prosperare	succeed, thrive, grow	prosper, prosperous
providere, providens	to see before, cautious	provide, prudent, providence, improvident
provincia	territory outside of rome	province, provincial
proximus	nearest	proximity, approximate
pudere, pudens	to feel shame, modest	impudent
pugnare, pug	to fight, boxer	pugilist, repugnant
pugnare, pugn	to fight, boxer	pugnacious, impugn, repugnant
pungere, pung	prick, sting	pungent, expunge
punctum, punc	prick, sting	punctual, puncture, compunction
pungere, poign, point	prick, sting	poignant, pointed
pulcher, pulchr	beautiful	pulchritude
purgare	to clean	purge, purgatory
putare, put	to think, reckon, consider	computer, compute
putatum, putat	to think, reckon, consider	reputation, computation
putris	rotten	putrid, putrify
quaerere, que	ask, seek	conquer, quest, acquire, query
quaesitum, quis	ask, seek	inquisitive, exquisite, acquisition
qualis	of what sort, kind	quality, qualify
quantus, quande	how great, how much	quandary
quattuor	four	quarterly, quatrain, quaternary
queri	complain	querulous
quies, qui	quite	tranquil, acquiesce, quiescent
quotus	how many	quorum, quotient
rabies	madness	rabid
radius	ray, beam, rod	radian, radiation
radix, radic	root	radicle, radical, eradicate
rancere, ranc	be stinking	rancid
rapere, rap	to seize, snatch	rape, rapacious, rapine
raptum, rapt	to seize, snatch	rapture, rapt
ratio, ration	reckoning, account	reason, ration
ratum, rat	think, suppose, consider	rational, irrational
ratus	to reckon	ratify
raucus	to mutter, give hoarse cries	raucous
recalcitrare	to kick back	recalcitrant
reciprocus	returning	reciprocate, reciprocal
rectificare	to correct	rectify
recipere	to take back	receive, receipt, receptive
rectum, rect	direct, in a straight line	rectitude
redundare	to overflow	redundant
refere, relatus	to bring back	refer, relate, correlate
reformare	to make better	reform
refutare	to repel	refute
regere, rectus	right, to make straight	erect, rectitude

regere, rex, regis	to rule, king, direct	regimen, direct, regular, regency
regnum	to reign	interregnum
removere	to remove	remote
renda	to tear apart	rend
renuntiare	to tell back	renounce
repletus	to fill again	replete, repletion
repellere	to repel, reject	repulse, repellent, repel
repressus	to hold back	repress
reprobare	rebuke, censure	reprove
repudiare	to put away, divorce	repudiate
rescindere	to cut off	rescind
residere	remaining	residue, residual
resilire	(salire) to jump, (re-) back	resile, resilient
respectus	to look at, look back on	respect, respite
resplendere	shining brightly	resplendent
retrahere	to draw back	retract
revelatio, revelare	disclose, reveal	revelation
rex, reg	king	regal
ridere, risum, rid, ris	to laugh at	derision, ridicule, risible, deride
rigere, rig	to be stiff, numb	rigor, rigorous, rigid, rigidity
rogare, rog	ask, stretch out the hand	arrogance
rogatum, rogat	ask, stretch out the hand	interrogate, rogation, abrogate
rotare, rotatus, rota	to turn, wheel, turned	rotation, rotary, rotor, rotund
ruffelen	to scratch	ruffle
rumpere, rump	to break, destroy	abrupt, rupture
ruptum, rupt	to break, destroy	interrupt, corrupt, corruptive
rus, rur	country	rural
saccharum	sugar	saccharine
sacrare, sanct, secr	holy	desecrate, consecrate, sanctify
sacrare, sacr	holy	sacred, sacrament
sagax, sagacis, sapare	wise, to know, to taste	sage, sagacious, sapient
sal	salt	saline
salire, sal, sil	to leap, jump	sally, salutatory, salient, resilient
saltum, sault, sult	to leap, jump	assault, desultory, somersault
salus, salut	health, safety	salute, salutary, salubrious
salvare	to save	salvation, salvage, save
sanctus, sanct	holy	sanctify, sanction, sanctuary
sanguis, sanguin	blood (cheerful)	sanguine, consanguinity
sanitas, sanatorius	health, healthy	sanitation, sanitary
sanus	sound	sanity
sapor, sapere	to taste	savor, insipid
satis, satiare, sat	enough, to fill, full	sated, insatiable, satisfy, satiate
satura	a satire, poetic medley	satire, satiric
saquire	perceive clearly	sagacious
scala	stairs, ladder	scale
scandere, scand	climb	ascend, ascension, descendant

scire, sci	to know, knowing	omniscient, science, conscious
scribere, scrib	write, incise, scratch	scribe, describe, transcribe
scriptum, script	write, incise, scratch	subscription, script, manuscript
scrupus	sharp stone	scruple, scrupulous
scrutari	to search into carefully	scrutiny, scrutinize
secare, sec	to cut	section, sectional, sector
sectum, sect	to cut	intersection
securus	free from care	secure, security
sedere, sed	to sit	sediment, preside, reside
semen, semin	to sow, seed	seminal, disseminate, seminary
senex, sen	old man	senate
sensus, sensu	feeling	sensual
sentiere, sent	to feel, perceive, think	sentient, sentiment, consent, dissent
sensum, sens	to feel, perceive, think	sensation, sensible, sensory, dissension
sepsis	poison, rotting	septic, antiseptic, aseptic
sequi, seq	to follow, following	sequential, sequence
secutum, sec, secut	to follow	second, prosecute
sera	a saw	serrate, serrated, serration
serenus	dry, clear, calm	serene, serenity
servare, serv	save, protect, keep, hold	servant, reserve, reserved
servus	slave	servitude, service
sessum, sess, sed, sid	to sit, plan, plot	session, preside, residual, subsidy
severitas	harsh, strict	severity, severe
sidere	to settle	subside
signare, sign	to sign, to mark out	signature, consign, resignation
simplex, simplic	single, simple	simple, simplex, simplicity
similare, similis	to make like	similar, facsimile, simulation, assimilate
sinister	lefthanded, unlucky	sinister
sinus	a bend	sinuous
sobrius	sober, moderate	sober, sobriety
socius, sociare	companion, follower	society, social, association
sol	sun	solar, solstice
solare, solus, sol	to make lonely, alone	solo, solitary, sullen
sollicitus	anxious, worried	solicit, solicitous
soloecismus	speaking incorrectly	solecism
solutum, sol	loosen, release, undo	dissolute, soluble, resolute
solvere, solv	loosen, release, undo	solvent, resolve, insolvent
somnus	sleep	somnolent, sopor, soporific
sonus, sonare	to sound	dissonance, unison, sonorous
sonus, sonare	to sound	resound, sonata, dissonant
sors, sortis	lot, a share	sort, consortium
spatiosus	large area	spacious
specere, spec, spic	see, look at	specimen, conspicuous, specific
spectum, spect	see, look at	inspect, spectacle, retrospect
spirare, spir	to breathe, breath	aspire, inspire
spiratum, spirat	breath	respiration, inspiration

spondere, sponsus	to pledge, promise	sponsor, respond, responsive
spontaneus	of free will	spontaneous, spontaneity
sporadicus	to scatter	sporadic
spurius	false, illegitimate	spurious
squalere, squal	be rough, foul, or filthy	squalid, squalor
squandere	to scatter	squander
stagnare	pool, swamp	stagnate, stagnation
stare, stet, sta	to stand	stable, stagnant, contrast
statum, stat	to stand	status, statue, static, stanza
stellare, stella	to shine, star	stellar, constellation
sterilis	barren	sterile
stinguere, stingu	to prick, to quench	distinguish, extinguish
stinctum, -stinct	to prick, to quench	distinct, distinction, distinctive
stolidus	firm, slow, stupid	stolid
strategema	act of a general	strategy, stratagem
stratum, strat	layer, spread	stratify, stratum
striare	groove, channel, lined	striated
stringere, string	draw tight, bind	astrigent, stringent
strictum, strict	draw tight, bind	strict, constriction
stridere	rasp	strident
struere, stru	build, construct, spread	structure, misconstrue, instrument
structum, struct	build, construct, spread	instruct
studere, stud	diligent, zealous, study	student, studious
stupere, stup	be stunned	stupor
suavis, sua	sweet, smooth	suave, assuage, persuade
substare (sub + stare)	to stand under, present	substance, substantive
subtilis	fine, thin, precise	subtle, subtlety
succedere	to go under, follow after	succeed, succession, successive
succinctus	short, contracted	succinct
summonere	to remind privily	summons, summon
summus	highest	summit
sumptus	expense, cost	sumptuous
superlatus	excessive	superlative
supplantare	to trip up	supplant
supponere	to suppose, assume	supposition
surgere, surrection	to rise, risen	insurgency, insurrection, resurrection
surrepticius	to take away secretly	surreptitious
sycophania	informer, toady	sycophant
symbolus	token, pledge	symbolism
tabula	board, tablet	tablet, tabloid, table
tacere, tac, tic	to be silent	tacit, taciturn, reticent
taedet	to disgust, offend	tedium, tedious
taliare	to cut, split, prune	tailor
talio	punishment in kind	retaliate, retaliation
tangere, tactus, tang	to touch	tangent, tangible, tangential
tactum, tact	to touch	tactile, tactual

tardus	to make slow	tardy, retard
tegere, teg	cover, hide, defend	integument
tectum, tect	cover, hide, defend	detection, protect
temere, temeritas	rashly, blindly	temerity
temetum	strong drink	abstemious
temnere	to scorn	contemn, contempt
temperare	to temper, mix, regulate	temperate, temperance, temperament
tempus, tempor	time	temporal, contemporize, temporize
tendere, tend	stretch, spread, aim	contend, tend, extend, distend
tentum, tent, ten	stretch, spread, aim	pretentious, extensive
tensum, tens	stretch, spread, aim	tension, tensor
tendere	to stretch, extend, tend	tendency, tendentious
tenere, ten, tain	hold, keep	tenacious, contain, detain, tenure
tentare, tent	to touch, try	tentative
tenuis, tend, tens	thin, stretched	extend, tenuous, tendency, tendon
tenuis, tent, tenu	thin, stretched	tentative, contend, tenuous, extenuating
tepere	be lukewarm	tepid
tergere	to wipe	terse
terminus	boundry, end	terminator, terminal, determine
terere, ter, trit	rub away, tread, wear out	detriment
terra	land, earth	terrace, terra firma
terrere, terr	frighten	terror, deter, terrorism
testis	witness	testament, testify, testimony
texere, textum, text	weave, build	text, texture, textual, texturized
theoria	a looking at, speculation	theory, theoretical
timere, tim	fear	timid, timorous
tingere, ting	dip, soak, moisten, dye	tinge
tinctum, tinct	dip, soak, moisten, dye	tincture
tirare	to draw fire	tirade
tirer	to draw	retire, retiring
tonsum, tons	shear, clip, shave	tonsorial, tonsure
torpere, torp	be stiff, numb	torpid, torpor
torquere, torqu	to twist, turn	torque
tortum, tort	to twist, turn	contortionist, extort, torture, tortuous
torrere, torr	parch, scorch	torrid
toxicare, toxicum	to smear with poison	toxic, toxin, toxicant
tradere	to deliver	extradite, tradition
traducere	exhibit, disgrace	traduce
trahere, tra	to draw, drag	trait, trace
tractum, tract	to draw, drag, pull	subtract, tractable, protract
tradere	to give, deliver over	tradition, treason
tragicus	suffer	tragic, tragedy
transcendere	trans + scandere- to climb	transcend, transcendent
transigere	to come to a settlement	transact, intransigent
transire (trans + ire)	to go across	transit, transitory
tremere, trem	quake, quiver	tremble, tremendous, tremor

trepidare	to tremble	tremulous, trepidation
tribuere, tributus, tribus	to assign, allot, pay	tribute, distribute, attribute
trivialis	commonplace, unimportant	trivial, trivia, trivialize
trudere	to thrust	abstruse
truncus	stem, trunk	trunk, truncate, truncheon
trux, truc	wild, rough, fierce	truculent
trudere, trud, trus	to push, thrust	protrude, intrusion, unobtrusive
tumere, tum	swell, be swollen	tumescence, tumult, tumor
turba, turb	uproar, disturbance	perturb, turbulence, turbid
turpis	base, vile	turpitude
ubique	(ubi) where, (qua) any	ubiquitous, ubiquity
ultimus, ulti	last	ultimate
umber (sub+umbrare)	shade, (under the shade)	somber, adumbrate
universus	all together	universal, universality, university
unda, und	wave	undulate, abundant
uniformis	one form, unchanging	uniform, uniformity
unus, uni	one	unicorn, unicycle
urbs, urb	city	urban, exurb
usum, us	to use	usage, abuse, usurp
uter	neither	neuter, neutral
utor, uti	to use	utility, utilization, utilize
vacare, vacuus	empty	vacuous, evacuate
vacillare	to stagger	vacillate
vadere, vasun, vad	to go, make ones way	vademecum, evade, evasive
vagari, vagus	to wander	vagrant, vagaries, vague
vanescere	to vanish	evanescent
vanus	vain, boastful	vaunted
vasum, -vas	a vessel, dish	vascular, vasectomy
valere, validum, val	to be strong, be well	valor, valid, evaluate, validity
varicar	to straddle, walk crookedly	prevaricate
varius	colored, diverse	variable, variant, vary, variegated
vehemens	eager	vehement
vehere	carry	vehicle, vehicular
velle, volens	to wish, willing	volition, benevolent
vena	blood vessel	vein, venous
vendere, vend	sell	vend, vendor, venal
venenum	poison	venom, venomous
veneratus	to worship	venerate, veneration
venire, veni, ven	come, move toward	intervene, convention, contravene
ventum, vent, venu	come, move toward	adventure, venue, invention
ventus	wind	vent, ventilate
venter, ventr	stomach	ventral, ventricle
verbum, verb	word	verbatim, proverb, adverb, verb
vereri	to feel awe	revere
vergere	to turn, bend	converge, divergent
vermis	worm	vermin, verminous

verus, ver	true	verify, aver, verdict, veracity
versum, vers	to turn, change	versatile, aversion, diverse
vestire, vest	to dress, garment	vestment, vest, divest, investiture
vestigium	track, footprint	vestigial, vestige
vertere, vert, ver	to turn, change	revert, introvert, subvert, introversion, diverse, divert
verticalis	the top, turning point	vertical, vertex
vexare, vex	shake, toss, trouble	vex
vexatum, vexat	shake, trouble, distress	vexation
via	way, road	via, viaduct
videre, vid	to see	evident, provide, provident
visum, vis, view	to see	visual, visible, review, supervise, visionary
vigere, vig	thrive, flourish	vigorous, vigor, vigorish
vilis	cheep, base	vile, vilify
vincere, vinc	conquer, win	invincible, convince, conviction
vindicta	revenge, to claim, avenge	vindictive, vindicate
violare, violatus	to use force	violate, inviolate, violence
victum, vict	conquer, win	victor, victory, victorious
vino, vinum, vinosus	wine	vinous, vintage, viticulture
vir, virtus	man, manliness, worth	virtue, virtuous, triumvirate
virus	slime, poison	virus, virulent, virulence
vitium	fault, flaw, offence	vitiate
vivere, vita, viv, vi	to live, life, lively	revive, convivial, vital, vivid
victim, vic, vict	to live, life, lively	vicarious, viable, vitality
vocere, voc, vok	to call, voice	vocal, invoke, revoke, provocative
vocatum, vocat	to call, voice	vocation, convocation, vocative, advocate
vociferatus	to cry out	vociferous, vociferate
vocitus, vacare	to be empty	void, vacant
voluntas	free will	voluntary, volunteer
volvere, volutum	to turn	revolve, devolve, revolt, voluble
vorere	to eat, devour	voracious, carnivore, omnivorous
vocalis, vox, voc	voice	vocal, vocalise
volare	to fly	volatile
volo, vol	to wish, to will	voluntary, volition
volumen	a roll, scroll	volume, voluminous
votum, vot	promise, wish, vow	vote, votive, vow
vox	voice	voice, vocal, vocalise
vulgus	the common crowd, rabble	vulgar, vulgarize, vulgarian
vulnerare	to wound	vulnerable

5. GREEK PREFIXES

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
a-, an-	not, without	apolitical, anoxia, amoral, atypical
acro-	top, end	acrobat
allo-	other	allocate

amb-, amphi-	around	amphitheater, ambit, ambiance
amb-, amph-	both, more than one	amphibious, ambiguous, ambivalent
ana-, an-	up, back, again, similar to	anadromous, anagram, analogy
andro-, andr-	human, male	androgynous, android,
anti-, ant-	instead, against	antacid, antisocial, antipodes, antipathy
apo-, ap-	away, from, off, utterly	apogee, apocryphal, apostasy
archae-	ancient	archaeology
auto-	self	automatic, autocrat, autonomy
bi-	two, twice	bipolar, biannual, bigamy, bilateral
caco-	bad	cacophony
cata-, cat-	down, down from, against	catacomb, catapult, catastrophe
deca-	ten	decade
dermat-	skin	dermatitis
deutero-	second, farther	deuteronomy
dia-, di-	through, across	diagram, dialysis, dialect, dialogue
dis-, di-	two, through, across	dilemma, dissect
dys-	bad, difficult, faulty	dysfunctional (ill-, un-, mis-)
ec-, ex-	out, from, off	exit
eco-	environment, habitat	ecosphere, ecosystem, ecotype
ecto-	on the outside, without	ectoderm, ectomorphic
en-, em-	in, into	energy
endo-	within, inside, internal	endocrine, endocranium
ennea-	nine	ennead
epi-, ep-	upon, at, over, near	epicenter, episode, epidermis
eso-	inward, within	esoteric, esotropa
eu-	good, well	euphony, euphemism, eugenics, euphoria
exo-	outside, external	exoteric, exclude
hecato-	hundred	hecatomb
hemi-	half	hemisphere
hepta-	seven	heptagon
hetero-	unlike, other	heterogeneous, heterodoxy
hexa-	six	hexagon
hier-	sacred	hieroglyphics
holo-	whole	holistic
homeo-	like, similar	homeopathy, homeostasis
homo-	like, similar	homogeneous, homonym
hyper-	over, above, beyond	hyperactive, hyperbole
hypo-	under, less than	hypocrite, hypodermic, hypothetical
idio-	individual	idiosyncrasy
ideo-	idea	ideologue
iso-	equal	isometric, isobar
kilo-	thousand	kilogram, kilohertz
macro-	large	macroscopic
mega-, megal-	large	megaton, megalopolis, megalomania
meso-	middle	mesolithic, mesoderm

meta-	among, between, beyond	metathesis, metaphysical
micro-	small	microscopic
mono-	one	monorail
myriad-	ten thousand	myriad
neo-	new	neoclassical
octo-	eight	octogenarian, octopus
olig-	few	oligarchy
ortho-	straight, regular, upright	orthopedic, orthogenesis
paleo-	ancient	paleolithic
palin-, pali-	back, again, backwards	palindrome
pan-	all	pandemic, panorama, panacea, pan-american
para-	beside, beyond, near, incorrectly, resembling	paragraph, paranormal, paradox, paradigm
pachy-	thick	pachyderm
penta-	five	pentagon, pentagram
peri-	around, about	perimeter, periphery, perihelion, perigee
poly-	many	polychromatic, polyglot, polygamy
pro-	before, forward, for	procrastinate
pros-	to, toward, besides	prosenchyma
proto-	first	prototype, protoplasm
pseudo-	false	pseudonym
schizo-	cleave, cut, split	schizophrenia
syn-, sym-, sys-	together, with	symmetric, synopsis, synthesis
tauto-	same	tautological
tele-	far, distant	telephone, telegraph
teleo-	end, result	teleology
tetra-	four	tetrameter
tri-	three	trimester

6. GREEK SUFFIXES

SUFFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
-ac, -iac	pertaining to	cardiac, hypochondriac
-agia, algia-	pain	neuralgia
-ast	one who does	dicast
-cracy	government	democracy
-clasm	destruction	iconoclasm
-emia	condition of the blood	anemia
-genesis	creation, formation	parthenogenesis
-genic	suitable	photogenic
-gram	record	electrocardiogram
-graph	written	monograph, telegraph
-graphy	process/method of writing	photography, calligraphy
-ia, -y	act, state of	polity, euphoria, dyslexia
-iatrics	treatment of disease	pediatrics
-iatry	healing	psychiatry

-ic	pertaining to, one who	dogmatic, aristocratic
-ical	pertaining to, made of	political, angelical
-ic, -ice	art, science, study of	politics
-ine	used to form feminine nouns	heroine
-ite	inhabitant of, product	sybarite, lucite
-itis	inflammation	tendonitis, bronchitis, neuritis
-ise, -ize	to make to give	proselytize, sanitize
-isk, iscus	little	asterisk
-ism	the belief in, profession of	hylozoism, euphemism, baptism
-ist	one who believes in	platonist
-latry	worship of	idolatry
-lite, -lith	stone	megalith
-logue	manner of speaking	monologue
-logy	science or study of	geology
-lysis	loosening	analysis
-ma, -m, -me	result of	dogma, theorem, theme
-mancy	prophecy	necromancy
-mania	madness for	pyromania
-meter	to measure	centimeter
-oid	resembling, like, shaped	humanoid, android
-ology	science or study of	geology
-oma	tumor	melanoma
-orama	view	panorama
-osis	abnormal condition	halitosis
-pathy	feeling, disease	antipathy, osteopathy
-philia	love, affinity for	anglophilia, homophilia
-philic	love, affinity for	audiophilic
-phobia	fear of	claustrophobia
-phor	that which carries	metaphor
-phoria	production of	euphoria
-phorous	producing	phosphorous
-poly	sale, selling	monopoly
-scope	instrument for visual exam	telescope, microscope
-sis	act, state of	metamorphosis
-therapy	to nurse, care for	hydrotherapy
-tic	pertaining to	static, enigmatic
-y	state of being	antipathy

7. GREEK NUMBER FORMS

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
mono-	one	monogram
bi-	two	bipolar
tri-	three	trimester, tricycle
tetra-	four	tetrameter
penta-	five	pentagon
hexa-	six	hexagon

hepta-	seven	heptagon
octo-	eight	octogenarian
ennea-	nine	ennead
deca-	ten	decade
hecato-	hundred	hecatomb
kilo-	thousand	kilogram
myriad-	ten thousand	myriad
mega-	one million	megahertz, megabyte

8. GREEK BASE WORDS

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLES
Acro	tip, top, apex	acropolis, acrophobia
aesth, aesth	feeling	aesthetics
aer, aer	lower air	aerobic, aerodynamic
Aden	gland	adrenal
agogos, agog	leader	demagogue, pedagogic
agon, agon	contest, struggle	antagonist, agony
agro, agros	field, earth, soil	agriculture, agronomy
Aigis	goatskin cloak; shield	aegis
Akme	top point	acme
Algia	pain	neuralgia
allos, allo	other	allotropic, allomorph, allopathic, allogamy
anthropos, anthrop	man, stamen	anthropomorphic
Anemo	wind	anemometer, anemophilous
Athl	prize	decathlon
ainigma	riddle	enigma, enigmatic
Anthropos	man	anthropology
archos, arch	chief, first, rule	monarch, archangel, archipelago, anarchy
archaeo, archaios	ancient, old	archaeology, archeozoic
aristo, aristos	best	aristocracy, aristocrat
Arithmos	number	arithmetic
Askein	exercised, austere	ascetic
aster, astro, astr	star	astronomy, astronaut, astral
Atmos	steam, vapor	atmosphere
auto, autos, auto	self	autoimmune, autobiography
Axioma	authority, to think worthy	axiom
ballein, bal	throw	ball, ballistics
baro, baros, bar	weight, pressure	barometer, barograph
Barbaros	foreign, barbarian	barbaric, barbarous
Barys	heavy	hyperbaric
bat, bat	go	acrobat
batho, batho	depth	bathysphere
biblos, biblio, bibl	book	bibliography, bible
bios, bio	life	biography, bionics, biopsy
Blasphemein	speak evil of	blasphemy

Caco	bad, poor, evil	cacophony
caut, caust	burn	cauterize, caustic
Center	center	center
Cephal	head	encephalitis
chiro, chir	hand	chiropractor, criropter
Chroma	color	monochromatic
chronos, chron	time	chronicle, chronology, synchronize
Clin	lean	incline, thermocline
cosmos, cosm	order, world	cosmology, cosmic
crat, cras	type of government	bureaucrat, theocracy, democracy
Crit	judge	criticize
crypto, crypt	hide, conceal	encryption, cryptogram
cyclos, cycle	circle, wheel	bicycle, cyclorama
Cynicus	a greek philosopher	cynic, cynicism
deleisthai, deleterios	destroyer, harmful	deleterious
demos, dem, demo	the people	endemic, demographic, democrat
Dendron	tree	dendroid
derma, derm	skin	dermatology, hypodermic, endodermic
diatribe	a wearing away	diatribe
Didakikos	apt at speaking	didactics
didonai, dosis	give	dose, dosage
doxo, dox	belief, opinion	orthodox, heterodoxy, doxology
dran, dra	to do, act	dramatize
Drom	running course	aerodrome
dynamis, dyn	force, power	dynamic, dynamo, dyne
Eidyllion	form, figure, image	idyll, idyllic
Eirene	peace	irenic
Eiron	dissemble in speech	irony, ironic, ironical
Eklegein	to select, pick out	eclectic
elektron, electro	amber (electric)	electron
Ekleipsis	a defect, fall short	ellipsis, elliptical, ellipse
Enkomion	hymn to a victor	encomium
Entom	insect	entomology
ep,	word	epigraph
Ephemeris	for the day, shortlived	ephemeral, ephemeris, ephemeron
Episteme	knowledge	epistemology
ergon, erg	work, deed	ergonomic
Esoteikos	inner	esoteric
Esthesia	feel sensation	anesthesia, aesthetics
Ether	upper air	ethereal
ethnos, ethn	nation, people	ethnic
ethos, eth	character, moral	ethos, ethical
Etym	root	etymology
Exo	outside	exocarp
Galakt	milk	galactic
gamos, gam	marriage	polygamy, monogamy

gastro-	belly, stomach	gastric, gastritis
geno, gen	kind, type, race	gender, genesis
ge, geo	earth	geography, geodesic, geometry, apogee,
glossal, glot	language	polyglot, glossary, monoglot
Glyph	carving	hieroglyphics, petroglyph
gno, gnos,	know	diagnosis, ignore, incognito, cognitive
Gon	angle	polygon, pentagon
Gonos	to produce	cosmogony, theogony
gramma, gram	written, drawn	telegram, lithography
graphein, gram	write, record	telegram
graphein, graph	write, record	graphic
Gyn	woman	gynecology, misogyny
Hedonikos	pleasure	hedonic, hedonistic, hedonism
hedra, hedron	side, base	hexahedral, polyhedron
Hemi	half	hemisphere
hemo, hema, hem	blood	hemoglobin, hemorrhage, hemotoma
homos, homo	one and the same	homonym, homogeneous, homosexual
helios, helio	sun	heliocentric, heliotropic, aphelion
helix, helic	spiral	helix, helicoid
hemisus, hemi-	half	hemisphere
Hiero	sacred, holy	hieroglyphic
hippos, hipp	horse	hippodrome
histanai, sta, ste	stand	static
Hybris	exaggerated pride	hubris
hydor, hydr	water	hydrotherapy, hydrology, hydroponics
Hypno	sleep	hypnosis, hypnotoxin
Hypocrita	stage actor	hypocrite, hypocrisy
Icon	image	icon
Ichthy	fish	ichthyology
Ideo	idea	ideogram
iris, irid	rainbow, iris	iridescent
isos, iso	equal, alike	isometric, isotope
k(c)ine, kine, cine	movement	kinesthetic, cinema
k(c)ardia), card	heart	cardiac
k(c)lastes	breaker, broken	iconoclast
k(c)lino, cli	to bend, slant	inclination, declination, decline, recline
k(c)oma	deep sleep	comatose
k(c)ranion,	skull	cranial
k(c) risis, crit	to sift, separate	crisis, criterion, critic, critical
k(c)rypto	hidden	crypt, cryptic, cryptography
Lakon	a lanconian, spartan	laconic
Laos	the people	laity, laic, liturgy
Latreia	service, worship	idolatry
Legein	to choose, pick	logic
Lemma	proposition	dilemma

lithos, lith	stone	megalith
logos, -log	word, reason, study	monologue, logic
Lysis	loosen	analysis, electrolysis
macros, macro	enlarged	macrocosm
Malagma	an emollient	amalgam
Mania	madness	pyromania, kleptomania
Mega	large, powerful	megalith
Megalo	great, enlarged	megalomania
metron, meter	measure	metric, geometrical, thermometer
micros, micro	small	microcosm
mimos, mim	imitate	mime, mimic
misein, mis, miso	hate	misanthrope, misogynist
mnem-		memory, mnemonic
Monos	one, alone	monocle, monosyllable
Morph	form, shape	amorphous, metamorphosis
mucus, muco	slime	mucous
Mytho	myth	mythological
naus, nautes, -nau	ship, sailor	nautical, astronaut
Necro	death, corpse	necropolis
neos, neo	new, young	neophyte, neologism
neuron, neuro	nerve	neurology, neuritis
Nom	rule	anomaly, anomalous
Nomos	law, science	astronomer
Nostos	a return	nostalgia
Oasis	fertile spot	oasis
Od	path	exodus
odont-	tooth	odontoid, odontology
Oikos	house	ecology
Oikonomia	household management	economy, economical
Oligio	few, scant, small	oligarchy
onoma, onym	name	acronym, homonym, anonymous
opsis, optic	sight, view, eye	optician, optical, synopsis, synoptic
Ophthalmo	eye	ophthalmologist
ornis, ornith	bird	ornithology
Oro	mountain	orology
Orthos	right, correct	orthogenesis
Osteo	bone	osteopath
pais, paidos	child	pediatric
Paleo	ancient, early	paleolithic
Panegyris	public meeting	panegyric
pas, pan, pant	all, entire, every	panoply, pandemonium, pantheon
pater, patr	father	patrician, patron, paternal, patriarch
Path	disease	pathology, pathogen
pathos, patho	feeling, suffering	empathy, antipathy, sympathy
ped, ped	child, instruction	pediatric, encyclopedia, pedagogue
pelagos	sea	pelagic

Periphos	moving around	periphery, peripheral
petros, petr	rock, stone	petrified
phago, phag	eat, eating	phagocyte, esophagus
Phan	show, make appear	phantom, fantasy, emphasis
Philanthropia	love of mankind	philanthropy
philos, phil	love, tendency	philharmonic, philately, philosophy, bibliophile
phobos, phob	fear, flight	zoophobia
phone, phon	voice, sound	phonograph, telephone, euphony, cacophony
phos, phot	light	photograph
phylo, phyll	leaf	chlorophyll
physica, phys	nature	physical, physician, physics, metaphysics
plasm, plast	shape, substance	plasma, plastic
Plethore	to be full	plethora
Plut	wealth	plutocrat
pneuma, pneum	wind, spirit	pneumatic
Pneumon	lung	pneumonia
Pod	foot	podiatrist
polemikos, polemos	a war	polemic
polit, polis	city	cosmopolitan, metropolitan
Polys	many	polynomial
prattein, prag	do	pragmatic, pragmatism
Poblema	to throw forward	problem, problematic
protos, proto	first	prototype, proton, protozoa
pseudes, pseudo	false	pseudoscience, pseudointellectual
psyche, psych	mind, soul	parapsychology, psychosis
Ptero	feather, wing	pterosaur
pyro, pur, pyr	fire	pyrotechnics, pyromaniac
rhea, rhag	flow, gush, break	diarrhea, hemorrhage
rhis, rhin-	nose	rhinology, rhinoscope
Rhiza	root	rhizoid, rhizome
schisma, schis, schiz	cleave, split	schism, schist, schizophrenic
Scopos	to watch, see	telescope
Seismo	earthquake	seismic
Sept	poison, from rot	septic
skep, scop	examine, look at	skeptical, scope
soma	body	somatic
sophos, soph	wise	sophisticated, sophomoric, sophist
sperma, sperm	seed	sperm
Sphero	sphere, ball	atmosphere, spheroid
Stat	stand	status, electrostatic
stizein, stig	mark, tattoo	stigma
Stoa	porch	stoicism, stoic, stoical
Stroph	turn	catastrophe
tact, tax	arrangement	tactics, syntax

Taph	tomb	epitaph
techne, tech	art, craft, skill	technical, tectonic, technocrat, technician
Tele	far away	telemetry, telescope
temno, tomos	cut, cut off	appendectomy, lobotomy
Tetra	four	tetrarch
Thanatos	death	thanatopsis, thanatology, euthanasia
theos, theo	god	theology, atheist, theocracy
Therap	cure	therapeutic
thermos, therm	heat, warm, hot	thermometer, thermodynamics, thermograph
Thesis	position	synthesis, thesis
Thorax	body	thorax
temnein, tom	cut	appendectomy, tome, epitome, dichotomy
tonos, ton	tone	monotone, tonic
topo, top	place	topography, topic
Tox	poison	toxic
tracheia, tracheo-	windpipe	tracheotomy
Trop	respond to	trophy
Troph	nourish	atrophy
Typos	type, model	typify, typical, typical, atypical
xenos, xeno	stranger	xenophobia, xenophilia, xenial
Zelos	ardor, zeal	zealous, zealot
zoo, zo	animal	zoo, zoology

VOCABULARY – TOP 250

1. aberration	anomaly, deviation from standard, irregularity, atypical
2. Abrogate	do away with
3. Abstemious	sparing, moderate (in eating, drinking)
4. Abstruse	(recondite) concealed, deep, difficult to comprehend
5. Accolade	award, honor, high praise
6. Accretion	accumulation, enlargement, growth
7. Adroitly	skillfully
8. Adulate	admire excessively/slavishly, flatter
9. Alacrity	eagerness, readiness
10. Alias	assumed
11. Allocate	distribute, designate
12. Allusion	indirect reference to something else, hint (in literature)
13. Ameliorate	improve
14. Amenable	agreeable
15. Arbiter	one who arbitrates/decides, judge
16. Ardor	fervor, enthusiasm
17. Assuage	lessen the intensity of something
18. Audacious	bold, fearless
19. Audacity	(impertinence) boldness, reckless daring
20. Auspicious	(propitious) prosperous, favorable
21. Aver	prove truth of, state it is true
22. Badger	harass/annoy continuously, bait
23. Baleful	hurtful, malignant, sorrowful
24. Beget	bring into being, cause to exist
25. Beneficent	kind, doing good
26. Bereave	deprive, leave desolate (through death)
27. Brazenly	boldly
28. Brook	tolerate
29. Burnish	polish
30. Cacophony	harsh sounding mixture of sounds
31. Cajole	deceptively persuade someone to do what he/she declines to
32. Candid	(candor) free from prejudice/bias/malice, honest, fair
33. Capricious	unpredictable, momentarily changeable
34. Chary	cautious
35. Circumlocution	indirect expression, use of wordy/evasive language
36. Coda	distinct passage concluding a composition
37. Cogent	powerful
38. Cognizant	perceptive, observant
39. Compliant	yielding, submissive
40. Composure	ease
41. Conciliatory	peace making

42. Conjoin	join together
43. Conjure	summon, bring into being as if by magic
44. Connoisseur	expert (in art, taste)
45. Consensus	unanimity, near unanimity, complete accord in opinion
46. Contentious	argumentative
47. Conundrum	puzzle, riddle
48. Corroborate	confirm, back up with evidence
49. Cower	shrink
50. Debacle	violent, sudden breakdown/overthrow
51. Debauchery	intemperance, wild living
52. Decorous	in good taste, proper
53. deleterious (baleful)	harmful, menacing
54. Despondent	desperate, hopeless
55. Dire	disastrous, horrible, ill-omened, extreme
56. Dirge	chant/song of sorrow/mourning, rites for the dead
57. Disavow	deny
58. Discourse	formal discussion
59. Disparage	detract
60. Disparaging	depreciatory, derogatory, detraction
61. Dispassionate	passionless, impartial, neutral
62. Divergent	differing, deviating
63. Doggerel	loose, unskillful verse
64. dogma (doctrine)	authoritative tenet, established opinion
65. Dubious	doubtful, questionable
66. Eclectic	drawn from many sources
67. edict	decree, mandate, law, writ, command
68. Edifice	structure, building
69. Effluvium	escaping gas, noxious vapors
70. Emaciation	waste away, become thin/weak
71. Emanate	originate from
72. Emollient	balm, salve, softening, soothing
73. Enigma	problem, puzzle, mystery
74. enmity (animosity)	antagonism, hatred, antipathy
75. Epicure	one interested in fine foods
76. epithet	descriptive
77. Equivocal	ambiguous, intentionally confusing
78. erratic (eccentric, fitful)	inconsistent, unpredictable, spasmodic, unusual, capricious
79. Erudite	scholarly, deeply learned
80. Escrow	legal agreement handled by third party until conditions are fulfilled
81. Euphemism	use of nice words in place of distasteful ones
82. evanescent	vanishing, fading, scarcely perceptible
83. Exigent	urgent
84. Exonerate	completely free from blame

85. Exorbitant	extravagant, immoderate
86. Exploit	milk, drain, exhaust
87. exposition (explication)	setting forth meaning, explanation
88. Extol	celebrate, glorify [antonym - lambaste]
89. Extricate	loosen, release [antonym - intricate]
90. Exuberant	extremely joyful, vigorous, profuse in growth
91. Facetious	humorous, joking
92. faddish (fad)	passing (fashion, craze)
93. Fallow	left unplanted, idle
94. Feckless	careless
95. Feeble	weak, inefficient
96. Fester	blister, inflame, cancer
97. Fickle	deceitful, inconstant
98. Fission	splitting into parts
99. Fissure	narrow slit, crack, cleft
100. Flag	weaken, slow down
102. Flippant	shallow, disrespectful
103. Flout	disregard because of disrespect
104. Flux	substance aiding fusion
105. Foolhardy	careless, hasty
106. Forbear	refrain from, abstain
107. Frenetic	frantic, frenzied
108. Frivolous	flimsy, trivial, lacking seriousness
109. frugal (thrifty)	economical
110. Fulminate	strike, send forth invectives, akin to lightning
111. Fulsome	disgusting, morally offensive
112. Fumble	handle clumsily, fail to catch
113. Gainsay	deny, speak against
114. garish (gaudy)	flashy, excessively colorful
115. Garner	gather, collect
116. garrulous (loquacious)	extremely talkative, wordy
117. gavel (mallet)	wooden hammer
118. Genial	helpful, cheerful, pleasant
119. Genre	distinctive category/class (especially in literature)
120. Goad	urge forcefully, to prod
121. Gouge	chisel with curved blade
122. Gouging	force out
123. Guile	deceit, cheating
124. Hapless	unlucky
125. Hold	place where cargo is kept
126. Hone	sharpen
127. Imperturbable	calm
128. Impervious	impermeable

129. Implement	carry out
130. improvident (lavish)	wasteful, careless
131. Impudent	bold, impertinent, discourteous
132. Impugn	attack, especially the truth/integrity of something
133. Impute	ascribe to, refer to, attribution
134. Inchoate	unformed, just beginning
135. Incursion	hostile invasion
136. Indifference	detachment, lack of interest/concern
137. Indignant	angry (as result of unfairness)
138. indulgent	lenient, yielding to desire
139. ineluctable	inevitable, unavoidable
140. inept	clumsy, incompetent
141. Infatuation	love (antonym - odium)
142. ingenuous	free from deceit/disguise
143. insolvent	unable to pay one's bills
144. intrinsic	inherent
145. invective	insulting/abusive speech
146. laconic	using few words (to the point of rudeness)
147. lambaste	scold, beat [antonym - extol]
148. laudatory (approbative)	applaudive, approving
149. lax	slack, careless, negligent, not strict
150. levee	embankment to prevent overflowing of river
151. lode	a vein, ore imbedded in a rock fissure
152. loquacious (garrulous)	extremely talkative/wordy
153. maverick (rebel)	nonconformist
154. mellifluous	sweetly flowing
155. minatory	threatening
156. misanthrope	one who hates people
157. mitigated	softened
158. Mitis	soft
159. munificent (lavish)	very generous
160. Neophyte	beginner
161. Noisome	bad-smelling
162. obdurate (intractable)	stubborn, inflexible
163. Odium	hate, disgust [antonym - infatuation]
164. Offense	wrongdoing
165. oscillate (fluctuate)	swing back and forth
166. Ossify	harden, turn to bone, become rigid
167. Ostentatious	conspicuous, showing off
168. Palliate	excuse, cause to seem less serious
169. Palpable	touchable, obvious
170. Panegyric	lofty praise
171. Partisan	who supports a particular idea ...

172.	Peccadillo	slight fault
173.	Pedagogue	pedantic/dogmatic person, teacher
174.	Penchant	inclination
175.	Penchant	strong liking/leaning
176.	Petulant	ill-tempered, rude, cranky
177.	Piquant	spicy, pleasantly pungent
178.	placate (propitiate)	conciliate, pacify, appease, calm, soothe
179.	Placid	calm, peaceful
180.	Plumb	measure the depth of
181.	Polemic	powerful argument in refutation of something
182.	Pragmatic	practical
183.	Precarious	uncertain, dangerous
184.	Precipice	very steep, overhanging place, hazardous situation
185.	Precipitate	cause to happen abruptly
186.	Presumptuous	arrogant
187.	Prevarication	lie
188.	Pristine	pure, uncorrupted, unspoiled
189.	Probity	integrity, honesty
190.	Prodigy	extraordinary
191.	promulgate (proclaim)	declare, put in force/law
192.	Propinquity	kinship, nearness
193.	propitiate (placate)	conciliate, pacify, appease, calm, soothe
194.	Proscription	restriction/ban/restraint imposed
195.	Proselytize	convert, recruit converts
196.	Pundit	expert
197.	Pungent	sharp/biting to taste/smell
198.	Qualify	modify, restrict
199.	Rampart	fortification, defense
200.	Ravenous	very eager/greedy for food/gratification/satisfaction
201.	Reciprocal	mutual, shared, interchangeable (<u>but not in math!</u>)
202.	recondite (abstruse)	obscure, concealed, deep, difficult to comprehend
203.	Rectitude	righteousness, moral integrity
204.	Reprobate	depraved, wicked, corrupt, degenerate, vicious
205.	Repugnant	offensive, distasteful
206.	resolute (intransigent)	determined, unyielding
207.	reticent (tacit)	quiet, dumb, reserved, silent, reluctant
208.	Ribald	indecent, coarse
209.	Rivet	attract and hold attention
210.	Sagacious	wise (from experience)
211.	Salubrious	promoting good health
212.	Sanction	ratify, confirm, authorize, approve
213.	Saturnine	gloomy/sullen/dismal in temperament
214.	Savor	relish, enjoy

215.	Sedulous	zealous, persevering [antonym - careless]
216.	Serene	tranquil, clear, untroubled, calm
217.	Sinuous	winding, intricate
218.	Spendthrift	wasteful, extravagant
219.	Spurious	bogus, false
220.	Squalid	filthy, repulsive, wretched, degraded
221.	Subjugate	enslave, subdue, dominate
222.	Substantive	solid, substantial
223.	Succinct	concise, precisely expressed
224.	Sullen	gloomy, dismal
225.	Superficial	shallow, unimportant, external, without profundity
226.	Superfluous	extra, unnecessary
227.	Surreptitious	secret, sneaky
228.	Tacit	implicit, understood
229.	Taunt	insult, ridicule
230.	temerity (audacity)	recklessness, foolish boldness
231.	Tiff	argument
232.	Timbre	quality of sound independent of pitch/loudness
233.	Tout	give a tip
234.	Transitory	temporary
235.	Trepidation	fear, nervousness
236.	Truculent	savage, fierce
237.	Turbid	muddy, foul with sediments
238.	turpitude (depravity)	shameful wickedness
239.	untoward (awkward)	unfavorable, unruly
240.	Usurer	money lender charging high interest
241.	Vacuous	stupid
242.	Veracity	truthfulness
243.	Vex	annoy, pester, confuse
244.	Vindicate	clear from blame/suspicion
245.	Viscid	sticky, viscous
246.	Viscous	thick and sticky
247.	Visionary	dreamer (with impractical goals/ideas about future)
248.	vituperation (malediction)	abusive language
249.	welter (turmoil)	confused mass
250.	Xenophobe	one who hates strangers

Foreign Words and Phrases

One of the most creative aspects of the English language is the absorption of foreign words and phrases. Quite often there are no precise English words to describe some particular thing or action so that expression or word is taken as is from the French, Italian and Latin language. English has also taken many words from literature and mythology. These words are included here for your information and education.

1. Ab Ovo (From the egg) From the beginning.
2. Ad hoc (To this) For this special purpose. For a special case only without general application.
3. Ad lib ad libitum (it pleases) At pleasure; as one pleases. To improvise spontaneously; spoken or done extemporaneously.
4. Ad hominem (To the man) Appealing to one's prejudices rather than reason.
5. Ad infinitum (To infinity) Endlessly; forever; without limit.
6. Ad nauseam To the point of disgust; to a sickening degree.
7. Adonis A very handsome young man. Adonis was the youth loved by Aphrodite in Greek mythology.
8. Affaire d'amour A love affair.
9. Affaire de coeur Affair of the heart; a love affair.
10. Affaire d'honneur An affair of honor; a duel.
11. Aficionado A devoted follower of some sport; a devotee.
12. A haute voix (In high voice) Aloud.
13. A la carte All menu items are priced separately.
14. A la mode In the fashion of; stylish.
15. A la mort (to the death) Seriously ill; dejected; mortally.
16. Al dente (to the tooth) Firm to the bite; chewy.
17. Al fresco (In the cool) In the open air.
18. Alma mater (foster mother) The college or school that one attended; its official anthem or hymn.
19. Alpha and Omega (First and last letters of the Greek alphabet) The beginning and the end. The be all and end all.
20. Amor Patriae Love of one's country; patriotism.
21. Animus (Soul, mind, passion) An animating force or underlying purpose; intention.
22. Anno Domini (A.D.) In the year of the Lord. Used to indicate that a time division falls within the Christian era.
23. Ante diluvian Before the Biblical flood. Extremely old; old fashioned or primitive.
24. Ante meridian (AM) Before noon.
25. Ante mortem Made or done just before one's death.
26. A posteriori (From what comes later) From effect to cause, or from particular instances to a generalization; Empirical. Opposed to a priori.
27. A priori From cause to effect or from a generalization to particular instances; deductively. Opposed to a posteriori.
28. Apropos (English spelling), *f* propos (French spelling) At the right time; fitting the occasion; relevant. Apropos of-; in connection with.

29. Aqua vitae (Water of life) Brandy or strong liquor.
30. Arriviste A person who has recently gained power, wealth and success and is regarded as an upstart; parvenu.
31. Ars longa, vita brevis Art is long, life is short.
32. Ars poetica The art of poetry.
33. Au courant Informed, up to date.
34. Au contraire On the contrary.
35. Au naturel In the natural state; nude.
36. Au pair An arrangement in which services are exchanged on an even basis.
37. Avant garde The leaders in new or unconventional movements, especially in the arts. Vanguard.
38. A votre sante To your health. A toast in drinking.
39. Bacchanal A devotee of Bacchus, the Greek god of wine. A wild, uninhibited and drunken orgy.
40. Banal Dull or stale because of overuse. trite; hackneyed
41. Bas-relief Sculpture in which figures are carved in a flat surface so that they project only a little from the background.
42. Belles-letters Literature as one of the fine arts.
43. Bête noire (Black beast) A person or thing feared, disliked and avoided.
44. Billet-doux A love letter.
45. Bistro A small wine shop, restaurant, nightclub or bar.
46. Blasé Bored from overindulgence.
47. Bonbon A small piece of candy
48. Bon homie Good nature; a pleasant, affable manner.
49. Bon mot (Good word) An apt, clever or witty remark.
50. Bon vivant A person who enjoys good food, good wine and good times.
51. Bon voyage Pleasant journey; a farewell to a traveler.
52. Bona fide Made in good faith; the real thing.
53. Boutique A small shop where fashionable expensive clothes and other items are sold.
54. Bourgeois A person whose beliefs, attitudes and practices are conventionally middle class. conventional; smug; materialistic.
55. Boutonniere A flower worn in a lapel buttonhole.
56. Bowdlerize To expunge a book by omitting or modifying parts considered vulgar. To modify by abridging, simplifying, or distorting in style or content. From Thomas Bowdler, an 18th century Englishman who tried to expurgate the works of Shakespeare.
57. Boycott To engage in a concerted refusal to have any dealings with a person, store or organization as a form of protest and coercion. Charles C. Boycott was a English land agent in Ireland who refused to lower rents.
58. Braggadocio A braggart. Vain, noisy boasting.
59. Bravado Pretended courage or defiant confidence where there is little or none.
60. Bravura A bold attempt or display of daring; dash.

61. Carte blanche (White card) i.e. A paper bearing only a signature, allowing the beared to fill in conditions. Full authority.
62. Cassandra A daughter of Priam endowed with the gift of prophecy but fated never to be believed. One who predicts misfortune or disaster.
63. Causus belli (An occurrence of war) An event provoking war or the used as a pretext for making war.
64. Cause célèbre A celebrated law case, trial or controversy. Popular cause or issue.
65. Caveat emptor (Buyer beware) One buys at his own risk.
66. Chargé d'affaires A diplomatic official sent to a foreign nation to represent his government.
67. Chauvinism Excessive or blind patriotism. Undue partiality or attachment to a group or place to which one belongs. An attitude of superiority towards members of the opposite sex. From Nicholas Chauvin, a character noted for his excessive patriotism and devotion to Napoleon in the French play *La Cocarde Tricolore*.
68. Chiaroscuro (Italian for clear dark) From the Latin clarus-clear + obscurus-dark. The treatment of light and shade in a painting or drawing to produce the illusion of depth. Sometimes used to describe a personality that's a bit two sided.
69. Chimera A fire-breathing she-monster in Greek mythology having a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail. An illusion or fabrication of the mind; an unrealizable dream.
70. Cinematheque A place where early avante-garde motion pictures are collected and shown.
71. Circa (c.) About. Used to identify a period of time when the exact date is unknown.
72. Circe In Homer's *Odessey*, an enchantress who turned men into pigs.
73. Comme il faut As it should be; proper; fitting
74. Commedia del l'arte A type of Italian comedy with stereotyped plot, improvised dialogue and stock characters.
75. Connoisseur A person who has expert knowledge and keen discrimination in some field, especially the fine arts or in matters of taste.
76. Corps de ballet The ensemble of a ballet company.
77. Corpus delicti (Body of the crime) The facts constituting or proving a crime.
78. Coup de grâce Death blow; a finishing stroke.
79. Coup d'état The sudden, forcible overthrow of a government; coup.
80. Couture The business of designing new fashions in women's clothes.
81. Crème de la crème The best of the best.
82. Crescendo A gradual increase in loudness or intensity.
83. Croix de guerre A French military decoration for bravery in action.
84. Cui bono? Who benefits? Who stands to gain? An assumption that the person who benefits the most might have committed the crime or questionable act.
85. Cuisine The style of cooking. Manner of preparing food.
86. Cul-de-sac A passage or position with only one exit. A blind alley. A situation from which there is no escape.
87. Culpa Fault; guilt; negligence

88. Cum laude With praise; Graduation with honors.
89. Curriculum vitae (C.V.) (Course of life) A complete summary of one's personal history and professional qualifications as submitted by a job applicant. Much more detailed than a resume.
90. Déclassé Lowered in social status.
91. Decolletage The neckline or top of a dress cut low so as to bare the neck and shoulders thereby revealing cleavage.
92. De facto Existing or being such in actual fact though not by legal establishment or official recognition.
93. De jure By right or legal establishment.
94. Déjà vu (Already seen) The illusion that one has previously had an experience that is actually new to one.
95. Delirium tremens A violent delirium with hallucinations resulting chiefly from excessive drinking.
96. De marche A line of action; move or countermove.
97. Denouement The outcome, solution, or unraveling of a plot in a drama or story; any final revelation or outcome.
98. De profundis From the deepest sorrow or misery.
99. Détente A lessening of tension or hostilities between nations through treaties and trade agreements.
100. De rigueur Required by custom or fashion; indispensable
101. Deus ex machina In ancient Greek and Roman plays, a deity brought in by stage machinery to intervene in the action. Any unconvincing character or event brought artificially into the plot of a story to settle an involved situation in a quick and easy manner.
102. Dishabille The state of being only partially dressed, or in night clothing.
103. Dolce vita (Sweet life) A casual way of life.
104. Doppelgänger (doppel- double + gänger-goer) A ghostly counterpart of a living person; a double; alter ego; a person who has the same name as another.
105. Double-entendre A term with two meanings where one of them has a risqué or indecorous connotation.
106. Draconian Characteristic of Draco or his severe code of laws. A cruel, harsh punishment. From Draco, a particularly harsh Athenian lawgiver.
107. Éclat Brilliant or conspicuous success.
108. Élan Spirited self assurance; verve; dash; panache.
109. Embarras de richesses An embarrassment of wealth. Too much to choose from.
110. Émigré A person forced to flee his country for political reasons.
111. Éminence grise A person who wields great power and influence, but secretly or unofficially.
112. Enamor To fill with love and charm.
113. Enfranchise To free from slavery; to admit to citizenship; the right to vote. Disenfranchise, or disfranchise means to deprive one of the rights of citizenship, or the right to vote; to deprive of a privilege, right or power.

114. En garde In fencing, the opening position from which one may attack or defend. Usually given to warn someone to defend themselves prior to attacking them.
115. Entourage A group of associates or attendants; retinue.
116. E pluribus unum Out of many, one. The motto of the U.S.
117. Esprit de corps Group spirit; sense of pride and honor shared by those in the same group.
118. Et alii (et al.) And others.
119. Et cetera (etc.) And others; and the like; and the rest; and so forth. Note: Using etc. in formal writing is inappropriate. In general, you should rewrite to avoid its use and never ever write "*and etc.*"
120. Etceteras Additional things; customary extras.
121. Et sequens (et seq.) And following.
122. Ex cathedra With the authority that comes from one's rank or office.
123. Exempli gratia (e.g.) For example.
124. Ex officio By virtue of one's office or position.
125. Ex post facto Done or made afterwards, especially when having retroactive effect.
126. Extempore Without preparation; offhand.
127. Fait accompli (An accomplished fact) A thing already done so that opposition or argument is useless.
128. Falsetto A very high pitched male voice.
129. Fauna The animals of a specified region or time.
130. Flora The plants of a specified region or time.
131. Faux pas (False step) A social blunder; error in etiquette; tactless act or remark.
132. Femme fatale An alluring woman, especially one who leads men to their downfall or ruin.
133. Fiasco A complete failure.
134. Forte The thing that a person does particularly well.
135. Gauche Left handed; clumsy; or inept.
136. Habeas corpus An order requiring that a detained person be brought before a court at a stated time and place to decide the legality of his detention. This law safeguards one against illegal detention or imprisonment.
137. Habitué A person who frequents a certain place or places.
138. Halcyon Calm, peaceful prosperous times. A bird identified with the kingfisher and held in ancient times to nest at sea at the time of the Winter solstice and calm the waves.
139. Haut mondé High society.
140. Herculean Of or relating to Hercules, a mythical Greek hero renowned for his great strength. Requiring extraordinary power or strength.
141. Hermetic Relating to the Gnostic writings of Hermes Trismegistus, a legendary author of works embodying magical, astrological, and alchemical doctrines. Relating to occultism or abstruseness; recondite. Also the belief that he invented a magic seal to keep vessels airtight. Impervious to external influence.
142. Homo sapiens Modern man; mankind; human being.

143. Hors de combat Put out of action; disabled.
144. Hors d'oeuvres Appetizers; canapes; party snacks.
145. Hydra A many headed monster in Greek mythology slain by Hercules. A multifarious evil not overcome by a single effort.
146. Ibidem (ibid) In the same place. Used in refering to the book, or page previously cited.
147. Ideéfixe A fixed idea; obsession.
148. Idem The same as that previously mentioned.
149. Id est (i.e.) That is (to say.)
150. Idiot savant (Wise idiot.) A mentally retarded person who possesses some remarkable special aptitude for music, memorization or rapid mental calculation.
151. Ignoratio elenchi The fallacy of irrelevant conclusion or missing the point where a proposition other than the one at issue is established by appel to emotion.
152. Imbroglio An involved and confusing situation. A confused misunderstanding or disagreement.
153. Impasse Dead end. An argument where no agreement is possible; deadlock.
154. In Absentia (In Absence) Although not present.
155. Infra dig(nitatem) Beneath one's dignity.
156. In flagrant delicto In the act of committing the offense; red-handed.
157. Ingénue An innocent, naïve young woman. An actress playing such a role in the theater.
158. Imprimature License or permission to publish or print a book, or article. Specifically such permission as granted by an ecclesiastical order.
159. Impromptu Without preparation or advanced thought.
160. Incognito With true identity unrevealed or disguised; under an assumed name.
161. In memoriam In memory of.
162. Innuendo An indirect remark, gesture or reference, usually implying something derogatory; an insinuation.
163. Insouciance Calm and unbothered; carefree; indifferent.
164. Ipso facto By the very fact.
165. In perpetuum Forever.
166. Inter alia Among other things.
167. Inter alias Among other persons.
168. Inter nos Between ourselves.
169. Interregnum An interval between two successive reigns when the country has no sovereign.
170. In vino veritas In wine there is truth. Alcohol relaxes inhibitions and allows people to speak their minds freely.
171. Jeune Lacking nutritive value. Devoid of significance or interest; dull. Juvenile and puerile in regard to life and art.
172. J'accuse (I accuse) Any strong accusation or denunciation.
173. Joie de vivre Joy of living; zestful enjoyment of life.
174. Junoesque A woman marked by stately beauty. From Juno, the Roman goddess of light, birth, women and marriage and the wife of Jupiter.

175. Junta A small military ruling group responsible for the overthrow of the previous government rulers.
176. Laissez faire The policy of letting people act without interference or direction.
177. Lilliputian Small, miniture; petty. An undersized individual. Relating to the Lilliputians or the island of Lilliput, an island in Swift's book, Gulliver's Travels where the inhabitants are six inches tall.
178. Loco citato (loc. cit.) In the place cited.
179. Lothario A man whose chief interest is seducing women. A seduced in the play *The Fair Penitent* by Nicholas Rowe.
180. Machiavellian Of or relating to Niccolo Machiavelli, author of *The Prince*, and suggesting his principles of conduct emphasising cunning, duplicity and bad faith. Machiavellianism is his view that politics is amoral and that any means, however unscrupulous, can justifiably be used in achieving political power.
181. Macho A strong virile man; masculine, manly.
182. Magna cum laude With great praise. Signifies graduation with high honors.
183. Magnum opus A great work, especially of art or literature; masterpiece. A person's greatest work or undertaking.
184. Maitre d Headwaiter.
185. Malaise A vague feeling of physical discomfort or uneasiness, as early in an illness.
186. Mal de mer Seasickness.
187. Martinet A strict militaristic disciplinarian. From Jean Martinet, a 19th century French General.
188. Maverick An unbranded range animal; a motherless calf. An independent individual who does not go along with the group. A nonconformist. Taken from Samuel Maverick, a 19th century Texas rancher who did not brand his calfs.
189. Mea culpa Through my fault
190. Mélange A mixture or medley; hodgepodge.
191. Mercurial Relating to Mercury, the Roman god of travel and cunning. Having qualities of eloquence, ingenuity or thievishness attributed to the god Mercury. Rapid and unpredictable changeableness of mood.
192. Modus operandi Mode of operation. A way of doing or making; any established procedure.
193. Modus vivendi Manner of living or of getting along.
194. Mores Folkways that are considered conducive to the welfare of society and so, through general observance, develop the force of law, often becoming part of the formal legal code.
195. Ménagé a trois An arrangement by which a married couple and the lover of one of them live together.
196. Mot juste The right word; the exact appropriate word or phrase.
197. Motif A main element, idea, or feature to be elaborated on or developed in art, music or literature.
198. Narcissistic Narcissus was a beautiful youth in Greek mythology who pines away for love of his own reflection and is turned into the narcissus flower. Self-absorbed and exceedingly vain.
199. Nemesis Nemesis was the Greek god of retributive justice. One that inflicts retribution or vengeance. A formidable opponent.

200. Noblesse oblige Honorable behavior expected of someone of high birth or rank.
201. Nolo contendere (I do not wish to contend.) Acceptance of the facts in an indictment, as opposed to a formal plea of guilty, on which a judge would pass judgment.
202. Non compos mentis (Not of sound mind.) Legally insane or incompetent.
203. Nom de plume Pen name; pseudonym. A false name used to hide an authors true identity
204. Nom de guerre A pseudonym. False name used in under cover operations.
205. Non sequitur A conclusion or inference which does not follow from the premises. A remark having no bearing on what was just said.
206. Nota bene (n.b.) Note well. Take particular notice.
207. Nouveau riche A person who has only recently become rich; often connoting tasteless ostentation and lack of culture.
208. Odyssey In Homer's poem the *Odyssey*, Odysseus was the king of Ithaca and leader of the Greeks in the Trojan War, who after the war wanders 10 years before reaching home. A long wandering or voyage usually marked by many changes of fortune. An intellectual or spiritual quest.
209. Opere citato (op. cit.) In the work previously cited.
210. Outré Eccentric; bizarre
211. Par excellence In the greatest degree of excellence; beyond comparison; preeminently; the epitome of something.
212. Parvenu A person who has suddenly acquired wealth or power, especially one who is not fully accepted socially by the class into which he has risen; upstart.
213. Per Contra On the contrary; By way of contrast; As an offset
214. Per se By or in itself; intrinsically.
215. Personna The characters of a drama, play or novel. The outer personality or façade presented to others by an individual.
216. Pièce de résistance The principle dish of a meal. The main item or event. An outstanding accomplishment.
217. Prima facie At first sight; on first view. Evidence adequate to establish a fact or raise a presumption of fact unless refuted.
218. Post meridiem (PM) After noon.
219. Post scriptum (P.S.) Postscript. A note added below the signature line of a letter as an afterthought.
220. Pro bono publico (For the public good.) Free legal representation for a beneficial cause.
221. Pro forma As a matter of form or custom.
222. Pro se (For himself.) Representing oneself in court rather than retaining a lawyer.
223. Pro tempore (pro tem) Temporarily
224. Protégé A person guided and helped, especially in the furtherance of his career, by another more influential person.
225. Provocateur Agitator; revolutionary.
226. Quasi As if; in a sense or manner; seemingly; in part; i.e. A quasi scholar. A quasi intellectual.

227. Qui vive? Who goes there? A sentry's challenge. On the qui vive.(on the look out; on alert.)
228. Quid pro quo One thing in return for another. Something equivalent; substitute.
229. Quixotic Blindly idealistic and romantic. From the main character in Cervante's *Don Quixote de la Mancha*.
230. Quod erat demonstratum (QED) Which was to be demonstrated or proved.
231. Quod vide (q.v.) Which see.
232. Raison d etre Reason for being.
233. Rapprochement Establishing or restoring harmony and friendly relations.
234. Recherché Rare; choice; uncommon. Having refinement or studied elegance. Too refined; too studied
235. Repartee A quick, witty reply. A series of such rejoinders.
236. Répondez s'il vous plait (RSVP) Please reply. Usually found on formal invitations. The recipient is obligated to respond as to their acceptance. Whether you plan on accepting or not, you must let the host know either way as soon as possible but not later than the given date. To not respond or to say that you can't accept and then to show up is as serious a breach of etiquette as responding affirmatively and then failing to attend.
237. Rosetta Stone A black basalt stone found in 1799 with both Egyptian hieroglyphics and Greek writing, which enabled archiologists to translate Egyptian hieroglyphics for the first time. Something that gives a clue to understanding.
238. Sadism To take delight in the cruel infliction of physical or mental pain on others. Named after the French nobleman the Marquis de Sade. Masochism is the infliction of pain on oneself for pleasure.
239. Sangfroid (Cold blood) Cool self-possession or composure.
240. Sanguine Of the color of blood; ruddy complexion. Cheerful and confident; optimistic; hopeful.
241. Saturnine Gloomy or taciturn. From the Roman god Saturn.
242. Savoir faire Ready knowledge of what to do or say, and of when and how to do or say it.
243. Semper fidelis Always faithful. Motto of the U.S. Marine Corps.
244. Sic So, thus. Intentionally as written. Used after a printed word or passage to indicate that it is intended exactly as printed or to indicate that it exactly reproduces an original, errors and all.
245. Sine die Without a day being set for meeting again. For an indefinite period.
246. Sine qua non An essential condition or qualification Indispensable thing; absolute prerequisite.
247. Sobriquet A nickname; an assumed name
248. Soup, on A suspicion. A slight trace as of a flavor; hint; suggestion A tiny amount.
249. Soirée An evening party, or gathering.
250. Stentorian A person having a loud, deep voice. From Stentor, a Greek herald in the Trojan War noted for his loud voice.
251. Tabula Rasa Smooth Tablet. The mind in its hypothetical primary blank or empty state before receiving outside impressions. Something existing in its original pristine state.

252. Tantalize To tease or torment by presenting something desirable to the view, but continually keeping it out of reach. Tantalus was the king of Lydia condemned to stand up to the chin in a pool of water in Hades and beneath fruit ladden boughs only to have the water or fruit recede at each attempt to eat or drink.
253. Titanic Having great power, magnitude, or power. From the Titans, mythical giants who ruled the earth until overthrown by the Olympian gods. A titan is someone who stands out for greatness of achievement.
254. Status Quo The current state of affairs.
255. Sui generis Legally competent to manage one's own affairs, because of legal age and sound mind.
256. Summa cum laude With the greatest praise. Signifies graduation with the highest honors.
257. Tête- -tête (Head to head) A private or intimate conversation between two people that excludes all others.
258. Tour de force An unusually skillful or ingenious creation, production or performance.
259. Vaunt-courier A soldier sent out in advance of an army; a scout; a forerunner; precursor
260. Versus (vs.) As against, in contrast to.
261. Vignette A short, delicate literary sketch.
262. Virtuoso A person displaying great technical skill in some fine art, especially music.
263. Vide infra (v.i.) See below
264. Videlicet (viz.) That is; namely
265. Vide supra (v.s.) See above.
266. Vis-à-vis (Face to face.) Opposite to. In comparison with or in relation to.
267. Zeitgeist The spirit of the age; trend of thought and feeling in a period.

-archy /-cracy (governance by)

1. Anarchy	Disorder, esp. Political or social
2. Aristocracy	The highest class in society
3. Aristodemocracy	A form of government where the power is divided between the great men of the nation and the people.
4. Autocracy/Autarchy	Absolute sovereignty or despotism
5. Bureaucracy	A government by central administration
6. Democracy	A system of govt by the whole population, through elected representatives
7. Doulocracy	Government by slaves
8. Gerontocracy	A government by old people
9. Gynocracy/gynarchy	A government by women
10. Heterarchy	A form of organization resembling a network or fishnet. Authority is determined by knowledge and function.
11. Hierarchy	A system in which grades or classes of status or authority are ranked one above the other
12. Matriarchy	A system of society or government ruled by women and with descent through the female line
13. Meritocracy	A government by persons selected competitively according to merit
14. Monarchy	A form of government with the monarch at the head
15. Nomarchy	The rule by a chief magistrate or nomarch of a province of a kingdom , known as the nome of a kingdom, as in modern Greece.
16. Ochlocracy	Mob rule
17. Oligarchy	A government by a small group of people
18. Patriarchy	A form of social organisation of government in which a man or men rule and with descent through the male line
19. Plantocracy	A government run by planters
20. Plutocracy	A government by the wealthy
21. Polyarchy / Polygarchy	A government by many persons, of whatever order or class. (Heptarchy- rule by seven people, Tetrarchy- rule by four people)
22. Technocracy	The government or control of society or industry by technical experts
23. Thearchy/ Theocracy	Government by a God or Gods , mostly through enforcement of religious rules by a priestly order
24. Victimarchy	A society which conceives of its members as victims -- perpetually unable to direct their own affairs or to control their own destinies.

-phobia (compulsive fear of something)

1. Acrophobia	Fear of heights
2. Agoraphobia	Fear of open spaces or public places
3. Aerophobia	Fear of air, esp. Of drafts
4. Algophobia	Fear of pain
5. Anglophobia	Fear of the English or England
6. Arachnophobia	Fear of spiders
7. Astrophobia	Fear of thunder and lightening
8. Aurophobia	Fear of being covered with gold paint — a guilt complex
9. Belonephobia	Fear of needles, pins and other sharp objects
10. Brontophobia	Fear of thunder
11. Claustrophobia	Fear of closed places
12. Clinophobia	Fear of staying in bed
13. Coprophobia	Fear of filth
14. Cynophobia	Fear of dogs.
15. Gallophobia	Fear of the French or France.
16. Glossophobia	Fear of speaking
17. Gynophobia	Fear of women
18. Hematophobia	Fear of blood
19. Hydrophobia	Fear of water
20. Mysophobia	Fear of contamination
21. Necrophobia	Fear of dead bodies
22. Nyctophobia	Fear of darkness
23. Pathophobia	Fear of suffering
24. Phonophobia	Fear of speaking aloud
25. Photophobia	Fear of light
26. Placophobia	Fear of tombstones
27. Pyrophobia	Fear of fire
28. Scopophobia	Fear of looking at a certain act
29. Sitophobia	Fear of eating
30. Tapophobia	Fear of being buried live
31. Thanatophobia	Fear of death
32. Toxophobia	Fear of being poisoned
33. Xenophobia	Fear of strangers
34. Zoophobia	Fear of animals

-mania (obsessive behaviour)

1. Ablutomania	Mania for washing oneself
2. Agromania	An intense desire to be alone or out in the open
3. Anglomania	Excessive admiration of English customs
4. Anthomania	A extravagant fondness for flowers
5. Bibliomania	A love of books pursued to the point of unreason or madness.
6. Catapedomania	Obsession with jumping from high places
7. Choreomania	Dancing mania or frenzy
8. Clinomania	An excessive desire to stay in bed
9. Dacnomania	Obsession with killing
10. Demonomania	A form of madness in which the patient conceives himself possessed of devils
11. Dinomania	Mania for dancing
12. Dipsomania	An abnormal and insatiable craving for alcoholic drink
13. Doromania	Obsession with owning furs
14. Drapetomania	Intense desire to run away from home
15. Ecemonomania	Compulsive wandering
16. Egomania	The quality or state of being extremely egocentric
17. Eleutheromania	Frantic zeal for freedom
18. Empleomania	A mania for holding public office
19. Erotomania	Sexual desire that is abnormally strong and prolonged
20. Gallomania	An excessive admiration of what is French.
21. Hipomania	Persistent hyperactivity
22. Kleptomania	An abnormal, persistent impulse or tendency to steal, not prompted by need
23. Megalomania	A mental disorder characterized by delusions of grandeur, wealth, power, etc.
24. Monomania	An excessive interest in or enthusiasm for some one thing; craze
25. Mythomania	An excessive or abnormal propensity for lying and exaggerating
26. Nymphomania	A woman who likes to have sex very often, esp. With lots of different men
27. Oniomania	An uncontrollable urge to buy things
28. Plutomania	An abnormal desire for wealth
29. Pyromania	A persistent compulsion to start destructive fires
30. Rhinotillexomania	Compulsive nose-picking
31. Trichotillomania	The abnormal urge to pull out one's hair
32. Bruxomania	Compulsive grinding or clenching of the teeth

- isms (ideologies)

1. Animism The doctrine that all life is produced by a spiritual force separate from matter
2. Atheism A belief that God does not exist
3. Capitalism The economic system in which all or most of the means of production and distribution, as land, factories, railroads, etc., Are privately owned and operated for profit
4. Colonialism The system or policy by which a country maintains foreign colonies, esp. In order to exploit them economically
5. Communism Any economic theory or system based on the ownership of all property by the community as a whole
6. Confucianism The ethical teachings formulated by Confucius and introduced into Chinese religion, emphasizing devotion to parents, family, and friends
7. Consumerism The practice and policies of protecting the consumer by publicizing defective and unsafe products, misleading business practices, etc.
8. Determinism The doctrine that everything, including one's choice of action, is the necessary result of a sequence of causes
9. Empiricism Belief in search for knowledge by observation and experiment
10. Fascism Dictatorship, one-party rule, autocracy, regimentation,
11. Feminism Advocacy of Woman's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes
12. Feudalism The economic, political, and social system in medieval Europe, in which land, worked by serfs who were bound to it, was held by vassals in exchange for military and other services given to overlords
13. Gnosticism An occult salvational system, heterodox and syncretistic, stressing gnosis as essential, viewing matter as evil, and variously combining ideas derived esp. From mythology, ancient greek philosophy, ancient religions, and, eventually, from christianity
14. Hedonism The ethical doctrine that pleasure is the principal good and the proper aim of action
15. Hellenism The character, thought, culture, or ethical system of ancient Greece
16. Humanism Any system of thought or action based on the nature, interests, and ideals of man.
17. Liberalism The quality or state of being liberal; a philosophy advocating personal freedom for the individual, democratic forms of government, gradual reform in political and social institutions.
18. Mccarthyism After J. *Mccarthy*, U.S. senator (1946-57), to whom such practices were attributed the use of indiscriminate, often unfounded, accusations, sensationalism, inquisitorial investigative methods
19. Nihilism The denial of the existence of any basis for knowledge or truth and the general rejection of customary beliefs in morality, religion.
20. Pacifism Opposition to the use of force under any circumstances
21. Positivism The philosophical system recognizing only non-metaphysical facts and observable phenomena rejecting metaphysics and theism
22. Relativism Any theory of ethics or knowledge based on the idea that all values or judgments are relative, differing according to circumstances, persons, cultures, etc.
23. Secularism A system of doctrines and practices that disregards or rejects any form of religious faith and worship
the belief that religion and ecclesiastical affairs should not enter into the functions of the state.

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| 24. Sexism | Discrimination against people on the basis of sex; discrimination against, and prejudicial stereotyping of, women |
| 25. Surrealism | A modern movement in art and literature, in which an attempt is made to portray or interpret the workings of the unconscious mind as manifested in dreams: it is characterized by an irrational, fantastic arrangement of material |

- isms (states of being)

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| 1. Altruism | Unselfish concern for the welfare of others; selflessness |
| 2. Anachronism | Anything that is or seems to be out of its proper time in history |
| 3. Antagonism | The state of being opposed or hostile to another or to each other; opposition or hostility |
| 4. Atavism | Appearance in an individual of some characteristic found in a remote ancestor but not in nearer ancestors |
| 5. Chauvinism | Unreasoning devotion to one's race, sex, etc. With contempt for other races, the opposite sex, etc. |
| 6. Cronyism | Favoritism shown to close friends, esp. In political appointments to office |
| 7. Defeatism | The act of defeating, or gaining victory or the fact of being defeated, frustration |
| 8. Dogmatism | The tendency to be intolerantly opinionated. |
| 9. Egotism | The tendency to continually talk about oneself, having an exaggerated opinion about oneself |
| 10. Eroticism | a) sexual instincts or desire b) sexual excitement or behavior |
| 11. Ethnocentrism | The emotional attitude that one's own ethnic group, nation, or culture is superior |
| 12. Fetishism | Worship of or belief in fetishes |
| 13. Henotheism | Belief in or adoption of a particular God in a polytheistic system as the God of a tribe, class, etc. |
| 14. Masochism | The getting of sexual pleasure from being dominated, mistreated, or hurt physically or otherwise by one's partner
The getting of pleasure from suffering physical or psychological pain, inflicted by others or by oneself. |
| 15. Materialism | The tendency to be more concerned with material than with spiritual or intellectual goals |
| 16. Narcissism | Self-love; excessive interest in one's own appearance, comfort, importance, abilities, etc. |
| 17. Nepotism | Medieval prelates favoritism shown to relatives, esp. In appointment to desirable positions |
| 18. Paternalism | The principle or system of governing or controlling a country, group of employees, etc. In a manner suggesting a father's relationship with his children |
| 19. Plagiarism | The act of plagiarizing |
| 20. Puritanism | Austerity, prudishness, strictness |
| 21. Realism | A tendency to face facts and be practical rather than imaginative or visionary |
| 22. Sadism | The getting of sexual pleasure from dominating, mistreating, or hurting one's partner
The getting of pleasure from inflicting physical or psychological pain on another or others |

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| 23. Stoicism | Indifference to pleasure or pain; stoical behavior; impassivity |
| 24. Vandalism | The actions or attitudes of a vandal; malicious or ignorant destruction of public or private property, often, specif., Of that which is beautiful or artistic |
| 25. Voyeurism | A person who is sexually gratified by viewing, esp. Furtively and habitually, persons who are disrobing, engaged in sexual activity |

-ology (study of)

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| 1. Aaetiology (Etiology) | Study of causation |
| 2. Acarology | Study of mites and ticks |
| 3. Anthology | Published collection of passages from literature etc |
| 4. Anthropology | Study of development of man |
| 5. Archaeology | Study of human history and prehistory through excavation of sites and analysis of physical remains |
| 6. Astrology | Study of movements and relative positions of celestial bodies |
| 7. Audiology | Study of hearing |
| 8. Bacteriology | Study of bacteria |
| 9. Biology | Study of living organisms |
| 10. Biotechnology | Exploitation of biological processes for industrial purpose |
| 11. Brachyology | Over-consciousness of expression |
| 12. Camponology | Study of bells |
| 13. Cardiology | Study of diseases and abnormalities of the heart |
| 14. Cardiology | Study of heart, its functions etc. |
| 15. Carpology | Study of fruits and seeds |
| 16. Chronology | Study of historical records |
| 17. Climatology | Study of climatic conditions |
| 18. Cosmology | Study of origin and development and universe |
| 19. Criminology | Study of crime |
| 20. Cryptology | Study of writing or solving codes |
| 21. Cytology | Study of cells |
| 22. Dactylology | Study of use of finger alphabets (for the deaf and the mute) |
| 23. Dendrology | Study of trees and woody plants esp. their taxonomy |
| 24. Dermatology | Study of diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders |
| 25. Dialectology | Study of dialects |
| 26. Doxology | Study of formulae of praise to God |
| 27. Ecclesiology | Study of church architecture |
| 28. Ecology | Study of relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings |
| 29. Embryology | Study of embryos |
| 30. Endocrinology | Study of structure and physiology of endocrine glands |
| 31. Entomology | Study of forms and behaviour of insects |
| 32. Enzymology | Study of enzymes |
| 33. Epidemiology | Study of incidence and distribution of diseases and of other factors relating to health |

34. Epistemology	Study of theory of knowledge with regard to its methods and validation
35. Ethnology	Comparative study of human peoples
36. Ethology	Study of character formation in human behaviour
37. Etymology	Study of words
38. Genealogy	Study of lines of descent traced continuously from an ancestor
39. Gerontology	Study of old age and the process of ageing
40. Graphology	Study of handwriting
41. Gynaecology	Study of physiological functions and diseases specific to women.
42. Haematology	Study of the physiology of the blood
43. Heortology	Study of Church festivals
44. Histology	Study of the microscopic structures of tissues
45. Hymnology	Study of hymns
46. Ichthyology	Study of fishes
47. Iconology	Study of visual imagery
48. Ideology	Beliefs that form the basis of a political, economic, or social system
49. Immunology	Study of immunity
50. Kinesiology	Study of mechanics of body movements
51. Limnology	Study of physical phenomena of lakes and other fresh waters
52. Meteorology	Study of the weather
53. Methodology	Study of methods used in a particular branch of activity
54. Metrology	Study of weights and measures
55. Mineralogy	Study of minerals
56. Morphology	Study of forms of things (organisms, words etc)
57. Mycology	Study of fungi
58. Mythology	Study of myths
59. Neurology	Study of nerve systems
60. Numerology	Study of supposed occult significance of numbers
61. Odontology	Study of structure and diseases of teeth
62. Oenology (Enology)	Study of wines
63. Oncology	Study of treatment of tumours
64. Ontology	Study of nature of being
65. Oology	Study of collecting of birds eggs
66. Ophthalmology	Study of the eye
67. Ornithology	Study of birds
68. Osteology	Study of structure and function of the skeleton and other bones.
69. Otology	Study of the anatomy and diseases of the ear
70. Paleontology	Study of extinct and fossils animals and plants
71. Pathology	Study of bodily diseases and or the symptoms of a disease
72. Penology	Study of the punishment of crime and of prison management
73. Petrology	Study of the origin, structure, composition, etc. of rocks
74. Pharmacology	Study of the uses, effects, and modes of actions of drugs
75. Philology	Study of language esp. in its historical and comparative aspects
76. Physiology	Study of the functions of living organisms and their parts
77. Pomology	Study of fruit growing

78. Psephology	Study of elections
79. Psychology	Study of behaviour
80. Radiology	Study of X-rays and other high-energy radiation, esp. used in medicine
81. Seismology	Study of recording of earthquakes and related phenomena
82. Selenology	Study of the moon
83. Serology	Study of blood sera and their effects
84. Sociology	Study of human society
85. Technology	Study of mechanical arts and applied sciences
86. Teleology	Study of phenomena explainable by the purpose they serve rather than by postulated causes
87. Teratology	Study of congenital abnormalities and abnormal formations
88. Terminology	Study of the system of terms used in a particular subject
89. Tetralogy	Study of a group of four related or operative words
90. Thanatology	Study of death and its associated phenomena and practices
91. Theology	Study of religion
92. Thremmatology	Study of breeding animals and plants
93. Toxicology	Study of poisons
94. Tribology	Study of friction, wear, lubrication and the designs of bearings
95. Urology	Study of the urinary system
96. Vexillology	Study of flags
97. Virology	Study of viruses
98. Vulcanology	Study of volcanoes
99. Zoology	Study of animals; their physiology, classification, and distribution
100. Zymology	Study of fermentation

Animal Words

Animal Adjectives

1. Ant	Formicine	26. Giraffe	Giraffine
2. Ass	Asinine	27. Goat	Caprine /hircine
3. Little ass	Aselline	28. Goose	Anserine
4. Bear	Ursine	29. Hare	Leporine
5. Bird	Avine	30. Kite	Milvine
6. Bull	Taurine	31. Leopard	Pardine
7. Calf	Vituline	32. Horse	Equine
8. Camel	Cameline	33. Hawk	Accipitrine
9. Cat	Feline	34. Hyena	Hyenine
10. Cattle	Bovine	35. Lion	Leonine
11. Crab	Cancrine	36. Lizard	Lacertine
12. Crow	Corvine	37. Lobster	Homarine
13. Cuckoo	Cuculine	38. Mouse	Murine
14. Deer	Cervine	39. Owl	Strigine
15. Dog	Canine	40. Parrot	Psittacine
16. Dolphin	Delphinine	41. Peacock	Pavonine
17. Dove/pigeon	Columbine	42. Pig	Porcine
18. Duck	Anatine	43. Seal	Phocine
19. Eagle	Aquiline	44. Sheep	Ovine
20. Falcon	Falconine	45. Snake	Serpentine/Angvine
21. Elephant	Elephantine	46. Tiger	Tigrine
22. Firefly	Lampyrine	47. Vulture	Vulturine
23. Fish	Piscine	48. Wolf	Lupine
24. Fox	Vulpine	49. Zebra	Zebrine
25. Frog	Ranine	50. Reindeer	Rangiferine

Animal Gender Nouns

No.	Masculine	Feminine	No.	Masculine	Feminine
1.	Lion	Lioness	11.	Rabbit / Hare	Doe
2.	Buck /Hart / Roe	Doe	12.	Horse	Mare
3.	Bull	Cow	13.	Jack –Ass	Jenny-Ass
4.	Bullock	Heifer	14.	Peacock	Peahen
5.	Dog	Bitch	15.	Fox	Vixen
6.	Cock	Hen	16.	Ram	Ewe
7.	Colt	Filly	17.	Stag	Hind
8.	Drake	Duck	18.	Pig	Sow
9.	Drone	Bee	19.	Tiger	Tigress
10.	Gander	Goose	20.	Bull whale	Cow Whale

Animals And Their Young Ones

No.	Animal	Young One	No.	Animals	Young One
1.	Horse	Foal, Colt	11.	Goat	Kid
2.	Mare	Filly	12.	Sheep	Lamb
3.	Goose	Gosling	13.	Hen	Chicken
4.	Duck	Duckling	14.	Moth	Caterpillar
5.	Frog	Tadpole	15.	Eagle	Eaglet
6.	Fish	Fry	16.	Cat	Kitten
7.	Pilchard(fish)	Sardine	17.	Deer	Fawn
8.	Pig	Piglet	18.	Dog	Puppy, Whelp
9.	Birds	Fledgeling, Nestling	19.	Greyhound	Sapling
10.	Tiger, Lion, Bear, Fox, Wolf	Cub	20.	Cow, Elephant, Whale, Seal	Calf

Collective Nouns for Animal Groups

1.	Colony of Ants	26.	Plague of Locusts
2.	Pace of Asses	27.	Stud of Mares
3.	Sloth of Bears	28.	Watch of Nightingales
4.	Bench of Bishops	29.	Rope of Onions
5.	Leash of Bucks	30.	Parliament of Owls
6.	Army of Caterpillars	31.	Drove of Oxen
7.	Siege of Cranes	32.	Covey of Partridges
8.	Murder of Crows	33.	Nide of Pheasants
9.	Dule of Doves	34.	String of Ponies
10.	Skulk of Foxes	35.	Bevy of Quails
11.	Gaggle of Geese	36.	Suit of Sails
12.	Muster of Peacocks	37.	School of Porpoises
13.	Bevy of Girls	38.	Crash of Rhinoceroses
14.	Cloud of Gnats	39.	Dray of Squirrels
15.	Down of Hares	40.	Mustering of Storks
16.	Cast of Hawks	41.	Flight of Swallows
17.	Brood of Hens	42.	Herd of Swans
18.	Sedge of Herons	43.	Drift of Swine
19.	Clan of Hyenas	44.	Knot of Toads
20.	Pod of Seals	45.	Hover of Trout
21.	Smack of Jellyfish	46.	Rafter of Turkeys
22.	Kindle of Kittens	47.	Bale of Turtles
23.	Troop of Kangaroos	48.	School of Whales
24.	Leap of Leopards	49.	Pack of Wolves
25.	Pride of Lions	50.	Smack of Woodpeckers

Idioms and phrases

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. To eat humble pie | To apologise under humiliating circumstances |
| 2. To eat your words | To take back what you have said |
| 3. To meet you half-way | To come to a compromise with you |
| 4. To not be worth one's salt | To be quite worthless |
| 5. To make both ends meet | To live within one's own income |
| 6. To play fast and loose | To say one thing and do another |
| 7. To take one to task | To scold |
| 8. To turn a deaf ear | To not listen to |
| 9. Will not hold water | Is unsound, will not stand up to examination |
| 10. By hook or by crook | By any possible means |
| 11. To all intents and purposes | Practically, virtually |
| 12. Without reserve | Completely, unconditionally |
| 13. To take exception to | To object to |
| 14. To gain ground | To become more general or acceptable |
| 15. To pay off old scores | To take revenge |
| 16. To put a spoke in someone's wheel | To hinder someone in the attainment of their goal |
| 17. To turn over a new leaf | To change for the better |
| 18. To throw cold water on one's scheme | To discourage someone |
| 19. Not fit to hold a candle to | Not to be seen in comparison with |
| 20. To burnt one's fingers | To get oneself into trouble |
| To have an axe to grind | To have a personal interest in the matter |
| 22. To have too many irons in the fire | To be engaged in too many activities at the same time |
| 23. To be nipped in the bud | To cause it to fail before it could actualise itself |
| 24. To take the wind out of one's sails | To surprise one, make words or actions ineffective by anticipating them |
| 25. To fight shy of | To avoid due to dislike or mistrust |
| 26. To lord it over | To dominate |
| 27. To Stir up a hornet's nest | To cause debate and adverse criticism by many |
| 28. To do the handsome thing | To behave in a generous and magnanimous manner |
| 29. To be at cross-purposes | To work or speak contradicting each other |
| 30. To curry favour with | To use devious means to ingratiate himself |
| 31. To let the grass grow under his feet | To remain idle |
| 32. For loaves and fishes | For material benefits |
| 33. To be a man of straw | To have no substance |
| 34. To rest on one's oars | To stop one's work and rest for a while |
| 35. To put the screw on | To put under pressure |
| 36. A stick in the mud | A person without enterprise, initiative, adventure |
| 37. A labour of love | A work undertaken due to affection and not for profit. |
| 38. Like a bull in a china shop | Extremely clumsy |
| 39. To fly off the handle | To lose one's temper |

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|
| 40. | To throw cold water on | To depreciate or to discourage |
| 41. | A fool's paradise | A state of illusory happiness or prosperity |
| 42. | A sight for sore eyes | A welcome sight |
| 43. | To stick to one's colours | To remain constant to one's opinions and principles |
| 44. | To have a hunch | To have a suspicion |
| 45. | To crow over | To exult excitedly or conceitedly over one's success |
| 46. | To call a spade a spade | To be outspoken |
| 47. | A baker's dozen | Thirteen |
| 48. | With his tail between his legs | To admit defeat and showing signs of shame and |
| 49. | To have a sweet tooth | To have a strong liking for sweets |
| 50. | As pleased as punch | Extremely pleased. |

PGA

Main Wordlist

Abbreviations used in the wordlist

ADJ.	ADJECTIVE
ADV.	ADVERB
ANAT.	ANATOMY
AR.	ARABIC
ARCHIT.	ARCHITECTURE
ASTRON.	ASTRONOMY
BIBL.	BIBLICAL
BIO.	BIOLOGY
BIOCHEM.	BIOCHEMISTRY
BOT.	BOTANY
CH.	CHINESE
COLLOQ.	COLLOQUIAL
CONJ.	CONJUNCTIVE
DEROG	DEROGATORY
DUT.	DUTCH
ELECTR.	ELECTRICITY
ESP.	ESPECIALLY
FIG.	FIGURATIVE
FR.	FRENCH
GK.	GREEK
GEO.	GEOLOGY
GER.	GERMANIC
GRAM.	GRAMMAR
HEB.	HEBREW
HIST.	HISTORY
IT.	ITALIAN
JAP.	JAPANESE
L.	LATIN
LIT.	LITERARY
MATH.	MATHEMATICS
MED.	MEDICINE
MED. L.	MEDIEVAL LATIN
METEOR.	METEOROLOGY
MIL.	MILITARY
MUS.	MUSIC
MYTH.	MYTHOLOGY
N.	NOUN
NAUT.	NAUTICAL
PHILOL.	PHILOLOGY
PHY.	PHYSICS
PL.	PLURAL
PREP.	PREPOSITION
PSY.	PSYCHOLOGY
REF.	REFERENCE
RHET.	RHETORIC
SP.	SPANISH
STH.	SOMETHING
THEO.	THEOLOGY
TURK.	TURKISH
V.	VERB TRANSITIVE & INTRANSITIVE
V. TR.	VERB TRANSITIVE
V. INTR.	VERB INTRANSITIVE
ZOO.	ZOOLOGY

Index for the Wordlist

No.	Words staring with letter	Page No.
1.	A	71
2.	B	84
3.	C	91
4.	D	106
5.	E	116
6.	F	127
7.	G	136
8.	H	142
9.	I	149
10.	J	165
11.	K	167
12.	L	168
13.	M	174
14.	N	184
15.	O	189
16.	P	194
17.	Q	213
18.	R	215
19.	S	226
20.	T	241
21.	U	249
22.	V	252
23.	W	258
24.	X, Y, Z	260

A

Abase (v. tr.)	humiliate or degrade another person or oneself. [<i>n: abasement</i>]. L. bassus: short of stature. <i>The minister's attempt to abase the army created uproar in the print media.</i>
Abash (v. tr.)	to embarrass, disconcert; to cause to feel uncomfortable or ashamed in the presence of others. [<i>used usually in the adj. form as abashed</i>]. Old Fr. esbair: utterly astound. <i>Gauri was abashed at her father's shabby treatment at the hands of his employer.</i>
Abate (v.)	make or become less strong, intense, severe. (Law) a. quash; b. put an end to. [<i>n: abatement</i>] <i>After waiting for a fortnight for the flood to abate, the villagers renounced hope.</i>
Abattoir (n)	slaughterhouse
Abdicate (v. tr.)	give up or renounce the throne or power or duty [<i>n: abdication</i>]. <i>The king abdicated in favour of his marriage to a commoner.</i>
Aberration (n)	a departure from what is accepted as normal or correct. [<i>adj.: aberrant</i>]. L. errare: stray.
Abet (v. tr.)	to encourage or aid a crime or criminal, an offence or offender. [<i>n: abetment</i>] Old Fr. abeter: to bait. <i>It is common knowledge that some guardians of law abet widespread crime in our country.</i>
Abeyance (n)	the condition of not being in use or in force temporarily. [<i>adj.: abeyance</i>] <i>In view of the precarious communal situation, the implementation of martial law was held in abeyance.</i>
Abhor (v. tr.)	to feel an intense hatred or dislike for. [<i>n: abhorrence</i>]. L. abhorre: to shudder.
Abject (adj.)	miserable, wretched, deserving pity; degraded; despicable. [<i>n: abjectness</i>]. <i>The abject poverty of the worker moved the officer to tears.</i>
Abjure (v. tr.)	to renounce publicly an opinion, faith or allegiance to something or someone. [<i>n: abjuration</i>] <i>Under threat of expulsion, the terrorist abjured his cause and became a state witness.</i>
Ablation (n)	the surgical removal of body tissue. (Geo.) wasting or erosion of a glacier, iceberg or rock by melting or the action of water. (Astron.) the loss of surface material from a spacecraft, meteorite through evaporation or melting due to friction with the atmosphere.
Ablution (n)	cleansing, washing, bathing. [<i>adj.: ablutionary</i>] L. ablutio: to wash
Abnegate (v. tr.)	to give up; to deny oneself; renounce a right or belief. [<i>n: abnegation</i>] L. abnegare: to deny.
Abominate (v. tr.)	to abhor, detest; have a great dislike for. [<i>n: abomination</i>].
Aboriginal (adj. & n)	adj.: inhabiting a land from the earliest times; n: such an inhabitant. L. ab origine: from the beginning.
Abortive (adj.)	fruitless; unsuccessful. <i>Though the attempt to kill the minister was an abortive one, it gave rise to fear and apprehension.</i>
Aboulia (n)	loss of willpower due to some mental disorder. [<i>adj.: aboulia</i>]. Gk. aboulē: no will. <i>Jim's decision to clear the test was defeated by a sudden onset of aboulia.</i>
Abrade (v. tr.)	to wear away by friction; to erode.

Abrogate (v. tr.)	repeal, annul, abolish a law or custom. [<i>n: abrogation</i>]. L. abrogare: take away from law . <i>All hope of an uniform civil code was lost when the government abrogated the law for its implementation.</i>
Abscond (v. intr.)	to depart suddenly and secretly, especially unlawfully or to avoid arrest. [<i>n: absconder</i>] L. abscondere: to hide or put away .
Absolve (v. tr.)	to forgive for wrongdoing; to free someone from fulfilling a promise. [<i>n: absolution</i>]. <i>The murderer was absolved of the crime when he tested positive for psychosomatic problems.</i>
Abstemious (adj.)	moderate especially in eating and drinking. [<i>n: abstemiousness</i>]. <i>Ram was able to control obesity through his abstemiousness.</i>
Abstinence (n)	same as abstemiousness. [<i>adj.: abstinent</i>].
Abstract (v. adj.; n)	(v) take out of, extract, remove; (adj.) not concrete; (n) a summary or short account
Abstruse (adj.)	obscure; difficult to understand. [<i>n: abstruseness</i>]. L. abstrusus: hidden .
Abut (v. intr.)	adjoin, lie next to.
Abyss (n)	chasm, void, a bottomless depth; a catastrophic situation. [<i>adj.: abysmal</i>]. Gk. abussos: bottomless .
Accentuate (v. tr.)	emphasize, make prominent, heighten. [<i>n: accentuation</i>]. From accent .
Accession (n)	entering upon an office (especially the throne) or condition (as manhood). (Law) incorporation of one item of property in another; the formal acceptance of a treaty or other agreements. <i>Louis the XIII's accession to the throne was followed by a period of intrigue.</i>
Accessory (n & adj.)	an additional thing, an extra attachment to a woman's dress (e.g.: handgloves); a person who helps in the details of (esp. an illegal act) without actually participating in it.
Acclivity (n)	upward slope. L. acclivus: slope .
Accolade (n)	strong praise or approval.
Accomplice (n & adj.)	a partner in crime or wrongdoing.
Accord (n & v.)	(n) agreement; harmony; (v) grant.
Accost (v. tr.)	approach or address a person boldly. <i>The pilgrims were accosted by robbers on the route and lost all their belongings.</i>
Accoutre (v. tr.)	equip, attire, especially with a special outfit. [<i>n: accoutrement</i>]. Fr. cousture: sewing .
Accretion (n)	addition, growth through addition. [<i>v: accrete</i>]. L. accrescere: to grow . <i>The accretion of pus in the wound led to Hari's untimely death.</i>
Accrue (v.)	to come as a natural advantage or increase, esp. financial; collect. [<i>n: accrual; adj.: accrued</i>]. <i>Rekha accrued enormous wealth through her frequent business trips to other countries.</i>
Acephalous (adj.)	headless; having no chief; (zoo.) having no part of the body specially organised as a head. Gk. akephalos: headless (kephale: head). <i>Rendered acephalous by the king's death, the Hutus lost their village to the marauding tribe.</i>
Acidulous (adj.)	somewhat acid; sour in taste or manner (often used in connection with tone or voice).

Acme (n)	the highest point or period of achievement, success, perfection, etc. <i>Guru Dutt died at the acme of his prowess as a director.</i>
Acne (n)	skin condition, especially of the face characterised by red pimples.
Acolyte (n)	an assistant; a beginner; a person assisting a priest in a service or procession. <i>The head priest's acolyte impressed the gathering with his rendition of the former's discourse.</i>
Acoustics (n)	science of sound; the quality that makes a room or hall easy to hear in. Gk. akouō: to hear. <i>The hall's wonderful acoustics contributed to the success of the concert.</i>
Acquiescent (adj.)	accepting passively. <i>Gita was exploited by her family and friends due to an inherent acquiescent nature.</i>
Acquittal (n)	the process of freeing or being freed from a charge; performance of duty. <i>The acquittal of the criminals in the sensational case was an act of injustice.</i>
Acquittance (n)	payment of or release from a debt; written receipt attesting such release.
Acrid (adj.)	bitterly pungent, corrosive; bitter in temper or manner. [<i>n: acidity</i>].
Acrimonious (adj.)	bitter in manner or language or temper.
Acronym (n)	words formed from initial letters of words, e.g., WHO: World Health Organisation. Gk. akron + onuma: end + name.
Acrostics (n)	a poem or any other composition in which certain letters in each line form a word or words. Gk. akron + stikhos: end + line of verse.
Actionable (adj.)	giving cause for legal action.
Actuarial (adj.)	pertaining to insurance statistics. [<i>n: actuary</i>] L. actuarius: bookkeeper.
Actuate (v. tr.)	communicate motion to a machine; cause a person to act. [<i>n: actuation</i>]. L. actus: act.
Acumen (n)	keen insight or discernment. Root: L. acuere: sharpen. Acute.
Adage (n)	maxim, proverb.
Adamant (adj.)	stubbornly resolute, unyielding. Gk. adamao: not tameable.
Adapt (v.)	fit, adjust; make suitable for a purpose; arrange for broadcasting. L. aptus: fit.
Addendum (n)	a thing (usually omitted) to be added as additional matter to a book; an appendix. L. adere: add. [<i>plural: addenda</i>].
Addiction (n)	compulsive or habitual need.
Addle (v. tr.)	muddle, confuse; empty, vain.
Adduce (v. tr.)	present evidence or reason. [<i>adj.: adducible</i>]. <i>The litigant was asked to adduce his case sufficiently in order to strengthen it.</i>
Adept (adj.)	thoroughly proficient; skilled performer, expert. [<i>n: adeptness</i>].
Adipose (adj.)	fatty.
Adjudicate (v.)	act as judge in court, tribunal, competition. <i>Rohan was adjudged the best participant in the archery competition.</i>

Adjunct (n)	appendage, addition, complement. (Gram.) a word or phrase used to amplify or modify the meaning of another word or words in a sentence. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>adjunctive</i>]. L. ad jungere : to join.
Adjuration (n)	solemn or earnest appeal, plea especially under an oath. (v: adjure). L. adjurare : to swear.
Ad lib (v.intr.; adj.; adv; n)	(v) speak or perform without formal preparation; (adj.) improvised; (adv) as one pleases; (n) something spoken or played extempore. L. ad libitum : according to pleasure.
Admonish (v. tr.)	scold or warn; urge; give earnest advice to. L. admonēre : to warn.
Adroit (adj.)	dexterous, skilful. <i>John was adept at handling various types of machines.</i>
Adscititious (n)	added from without, supplemental.
Adulation (n)	praise that is more than necessary or deserved, especially to win favour. L. adulari : to fawn on. <i>The crowd's adulation gave a fillip to the actor's sagging career.</i>
Adulterate (v. tr. & adj.)	(v) debase or make impure by the addition of something of an inferior quality; (adj.) spurious, debased. [<i>n</i> : <i>adulteration</i>]. L. adulterat : corrupt.
Adumbration (n)	giving a hint of something; giving a faint idea or outline of something or of the future. [<i>v</i> : <i>adumbrate</i>]. L. ad umbrare : umbra: shadow/shade.
Adventitious (adj.)	accidental, unplanned, casual. (Bio.) formed accidentally or in an unusual anatomical position. (Law) property coming from a stranger or by collateral succession rather than directly. <i>The realisation that the apple fell due to the force of gravity was an adventitious one.</i>
Advert (v. intr.)	refer to in speaking or writing. L. advertere : to turn.
Adversity (n)	the condition of hostile fortune, misfortune. L. advertere : to turn.
Aegis (n)	protection, sponsorship. L. From Gk. Aigis : the mythical shield of Zeus or Athene. <i>The function to celebrate the famous scientist's birth centenary was held under the aegis of a religious institution.</i>
Aeon (n)	a very long or indefinite period; an age of the universe. (Astron.) a thousand million years.
Aesthetic (adj. & n)	(adj.) concerned with beauty or its appreciation; (n) the philosophy of the beautiful, esp. in art. (adj.) <i>The aesthetic aspect of the movie was overlooked by most viewers.</i> (n) <i>It was the aesthetic of the movie that attracted serious viewers to it.</i>
Aestival (adj.)	belonging to or appearing in summer. L. aestus : heat.
Affable (adj.)	friendly, good natured. <i>The stranger's affable nature won him friends soon after his arrival in the city.</i>
Affected (adj.)	artificial, pretended. <i>The girl spoke in such an affected manner that she alienated everyone present in the room.</i>
Affidavit (n)	written statement confirmed by oath, for use as evidence in court.

Affirmation (n)	assertion, confirmation, assurance. L. affirmare : be strong . <i>The parent's silence was an affirmation of their approval.</i>
Afflatus (n)	divine creative impulse, inspiration.
Affluence (n)	abundance, wealth.
Affray (n)	breach of peace due to fighting or rioting in public.
Affront (n & v. tr.)	(n) open insult. (v) insult openly; face, confront. L. frontis : face . (n) <i>Unable to bear the affront to him from his employer, the aged man relinquished his job.</i> (v) <i>Although he wanted to, Shyam could not affront his erstwhile friend in front of his new friends.</i>
Aficionado (n)	a devotee of any sport or past time (originally of bull fighting).
Agglomeration (n)	collection into a mass or heap (without organisation).
Aggrandize (v. tr.)	increase power, rank or wealth; cause to appear greater. [<i>n</i> : aggrandizement]. L. grandis : large .
Aggregate (n, adj. & v)	(n) a collection or total of disparate elements. (adj.) collected into one mass. (v) collect. L. gregis : flock .
Aghast (adj.)	filled with dismay, consternation, fear, wonder. Mid. Eng. gast : frighten . <i>I was aghast at the total lack of conscientiousness in the group of youngsters.</i>
Agility (n)	ability to move quickly and easily; activeness. (adj.: agile) L. agere : do .
Agitate (v.)	disturb, excite; stir up; shake or move briskly.
Agnate (adj. & n)	(adj.) descended esp. by male line by the same male ancestor; same forefather; of the same clan or nation; of the same nature. (n) a person descended from the same line, esp. the same male ancestor. [adj.: agnatic; n: agnation]. L. agnatus: (g)natus : born .
Agnostic (n; adj)	one who is of the view that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God or of anything beyond material phenomena. Gk. a+ gnosis : without knowledge .
Agrarian (adj.)	of or relating to land or its cultivation. <i>The agrarian revolution marks a climactic phase in our country's economic history.</i>
Agronomy (n)	the science of soil management and crop production. Gk. agros : field , nomos : arrange .
Akimbo (adj.)	with hands on the hips and elbows turned outwards.
Alacrity (n)	briskness or cheerful readiness. L. alacer : brisk . <i>The young boy answered all the questions with alacrity.</i>
Albescent (adj.)	growing or shading into white. L. albus : white .
Albeit (conj)	though.
Alchemy (n)	medieval chemistry seeking to turn base metals into gold or silver; miraculous transformation.
Alcove (n)	recess, esp. in the wall of a room or a garden. Ar. Alkubba : the vault .

Alienate (v. tr.)	cause to become unfriendly or hostile; cause to feel estranged. L. alius : other . <i>It is easy to alienate people with rudeness.</i>
Alienist (n)	psychiatrist, esp. a legal adviser on psychiatric problems.
Alimentation (n)	nourishment, feeding, maintenance.
Alimony (n)	money payable by a man to his wife or former wife and vice versa after they are divorced. L. alere : to nourish .
Allay (v. tr.)	relieve or alleviate fear, anxiety, doubt, suspicion, etc. <i>The priest tried his best to allay the penitent's fears.</i>
Allege (v. tr.)	state or declare without proof.
Allegiance (n)	loyalty, duty to a person, cause, etc. <i>There is no person who does not owe allegiance to a person or cause.</i>
Allegory (n)	a story, picture, play, poem etc. in which the message of the same is represented symbolically.
Alleviate (v. tr.)	lessen or make less severe. L. levare : raise . <i>The team of doctors tried their best to alleviate the patient's suffering.</i>
Allocution (n)	formal address that serves to exhort.
Alloy (n & v. tr.)	(n) mixture of two or more chemical elements at least one of which is metal, e.g., brass (a mixture of copper and zinc). (v) debase by admixture.
Allusion (n)	indirect or passing reference.
Alluvial (n)	pertaining to soil deposits at the mouths of rivers, alluvium.
Altruism (n)	unselfishness, regard or concern for the happiness of others. ism : philosophy . L. alter : other .
Amalgamate (v.)	combine to form one structure, a whole.
Amanuensis (n)	a person who writes from dictation. L. amanu : slave at handwriting + ensis : belonging to .
Ambidextrous (adj.)	able to use both the hands equally well; working skilfully in more than one medium. L. ambi : on both sides , dexter : right handed .
Ambient (adj.)	surrounding; of the surroundings. <i>The ambient temperature of the room was conducive to the growth of plants.</i>
Ambiguous (adj.)	having an obscure or double meaning. L. ambi + agere : to drive .
Ambivalence (n)	the coexistence in one person's mind of opposing feelings or ideas in a single context. <i>The chaotic use of words revealed an unwelcome ambivalence in the speaker's thoughts.</i>
Ameliorate (v.)	improve; make or become better.
Amenable (adj.)	responsive, tractable; subject or liable. <i>The organisation noted that the new recruit was amenable to sudden changes in decisions and exploited it to the full.</i>
Amenities (n)	a pleasant or useful feature. L. amoenus : pleasant . <i>The government should ensure the presence of basic amenities in all public places.</i>
Amiable (adj.)	of a friendly and pleasant temperament. [n: amiableness].

Amicable (adj.)	showing or done in a friendly spirit. L. amicus : friend.
Amnesia (n)	loss of memory. [adj.: amnesic].
Amnesty (n)	a general pardon sp. for political offences. G. amnestia : oblivion.
Amorphous (adj.)	shapeless, undefined, vague. a: without + Gk. morphē : form.
Amphibian (adj.)	able to live both on land and in water.
Ample (adj.)	plentiful, abundant.
Amplify (v.)	increase the volume or strength of. (sound, electrical signals, etc.); enlarge, add. Ample + fy .
Amputate (v. tr.)	cut off a part of body by surgical operation.
Amulet (n)	charm or talisman worn for protection against evil.
Anachronism (n)	an event, fact, etc. placed out of its period. [adj.: anachronistic]. Gk. kronos: time. (an + kronos).
Anaesthesia (n)	artificially induced insensitivity to pain, usually achieved by the administration of gases or the injection of drugs. an + Gk. aisthesis : sensation.
Anagnorisis (n)	recognition, denouement in drama. <i>Lear's anagnorisis has been dramatised effectively in the play King Lear.</i>
Analgesic (adj.)	relieving pain.
Analogous (adj.)	alike in some ways. [n: analogy].
Anamnesis (n)	recollection, esp. of a supposed previous existence; a patient's account of his medical history.
Anarchy (n)	political or social disorder, lack of a government. An+ Gk. arkhē : rule.
Anathema (n)	something or someone hated, detested. <i>The mere thought of marriage was anathema to Mary.</i>
Anchorage (n)	a place where a ship may be anchored; that which provides security or support; anything that is dependable. <i>Jim landed himself in a mess in the course of his search for an anchorage for his financial problems.</i>
Anchorite (n)	a hermit; a religious recluse. [adj.: anchoritic]. Gk. anakhōreō : retire.
Ancillary (n & adj.)	(of a person, activity or service) providing essential support to a central service or industry. L. ancilla : maidservant.
Androgynous (adj.)	uniting the characteristics of both male and female, of ambiguous gender. (Bot.) with stamens and pistils in the same flower. Gk. andros : man, gunē : woman.
Aneroid (adj.)	(of a barometer) that measures air pressure by its action on the elastic lid of an evacuated box. Without using fluid. a + Gk. neros : water.
Animadversion (n)	criticism, censure. [v: animadvert]. L. animus : mind + vertere : turn.
Animalcule (n)	microscopic animal.

Animosity (n)	spirit or feeling of strong hostility. (ref to antagonism)
Animus (n)	display of animosity or ill feeling. (Psy.) Jung's term for the masculine part of a woman's personality. (refer to animadversion for root of animus).
Annals (n)	a narrative of events year by year; historical records. L. annus : year .
Annihilate (v)	destroy completely. L. nihil : nothing .
Annuity (n)	yearly grant or allowance; an investment of money entitling the investor to a series of equal annual sums over a stated period. L. annus .
Annunciate (v. tr.)	proclaim. L. annunciare : announce .
Annul (v. tr.)	make invalid; cancel, abolish. [n: annulment]. L. nullus : none . <i>The bench could not decide whether to annul the law that had created such uproar in the assembly.</i>
Anodyne (adj. & n)	able to relieve pain; mentally soothing. an + Gk odune : pain .
Anoint (v. tr.)	apply oil or ointment to, esp. as part of a religious ceremony.
Anomalous (adj.)	abnormal, irregular. an + Gk. homalos : even . <i>The dog's sudden violence was anomalous with his otherwise gentle nature.</i>
Anosmia (n)	the loss of the sense of smell. an + Gk. osme ; smell .
Antagonism (n)	active opposition or hostility. <i>The host's antagonism towards the guests was uncalled for and led to animosity between the two families.</i>
Antediluvian (adj.)	of or belonging to the time before the Biblical Flood; very old or out of date. L. ante + deluge . <i>The employer's antediluvian attitude to handling crises was a bad omen for the company.</i>
Anteprandial (adj.)	before dinner.
Anthropoid (n & adj.)	resembling a human being in form, esp. (of an ape) tailless and often bipedal. Gk. anthropos : human being .
Anthropologist (n)	one who studies humankind, esp. its societies, customs, structure and evolution.
Antic (adj. & n)	absurd, silly or foolish behaviour. <i>The comedian's antics were in tune with the burlesque.</i>
Antigen (n)	foreign substance (eg. Toxin) which induces an immune response in the body, esp. the production of antibodies.
Antipathy (n)	a strong or intense dislike or aversion. anti + L. pathos : feeling . <i>His antipathy for western sartorial ideas was ridiculed by his peers.</i>
Antiquated (adj.)	out of date, very old fashioned.
Antithesis (n)	the direct opposite.
Apartheid (n)	policy of racial discrimination or segregation. Afrikaans: apart + hood .

Apathetic (adj.)	indifferent. a + Gk pathos: feeling . <i>Politicians now seem to be apathetic to the desires and needs of the general public.</i>
Aperture (n)	an opening; gap; space through which light passes in an optical or photographic instrument. L. aperire: to open .
Apex (n)	highest peak, the tip.
Aphorism (n)	a short pithy maxim; a brief statement of a principle.
Apiary (n)	a place where bees are kept. L. apis: bee .
Aplomb (n)	assurance, self-confidence. <i>The director launched his debut film with aplomb and fanfare.</i>
Apocryphal (adj.)	of doubtful authenticity; invented, mythical. (originally of some early Christian texts resembling those of the New Testament).
Apogee (n)	the point in a body's orbit at which it is furthest from the earth; the highest or most distant point. Gk. apo: away from, ge: earth.
Apologist (n)	person who defends something by argument.
Apologue (n)	a moral fable, particularly in which animals act or speak.
Apoplexy (n)	(Med.) stroke. (Collq.) rush of extreme emotion, esp. anger.
Aposiopesis (n)	(Rhet.) sudden break off in speech, breaking off short for effect.
Apostasy (n)	giving up of (esp.) religious faith, principles, etc. Gk. apo + stat: stand .
Apostle (n)	each of the twelve chief disciples of Christ; leader or prominent figure of a reform movement; messenger or representative.
Apothecary (n)	(archaic) a chemist licensed to issue drugs and medicines.
Apophthegm (n)	(US: apothegm) short saying or maxim; aphorism. [<i>adj.: apophthegmatic</i>].
Apotheosis (n)	deification, glorification; perfect example. Gk. theos: god . <i>The apotheosis of Princess Diana after her death is a result of the admiration she generated throughout her life.</i>
Apparition (n)	sudden or dramatic appearance of a ghost or phantom. apparitio: attendance, appear .
Appease (v. tr.)	pacify, conciliate, satisfy. Old Fr. a: to + pais: peace <i>The neutral country tried to appease the warring forces and bring about an end to the conflict.</i>
Appellation (n)	title, name.
Appertain (v. intr.)	relate; be appropriate. L. pertenere: pertain .
Apportion (v. tr.)	assign as a share.
Apposite (n)	appropriate; fitting.
Appraise (v. tr.)	estimate, value, evaluate. [<i>adj.: appraisive; n: appraiser</i>]. <i>The curator of Indian Museum was called upon to appraise the antique jewellery.</i>

Appreciable (adj.)	large enough to be noticed; perceptible, considerable. <i>The judge remained silent for an appreciable period of time, thus throwing the court into confusion.</i>
Apprehend (v. tr.)	understand; arrest; anticipate. [<i>n</i> : apprehension; <i>adj.</i> : apprehensive]. <i>The police gave a dramatic chase to apprehend the terrorist.</i> <i>The woman could not apprehend the meaning of her husband's tirade.</i>
Apprise (v. tr.)	inform.
Approbation (n)	approval, consent. L. probus : good.
Appurtenance (n)	belonging; accessory.
Apropos (adj., prep, adv.)	(adj.) to the point or purpose; (prep) in respect of; (adv.) appropriately; by the way, incidentally. Fr.: a : to + propos : purpose. (adj.) <i>The critic's comment was apropos the scope of the discussion.</i> (prep) <i>The student's reply was apropos of the questions raised.</i> (adv) <i>Apropos the cook is not accompanying us, but we know enough to manage on our own.</i>
Aptitude (n)	natural propensity or talent, skill. <i>The artist's aptitude for natural colours was exploited to the full.</i>
Aquiline (adj.)	curved, hooked like an eagle's beak. L. aquilina : eagle.
Arabesque (n)	(Ballet) a posture with one leg extended horizontally backwards, torso extended forwards, and arms outstretched. A design of intertwined leaves, scrolls, etc. (Mus.) a florid, melodic section or composition.
Arable (adj.)	fit for ploughing or cultivation. L. arare : to plough.
Arbiter (n)	a judge.
Arbitrary (adj.)	based on or derived from uninformed opinion or random choice; despotic. <i>The decision to impose martial law was an arbitrary one.</i>
Arboreal (adj.)	living in or connected with trees. L. arbor: tree.
Arcade (n)	a passage with an arched roof, esp. any covered walk with shops along one or both sides. (Archit.) a series of arches supporting or set along a wall. (Relating to arch).
Arcadian (n & adj.)	(n) an idealised peasant or country dweller, esp. in poetry. (adj.) ideally rustic. Gk Arkadia , a mountain district in the Peloponnese.
Arcanum (n)	mystery, profound secret. [<i>adj.</i> : arcane]. L. arcere : shut up; arca : chest.
Archaeology (n)	study of human history and prehistory through excavations of sites and analysis of physical remains. Gk. archaen : ancient, logos : knowledge.
Archaic (adj.)	antiquated, no longer in use; primitive. <i>The use of archaic words in everyday speech can mar the effectiveness of communication.</i>
Archetype (n)	original model, prototype, typical specimen; a recurrent symbol or motif in literature. Ideal form regarded as a model not to be changed. Gk. arkhetupon : arch : chief + tupon : stamp. <i>Mr. Smith is the archetype of Victorian values.</i>
Archipelago (n)	a group of islands.

Archive (n)	depository of public records and documents. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>archival</i>]. Gk. arkheia : public records .
Arena (n)	central part of an amphitheatre, etc. in which contests take place; scene of conflict; sphere of action.
Argentiferous (adj.)	containing natural deposits of silver. L. argentum : silver + ferous : bearing .
Argot (n)	jargon of a group or class.
Arid (adj.)	dry, parched, barre.
Armada (n)	fleet of warships. Sp. (from Romanic): armata : army .
Aromatic (adj. & n)	fragrant, spicy, pleasantly pungent.
Arraign (v. tr.)	indict, accuse, call into question. [<i>n</i> : <i>arraignment</i>]. The audience arraigned the speaker who was infamous on account of his insincerity.
Array (n & v. tr.)	(n) an imposing or well ordered series or display; (Math) an arrangement of quantities or symbols in rows and columns; a matrix; (v) adorn, set in order; marshal (forces). L. ar : to + Ger. Root meaning ' prepare '.
Arrogate (v. tr.)	claim without justification. [<i>n</i> : <i>arrogation</i>]. L. rogare : ask .
Arroyo (n)	dry gully cut by a stream, esp. in dry regions; a brook or stream.
Articulate (v. & adj.)	able to express one's thoughts clearly and coherently. (v) <i>I was unable to articulate my views in front of the audience.</i> (adj.) <i>An articulate orator can always influence audience opinion.</i>
Artifice (n)	a clever device; deception; trickery. L. artis : art + facere : make .
Ascetic (n & adj.)	(n) a person who practices severe self-discipline and abstains from all forms of pleasure, esp. for religious or spiritual reasons. (adj.) characteristic of asceticism or ascetics. [<i>n</i> : <i>asceticism</i>]. (n) <i>The ascetic who lived on the outskirts of the city disappeared.</i> (adj.) <i>The managing director's ascetic lifestyle was admired by everybody.</i>
Ascribe (v. tr.)	attribute. L. script : write .
Asinine (adj.)	stupid; like an ass. [<i>n</i> : <i>asinity</i>].
Askance (adv.)	sideways or squinting; regard with suspicion or disapproval. <i>My guardian looked askance at me when I spoke against his parochial attitudes to societal changes.</i>
Askew (adv & adj.)	awry, obliquely.
Asperity (n)	harshness or sharpness of temper L. asper : rough .
Aspersions (n)	slandorous remark. <i>It is not in good taste to cast aspersion on others without being sure of the facts.</i>
Aspiration (n)	a strong desire to achieve an end; an ambition. The act or process of drawing breath. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>aspirational</i>]. L. ad + spirare : breath .
Asseverate (v. tr.)	declare solemnly or emphatically. [<i>n</i> : <i>asseveration</i>]. L. ad + severus : serious .
Assiduity (n)	constant or close attention to what one is doing. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>assiduous</i>]. <i>Ram's assiduity with regard to his studies saw him in good stead during the examinations.</i>

Assimilate (v. tr.)	absorb. L. similis : like.
Associate (v., n, adj.)	(v) connect, ally. (n) business partner or colleague, friend, companion; a subordinate member. (adj.) joined in companionship, function or dignity. L. ad+ socius : sharing, allied.
Assuage (v. tr.)	calm or soothe (for a person, pain, etc.), appease, relieve (appetite or desire). L. suavis : sweet. <i>It is difficult to assuage a glutton's appetite for food.</i>
Asteroid (n)	a small, rocky body orbiting the sun.
Astral (adj.)	relating to stars.
Astrolabe (n)	instrument used to make astronomical measurements, esp. of the altitudes of celestial bodies and also as an aid in navigation.
Astute (adj.)	shrewd, sagacious. L. astus : craft.
Asunder (adv)	apart.
Atavism (n)	a resemblance to remote ancestors rather than to parents in plants or animals; reversion to an earlier type. [<i>adj.</i> : atavistic]. L. atavus : great grandfather's grandfather.
Atheist (adj.)	one who believes that God does not exist. [<i>n</i> : atheism]. Gk. a + theos : God.
Atoll (n)	a ring shaped coral reef enclosing a lagoon.
Atonement (n)	reparation for a wrong or injury; apology, redemption. [<i>v.</i> : atone]. <i>Many sinners crave for atonement at the fag end of their life.</i>
Atrabilious (adj.)	(Lit.) melancholy, ill-tempered.
Atrocity (n)	an extremely wicked or cruel act. <i>Inhuman atrocities are inflicted on women during wars and insurgencies.</i>
Atrophy (n & v. intr.)	cause to waste away through undernourishment, ageing or lack of use; (n) the process of atrophying. Gk. a + trophe : food.
Attenuate (v. tr.)	make thin; weaken; lessen, reduce. [<i>n</i> : attenuation]. L. ad + tenuis : thin. <i>The argument was attenuated by the erroneous examples.</i>
Attest (v.)	certify the validity of, give proof. L. ad + testis : witness. <i>The state attorney attested the certificates.</i>
Atticism (n)	extreme elegance of speech. <i>The orator's address to the congregation was an instance of atticism at its best.</i>
Attribute (n & v. tr.)	a quality ascribed to a person or thing; material object recognised as appropriate to a person or thing. (v) ascribe to or regard as the effect of. [<i>adj.</i> : attributable].
Attrition (n)	the act or process of gradually wearing out, esp. by friction. (Theo) sorrow for sin. L. attrit : rub.
Atypical (adj.)	not conforming to a type.
Audacity (n)	daring, boldness, impudence. <i>The nation was stunned at the audacity of the gang who attacked the high security prison.</i>

Augment (v.)	to increase. L. augere: increase. <i>Very often, people resort to unscrupulous means to augment their income.</i>
Augury (n)	an omen, a portent.
Aura (n)	the distinctive atmosphere diffused by or attending a person, place, etc.; a subtle emanation or aroma from flowers. (Med.) premonitory symptoms in epilepsy.
Auriferous (adj.)	naturally bearing gold. L. aurum: gold.
Auspicious (adj.)	favourable; prosperous; good omen. <i>The family selected an auspicious day for the marriage of their daughter.</i>
Austere (adj.)	strict, stern; severely simple; morally strict. Gk.: austeros: severe. <i>The government has taken austere measures to eradicate the proliferation of brothels.</i>
Autarchy (n)	absolute sovereignty; despotism. [<i>adj.: autarchic</i>]. Gk. arkho: rule.
Autarky (n)	self-sufficiency, esp. as an economic system. [<i>adj.: autarkic</i>]. Gk. arkeo: suffice.
Authentic (adj.)	genuine, true, real. [<i>n: authenticity</i>].
Autocrat (n)	an absolute ruler, dictatorial person. [<i>adj.: autocratic</i>]. Gk. auto: self, kratos: power.
Automation (n)	the use of automatic equipment to save mental and manual labour. The automatic control of the manufacture of a product through its successive stages.
Autonomous (adj.)	having self-government; acting independently or having the freedom to do so. Gk. auto: self + nomos: law.
Autopsy (n & v. tr.)	(n) a post-mortem examination. Any critical analysis. (v) perform an autopsy on. Gk. autoptes: eye-witness.
Auxiliary (adj. & n)	(adj.) something or someone that gives help; subsidiary, additional. (Gram.) an auxiliary verb. L. auxilium: help.
Avarice (n)	extreme greed for money or gain. [<i>adj.: avaricious</i>]. L. avarus: greed. <i>The current financial crisis in the organisation can be attributed to the prevalence of avarice in the top echelons.</i>
Aver (v. tr.)	assert, affirm. L. verus: true.
Avocation (n)	minor occupation; a vocation or calling. L. avocare: call away.
Avow (v. tr.)	admit, confess. [<i>n: avowal</i>].
Avuncular (adj.)	like or of an uncle. Kind and friendly esp. towards a younger person. <i>Tom's avuncular behaviour won him the friendship of the neighbourhood children.</i>
Awe (n & v. tr.)	(n) reverential fear or wonder. (v) inspire with awe.
Awning (n)	a sheet of canvas or similar material stretched on a frame and used to shade a shop window, etc.
Axiom (n)	an established or widely accepted principle. (Geom.) a self-evident truth. Gk. axios: worthy.
Azure (n & adj.)	(n) a deep sky-blue colour. (adj.) of the colour azure.

B

Babble (v & n)	(v. intr.) talk in an inarticulate or incoherent manner. Chatter irrelevantly or excessively. (v. tr.) repeat foolishly, divulge through chatter. (n) incoherent speech, foolish, idle or childish talk; the murmur of voices, water, etc. (v) <i>The prisoner babbled about having been lured into crime, but the police did not pay attention to his pleas.</i> (n) <i>The prisoner's babble failed to convince the police of his innocence.</i>
Babel (n)	confused noise of voices, a scene of confusion. (Old Testament: reference to the biblical tower that was built in order to reach heaven but ended in chaos when Jehovah confused the speech of the builders). <i>The present Parliament has been reduced to a virtual Babel, to the consternation of all concerned.</i>
Bacchanalia (n)	a drunken revelry. The Roman festival of Bacchus, the Gk God of Wine.
Bacillus (n)	rod shaped bacterium [pl.: bacilli]. L. baculus : stick.
Badger (n & v. tr.)	(n) an omnivorous mammal belonging to the weasel family. (v) pester, harass, tease. <i>In the wake of the communal riots, the public badgered the police for its incompetence and sectarian policies.</i>
Badinage (n)	humorous or playful ridicule. Fr. badiner : to joke.
Baffle (v. tr. & n)	(v) confuse or perplex; frustrate. (n) a device used to restrain the flow of fluid, gas, etc., or to limit the emission of sound, light, etc. [n: bafflement].
Bagatelle (n)	a game. A mere trifle. (Mus.) a short piece of music esp. for the piano.
Bailsman (n)	a person who stands bail for another.
Balderdash (n)	nonsense, senseless talk or writing. <i>The student's thesis was rejected on the basis that it was mere balderdash.</i>
Baleful (adj.)	(of a manner, look, etc.) gloomy, melancholy; (of weather) menacing, harmful, destructive. Old Eng. bale : evil + ful. <i>We had to cancel our picnic because of the baleful weather.</i>
Ballast (n)	any heavy material placed in a ship or the car of a hot-air balloon to secure stability; (Elec.) any device used to stabilise the current in a circuit. Anything that provides stability or permanence.
Ballistic (adj.)	of or relating to projectiles; moving under the force of gravity only. Gk. ballo : throw + ic.
Ballyhoo (n)	loud noise or fuss, commotion; extravagant or sensational publicity. <i>The advertisement blitzkrieg was followed by a period of unnecessary ballyhoo.</i>
Balmy (adj.)	mild and fragrant, soothing. [n: balminess]. <i>The balmy weather of the coastal resort helped me convalesce sooner than expected.</i>
Balneal, Balneary (adj.)	pertaining to bathing
Balneology (n)	the scientific study of bathing and medicinal springs.
Banal (adj.)	commonplace. [n: banality]. <i>The event was marred by banal statements made by unimpressive speakers.</i>
Banausic (adj.)	uncultivated; materialistic; suitable only for artisans.
Baneful (adj.)	harmful. [n: bane].

Banns (n)	a notice read out in a parish church on three successive Sundays, announcing an intended marriage.
Banter (n & v)	(n) good humoured teasing. (v. tr.) ridicule in a good humoured way. (v. intr.) talk humorously or teasingly. (n) <i>My brother's banter kept the company in good humour throughout the journey.</i> (v) <i>She bantered on about her sister's innumerable faux pas.</i>
Bantling (n)	young child, brat.
Barmecide (adj & n)	(adj.) illusory, imaginary such as made to disappoint. (n) a giver of illusory benefits. The name of a wealthy man in The Arabian Nights, who gave a feast to a beggar consisting of ornate but empty dishes.
Baroque (adj & n)	highly ornamental and extravagant in style as practised in the 17 th and 18 th century; (n) pertaining to this period. <i>The baroque designs of some old churches speak of splendour and glory.</i>
Barrage (n)	concentrated artillery bombardment over a wide area; a rapid succession of questions and or criticism; an artificial barrier esp. in a river. <i>The teacher was faced with a barrage of questions.</i>
Barrator (n)	a malicious person causing discord.
Bashful (adj.)	shy, diffident, self-conscious. [v: abash]. <i>Being inherently bashful, Samir could not participate in school activities like debates and elocution contests.</i>
Basilisk (n)	a mythical reptile with a lethal breath and look.
Bathos (n)	anticlimax; a lapse in mood from the sublime to the trivial. [adj.: bathotic]. Gk. bathus : deep. <i>Bathos is an important device used by playwrights to parody such issues as gossip mongering.</i>
Bauble (n)	a little trinket or toy of little value.
Baulk (v & n)	(intr.) refuse to go, hesitate; (tr.) thwart, hinder, disappoint; (n) a hindrance, stumbling block. <i>She baulked at the idea of going to the hills for a holiday in winter.</i>
Bawdy (adj.)	obscene; coarse; indecent. <i>Some lyricists take pride in composing bawdy songs to lure people to their kind of entertainment.</i>
Beatify (v. tr.)	make happy; to bless. L. beatus : blessed.
Beau ideal (n)	the highest type of excellence or beauty.
Beau monde (n)	fashionable society.
Becoming (adj.)	suitable, decorous; flattering the appearance. <i>It was becoming of him to avoid participating in the slander campaign against his enemy.</i>
Bedaub (v. tr.)	smear with paint, decorate gaudily.
Bedevil (v. tr.)	plague, afflict; confound, confuse; possess as if with a devil; treat with diabolical violence or abuse.
Bedlam (n)	a scene of uproar or confusion. <i>In the past, an asylum was no better than bedlam, compounded by the fact that living conditions were inordinately bad.</i>
Bedizen (n)	deck out gaudily.
Bedraggled (adj.)	untidy, dishevelled. <i>The bedraggled appearance of the servant drove her employer to fury.</i>

Beguile (v. tr.)	charm, amuse; divert attention pleasantly from (followed by into, of, out of); delude, cheat. <i>The teenager was beguiled into drug trafficking by the older boys in the neighbourhood.</i>
Behemoth (n)	an enormous creature or thing.
Belabor (v. tr.)	thrash, beat, attack verbally; argue, elaborate. Be + labour: exert one's strength. <i>The teacher, infuriated by the student's behaviour belaboured him mercilessly.</i>
Beleaguer (v. tr.)	besiege; harass. Dutch: belegeren : camp round.
Bellicose (adj.)	warlike, eager to fight. L. bellum : war. <i>Iraq's bellicose attitude has been censured by every other nation.</i>
Belligerence (n)	aggressive or warlike behaviour. [adj. & n: belligerent]. <i>The convict's belligerence was undiminished even when he was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment.</i>
Bemuse (v. tr.)	stupefy, bewilder.
Benediction (n)	the utterance of a blessing.
Benefactor (n)	a person who gives (esp. financial) support to a person or a cause.
Beneficence (n)	active kindness, charity. <i>The dowager, known for her beneficence, was honoured with an award for social service.</i>
Beneficiary (n)	a person who receives benefits, esp. under a trust, will or life insurance. L. bene : well + facere : do.
Benevolent (adj.)	wishing to do good; actively friendly and helpful; charitable. L. bene : well + velle : wish. <i>The benevolent sadhu appeared as a breath of fresh air in this medley of fake sanyasis and gurus.</i>
Benighted (adj.)	intellectually or morally ignorant; overtaken by darkness. <i>The benighted populace needs a guiding spirit in their moment of crisis.</i>
Benign (adj.)	gentle, mild, kindly; fortunate. (Med.) (of a disease) not malignant. (1) <i>The benign old activist was given a resounding welcome when he returned to the city.</i> (2) <i>Scared by the continuous pain in his stomach, the patient heaved a sigh of relief when he heard that it was a benign tumour and he had nothing to fear.</i>
Benison (n)	blessing.
Berate (v. tr.)	scold, rebuke. be + rate : scold. <i>The army berated the local community for not heeding their warning regarding the air attack.</i>
Bereave (v. tr.)	deprive of a relation, friend, etc. esp. by death.
Bereft (adj.)	deprived, esp. of a non-material asset. <i>The young man walked out of the employment office bereft of hope.</i>
Berserk (adj.)	wild, frenzied. <i>The crowd went berserk when it heard of India's victory in the match.</i>
Besmirch (v. tr.)	soil, discolour, dishonour.
Besotted (adj.)	infatuated, foolish, confused. <i>Ramesh is besotted with the idea of marrying his neighbour's intransigent daughter.</i>

Bestial (adj.)	of, or like a beast; brutish, cruel, savage; sexually depraved, lustful. <i>It is man's bestial tendencies that lead him to kill when his survival is at stake.</i> <i>Rape is a bestial act that should be severely punished.</i>
Bestow (v. tr.)	confer, deposit. be + Old Eng. stow : place . <i>The father bestowed lavish gifts upon the daughter during her marriage.</i>
Bibliography (n)	a list of books referred to in a scholarly work, usually printed as an appendix. List of books of a specific author or publisher, or on a specific subject, etc. Gk. biblia : books + graphy : descriptive science .
Bibliophile (n)	a person who collects or is fond of books. Gk. biblia + philos/philia : loving/fondness .
Bibulous (adj.)	given to drinking alcoholic liquor. [<i>n</i> : <i>bibulousness</i>]. L. bibere : drink .
Bicameral (adj.)	(of a parliament or legislative body) having two chambers. bi + L. camera : chamber .
Biennial (adj.)	lasting two years; recurring every two years. (Bot) a plant that takes two years to grow from seed to fruition and die. bi + L. annus : year .
Bigotry (n)	obstinate and intolerant belief in a religion, political theory, etc. <i>It has been noted that most riots in our country are the result of religious bigotry.</i>
Bilious (adj.)	affected by a disorder of the bile.
Billet (n)	a place where troops etc. are lodged, usually with civilians. (Naut.) sleeping accommodation assigned to a crew member of a ship.
Billet-doux (n)	a love letter.
Billingsgate (n)	abusive language full of swear words.
Bivouac (n)	a temporary open encampment without tents, esp. of soldiers.
Bizarre (adj.)	strange in appearance or effect; eccentric; grotesque.
Bland (adj.)	mild; tasteless, insipid, unstimulating. [<i>n</i> : <i>blandness</i>]. L. blandus : soft .
Blandishment (n)	flattery, cajolery. <i>The critic's blandishment of the writer revealed his unctuous nature.</i>
Blarney (n & v)	(n) cajoling talk, flattery. (v. tr.) flatter with blarney. (intr.) talk flatteringly. Blarney: an Irish castle near Cork with a stone supposed to confer a cajoling talk on anybody who kisses it.
Blasé (adj.)	unimpressed or indifferent because of overfamiliarity; surfeited.
Blasphemous (adj.)	impious, profane. Gk. blasphemia : slander .
Blastogenesis (n)	reproduction by germination or budding.
Blatant (adj.)	flagrant, unashamed; offensively noisy or obtrusive. <i>The public's blatant violation of traffic rules was severely criticised by the local press.</i>
Blather (n & v)	(n) foolish chatter. (v. intr.) chatter foolishly. Old Norse blathr : nonsense .
Blazon (n & v. tr.)	(n) Heraldry: a correct description of armorial bearings etc.; a record or description esp. of virtues etc. (v) proclaim; inscribe or paint (an object) with names, arms, etc. Ger. Or Dut. blaze : proclaim .

Bleak (adj.)	dreary, bare, exposed, unpromising. Old Norse bleikr or Ger. blaecon : pale . <i>Most castles in Scotland are situated in bleak countryside.</i>
Bleary (adj.)	indistinct, blurred; dim with sleep. <i>The doctor left the operation theatre looking haggard and bleary-eyed.</i>
Blight (v & n)	(n) a plant disease caused by mildews, rusts, smuts, fungi or insects; an insect or parasite causing such a disease; any harmful force which is obstructive and destructive. (v) affect with blight.
Blithe (n)	gay, cheerful, careless, casual. <i>Poets have for ages sung paeans to the blithe spirit of nightingales.</i>
Blitzkrieg (n)	an intense (military) campaign intended to bring about a swift victory. Ger. lightning war . (ref.: ballyhoo).
Bludgeon (n & v)	(n) a club with a heavy end. (v) beat with a bludgeon; coerce. <i>The family bludgeoned my sister into accepting the offer from the multinational firm.</i>
Bluestocking (n)	(derogatory) an intellectual or literary woman.
Bodkin (n)	a blunt thick needle with a large eye used esp. for drawing tape etc. through a hem; a long pin for fastening hair; a small pointed instrument for piercing cloth, etc.
Boggle (v.)	(intr.) be baffled, startled; hesitate, demur. (tr.) overwhelm mentally.
Bohemian (n & adj.)	(n) a native of Bohemia; a socially unconventional person, esp. an artist or writer; (adj.) relating to, or characteristic of Bohemia and its people; socially unconventional. <i>Artists and literateurs are known for their bohemian lifestyle.</i>
Boisterous (adj.)	(of a person) rough, noisily exuberant; (of weather, sea, etc.) stormy, rough. <i>The Bay of Bengal is much more boisterous sea than the Arabian Sea.</i> <i>The presence of boisterous people can be taxing during a journey.</i>
Bolster (v. tr.)	encourage, reinforce, support, prop up. <i>The entire family turned up to bolster the confidence of the young tennis player.</i>
Bolshevism (n)	the doctrines, methods, procedures or dialectics of Russian Communism. [<i>n & adj.: Bolshevik</i>].
Bombastic (adj.)	pompous; using high sounding and insincere words with little meaning. [<i>n: bombast</i>]. <i>The bombastic rhetoric of politicians is exasperating.</i>
Bonanza (n & adj.)	a source of wealth and prosperity; a large output; a run of good luck; (adj.) greatly prospering. L. bonus : good .
Bonhomie (n)	geniality; good natured friendliness. Fr. bonhomme : good fellow . <i>The party was characterised by bonhomie.</i>
Bootless (adj.)	unavailing, useless. <i>The minister ridiculed the bootless complaints of the women.</i>
Boreal ((adj.)	of the North or northern regions; of the north wind. Gk. boreas : god of the north wind .
Bourn (n)	a small stream; a goal, destination, limit.
Bourgeois (adj. & n)	(adj.) conventionally middle class, humdrum; upholding the interests of the capitalist class. <i>Communists have often hurled abuse at the bourgeois mentality of the Indian middle class.</i>
Bovine (adj.)	of or relating to cattle; stupid, dull. [<i>adv.: bovinely</i>]. L. bovis : ox .
Brachylogy (n)	over conciseness of expression.

Braggadacio (n)	empty boasting. From brag. (Originally the name of a braggart in Spenser's Faerie Queene).
Braggart (adj. & n)	(adj.) boastful. (n) a person given to bragging.
Bravado (n)	a bold manner or a show of boldness intended to impress. From brave . <i>Certain types of advertisements demonstrate a kind of bravado that could set wrong precedents for the younger generation.</i>
Bravura (n)	a brilliant or ambitious action or display; a style of music (esp. vocal) requiring exceptional ability. Ref. Bravado.
Brazen (adj.)	shameless, insolent; of or like brass, harsh in sound. (v. tr.) face or undergo defiantly. (adj.) <i>The child's brazen faced conduct infuriated the parent.</i> (v) <i>Despite a sharp reprimand from the teacher, the student decided to brazen it out and defy the former.</i>
Brevipennate (adj.)	having short wings.
Brevity (n)	conciseness, shortness. From brief .
Bric-a-brac (n)	miscellaneous, often old ornaments, furniture, etc., of little value. <i>The living room was decorated by fascinating bric-a-brac.</i>
Brindled (adj.)	brownish or tawny with streaks of other colour.
Brochure (n)	a pamphlet or leaflet giving descriptive information.
Browbeat (v. tr.)	intimidate with stern looks and words. <i>Elder brothers often try to browbeat their younger siblings.</i>
Browse (v)	Read or survey desultorily. <i>In order to kill time I decided to browse through the uninteresting magazines on display.</i>
Bruit (v. tr.)	spread a report or rumour. <i>In spite of being a friend, Ramesh continued to bruit about Shyam's illness to all and sundry.</i>
Brummagem (adj.)	cheap and showy; counterfeit. Dialect form of Birmingham , referring to the counterfeit coins and plated goods once made there.
Brumous (adj.)	misty, foggy.
Brusque (adj.)	abrupt or offhand in manner and speech. [<i>n: brusqueness</i>]. <i>My father's brusque manner displeased the family.</i>
Buccaneer(n & v. intr)	(n) a pirate originally off the Spanish-American coasts; an unscrupulous adventurer; (v.) be so. [<i>adj.: buccaneerish</i>]. Fr. boucaner: cure meat on a barbecue . <i>The businessman plunged into new ventures with the spirit of a buccaneer.</i>
Bucolic (adj.)	rural; of or concerning shepherds or the pastoral life. Gk. boukolos: herdsman .
Bugaboo (n)	source of annoyance or fear.
Bulimia (n)	insatiable overeating; morbid hunger. [<i>adj.: bulimic</i>]. Gk. bous: ox + limos: hunger . <i>Bouts of dieting often lead to equally intense and punishing bouts of bulimia in women.</i>
Bullion (n)	a metal (esp. gold or silver) in bulk before coining, or valued by weight.
Bulwark (n)	a defensive wall; a rampart; a person, principle, etc. that acts as a defence; a ship's side above deck. <i>My mother role as a bulwark in my father's life and struggles cannot be ignored.</i>

Bumptious (adj.)	conceited or offensively self-assertive.
Buoyancy (n)	power to recuperate; lightness of spirit; power to float or keep things floating; cheerfulness.
Bureaucracy (n)	a government by central administration; the officials of such a government, esp. regarded as oppressive and inflexible.
Burgeon (v. intr. & n)	(v) begin to grow rapidly, flourish; bud. (n) a bud or young shoot. (v) <i>The population continues to burgeon at an alarming rate.</i>
Burgess (n)	an inhabitant of a town or borough esp. of one with full municipal rights. From borough .
Burlesque (n, adj., v)	(n) parody of a dramatic or a literary work; bombast, mock-seriousness; (adj.) of or in the nature of burlesque; (v. tr.) make or give a burlesque of. L. burla : mockery .
Burnish (v. tr.)	polish by rubbing Old Fr. brun : brown .
Buttress (n & v. tr.)	a projecting support built against a wall; a source of help or encouragement; a projecting portion of a hill or mountain. (v.) support with a buttress, support with an argument, etc. (n) <i>His wife was a buttress to him in his dark days.</i> (v) <i>The judge's decision was buttressed by popular and legal opinion, besides the innumerable facts.</i>
Buxom (adj.)	plump and healthy looking; large and shapely.
Byzantine (adj.)	of Byzantium or the Eastern Roman empire; extremely complicated; inflexible; (Archit. & Art) of a highly decorative art developed in the Eastern empire.

C

Cabala (n)	mystic interpretation; any esoteric doctrine or occult lore. Rabbinical Hebrew: Kabbala: tradition.
Cachet (n)	distinguishing mark or seal; prestige. (Med.) a flat capsule enclosing a dose of medicine. L. coactare: contain.
Cacoepy (n)	bad pronunciation. <i>The cacoepy in his speech was conspicuous by repetition.</i>
Cacophony	discordant, harsh mixture of sound. Dissonance, discord. [<i>adj.: cacophonous</i>]. Gk. kakos: bad, phone: sound. <i>The classical music night was marred by the cacophony of an ignorant audience.</i>
Cadaver (n)	corpse. [<i>adj.: cadaveric</i>]. <i>Students of medicine have to deal extensively with cadavers.</i>
Cadence (n)	intonation, tonal inflection; (Mus.) rhythm, the measure or beat of sound or movement. [<i>adj.: cadenced</i>]. <i>The cadence of falling water lulled me to sleep.</i>
Cadge (v)	get or seek by begging. [<i>n: cadger</i>]. <i>I had to cadge before my parents to go for the school trip to Shimla.</i>
Cafard (n)	melancholia.
Cajole (v. tr.)	persuade by flattery, deceit. [<i>n: cajolement, cajolery</i>]. <i>My friends cajoled me into buying the expensive dress.</i>
Calefacient (n & adj.)	(Med.) any substance producing or causing a sensation of warmth. L. calefacere: calere: be warm, facere: make.
Calibre (n)	the internal diameter of a gun or tube, bullet or shell; strength or quality of character; ability, importance. Ar. kalib: mould. <i>We need someone of your calibre to handle the task.</i>
Calligraphy (n)	fine or pleasing handwriting; the art of handwriting. [<i>adj.: calligraphic</i>]. Gk. kallos: beauty, graphia: writing.
Calisthenics (n)	gymnastic exercises to achieve bodily fitness and grace of movement. [<i>adj: callisthenic</i>]. Gk. kallos + sthrenos: strength.
Callous (n)	unfeeling, insensitive; (of skin) hardened or hard. [<i>adj.: calloused; adv: callously</i>]. L. callus: hardened skin. <i>The priest's callous behaviour with the penitents was unjustified.</i>
Callow (adj.)	inexperienced, immature. <i>The callow employee was responsible for the failure of the project.</i>
Calumny (n & v)	(n) slander, malicious representation; (v) slander. <i>The ignorant masses rained calumny on the seer.</i>
Canaille (n)	the rabble, populace. It. canaglia: pack of dogs.
Canard (n)	an unfounded rumour or story. Dut. caner: to quack. <i>The rumour that the priest had molested a young girl was an instance of canard.</i>
Cancellous (n)	(of bone) porous.
Candid (adj.)	frank; (of a photograph) taken informally, usu. without the subject's knowledge. [<i>adv: candidly; n: candidness</i>]. 1. <i>The culprit's candid confession was lauded by the jury.</i> 2. <i>The journalists took candid photographs of the actress in her summer resort.</i>

Candour (n)	candid behaviour of action, frankness. L. candidus : white , thus pure, clear. <i>The doctor's candour was a welcome change from the usual reticence practiced by most doctors.</i>
Canker (n)	a destructive fungal disease that attacks the plant world, an open wound in the stem; (Zool.) an ulcerous ear disease of animals; (Med.) an ulcer on the lips; a corrupting or evil influence; (v) corrupt. [adj.: <i>cankered, cankerous</i>]. L. cancer : crab .
Canon (n)	a general rule, law, principle; the recognised genuine works of a particular author. Gk. kanon : rule . <i>The laity disobeyed the Church canon regarding penitence and discipline during prayers.</i>
Canonical (adj. & n)	according to canon; authoritative, standard, accepted; of a cathedral chapter or member of it. <i>University curricula often prescribe canonical texts that are no longer relevant.</i>
Cant (n & v)	insincere pious or moral talk; jargon; (v. intr.) use cant. <i>The terrorist's declaration of a return to patriotism was mere cant.</i>
Canter (n & v)	(n) a gentle gallop; (v. intr.) (of a horse or its rider) go at a canter; (v. tr.) make a canter.
Canticle (n)	hymn or chant usually with a Biblical text, forming a regular part of church service. L. canere : sing .
Cantillate (v)	chant or recite with musical tones. L. cantillare : sing low .
Canvass (v & n)	(intr.) solicit votes; (tr.) solicit votes from; discuss thoroughly; (n) the process or instance of canvassing. <i>The defeated candidates tried to canvass on an ethical platform during the re-election.</i>
Capacious (adj.)	roomy. L. capere : hold . <i>The room given to us was capacious and elegant.</i>
Caparison (n & v. tr.)	(n) horse's trappings; equipment, finery; (v) put caparisons on, adorn richly. <i>The soldiers marched smartly, dressed in their finest caparison.</i>
Capitulate (v. intr.)	surrender, esp. on stated conditions. [<i>n</i> : <i>capitulation</i>]. L. caput : head , thus capitulare : draw up under headings . <i>The aggressor was compelled to capitulate before the enemy.</i>
Caprice (n)	whimsical change of mind or conduct. It. capriccio : sudden start . <i>The match was lost due to the captain's caprice.</i>
Captious (adj.)	given to finding faults or raising petty objections. <i>Employees who tend to be captious do not find favour with their employees.</i>
Carat (n)	a unit of weight for precious stones; measure of fineness for gold.
Carcinogen (n)	any substance that causes cancer. carcinoma : cancer + gen : causing .
Cardinal (n & adj.)	a leading dignitary of the Roman Catholic Church; (adj.) chief, fundamental; on which something hinges. [<i>adv</i> : <i>cardinally</i>]. <i>Avoiding the interlocutor's gaze is a cardinal mistake at interviews.</i>
Caricature (n & v. tr.)	(n) a grotesque, usu. Comic representation of a person or exaggeration of characteristic traits, in a picture, writing or mime; a ridiculously poor or absurd imitation; (v) caricature.
Carking (adj.)	(archaic) burdensome.
Carnage (n)	great slaughter (esp.) of human beings. L. caro carnis : flesh . <i>The recent carnage in Bihar jolted the nation out of its reverie.</i>

Carnal (adj.)	worldly; of the body or flesh; sensual, sexual. L. <i>caro carnis</i> . <i>Asceticism is the denial of the carnal instincts in man.</i>
Carnassial (adj. & n)	(relating to a carnivore's upper premolar and lower molar) adapted to shearing flesh. Fr. carnassier : carnivore .
Carnivorous (adj.)	feeding on flesh. L. caro carnis + vorous : feeding on .
Carousal (n)	a noisy drinking party or revelry. [<i>v</i> : <i>carouse</i>].
Carp (n & v. intr.)	(n) a freshwater fish; (v) complain pettily. L. carpere : pluck at, slander . <i>It is wrong of us to carp at the government continuously.</i>
Carpet knight (n)	soldier who has not seen active service. <i>Armies in many countries produce carpet knights who are unable to handle crises.</i>
Carrion (n & adj.)	(n) dead putrefying flesh; something vile or filthy; (adj.) rotten, loathsome. L. caro carnis .
Carte Blanche (n)	full discretionary power given to a person. Fr. blank paper .
Cartel (n)	an informal association of manufacturers or suppliers to maintain prices at a high level and control production, marketing, etc.; a political combination between parties.
Cartography (n)	the science or practice of map drawing. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>cartographical</i>]. Fr. carte : map + Gk. graphia .
Cascade (n & v. intr.)	a small waterfall; any amount or quantity in descending waves (eg. hair); a process consisting of similar stages with a cumulative effect; a succession of devices, events, etc. each of which triggers the next; (v) fall in or like a cascade. L. casus : fall . <i>The politician's speech was a veritable cascade of pre-election promises.</i>
Cassandra (n)	a prophet of disaster, esp. one who is disregarded. Gk.: from Cassandra , daughter of King Priam of Troy, who was condemned by Apollo to prophecy correctly but not be believed.
Castigate (v.tr.)	rebuke or punish severely. [<i>n</i> : <i>castigation</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>castigatory</i>]. L. castigare : reprove . <i>The principal was castigated the students for their unruly behaviour.</i>
Casualty (n)	a person killed or injured in a war or accident; a thing lost or destroyed; an accident mishap or disaster.
Casuistry (n)	clever but false reasoning. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>casuistic</i>]. <i>Innocent young girls are often lured into prostitution by the sophisticated casuistry of flesh traders.</i>
Catabolism (n)	(Biochem.) the breakdown of complex molecules in living organisms in order to form simple ones with the release of energy; destructive metabolism.
Catacomb (n)	an underground cemetery.
Cataract (n)	a large waterfall or cascade; a downpour; (Med.) a condition in which the eye lens becomes progressively opaque resulting in blurred vision.
Catechism (n)	the summary of a religion's principles in the form of questions and answers. <i>Most convents hold classes in catechism.</i>
Catenate (v. tr.)	connect like links of a chain. L. catena : chain .
Caterwaul (n & v. intr.)	(v) make the shrill howl of a cat; (n) a caterwauling noise. Mid. Eng. cat + waul : (imitative). <i>I woke up in the dead of night to the caterwaul of our neighbours' son.</i>

Catholic (adj. & n)	universal; all embracing, of wide interests or tastes; of the Roman Catholic religion; (n) a Roman Catholic. Gk. katholikos : kata : in respect of + holos : whole <i>My father's catholic views won him friends from diverse fields.</i>
Caucus (n & v)	(n) a meeting or bloc of members of a legislative body belonging to a particular political group; (v) hold or form a caucus.
Causerie (n)	an informal article or talk esp. on a literary subject. Fr. causer : talk.
Cavalcade (n)	a procession or formal company of riders, motor vehicles, etc. L. cavalcare : ride from caballus : packhorse. <i>A cavalcade of riders accompanied the President on horseback.</i>
Caveat (n)	a warning or proviso; (Law) a process in court to suspend proceedings. L. let a person beware .
Cavernous (adj.)	like a cave; large, dark, hollow. L. cavus : hollow. <i>The cavernous aspect of the room struck terror in my heart.</i>
Caviar(e) (n)	the pickled roe of any large fish (esp. sturgeon), eaten as a delicacy.
Cavil (v. intr. & n)	make petty objections. L. cavilla : mockery. <i>University students tend to cavil at their teachers in order to assert themselves.</i>
Cede (v. tr.)	give up one's rights to or possession of. L. cedere : yield. <i>The king was compelled to cede his throne to his brother who was more efficient.</i>
Celibate (adj. & n)	committed to abstention from sexual relations and marriage. L. caelibatus : unmarried state.
Celerity (n)	(archaic or literary use) swiftness. L. celer : swift. <i>The young girl completed her project with uncharacteristic celerity.</i>
Cenotaph (n)	a memorial to a dead person whose body is elsewhere. Gk. kenos : empty + taphos : tomb.
Cerebral (adj.)	of the brain; intellectual. L. cerebrum : brain.
Cerebration (n)	working of the brain.
Certitude (n)	feeling of absolute certainty or conviction. L. certus : certain. <i>She spoke with such certitude about the honesty of her purpose that it was difficult to disbelieve her.</i>
Cerulean (adj. & n)	(adj.) deep blue like a clear sky; (n) the colour. L. caelum : sky.
Cessation (n)	a ceasing; a pause. L. cessare : cease. <i>The enemies resumed hostilities after the cessation of the truce.</i>
Chaffer (v. intr. & n)	(v) haggle, bargain; (n) haggling, bargaining. Old Eng. ceapfaru : ceap : bargain + faru : journey.
Chagrin (n)	acute vexation or humiliation or shame. <i>To the lady's chagrin, the bus did not wait long enough for her to board it after having waited for it for over an hour.</i>

Changeling (n)	a child believed to have been substituted for another by stealth, esp. (in old stories) elf-child thus left by fairies.
Chap-fallen (adj.)	dispirited, dejected (with the lower jaw hanging).
Chapman (n)	a pedlar. Old Eng. ceapman : ceap : barter .
Charade (n)	an absurd pretence; a game of guessing a word from a written or acted clue.
Charisma (n)	great charm; an aura of charm or attraction; the ability to inspire followers with devotion and enthusiasm. Gk. kharis : favour , grace . <i>Nehru's popularity could be attributed to his charisma.</i>
Charlatan (n)	a person falsely claiming a special knowledge or skill. [<i>n</i> : charlatanism].
Chary (adj.)	cautious, wary; sparing, ungenerous. 1. <i>The old man was chary of all young people.</i> 2. <i>The teacher was chary of acknowledging the talent of her students.</i>
Chasm (n)	a deep fissure or opening; a gulf, a wide difference of opinion, etc. [<i>adj</i> : chasmic]. Gk. khasma : gaping hollow . <i>The two sisters are separated by a huge chasm of ideas and ideals.</i>
Chassis (n)	the base frame of a motor vehicle, carriage, etc. L. capsa : case .
Chaste (adj.)	abstaining from extramarital or all sexual intercourse; pure, virtuous, decent; simple, unadorned. [<i>n</i> : chastity]. <i>The novice in the convent was known for her chaste character.</i>
Chastise (v.tr.)	rebuke or reprimand severely; punish. [<i>n</i> : chastisement]. <i>The teacher was compelled to chastise the students for their undisciplined behaviour.</i>
Chattel (n)	(Law) any property other than freehold land, including tangible goods and leasehold interests; (general) a personal possession. Old Fr. chatel : cattle .
Chauvinism (n)	exaggerated or aggressive patriotism; excessive or prejudiced support or loyalty for one's group or cause or sex. Named after N. Chauvin , a Napoleonic veteran popularised as a character in the Cogniards' <i>Cocarde Tricolore</i> . <i>For ages woman has had to bear the brunt of male chauvinism.</i>
Cheese-paring (adj. & n)	(adj.) stingy; (n) stinginess.
Chequered (adj.)	with varied fortunes. <i>Ramesh had a chequered career in Australia.</i>
Chevalier (n)	(archaic or hist.) a knight; a member of certain orders of knighthood; a chivalrous man.
Chiaroscuro (n)	the treatment of light and shade in drawing and painting; the use of contrast in literature. It. chiaro : clear + oscuro : dark .
Chic (adj. & n)	(adj.) stylish; elegant (in dress or appearance); elegance, stylishness. <i>The model looked chic in her summer dress.</i>
Chicanery (n)	clever but misleading talk; a false argument; trickery, deception. Fr. chicane : quibble .
Chide (v)	scold, rebuke. <i>The mother chided her son for disobedience.</i>
Chimera (n)	(Gk. myth.) a fire-breathing female monster with a lion's head, a goat's body and a serpent's tail; a fantastic or grotesque product of the imagination. [<i>adj</i> : chimeric]. Gk. khimaira : she-goat .

Chiropodist (n)	one who treats ailments of the feet (originally also of the hands). Gk. chiro : hand + podus : feet.
Chivalrous (adj.)	(usu. Of a male) gallant, honourable, courteous.
Choleric (adj.)	irascible, angry. Gk. khole : bile; Old Fr. colere : bile, anger. <i>The young man's colleagues disliked him because of his intensely choleric temper.</i>
Chronic (adj.)	persisting for a long time (usu. of an illness or some personal or social problem); habitual, inveterate. Gk. khronos : time. 1. <i>Sita has been suffering from a bout of chronic tonsillitis.</i> 2. <i>Ravi is a chronic liar.</i>
Churlish (adj.)	surly, mean. [<i>n</i> : churlishness].
Cicatrix (n)	scar of healed wound; a scar on the branch of a tree. [<i>adj.</i> : cicatrical].
Circean (adj.)	(fig) bewitching, dangerously attractive.
Circumlocution (n)	a roundabout expression; evasive talk; verbosity.
Circumscribe (v. tr.)	enclose or outline; lay down the limits of; confine; (Geom.) draw a figure round another touching it at points without cutting it. L. circum : about, around + scribe : write.
Circumspect (adj.)	wary, cautious, taking everything into account. L. circum + specere : look. <i>The police was unduly circumspect in its investigation of the murder case.</i>
Circumvent (v. tr.)	evade (a difficulty), find a way round; baffle, outwit; entrap (an enemy) by surrounding. [<i>n</i> : circumvention]. L. circum + venire : come. <i>The troops circumvented the invading army by besieging their camps.</i>
Clairvoyance (n)	the supposed faculty of perceiving things or events in the future or beyond normal sensory contact; exceptional insight. clear + Fr. voir : see. <i>India's veneration of religious men is attributed to their supposed clairvoyance.</i>
Clandestine (adj.)	secret, surreptitious. [<i>n</i> : clandestinity]. L. clam : secretly. <i>The revolutionaries had to hold clandestine meetings at night in order to evade the spies.</i>
Claustrophobia (n)	an abnormal fear of confined or closed spaces. L. clostrum : locked, enclosed space. <i>As a result of intense claustrophobia, I had to relinquish the hotel where I had put up.</i>
Clemency (n)	mildness, mercy, [<i>adj.</i> : clement]. <i>The prisoner of war was able to return home due to the clemency exercised by the commander of the conquering army.</i>
Cliché (n)	a hackneyed phrase or opinion. [<i>adj.</i> : clichéd]. Fr. clicher : stereotype. <i>The minister used a string of clichés to comment on the secular nature of the country.</i>
Climacteric (n & adj.)	(n) (Med.) the period of life when fertility and sexual activity are in decline; a supposed critical period in life; (adj.) critical, occurring at the climacteric. Gk. klimax -akos : ladder, climax.
Coacervate (v.)	heap together, pile.
Coadjutor (n)	an assistant, esp. an assistant bishop.

Coalesce (v. intr.)	come together and form a whole; combine in a coalition. [<i>n: coalescence</i>]. L. alere: nourish . <i>The erratic ideas coalesced to form a coherent whole.</i>
Cockpit (n)	a compartment for the pilot (and crew) of an aircraft or spacecraft; an arena of war or other conflict; a place where cockfights are held.
Codicil (n)	an addition explaining, modifying or revoking a will or part of one.
Coerce (v. tr.)	persuade or restrain (an unwilling person). L. co arcere: restrain . <i>I tried to coerce my brother into purchasing a car.</i>
Coeval (adj. & n)	having the same age or date of origin; living or existing at the same epoch; having the same duration. (n) a coeval person, a contemporary. [<i>n: coevality</i>]. L. co + aevum: age . <i>The twins lived in coeval harmony.</i>
Cogent (adj.)	(of arguments, reasons, etc) convincing, compelling. [<i>n: cogency</i>]. L. cogere: compel – co + agere: act/drive . <i>Cogent arguments can help clinch a debate.</i>
Cogitate (v.)	ponder, meditate. [<i>n: cogitation</i>]. cogitare: think – co + agitare . <i>The astrologer said that he would cogitate over the horoscope before predicting the future.</i>
Cognate (adj. & n)	(adj.) related to or descended from a common ancestor; (Philol.) having the same linguistic derivation or family; representing the same original word or root. co + L. natus: born .
Cognizance (n)	knowledge or awareness; perception or notice; the sphere of one's observation or concern. co + gnoscere (gnit): to apprehend . <i>The government must take cognizance of the fact that public money should not be frittered away on the security of politicians.</i>
Cognomen (n)	a nickname; an ancient Roman's personal name or epithet. L. co + gnomen: name .
Cognoscente (n)	a connoisseur. It. a person who knows .
Coherence (n)	continuity, connectedness, consistency, logical. [<i>adj.: coherent</i>]. L. co + haerere: stick . <i>The speaker presented excellent ideas but without the essential coherence that would have rendered them intelligible.</i>
Cohesion (n)	the condition of sticking together; (Phy.) the sticking together of molecules of the same substance. [<i>adj.: cohesive</i>].
Cohort (n)	an ancient Roman military unit, equal to one-tenth of a legion; a group of people banded together for a common purpose; (N. American) a companion or colleague. L. cohort: enclosure, company . <i>A cohort of his most trusted lieutenants followed the king.</i>
Collaborate (v. intr.)	work jointly; cooperate traitorously with an enemy. [<i>n: collaboration</i>]. L. com + laborare: work . <i>The two engineering giants decided to collaborate for the successful completion of the contract.</i>
Collate (v. tr.)	analyse and compare (texts, statements, etc.); verify the order; assemble from different sources. L. collat as the past participle of conferre: compare . <i>The presentation was based on material collated from various sources.</i>
Collateral (n & adj.)	(n) security pledged as a guarantee for repayment of a loan; a person having the same; (adj.) descended from the same stock but by a different line; parallel; connected but aside from the main subject, course, etc. [<i>adv: collaterally</i>].

- Collusion (n)** conspiracy in a fraudulent scheme.
L. **com+ ludere: play.**
- Colossal (adj.)** huge, gigantic; splendid;
The businessman built a colossal house on the outskirts of the city.
- Come-uppance (n)** one's deserved fate or punishment.
The boy got a come-uppance from his parents for his lies.
- Comity (n)** courtesy, civility; considerate behaviour; association of nations, etc. for mutual benefit.
L. **comis: courteous.**
The comity of nations decided to call off the ban on exports from Cuba.
- Commandeer (v. tr.)** seize (men or goods) for military purpose; take possession of without authority.
- Commensurate (adj.)** having the same size, duration, etc.; coextensive; proportionate.
L. **com + measure.**
The officer's lifestyle was commensurate with his salary and social status.
- Commination (n)** the threatening of divine vengeance; the recital of divine threats against sinners the service that includes this.
L. **comminari: threaten.**
- Commiserate (v. intr.)** express or feel pity.
- Commodious (adj.)** roomy and comfortable; convenient.
L. **com + modus: measure.**
- Commutate (v. tr.)** (Electr.) regulate the direction of (an alternating current) esp. to make it a direct current; reverse the direction of an electric current.
L. **com + mutare: change.**
- Compact (adj., v & n)** (adj.) closely or neatly packed together; brief, condensed; small but well-proportioned; (v) join or press firmly together; (n) an agreement or contact.
L. **com + pangere: fasten; com + pacisci: covenant.**
The gadget was compact though slightly outdated.
The two armies came to a compact after the war came to an end.
- Compatible (adj. & n)** (adj.) well-suited, able to coexist; mutually tolerant; (n) (Computing) a piece of equipment that can use software designed for another brand of the same equipment. [*n: compatibility*].
The company's ideas and principles are not compatible with their implementation.
- Compeer (n)** an equal; a peer; a comrade.
- Compendium (n)** a one-volume handbook or encyclopaedia; a summary or abstract of a larger work; an abridgement.; any collection or mixture.
L. **com + pendere: brief.**
The library published a compendium of the author's best works.
- Compere (n & v)** a person who introduces and links the artists in a variety show, etc.; a master of ceremonies; (v) act as a compere.
- Compilation (n)** the act of collecting; something composed of separate things. [*v: compile*].
Recently, I read a compilation of the world's greatest speeches.
- Complacent (adj.)** smugly self-satisfied; calmly content. [*adv: complacently*].
It is dangerous to adopt a complacent attitude when things are going awry.
- Complaisant (adj.)** politely deferential; acquiescent. [*n: complaisance*].
Fr. **complaire: acquiesce to please.**
The archdeacon was suspiciously complaisant towards the bishop.
- Complement (n & v)** (n) something that completes; (Gram) a word or phrase added to a verb in order to complete the predicate of a sentence; (Biochem.) a group of proteins in the blood which, in conjunction with antibodies, assist in the destruction of bacteria etc. (Geom.) the amount by which an angle is less than 90°; (v. tr.) complete. [*adj.: complementary*].
(n) *My sister and I are inseparable because we serve as a complement to each other.*
(v) *The job profile complements her personality.*

Compliant (adj.)	yielding, obedient. [<i>n</i> : <i>compliance</i>]. <i>The agitation did not yield fruit because the workers were compliant to the organization's wishes.</i>
Compliment (n & v)	(n) an expression of praise, admiration or respect; an act or instance implying praise. (v) congratulate, praise; present as a mark of courtesy. L. complere : fill up, fulfil . (n) <i>Her love was a compliment to the feelings he had nurtured for long.</i> (v) <i>I wish to compliment you on your success.</i>
Complimentary (adj.)	expressing a compliment, praising; given free of charge. <i>We received complimentary tickets for the concert.</i>
Complot (n)	to conspire together.
Comport (v)	(Lit) conduct oneself, behave. [<i>n</i> : <i>comportment</i>]. L. com + portare : carry .
Compunction (n)	the pricking of the conscience, remorse; slight regret; a scruple. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>compunctious</i>]. <i>The army ravaged the city without the slightest compunction.</i>
Compurgation (n)	an acquittal from a charge or accusation obtained by the oaths of witnesses. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>compurgatory</i>]. L. com + purgare : purify .
Compute (v)	(tr.) reckon or calculate; (intr.) make a reckoning, esp. using a computer. L. com + putare : reckon . <i>It was impossible to compute that the elections would result in such a resounding victory for the opposition.</i>
Concatenate (v & adj.)	(v. tr.) link together; (adj.) joined, linked. [<i>n</i> : <i>concatenation</i>].
Conception (n)	the act or instance of imagining, thinking; an idea or plan as being daring or innovative; understanding, ability to imagine. <i>The conception of the plan was innovative in its approach and logistics.</i>
Concierge (n)	a doorkeeper or porter. L. conservus : fellow slave .
Conciliate (v. tr.)	make calm or amenable; pacify. <i>The Pope tried his best to conciliate the warring sects.</i>
Concise (adj.)	brief but comprehensive. [<i>n</i> : <i>conciseness</i>].
Conclave (n)	a private meeting; assembly of cardinals for the election of a pope; a meeting place for this. L. conclave : lockable room : com + clavis : key .
Concoct (v. tr.)	prepare something by mixing ingredients; invent. L. com + coquere : cook . <i>He was forced to concoct a story in order to prove his innocence to the principal.</i>
Concomitant (n & adj.)	going together; associated; (n) an accompanying thing. L. comes + mitis : companion . <i>The concomitant circumstances ensured his success in the joust.</i>
Concourse (n)	a crowd, a coming together; a gathering.
Concussion (n)	(Med.) temporary unconsciousness or incapacity due to a blow on the head; shock. L. com + quater : shake .
Condescend (v. intr.)	be gracious enough to do something below one's dignity or social rank; affect a superior air. L. com + descend . <i>The king condescended to speak to the villagers who came to meet him.</i>
Condign (adj.)	severe and well-deserved (of a punishment). L. com + dignus : worthy .

Condiment (n)	a seasoning for food. L. condire : pickle .
Condole (v. intr.)	express sympathy with over a loss, grief, etc. Late L. com + dolere : suffer . <i>The entire school condole with the student over the death of his parents in the accident.</i>
Condominium (n)	the joint control of a state's affairs by other states; a complex of houses or flats which are individually owned. L. com + dominus : lord .
Condone (v. tr.)	forgive or overlook; approve. L. com + donare : give . <i>The drug addict's mother condoned his addiction out of fear.</i>
Confabulate (v. intr.)	converse; (Psycho.) fabricate imaginary experiences as compensation for the loss of memory. [<i>n</i> : <i>confabulation</i>]. L. com + fabula : tale . <i>The prisoner confabulated before the judge in order to escape punishment.</i>
Configuration (n)	an arrangement of parts or elements in a particular form or figure; the form, shape or figure resulting from such an arrangement; (Astron.) the relative position of planets; (Computing) the interconnecting of a computer system or elements of it so that it will accommodate a particular specification. L. com + figurare : fashion .
Conflate (v.tr.)	blend or fuse together (esp. two variant texts into one). [<i>n</i> : <i>conflation</i>]. L. conflare : achieve , fuse . <i>The ideas, conflated from various sources, gave a sense of erudition that was missing in the other theses.</i>
Conformable (adj.)	similar; consistent; adapted. 1. <i>The decision is conformable to the previous one relating to sexual abuse.</i> (similar). 2. <i>The laws are conformable with market trends.</i> (consistent). 3. <i>The legislation was conformable to the need of the people.</i> (adapted).
Conformity (n)	harmony, agreement; compliance; correspondence in form or manner.
Congel (v.)	make or become semi solid by cooling; coagulate. L. com + gelu : frost . <i>The blood that was spilled on the floor congealed in a short time.</i>
Congenial (adj.)	pleasant, agreeable; in agreement with one's nature, temperament. <i>The restaurant I visited last night was congenial to my mood.</i>
Congenital (adj.)	existing from birth. L. com + gigno : beget . <i>Her sibling suffers from a congenital heart ailment.</i>
Congeries (n)	a disorderly collection; a mass or heap. <i>The doctor diagnosed a congeries of problems that the patient had tried to conceal.</i>
Conglomeration (n)	a collection of different things. [<i>adj.</i> , <i>n</i> & <i>v</i> : <i>conglomerate</i>]. <i>A conglomeration of companies attended the summit.</i>
Congruence (n)	agreement; consistency. L. congruere : agree .
Conjugal (adj.)	marriage or relation between husband and wife. L. com + jungere : join . <i>The couple next door lives in conjugal harmony.</i>
Conjuration (n)	a magic spell; an incantation. L. com + jurare : swear .
Connivance (n)	tacit permission to wrongdoing. L. connivere : shut the eyes (to) . <i>The police arrested the businessman for his connivance in the kidnapping case.</i>

Connoisseur (n)	an expert judge in matters of taste. Fr. connaître: know . <i>My neighbour is a connoisseur of good food.</i>
Connotation (n)	that which is implied by a word, etc. besides its literal meaning. L. com + nota: mark . <i>The connotations of the act are dangerous and could bode ill for the company.</i>
Connubial (adj.)	of or relating to marriage. [<i>n: connubiality</i>]. L. connubium: marriage (nubere: marry).
Consanguinity (n)	descent from the same ancestor. L. com + sanguinis: blood .
Consecrate (v. tr.)	make or declare sacred; dedicate to a religious purpose; to sanctify; devote to. [<i>n: consecration</i>]. L. sacrare: dedicate from sacer: sacred . <i>The soldier consecrated his life to the city temple's responsibilities.</i>
Consensus (n)	general agreement; (attribute) majority view; collective opinion. <i>The group of speakers reached a consensus.</i>
Consequential (adj.)	following as a result or consequence; resulting indirectly; significant. L. com + sequi: pursue . 1. <i>The consequential riot marred the match.</i> 2. <i>The duel was consequential in that it brought to an end a wonderful relationship.</i>
Conservatory (n)	a greenhouse for tender plants; a room attached to a house for displaying of plants. L. com + servare: keep .
Consort (n & v)	a companion, an associate; wife or husband; (intr.) keep company; (tr.) group or class together. L. com + sors sortis: lot, destiny . <i>The queen's royal consort displayed an unjustified arrogance.</i>
Conspectus (n)	a general or comprehensive survey; a summary or synopsis. L. conspicere: spicere: look at .
Consternation (n)	anxiety or dismay causing mental confusion. L. com + sternere: throw down . <i>To my consternation, the classroom where I was writing my test was invaded by a mob, which tried to disrupt the examination.</i>
Construe (v. tr.)	interpret; combine grammatically; analyse; translate. L. com + struere: pile, build . <i>The verdict can be construed in many ways and is therefore debatable.</i>
Consummate (v. tr., adj.)	(v) complete; make perfect; (adj.) perfect; fully skilled. [<i>adv: consummately</i>]. L. com + summare: complete, utmost . (v) <i>The couple was killed before the marriage was consummated.</i> (n) <i>My brother is a consummate flautist.</i>
Contagious (adj.)	able to transmit disease by contact; (of emotions, etc.) likely to affect others. L. com + tangere: touch . 1. <i>There was an exodus from the village when word spread of the contagious disease.</i> 2. <i>His optimism is contagious.</i>
Contaminate (v. tr.)	pollute, esp. with radioactivity; infect, corrupt. [<i>n: contamination</i>]. <i>Most water bodies in cities are contaminated.</i>
Contentious (adj.)	argumentative, quarrelsome; controversial. <i>The meeting was rendered futile by the contentious issue of religion based politics.</i>
Contiguous (adj.)	touching, esp. along a line; in contact; connected. [<i>adv: contiguously</i>]. L. com + tangere: touch . <i>The argument that you are presenting is contiguous with what you said earlier.</i>
Continence (n)	self-restraint; sexual chastity.

- Contingency (n)** a future circumstance that is likely to occur or one that could affect the present circumstance; something dependent on an uncertain event or occurrence; an incidental expenditure.
Most organisations keep aside some money as contingency fund.
- Contingent (adj. & n)** conditional, dependent; associated; true only under existing or specified conditions.
My answer to your query is contingent on how you react to it.
- Contraband (n & adj.)** (n) goods that are smuggled or imported or exported illegally; smuggling; (adj.) forbidden to be exported or imported.
L. **contra**: against + It. **bando**: proclamation.
The police arrested the group and unearthed a huge cache of contraband goods.
- Contravene (v. tr.)** infringe; conflict with.
L. **contra** + **venire**: come.
The activity you indulge contravenes the law relating to it.
- Contretemps (n)** an unfortunate or awkward occurrence.
Fr. **motion out of time**: **contra** + Fr. **temp**: time.
- Contrite (adj.)** penitent; remorseful. [*n*: contriteness].
With a contrite spirit, the old man became an ascetic.
- Controvert (v. tr.)** dispute, deny; argue about, discuss. [*adj.*: controvertible].
L. **contra** + **vertere**: turn.
- Contumacious (adj.)** insubordinate; stubbornly disobedient. [*n*: contumacy].
Our parents often beat up my brother for his contumacious nature.
- Contumely (n)** insolent language or treatment; disgrace.
Egoists cannot suffer contumely although they are very often culpable of imposing it on others.
- Contusion (n)** an injury, a bruise.
- Conundrum (n)** a riddle, esp. one with a pun in its answer; a hard or puzzling question.
- Convene (v. tr.)** summon or arrange; summon before a tribunal.
L. **convenire** (convent) **assemble**, agree, fit: **com** + **venire**: come.
The members of the assembly convened in the hall.
- Conversant (adj.)** well experienced or acquainted with a subject.
- Convivial (adj.)** fond of good company; sociable, lively; festive. [*n*: conviviality].
L. **com** + **vivere**: live.
The atmosphere at the party was so convivial that I was reluctant to leave.
- Convoke (v. tr.)** call people to a meeting; summon to an assembly.
L. **com** + **vocare**: call.
The president was compelled to convoke the meeting due to the sudden financial crunch.
- Convolutd (adj.)** complex, twisted, intricate. [*adv*: convolutedly].
L. **com** + **volute**: roll.
The secretary's convolutd logic created confusion.
- Copious (adj.)** abundant; plentiful; providing much information; profuse. [*adv*: copiously; *n*: copiousness].
L. **copia**: plenty.
The girl shed copious tears when she heard of her failure in getting the coveted role.
- Coppice (n & v)** (n) an area of undergrowth and small trees, grown for periodic cutting; (tr.) cut back (young trees) periodically to stimulate growth of shoots; (intr.) (of a tree) produce new shoots from a stump. [*adj.*: coppiced].
- Coquette (n)** a woman who flirts; any crested hummingbird.
Fr. **coq** (diminutive of cock): **wanton**.
- Cormorant (n)** any diving seabird with lustrous black plumage.
L. **corvus marinas**: sea raven.

Cornucopia (n)	a symbol of plenty consisting of a goat's horn overflowing with flowers, fruit and corn; an ornamental vessel shaped like this; an abundant supply. L. cornu copiae : horn of plenty . <i>The government is faced with a cornucopia of problems.</i>
Copor(e)al (adj.)	a non-commissioned army or air force officer ranking below a sergeant; of or relating to the human body. L. capo : head ; corpus oris : body . <i>The saint left his corporal abode for a higher spiritual realm.</i>
Corpulent (adj.)	bulky in body; fat. [<i>n</i> : <i>corpulence, corpulency</i>]. L. corpus : body . <i>The corpulent find it increasingly difficult to control their corpulence.</i>
Correlation (n)	a mutual relation between two or more things; interdependence of variable quantities.
Corroborate (v. tr.)	confirm or give support to (an opinion, belief, etc.). <i>The judge asked the defendant to corroborate his statements.</i>
Cortège (n)	a procession, esp. for a funeral. It. corteggiare : attend court . <i>The king's bier was followed by a cortège of his most trusted attendants.</i>
Coruscation (n)	brilliance, sparkle; emission of flashing light. L. coruscare : glitter .
Corybantic (adj.)	wild, frenzied. Corybantes, the priests of Cybele who performed wild dances. <i>The group of friends broke into corybantic revelry.</i>
Cosmic (adj.)	of the universe or cosmos, esp. as distinct from earth.
Cosmopolitan (adj. & n)	(adj.) of or from or knowing many parts of the world; consisting of people from many or all parts; free from national limitations or prejudices; (n) a cosmopolitan person. Gk. kosmos : world + polites : citizen . <i>The world today demands a cosmopolitan attitude rather than a chauvinistic one.</i>
Costate (adj.)	ribbed. L. costa : rib .
Costive (adj.)	costipate; niggardly L. constipare : stipare : press .
Coterie (n)	an exclusive group of people sharing interests; a select circle in society. <i>The Prime Minister was ill advised by his coterie of ministers.</i>
Countermand (v. & n)	(v.) (Mil) revoke an order or command; recall forces by a contrary order; (n) an order revoking a previous one. L. contra + mandare : order .
Counterpoise (n & v)	(n) a state of equilibrium; (v. tr.) counterbalance; compensate. L. counter + pensum : weight .
Coup d' état (n)	a violent or illegal seizure of power. Fr. ' blow of state '. <i>The president was overthrown in a coup d'état.</i>
Covenant (n)	an agreement, a contract; (Biblical: The Covenant) the agreement between God and the Israelites.
Covert (adj.)	secret or disguised. <i>The boy darted covert glances at the girl next door.</i>
Covet (v. tr.)	desire greatly. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>covetable</i>]. <i>It is easier to covet another's wife than appreciate one's own.</i>
Cower (v. intr.)	crouch or shrink back. <i>The pupil cowered in fright at the sight of the principal's cane.</i>

Coxcomb (n)	conceited person. Variant of cockscomb, a cap worn by jesters.
Coy (adj.)	pretending shyness in order to attract others; (derog.) reticent; shy or modest esp. in sexual matters. 1. <i>The woman's coy nature was a source of irritation to those around her.</i> 2. <i>The man I spoke to was unusually coy about his salary.</i>
Crabbed (adj.)	ill formed; difficult to understand; ill-humored.
Crass (adj.)	grassly stupid; gross. L. crassus : solid, thick. <i>Your ideas reflect a crass intellect.</i>
Craven (adj.)	cowardly, abject. [<i>n</i> : <i>cravenness</i>]. <i>Your original ideas are defeated by your craven nature.</i>
Credence (n)	belief. L. credere : believe. <i>One must give credence to one's ideas by implementing them.</i>
Credible (adj.)	worthy of belief; convincing. credere.
Creed (n)	a set of principle or opinions esp. as a philosophy of life. L. credo : I believe. <i>My sister's creed in life is to hoard wealth.</i>
Crepuscular (adj.)	twilight; (Zool.) appearing or active in twilight. L. crepusculum : twilight.
Crestfallen (adj.)	dejected. <i>My neighbour was crestfallen at the news of his father's untimely death.</i>
Cretin (n)	a person who is deformed or mentally retarded due to thyroid deficiency; (Colloq.) a stupid person. [<i>n</i> : <i>cretinism</i>].
Crevice (n)	a fissure. Old Fr. crever : burst.
Critique (n & v. tr.)	(n) a critical essay; an analysis; an instance of the same; (v) discuss critically: (also used in the forms: critiques, critiqued, critiquing). Gk. kritike tekhnē : critical art. <i>The research scholar presented an incisive critique of modern poetry.</i>
Croaker (n)	prophet of evil.
Cruet (n)	small, stoppered glass bottle, esp. for condiments at table. Old Fr. crue : pot.
Crusade (n & v)	a intense campaign in favour of a cause; medieval military expeditions by Europeans to recover the Holy Land from Muslims. Fr. croix or Sp. cruz : cross.
Crux (n)	the decisive point at issue; a difficult matter, a puzzle. <i>The crux of the unemployment issue is that an increasing population also requires an increasing number of employment opportunities.</i>
Cryptic (adj.)	obscure in meaning; indirect; mysterious; enigmatic. Gk. kruptos : hidden. <i>Your words contain cryptic clues that do not actually answer my question.</i>
Cryptogram (n)	a text written in a secret code.
Cuisine (n)	a style of cooking. L. coquere : to cook.

Cul-de-sac (n)	a street or passage closed at one end; a dead-end. Fr. sack bottom .
Culinary (adj.)	of or for cooking or the kitchen. L. culina : kitchen . <i>My mother is renowned for her culinary skills.</i>
Culmination (n)	the final or highest point. L. culmen : summit . <i>It is inevitable that this debate is brought to a culmination now.</i>
Culpable (adj.)	deserving blame. [<i>n</i> : culpability]. [<i>adv</i> : culpably ; <i>n</i> : culpability]. L. culpa : blame . <i>The young man refused to believe that he was culpable of the crime of killing his wife.</i>
Cupidity (n)	greed; avarice. L. cupidus : desirous . (ref: covet).
Curmudgeon (n)	a bad tempered or miserly person.
Cursory (adj.)	hasty, hurried. L. cursorius : of a runner . <i>I took a cursory look at the pamphlet given to me.</i>
Curtail (v. tr.)	reduce; terminate, esp. prematurely; cut short. [<i>n</i> : curtailment]. <i>We curtailed our visit to the islands due to an illness in the family.</i>
Cutaneous (adj.)	of the skin. L. cutis : skin .
Cybernetics (n)	the science of communications and automatic control systems in both machines and living things.
Cyclopaedic (adj.)	wide and varied. (a variation of encyclopaedic).
Cyclopean (adj.)	made with huge irregular blocks; of or like a Cyclops, one-eyed giants in Greek mythology.
Cygnets (n)	a young swan.
Cynic (n & adj.)	(n) a person with little or no faith in human sincerity and integrity; a member of a school of ancient Greek philosophers who were contemptuous of ease and pleasure. <i>The work of the cynic is to criticise everything without offering solutions.</i>
Cynosure (n)	a centre of attraction or admiration. <i>The young gymnast was the cynosure of all eyes as she performed on the floor.</i>

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Dactylogy (n)	communicating ideas by sign language.
Daft (adj.)	silly, foolish.
Dais (n)	platform (usu at the upper end of a hall) for a table, lectern, throne, etc.
Dally (v. intr.)	delay, waste time esp. frivolously; play about, flirt. Old Fr. dalier : chat . 1. <i>It is not right to dally away one's time when there is so much to be done.</i> 2. <i>The two friends dallied with each other's affection before calling it a day.</i>
Daltonism (n)	colour blindness, esp. as relating to a congenital inability to distinguish between green and red. From the name of J. Dalton , an English chemist who suffered from it.
Damocles (sword of)	threatening danger . Gk. mythology: Damocles feasted under a sword hung by a thread. <i>The impending examination is like a Damocles sword to me.</i>
Dapper (adj.)	neat, precise, spruce, smart.
Dastard (n)	coward, despicable. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>dastardly</i>]. <i>Only a dastard could have avoided helping the victim.</i>
Daunt (v. tr.)	discourage; intimidate. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>daunting</i> , <i>adv.</i> : <i>dauntingly</i>].
Dauntless (adj.)	persevering, intrepid. [<i>n.</i> : <i>dauntlessness</i>]. <i>The dauntless army succeeded in entering the city.</i>
Dearth (n)	scarcity, lack. <i>A dearth of jobs is the biggest problem faced by the youth today.</i>
Debacle (n)	an utter defeat, failure; disaster; a sudden collapse. <i>The team faced a debacle despite its preparedness.</i>
Debase (v. tr.)	lower in quality value, character, etc. [<i>n.</i> : <i>debasement</i>]. <i>The ideas you are trying to propagate have been debased by over emphasis.</i> <i>One should refrain from attempting to debase another.</i>
Debauchery (n)	licentiousness; sexual indulgence; depravity, dissoluteness. <i>The media today simultaneously advocates and censures debauchery.</i>
Debilitate (v. tr.)	enfeeble, enervate. L. debilis : weak . <i>The economic boosters, which are popular toady, will at one time debilitate the economy.</i>
Debonair (adj.)	carefree, cheerful, self-assured. Old Fr. de bon aire : of good stock . <i>His debonair attitude made him the natural leader in all groups.</i>
Debut (n)	the first public appearance of a performer; the opening performance of a show. Fr. débuter : lead off . <i>The singer's flawless rendition at her debut was lauded lustily by the audience.</i>
Debutante (n)	(usu. wealthy) young woman making her first public appearance.
Decadence (n)	moral or cultural deterioration. From decay: L. de + cadere : fall . <i>The social decadence that is widely criticised today, is a consequence of blind imitation of the west.</i>
Decalogue (n)	the Ten Commandments.
Decamorous (adj.)	consisting of ten parts in each whorl.

Deciduous (adj.)	of a tree shedding its leaves annually; fleeting, transitory.
Declination (n)	a downward bend or turn; (Astron.) the angular distance of a star north or south of the celestial equator; the angular deviation of a compass needle from true north. L. de + clinare : bend .
Declivity (n)	downward slope. L. de + clivus : slope .
Decorum (adj.)	propriety, seemliness; behaviour according to the norms of decency and politeness; etiquette. L. decorus : seemly . <i>Your behaviour was against the decorum of the event and place.</i>
Decoy (n & v. tr.)	(n) a bait, an enticement; (v.) allure or entice. L. de + cavea : cage . 1. <i>The dead bodies were used as decoy for the enemy.</i> 2. <i>The army propped dead bodies up against the wall in order to decoy the enemy.</i>
Decrepit (adj.)	weakened by age or infirmity or long use; dilapidated. [<i>n</i> : <i>decrepitude</i>]. L. crepare : creak . <i>The decrepit house looked haunted.</i>
Decrescent (adj.)	(of the moon) waning. <i>The decrescent moon cast an eerie light on the plains.</i>
Decry (v. tr.)	belittle, disparage. Fr. decrier : cry down . <i>It does not help to decry another's religion or creed.</i>
Defalcate (v. intr.)	misappropriate property in one's charge.
Defamation (n)	harming a person's reputation. [<i>v. tr.</i> : <i>defame</i>]. L. dis + fama : report . (<i>diffamare</i> : spread evil report). <i>The couple filed a defamation suit against their neighbour.</i>
Default (n & v. intr.)	(n) failure to fulfil an obligation, esp. to pay money; lack, absence; a pre-selected option adopted by a computer programme when no alternative is specified by the user or programmer; (v. intr.) fail to fulfil an obligation.
Defeasance (n)	the act or process of rendering null and void.
Defeatist (adj.)	attitude of accepting defeat easily or as inevitable. <i>In the present competitive world, it is suicidal to have a defeatist attitude.</i>
Defection (n)	the abandonment of one's country, cause for another. L. deficere : desert, fail .
Defenestration (n)	(jocular or formal) the action of throwing a person out of a window. de + L. fenestra : window .
Deference (n)	respect, courteous regard; compliance with the advice or wishes of another. <i>In deference to my father's wishes, I studied modern art.</i>
Defile (v. tr.)	pollute, corrupt, desecrate; (euphemism for) raping a woman. [<i>n</i> : <i>defilement</i>]. <i>India's temples and shrines have been defiled repeatedly by foreign invaders.</i>
Definitive (adj. & n)	(adj.) decisive, unconditional, final; (of an edition of a book) authoritative. <i>The lawyer gave a definitive no when asked to plead the businessman's case.</i>
Deflection (n)	the act or process of deviating or being deviated; (Phy.) the displacement of a pointer on an instrument from its zero position. de + L. flex : bend .
Defray (v. tr.)	provide money to pay (a cost or expense). [<i>adj.</i> : <i>defrayable</i>]. L. fredum : fine for breach of peace .

Deft (adj.)	dexterous, skilful, adroit. [<i>n</i> : <i>deftness</i>]. <i>Nimble fingers are deft at weaving carpets.</i>
Defunct (adj.)	dead or extinct. <i>The defunct technology that the company uses will decelerate performance.</i>
Degenerate (adj., n & v)	(adj.) fallen from a former position or excellence. (adj.) <i>Degenerate social norms are the outcome of commodification.</i> (v) <i>The conscious attempt of today's youth to degenerate as human beings can be interpreted as an attempt at rebellion.</i>
Deign (v.)	condescend. L. dignare : deem worthy . <i>The minister deigned to meet the protestors outside his house.</i>
Dei gratia (adv)	by the grace of God.
Deleterious (adj.)	harmful (to the mind and body). Gk. deleterios : noxious . <i>Industrial effluents flowing down this river have a deleterious effect on the health of people living along its banks.</i>
Delineation (n)	portrayal by drawing or in words. L. linea : line . <i>The artist delineated the woman's character through the bold strokes of his brush.</i>
Delinquescent (adj.)	melting; becoming liquid by absorption of moisture from the air. L. liquere : be liquid .
Delirium (n)	a disordered mental state involving incoherent speech, hallucination, frenzy occurring in fever or metabolic disorders. L. delirare : be deranged . <i>In a state of delirium, the raped woman repeatedly recounted the horrors of her experience.</i>
Delude (v. tr.)	mislead, deceive. L. deludere : mock . <i>Deluded by wrong notions of poverty, I fell into the trap of writing a fallacious critique of it.</i>
Delusion (n)	false impression or belief; (Psycho) as a symptom or form of mental disorder. <i>Delusions of grandeur mocked her impoverished condition.</i>
Demagogue (n)	a political agitator who appeals to the basest instincts of a mob. Gk. demos : people + agogos : leading . <i>Most politicians now are demagogues who cannot reason with the people but lead them astray with their specious arguments.</i>
Demean (v. tr.)	to degrade. de + mean . <i>I would not like to demean myself by accepting your offer.</i>
Demeanour (n)	outward behaviour. <i>The chief guest was pleased with your demeanour.</i>
Demesne (n)	a domain; a sovereign's or state's territory; (Law) possession of (real property) as one's own. Anglo-Fr. demesne : belonging to a lord . <i>The huge property on the outskirts of the city is the demesne of the city's richest man.</i>
Demi monde (adj.)	class of women of doubtful reputation; any group considered to be on the fringes of respectable society. Fr. half-world .
Demise (n & v. tr.)	(n) death; (Law) transfer of property; (v.) convey by will or lease; transmit by death. <i>After the king's demise, the sceptre will pass on to his eldest daughter.</i>

Demur (v. intr.)	(v) raise scruples or objections; (n) an objection; the act or process of objecting. L. de + morari : delay . (v) <i>The tenant demurred to pay the rent.</i> (n) <i>The tenant agreed to pay the rent without a demur.</i>
Demure (adj.)	composed, reserved, quite; modest, coy. [<i>adv: demurely, n: demurenes</i>]. <i>The girl accepted the wedding proposal in a demure manner.</i>
Denigrate (v. tr.)	defame; disparage the reputation. de + L. nigare : black . <i>Advocates of racial discrimination do little more than denigrate other races.</i>
Denizen (n)	an inhabitant or occupant. Fr. deinz : within .
Denouement (n)	the final unravelling of a plot or complicated situation. Fr. denouer : unknot . <i>Macbeth's realisation and consequent death marks the denouement of the play.</i>
Deplete (v. tr.)	reduce in numbers or quantity; empty out. [<i>n: depletion</i>]. L. de + plere : fill . <i>The development of science will also deplete natural resources.</i>
Deposition (n)	(Law) evidence given under oath; the act or instance of deposing; (the deposition) taking down of Christ's body from the Cross. <i>In his deposition before the tribunal the war hero confessed his crimes against women of the enemy country.</i>
Depravity (n)	moral corruption, wickedness; (Theo.) the innate corruptness of human nature. de + L. pravus : crooked . <i>The destruction of the mosque was an instance of depravity.</i>
Deprecate (v. tr.)	express disapproval, deplore; plead earnestly against. <i>All sensible people deprecate violence in public life.</i>
Depreciate (v.)	(intr.) diminish in value; (tr.) disparage, belittle; reduce the purchasing power of. L. de + pretium : price . <i>The rupee will depreciate further if necessary action is not taken by the central bank.</i>
Depredation (n)	ravaging, despoiling. L. de + praedari : plunder . <i>The depredation of natural resources will eventually lead to ecological disaster.</i>
Depressant (adj. & n)	(adj.) that depresses; (Med.) sedative. L. de + pressare : press .
Derelict (adj.)	abandoned; dilapidated; (n) a social outcast, a person without a home, a job, or property. L. de + relinquere : leave . <i>The building, despite its derelict condition, was reminiscent of the pomp of a bygone era.</i>
Deride (v. tr.)	ridicule. [<i>adv: deridingly</i>]. L. de + ridere : laugh . <i>It was wrong of you to deride the student's efforts.</i>
Derision (n)	ridicule, mockery. <i>I hold such ideas in derision.</i>
Dermatologist (n)	one who studies and treats skin disorders. Gk. derma : skin + logy : knowledge .
Derogatory (adj.)	insulting; involving disparagement or discredit. L. de + rogare : detract from . <i>It is derogatory to denigrate any class of people on the basis of religion or colour.</i>
Descant (v & n)	(v. intr.) talk at length; (Mus.) sing or play a descant; (n) (Mus.) an independent treble melody sung or played above a basic melody. L. cantus : song, chant .

Descry (v. tr.)	(Lit) catch sight of. Old Fr. describe . <i>I could descry my parents trying to make their way towards me through the crowd.</i>
Desecrate (v. tr.)	violate, profane, deconsecrate. de + consecrate . <i>The Mughal general desecrated all the temples on his way to meet Shivaji at Pratapgarh.</i>
Desiccation (n)	state of being dry. [<i>adj.</i> : desiccative, <i>v</i> : dessicate]. L. de + sicus : dry.
Desideratum (n)	something lacking but needed or desired.
Desperado (n)	a desperate or reckless person, esp. in a criminal way. <i>The desperado who broke through the prison security was ultimately shot dead.</i>
Despicable (adj.)	vile, contemptible. <i>The despicable beggar spat at the children who refused to give him alms.</i>
Despoil (v. tr.)	plunder, rob. [<i>n</i> : despoilment, despoilation].
Despondency (n)	low spirits, dejection. [<i>adj.</i> : despondent]. <i>The young woman committed suicide in a fit of utter despondency.</i>
Despotism (n)	tyranny; absolute power or control. Gk. despotes : master, lord. <i>The people revolted against the despotism of the Prime Minister.</i>
Destitute (adj.)	without food, shelter, etc; completely impoverished; lacking. L. de + statuere : place. <i>Mother Teresa opened a home for the destitute in Calcutta.</i>
Desuetude (n)	a state of disuse. L. de + suet : be accustomed. <i>The laws of this country have fallen into a state of desuetude as is evident from the rampant lawlessness in the metros.</i>
Desultory (adj.)	going constantly from one subject to another, usu. in a half-hearted way; disconnected, superficial. L. de + salire : leap. <i>Rajan's presented his thesis in a desultory manner.</i>
Determinant (adj. & n)	(adj.) serving to define or determine; (Math) a quantity obtained by the addition of products of the elements of a square matrix according to a given rule. L. de + terminus : end.
Deterrent (adj. & n)	something which discourages or prevents. [<i>n</i> : deterrence]. <i>The sight of the anti-tank mines was a deterrent to the army's decision to attack at night.</i>
Detonation (n)	explosion, the premature combustion of fuel in an internal-combustion engine. L. de + tonare : thunder.
Detraction (n)	reduction; belittlement; slander. [<i>v</i> : detract, <i>adj.</i> : detractive]. L. de + trahere : draw.
Detriment (n)	harm, damage. L. de + terere : rub, wear. <i>To the detriment of all students, the state government has begun to interfere in the history syllabus of schools and colleges.</i>
Deviant (adj. & n)	(adj.) that deviates from the normal, esp. in social or sexual behaviour. L. de + via : way. <i>Merely incarcerating them cannot rectify the deviant ways of criminals, especially rapists.</i>
Devious (adj.)	not straightforward, underhand. L. de + via . <i>The devious ways of politicians have ruined innumerable innocent lives.</i>

Devoid (adj.)	lacking or free from. <i>This film is devoid of a well-constructed plot.</i>
Devolve (v.)	(tr.) pass work to (a deputy, etc.); (intr.) pass to; descend or fall by succession to. L. de + volvere: roll. 1. <i>I was asked by the management to devolve the project on my subordinate.</i> 2. <i>The ancestral property devolved upon the youngest daughter.</i>
Dexterous (adj.)	skilful, adroit. L. dexter: right hand <i>The dexterous handling of equipment by the captain saved the ship's crew from further mishaps.</i>
Diabolic(al) (adj.)	devilish; inhumanly cruel. L. diabolus: devil. <i>The diabolical act of raping the infant was consequential in that for the first time the Indian penal code meted rigorous punishment to the perpetrator.</i>
Diadem (n, v. tr.)	a crown or headband worn as a sign of sovereignty; (v) adorn with or as with a diadem. [adj.: diademed].
Dialectics (n)	logical disputation, critical analysis of the truth; an enquiry into metaphysical contradictions and their solutions; the existence or action of opposing social forces. Gk. dialectike: art of debate (tekne: art). <i>The dialectics of progress consist of a thesis and an antithesis, which lead to the synthesis.</i>
Diapason (n)	compass of voice or instrument; a fixed standard of musical pitch; an entire compass or scope. Gk. dia pasōn: through all note.
Diaphanous (adj.)	(of fabric, etc.) light and delicate and almost transparent. Gk. diaphanes: dia: through + phainō: show. <i>Beauty pageants often require models to wear diaphanous clothes.</i>
Diarchy (n)	government by two independent authorities. di: Gk. arkheo: rule. <i>India was a diarchy between 1919 and 1935.</i>
Diatribes (n)	forceful verbal attack; bitter criticism. <i>Media has launched a diatribe against the exploitative tactics of enforcement agencies.</i>
Dichotomy (n)	a division into two classes, categories, etc. of things that are disparate; a sharp or paradoxical contrast; (Bot & Zoo) a repeated bifurcation. [adj.: dichotomic]. Gk. dikho: apart + tomy. <i>The dichotomy inherent in economic progress is that though its aim is to abolish class system, it simultaneously creates another class, which comes into conflict with the existing ones.</i>
Dictum (n)	a formal utterance or pronouncement. L. dicere: say.
Didactic (adj.)	meant to instruct, teach; too pedantic. Gk didascō: teach. <i>All religion is basically didactic in nature.</i>
Diffidence (n)	lack of self-confidence; excessive modesty and reticence. L. diffidere: dis + fidere: trust. <i>The rural populace suffers from diffidence when exposed to the urban grind.</i>
Digress (v. intr.)	depart from the main subject temporarily. [n: digression]. L. di + gradi: walk. <i>We often tend to digress while speaking or writing if the topic at hand is an exhaustive one.</i>
Dilapidated (adj.)	in a state of ruin, disrepair due to old age or neglect. L. dilapidare: squander, demolish. <i>Most of the forts in Maharashtra are in a dilapidated condition.</i>

Dilate (v.)	make or become larger; (intr.) speak or write at length. [<i>n: dilation</i>]. L. di + latus: wide . <i>The student was asked to dilate upon the topic for emphasis.</i> <i>Horror made my eyes dilate.</i>
Dilatory (adj.)	causing delay or given to delay. [<i>n: dilatoriness</i>]. <i>The government's dilatory tactics on the investigation has cost the country dear.</i>
Dilemma (n)	a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two equally undesirable alternatives or courses of action; a state of indecision between two alternatives. Gk. di + lemma: premiss .
Dilettante (n & adj.)	a person who indulges in an art or branch of knowledge for pleasure but does not take it seriously; (adj.) trifling, amateurish. [<i>n: dilettantism, adj.: dilettantish</i>].
Diminution (n)	the act or an instance of diminishing; (Mus.) the repetition of a passage in shorter notes. L. diminut: breaking small .
Dipsomaniac (adj. & n)	one who has an abnormal craving for alcohol. Gk. dipsa: thirst + mania .
Dirge (n)	a lament for the dead, esp. as a part of a funeral service; any mournful song or lament. [<i>adj.: dirgeful</i>]. From the first word of Psalm 5:8 used in the Latin Office for the Dead.
Disavow (v. tr.)	disclaim knowledge of or responsibility for, or belief in. [<i>n: disavowal</i>]. <i>The actor tried to disavow his link with the underworld.</i>
Discerning (adj.)	having or showing good judgement or insight. <i>Indian voters should be more discerning while electing their candidates to power.</i>
Disclaim (v. tr.)	deny or disown; (Law) renounce a legal claim to. dis + claim . <i>It does not always hurt to disclaim one's right to property on grounds of amiability.</i>
Disclose (v. tr.)	reveal. <i>The government has made an earnest appeal to the public to disclose their income.</i>
Disconcert (v. tr.)	agitate, fluster; disturb the composure of. [<i>adv: disconcertedly; adj.: disconcerting; n: disconcertment</i>]. <i>Despite repeated threats the criminals failed to disconcert the police commissioner.</i>
Disconsolate (adj.)	incosolable, forlorn. [<i>n: disconsolation</i>]. L. consolari: console . <i>I was disconsolate at the death of my dog.</i>
Discordant (adj.)	at variance; disagreeing; dissonant. L. dis + cord: heart .
Discountenance (v. tr.)	disconcert; show disapproval of. <i>The police was discountenanced by the underworld's sudden spurt of inter-gang mayhem.</i> <i>The police discountenanced every move made by the underworld towards a reconciliation.</i>
Discreet (adj.)	cautious in speech or action; tactful, trustworthy; unobtrusive. [<i>adv: discreetly, n: discreetness</i>]. L. discretio: discernment . <i>The bride's father was discreet in his references to the bridegroom's family although he did not like them.</i>
Discrepancy (n)	difference; failure to correspond; inconsistent. [<i>Adj.: discrepant</i>]. <i>Th discrepancies inherent in the investigation commission's report have thrown the country into confusion.</i>
Discrete (adj.)	separate; individually distinct. <i>Discrete elements of the topic have been incorporated in the paper under evaluation.</i>

Discretion (n)	discreet behaviour; prudence, self-preservation; the freedom to think and act as one wishes within legal limits; (Law) a court's freedom to decide a sentence. From discreet . <i>You are expected to use your discretion in selecting an apt topic for the seminar.</i>
Discrimination (n)	unfavourable treatment based on prejudice; good taste or judgement in artistic matters; a distinction made with the mind or in action. <i>Discrimination along the lines of language and ethnicity has been the cause of ruin in many countries.</i>
Discursive (adj.)	rambling or digressive; (Philo.) proceeding by argument or reasoning. dis + L. currere: run. <i>The subject of religion should be treated in a discursive manner and not on the basis of intuition and specious reasoning.</i>
Disdain (n & v)	(n) scorn, contempt; (v. tr.) regard with scorn or contempt; reject. L. dignus: worthy. <i>The elite often hold the less fortunate of society in disdain. I disdained the man's offer of a bribe.</i>
Disgorge (v. tr.)	eject from the throat or stomach; discharge (ill-gotten wealth, secret information, etc.), pour forth. <i>The spy disgorged the information he had garnered to the aggrieved government.</i>
Disingenuous (adj.)	dishonest, having secret motives; insincere. <i>The man with the briefcase used disingenuous means to collect information regarding the family's annual income.</i>
Disjunctive (adj. & n)	(adj.) involving separation; disjoining; (Gram) expressing a choice between two words; (Logic) expressing alternatives; dis + L. junct: join. <i>(Gram) I wondered whether to go or stay.</i>
Dismember (v. tr.)	tear or cut the limbs from; divide up, partition. dis + L. membrum: limb. <i>The British dismembered India into two separate entities, thus unleashing large-scale violence and trauma in both the countries.</i>
Disparage (v. tr.)	speak slightly of; bring discredit on. [<i>n: disparagement; adv: disparagingly</i>]. dis + L. parage: equality of rank (par: equal). <i>Although the British tried to disparage the Indians in various ways, they also acknowledged the native Indian genius for literature and philosophy.</i>
Disparate (adj. & n)	different; without comparison or relation; (n) things so unlike that there is no basis for their comparison. [<i>adv: disparately; n: disparateness</i>]. <i>Disparate attitudes dominated the seminar and prevented it from reaching a consensus.</i>
Disquisition (n)	a long and elaborate treatise or discourse on a subject. [<i>adj.: disquisitional</i>]. dis + L. quaerere: seek. <i>The speaker presented a disquisition on the subject of etiquette in Parliament.</i>
Disseise (n)	(Law) dispossess.
Dissemble (v.)	(intr.) conceal one's motives; talk or act hypocritically; (tr.) disguise or conceal (an emotion, intention, etc.). [<i>adj.: dissembled</i>]. dis + simulate. <i>The country did not need to dissemble confidence when it was evident that it was ill equipped for the war.</i>
Dissertation (n)	a detailed discourse on a subject, esp. one submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of a degree or diploma. [<i>adj.: dissertational</i>]. L. dissertare: discuss. <i>The candidate's dissertation deals with ethnic violence in third world countries.</i>

Dissident (adj. & n)	(adj.) disagreeing, esp. with an established government, system, etc.; (n) a person who disagrees, dissents. L. dissidere: disagree. <i>The dissident ministers were expelled from the party.</i>
Dissimulation (n)	deceit; dishonesty; concealment of one's true motives, intentions, etc.
Dissipate (v.)	(tr.) cause to disappear or disperse; squander; (intr.) disperse, scatter, disappear; (intr. & tr.) bring or come to nothing. dis + L. supare: throw. <i>The strain of work at home and outside caused his energy to dissipate.</i>
Dissolute (adj.)	licentious; lax in morals. [<i>adv: dissolutely; n: dissoluteness</i>]. L. dissolutus: dissolve. <i>The private aspects of public lives often bring to light a dissolute nature.</i>
Dissonance (n)	harsh-sound; lack of harmony; incongruity. dis + L. sonare: sound.
Dissuade (v. tr.)	discourage; persuade against. dis + L. suas: persuade. <i>I tried to dissuade my friend from taking up the demanding job.</i>
Distaff (n)	a cleft stick holding wool or flax wound for spinning by hand; the corresponding part of a spinning wheel; woman's work.
Distend (v.)	swell out due to pressure from within. [<i>adj.: distensible; n: distension</i>]. dis + L. tens/tendere: stretch.
Distrain (n)	(Law) the seizure of chattels to compel a person to pay rent, meet an obligation, or obtain satisfaction by their sale. L. dis + stringere: draw tight.
Distract (adj.)	absent-minded.
Distraught (adj.)	absent minded with worry; agitated. <i>The distraught family awaited news of its relatives who were in the plane that crashed.</i>
Dither (v. intr.)	be indecisive; tremble; (n) indecisiveness. <i>I tend to dither before plunging into any new venture.</i>
Dithyramb (n)	a wild choral hymn in ancient Greece; esp. Dionysius; a passionate poem.
Divagation (n)	digressing; straying. [<i>v: divagate</i>]. di + L. vagari: wander.
Diverse (adj.)	varied; unlike in nature. di + L. vertere: turn. <i>People of diverse nationalities congregate at the spa.</i>
Divest (v. tr.)	strip, unclothe; deprive, rid; dispossess. [<i>n: divestment, divesture</i>]. dis + L. vestere: garment. <i>The hooligans divested the old man of his warm clothes.</i>
Divine (adj., v)	(adj.) of or like God; sacred; delightful, excellent; (v. tr.) discover by intuition, guessing, inspiration, magic. L. divus: god-like. (v) <i>I am unable to divine the secret of your wonderful culinary skills.</i>
Docile (adj.)	tame, meek, submissive. L. docere: teach.
Doctrinaire (adj. & n)	theoretical, impractical; (n) a pedantic, theorist. <i>Too much of doctrinaire can ruin a discourse.</i>
Doggerel (n)	poor or trivial verse.

Dogmatic (adj.)	arrogant; given to imposing personal opinions; doctrinal. Gk. dogma matos: opinion.
Doldrums (n)	low spirits; a feeling of boredom or depression; a period of stagnation; a region of calms, sudden storms and light winds in the equatorial ocean. <i>The company's finances are in the doldrums.</i>
Dolorous (adj.)	painful, doleful, distressing. [<i>adv.: dolorously</i>]. <i>The singer sang in a dolorous tone.</i>
Dormant (adj.)	inactive. L. dormire: sleep. <i>Dormant volcanoes are a potential source of immense danger.</i>
Dotage (n)	feeble-minded senility. (dotard: a person who is in dotage).
Double entendre (n)	a word or phrase open to two interpretations, one usually indecent.
Douceur (n)	bribe, gratuity.
Drivel (n)	silly nonsense; idiotic talk.
Droit (n)	(Law) a right or due.
Dross (n)	rubbish, refuse; the scum separated from metals in melting; impurities.
Dudgeon (n)	resentment. <i>The officer walked away from the office in high dudgeon.</i>
Duress (n)	compulsion, imprisonment; unlawful application of force. <i>The chief officer of the company has to work under duress ever since his incarceration by the enforcement agency.</i>
Dyscrasia (n)	a morbid state due to an abnormal condition of the body.
Dysfunction (n)	an abnormality of function.
Dysgenics (n)	the study of racial degeneration.
Dyspepsia (n)	indigestion. dis + Gk. pepsos: cooked.
Dystopia (n)	a nightmare vision of society, often as one dominated by a totalitarian state. [<i>adj.: dystopian</i>]. <i>'The Castle' is a wonderful representation of dystopia and its effects on the state.</i>

E

Earthy (adj.)	of or like earth or soil; coarse; unrefined. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>earthily</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>earthiness</i>]. <i>The sophisticated people of society look down upon earthy manners.</i>
Ebullient (adj.)	exuberant, high-spirited. [<i>n</i> : <i>ebullience</i>]. L. bullire : boil .
Eccentricity (n)	oddity; capricious behaviour; whimsy. Gk. ek : out of + kentros : centre . <i>The eccentricity of ardent lovers is a much-ridiculed topic of conversation.</i>
Ecclesiastic (n & adj.)	(n) a priest or clergyman. Gk. ekklesia : assembly, church . <i>The ecclesiastic order follows stringent rules.</i>
Eccrisis (n)	expulsion of waste or morbid matter (from body).
Echelon (n)	a level or rank in an organisation, in society; those occupying it; (Mil) a formation of troops, ships, aircraft in parallel rows. Fr. échelle : ladder from L. <i>scala</i> . <i>People in the higher echelons of society are often not in touch with the ground realities.</i>
Echolalia (n)	meaningless repetition of another person's words; repetition of speech by a child learning to talk. Gk ēkhō : echo + alia : talk .
Éclaircissement (n)	an enlightening explanation of something hitherto inexplicable. Fr. éclaircir : clear up . <i>I am grateful to the rector for his éclaircissement of the student's errant behaviour.</i>
Eclampsia (n)	a condition resembling epilepsy leading to coma. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>eclamptic</i>]. Gk. eklampō : shine forth .
Éclat (n)	brilliant display; social distinction; conspicuous success. Fr. from éclater : burst out .
Eclectic (adj. & n)	(adj.) deriving ideas, taste, knowledge, information from various sources; attached to no particular school of philosophy; (n) a person who subscribes to such a school. Gk. eklegō : pick out . <i>Everybody appreciated the student's eclectic ideas.</i>
Ecology (n)	branch of biology dealing with the relations of organisms (or human beings) to one another and to their physical surroundings. Gk. oikos : house . <i>Neglect of ecology now can lead to ruinous harm at a later date.</i>
Ecstasy (n)	rapture, intense joy; emotional or religious frenzy. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>ecstatic</i>]. <i>Spiritual upliftment is often seen in terms of ecstasy at union with a higher entity.</i>
Ectomorphic (adj.)	having a light, slender built with a large skin surface in comparison with weight. Gk. ekto : outside + morphe : form .
Edict (n)	an order proclaimed by authority. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>edictal</i>]. L. edicere : proclaim . <i>Ashoka left behind innumerable rock edicts to educate people about the virtues and duties of a great king.</i>
Edifice (n)	a large, imposing building; a complex organisational or conceptual structure. L. aedis : dwelling + facere : make . <i>It takes a long time to construct an edifice and a hammer blow to bring it down.</i>
Edify (v. tr.)	instruct and improve morally or intellectually. [<i>n</i> : <i>edification</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>edifying</i>].
Educe (v. tr.)	elicit; infer. L. e + ducere : lead .

Eerie (adj.)	weird, frightening; gloomy and strange. <i>Old mansions and castles are known for their eerie ambience.</i>
Efface (v. tr.)	wipe out; obliterate; surpass. [<i>n</i> : effacement]. Fr. ex + face . 1. <i>Communal leaders have effaced all trace of communal amity from public memory through their vitriolic speeches and recriminations.</i> 2. <i>The gymnast's electric performance has effaced all previous record.</i>
Effectual (adj.)	capable of producing the required result; valid. [<i>n</i> : effectuality; <i>adv.</i> : effectually].
Effeminate (adj.)	(of a man) feminine in behaviour or appearance. ex + L. femina : woman .
Effervesce (v. intr.)	to bubble over; be lively, energetic. [<i>n</i> : effervescence; <i>adj.</i> : effervescent].
Effete (adj.)	feeble and incapable; ineffectual; decadent. L. effetus : worn out by bearing young (ex + foetus). <i>The governor's efforts at meting justice were rendered effete by the intransigent crowd.</i>
Efficacious (adj.)	producing or able to produce the desired effect. [<i>adv.</i> : efficaciously]. <i>Government sanction against the hostile country proved to be efficacious in the long run.</i>
Effigy (n)	a sculpture or model of a person. L. effingere : to fashion . <i>The opposition members burnt the effigy of the Prime Minister.</i>
Efflorescence (n)	flowering, bursting into flower. [<i>adj.</i> : efflorescent]. L. floris : flower .
Effluent (adj. & n)	(adj.) flowing forth; (n) sewage or industrial waste discharged into water bodies; a smaller body of water flowing from larger bodies of water. L. fluere : flow . <i>Industrial effluent is poisoning water bodies.</i>
Efflux (n)	a flowing out (of light, electricity, etc.). [same as effluence]. fluere .
Effrontery (n)	shameless boldness. <i>The soldier had the effrontery to deal a strong, albeit inconsequential blow to the visiting dignitary.</i>
Effusion (n)	copious outpouring; (derog.) an unrestrained flow of words. L. fundere : pour . <i>In her excitement, the social worker subjected the audience to a verbal effusion.</i>
Egalitarian (adj. & n)	relating to the principle of equal rights and opportunities for all. <i>Every country must strive to build an egalitarian society.</i>
Egoism (n)	the philosophy that considers self-interest as the basis of morality.[<i>adj.</i> : egoistic, egoistical]. L. ego : I + ism : doctrine/ practice . <i>Egoism is often the basis of corruption in society.</i>
Egotism (n)	he practice of talking only about oneself; conceit. <i>Ramesh's egotism makes him an uninteresting conversationalist.</i>
Egregious (adj.)	especially and noticeably bad; shocking. L. ex + gregis : flock -- egregious: illustrious/ standing out from the flock. <i>Having made an egregious mistake, the team decided to make amends by playing in a more disciplined manner.</i>
Egress (n)	going out; exit; (Astron.) the end of an eclipse or transit. L. e + gradi : to step .
Eidolon (n)	a spectre; an idealised figure. Gk. eidōlon : phantom -- eidos : form .

Élan (n)	vivacity, dash, exuberance. Fr. élancer : launch . <i>The police carried off the raid with an admirable élan.</i>
Eldritch (n)	weird, hideous.
Ejaculation (n)	sudden utterance of words (esp. of prayer or other emotion); eject. L. e + jaculum : javelin .
Elation (n)	a rise in spirits, exultation, stimulation. <i>In elation over the excellent results, my sister forgot her vehicle outside the college.</i>
Elicit (v. tr.)	evoke, draw out; draw forth. L. lacere : entice . <i>It was impossible to elicit any information from the prisoner without resorting to torture.</i>
Elision (n)	the omission of a vowel or syllable in pronouncing; the omission of a passage in a book. L. e + ladere : knock .
Elucidate (v. tr.)	explain. [<i>n</i> : <i>elucidation</i>]. L. e + lucid . <i>The teacher was requested to elucidate the technique once again.</i>
Elusive (adj.)	difficult to find or catch; difficult to remember. L. e + ludere : play . <i>The thief proved to be absolutely elusive after he ran out of the house.</i>
Emaciated (adj.)	abnormally thin or feeble. [<i>n</i> : <i>emaciation</i> , <i>v</i> : <i>emaciate</i>]. L. e + macies : leanness . <i>With his emaciated frame, the old man looked pitifully famished and worn out.</i>
Emanate (v.)	(intr.) originate, issue from; proceed; (tr.) emit, send forth. L. emanare : send forth .
Emancipation (n)	freedom from legal, social or political restraint. L. e + manus : hand + capere : take . (emancipare: transfer property). <i>Emancipation of slaves was a major movement in the history of the United States and many other nations.</i>
Emasculation (n)	weakening of masculinity or virility; enfeebling. L. e + masculus : male .
Embargo (n & v. tr.)	a state order forbidding trade, entry or exit of ships into or from its ports; (v.) place under embargo; seize for state service. Sp. embargar : arrest from Romanic <i>in</i> + <i>bar</i> .
Embattled (adj.)	prepared or arrayed for battle; involved in a difficult undertaking or battle. Fr. battalier : furnish with ramparts .
Embellish (v. tr.)	adorn, beautify; add interest to a narrative with fictitious additions. [<i>n</i> : <i>embellishment</i>]. L. bellus : handsome . <i>Some writers embellish their narratives unnecessarily and render them repugnant to the serious reader.</i>
Embezzlement (n)	fraudulent diversion of company or public funds to one's own use. Old Fr. besillier : maltreat . <i>The chief of the company was imprisoned on charges of embezzlement.</i>
Emblazon (v. tr.)	portray or adorn conspicuously as on a heraldic shield. [<i>n</i> : <i>emblazonment</i>].
Embrangle (v. tr.)	entangle, confuse.
Embroil (v. tr.)	involve in conflict or difficulties. em + broil : row, tumult . <i>I was embroiled in a fight between my neighbours due to my presence at the time of the fight.</i>

Emendation (n)	removal of errors. [v.: <i>emend</i>]. menda: fault. <i>The university accepted the text after the emendations were implemented.</i>
Emeritus (adj.)	retired and retaining one's title as an honour; honourably. L. e + mereri: earn. <i>Dr. Deb, professor emeritus of the Physics department died recently of cardiac arrest.</i>
Emigrate (v. intr.)	leave one's own country to settle in another. [n: <i>emigration</i>]. L. migrare: depart. <i>Those who emigrate are often confronted with an intense nostalgia for the homeland.</i>
Eminent (adj.)	distinguished, remarkable. [adv.: <i>eminently</i>]. <i>The bride's father escorted the chief justice and other eminent guests to their cars.</i>
Emissary (n)	a person sent on a special mission. L. emissarius: scout, spy. <i>The government's emissary to the convention came back without the relevant information due to a strict control over information outflow.</i>
Emollient (adj. & n)	something that softens or soothes the skin.
Emoluments (n)	salary, fee or profit from employment or office.
Empirical (adj.)	based on observation or experiment, not theory. [adv.: <i>empirically</i>]. Gk. empeiria: experience. <i>Empirical data is essential in solving cases relating to crime.</i>
Empressement (n)	display of cordiality or eagerness.
Empyrean (n & adj.)	(n) the highest heaven (according to western belief).
Emulate (v. tr.)	try to equal or excel; imitate zealously, rival. [n: <i>emulation</i>]. L. aemulus: rival. <i>Younger children often try to emulate their elders.</i>
Enamored (adj.)	inspired with love or liking; charmed. L. en + amor: love. <i>Enamoured with life, the terminally ill patient did not agree to euthanasia.</i>
Encephalic (adj.)	of or relating to the brain. Gk. egkephalos: brain.
Enclave (n)	enclosed territory; a group of people who are culturally, intellectually, or socially distinct from those surrounding them. <i>Living within the VIP enclave had taken Rita away from the realities of mundane existence.</i>
Encomium (n)	a high flown expression of praise. <i>The sycophants at the meeting showered encomium upon the chief executive officer.</i>
Encompass (v. tr.)	surround; contain.
Encroachment (n)	intrusion on one's territory or rights. Old Fr. encrochier: fasten upon, seize.
Encumber (v. tr.)	burden, hamper, impede. [n: <i>encumbrance</i>]. Old Fr. encombrer: block up. <i>Bureaucracy encumbers ordinary citizens with stringent but dispensable rules.</i>
Endemic (adj.)	regularly or only found in a particular region or among a particular group of people. Gk. en + demos: people. Endemos: native. <i>In eastern India, starvation as a feature is endemic to the Kalahandi region of Orissa.</i>
Energize (v. tr.)	infuse energy into a person or thing. [n: <i>energizer</i>].

Enervate (v. tr.)	deprive of vitality or vigour. [<i>adj.</i> : enervated; <i>n</i> : enervation]. L. enervare: e + nervus : sinew . <i>The tropical sun is known to enervate, due to which the potential to work is lower in these areas than in temperate climates.</i>
Engender (v. tr.)	bring about, give rise to. L. in + generare : generate . <i>Riots engender a sense of fear, which is difficult to quell.</i>
Engross (v. tr.)	absorb attention, occupy completely.
Enhance (v. tr.)	intensify; improve. [<i>n</i> : enhancement]. Old Fr. enhaucier from L. altus : height .
Enigma (n)	riddle; a person or thing that puzzles, intrigues. [<i>adj.</i> : enigmatic]. Gk. ainos : fable – speak allusively. <i>Sonia Gandhi remained an enigma to the general populace till she entered politics.</i>
Enjoin (v. tr.)	command, order; issue instructions. [<i>n</i> : enjoinder]. <i>The army enjoined upon the civilians to evacuate the territory as soon as possible.</i>
Ennui (n)	mental weariness due to idleness; boredom.
Enormity (n)	a serious error; an act of extreme wickedness; great size. <i>The enormity of the act did not escape the attention of the public.</i>
Enounce (v. tr.)	enunciate, pronounce, announce.
En rapport (adv.)	in harmony or rapport.
Enrapture (v. tr.)	give intense delight to. <i>The actress enraptured the audience with her scintillating performance.</i>
Ensconce (v. tr.)	establish or settle comfortably, safely, secretly. <i>Royalty is firmly ensconced in the nation with the consent of all those concerned.</i>
Ensemble (v. tr.)	thing viewed as a whole; a general effect of this; (Mus.) a concerted passage for an ensemble; the manner in which this performed; (Math) a group of systems with the same constitution but possibly in different states. L. in + simul : at the same time . <i>The music troupe from France presented a magnificent ensemble.</i>
Entelechy (n)	(Philo.) the realisation of potential. Gk. entelekheia : telos : end, perfection + ekhein : be in a state .
Entente (n)	(a group of states) with a friendly understanding, amiability, cordiality.
Enteric (adj. & n)	of the intestines; (n) typhoid (in enteric fever). Gk enteron : intestine .
Enthral (v. tr.)	captivate. en + thrall : slave . <i>The President's speech enthralled the audience.</i>
Entice (v. tr.)	persuade with the promise of reward, pleasure, etc. [<i>n</i> : enticement; <i>adj.</i> : enticing].
Entomic (adj.)	of insects.
Entity (n)	real being; a thing with distinct existence. L. ens : being.
Entrée (n)	(Brit) a dish served between the fish and meat courses; (US) the main dish of a meal. The right of admission esp. at Court. Fr. entry .
Entrepot (n)	warehouse for temporary storage of goods. Fr. entreposer: to store – entre : inter + poser : place .

Entrepreneur (n)	a person who undertakes a business or enterprise. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>entrepreneurial</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>entrepreneurship</i>]. L. prendere : take .
Enunciate (v. tr.)	pronounce clearly; express a proposition in definite terms. [<i>n</i> : <i>enunciation</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>enunciative</i>]. L. e + nuntiare : announce .
Environment (n)	the physical surroundings, conditions, etc. in a which a person lives; external conditions affecting the growth and development of plants and animals. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>environmental</i>].
Epeirogenesis (n)	(Geol.) the regional uplift of extensive areas of the earth's crust. Gk. epeiros : mainland + genesis : origin .
Ephemeral (adj.)	short-lived; lasting only a short time. [<i>n</i> : <i>ephemerality</i>]. Gk. epi : upon + hemera : day . <i>Joy is almost always ephemeral, but so is sorrow.</i>
Epicure (n)	a person with refined tastes esp. in food and drink. [<i>n</i> : <i>epicurism</i>]. <i>The French and Indians take pride in being epicures in matters of food.</i>
Epidectic (adj.)	meant for effect or display esp. in speaking. Gk. epi + deiknumi : show .
Epidemic (n & adj.)	(n) widespread occurrence of a disease at a single specific time in a specific area. Gk. epidēmia : prevalence of disease .
Epigram (n)	a short witty poem, maxim; the use of concise witty remarks.
Epilogue (n)	the concluding part of a literary work; an appendix; a speech or short poem addressed by an actor to the audience at the end of a play. Gk. epi : in addition + logos : speech .
Epitaph (n)	words written, as on a tomb, in memory of a person who has died. Gk. epitaphion : funeral oration – epi + taphos : tomb .
Epithet (n)	descriptive word or phrase used with or as a name. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>epithetic</i>].
Epitome (n)	a person or thing that embodies a quality, class, etc. Gk. epi + temno : cut . <i>Mother Teresa was the epitome of love.</i>
Epoch (n)	a period of history or of a person's life; the beginning of an era. Gk. epokkhe : stoppage, fixed point of time .
Equable (adj.)	even; not varying; uniform; not easily disturbed. [<i>n</i> : <i>equability</i>]. <i>The Mediterranean region has an equable climate.</i>
Equanimity (n)	mental composure; evenness of temper. L. aequus : even + animus : mind . <i>Despite the financial debacle, the finance minister faced the press with equanimity.</i>
Equestrian (adj. & n)	relating to horses or horse-riding; (n) a rider or performer on horseback. L. equus : horse .
Equilibrist (n)	an acrobat on a high rope.
Equinox (n)	the time or date when day and night are of equal length due to the sun crossing the equator (twice a year: 23 Sep. and 20 Mar.). L. equi + nocti : night .
Equipoise (n)	a balanced state.
Equipollent (adj.)	equal in power, force. [<i>n</i> : <i>equipollence</i>].
Equitable (adj.)	fair, just.
Equivocal (adj.)	ambiguous; of double or doubtful meaning. [<i>n</i> : <i>equivocality</i> ; <i>v.</i> : <i>equivocate</i>]. L. equi + vocare : call .

Eradicate (v. tr.)	<p><i>Lawyers often resort to equivocal statements while defending a case.</i> destroy completely. [<i>n: eradication</i>]. L. e + radix: root – eradicare: tear up by the roots. <i>The government has been able to eradicate small pox from the country.</i></p>
Ergonomics (n)	<p>the study of the efficiency of persons in their working environment. [<i>adj.: ergonomic</i>]. Gk. ergon: work.</p>
Eristic (adj. & n)	<p>(adj.) characterised by argument, disputation; aiming at winning rather than reaching the truth; (n) the exponent of such a practice. Gk. erizo: wrangle.</p>
Errant (adj.)	<p>deviating from norms; (Lit.) travelling in search of adventure. [<i>n: errancy; errantry</i>]. Err: go astray; iter: journey. <i>The errant child was severely admonished by the parents.</i> <i>The knight-errant brought back wonderful tales of heroism and valour.</i></p>
Erratum (n)	<p>an error in printing or writing.</p>
Erroneous (adj.)	<p>incorrect.</p>
Ersatz (adj. & n)	<p>substitute; a cheap imitation. Ger: replacement.</p>
Erubescant (adj.)	<p>reddening, blushing. L. rubere: be red.</p>
Eudite (adj.)	<p>learned. [<i>adv.: eruditely</i>]. L. erudire: instruct, train. <i>The country is proud to have an erudite Prime Minister.</i></p>
Escalate (v.)	<p>(intr. & tr.) increase rapidly by stages; (tr.) cause to increase rapidly. <i>Inflation has caused prices to escalate tremendously over the past year.</i> <i>Prices have escalated tremendously over the past year, due to a high rate of inflation.</i></p>
Escape velocity (n)	<p>the minimum velocity required to escape from the gravitational field of a body.</p>
Eschew (v. tr.)	<p>avoid; abstain from. [<i>n: eschewal</i>]. <i>The police have asked the public to eschew violence.</i></p>
Esculent (adj. & n)	<p>edible. L. esca: food.</p>
Escutcheon (n)	<p>a shield or emblem bearing a coat of arms; the middle part of a ship's stern where the name is placed; the protective plate around a keyhole or door handle. [<i>adj.: escutcheoned</i>]. L. scutum: shield.</p>
Esoteric (adj.)	<p>(pertaining to a doctrine) intelligible only to or intended only for the initiated. [<i>adv.: esoterically; n: esotericism</i>]. <i>Only those who had been taught the principles understood the esoteric discussion.</i></p>
Esperanto (n)	<p>an artificial universal language devised in 1887, based on roots from the chief European languages. [<i>n: Esperantist</i>]. The pen name for its inventor L. L. Zamenhof, a Polish physician from L. sperare: hope.</p>
Espionage (n)	<p>the practice of spying. Fr. espion: spy. <i>The scientist was arrested on charges of espionage.</i></p>
Espirit de corps (n)	<p>spirit of loyalty and pride among members of a group. Fr. spirit of the body. <i>Motivated by esprit de corps, the army charged at the advancing enemy and held their ground despite the enormous odds against them.</i></p>
Espouse (v. tr.)	<p>adopt or support (a cause, doctrine, etc.). L. spondere: betroth. <i>Medha Patkar has consecrated her life to espouse the cause of the wretched of the earth.</i></p>

Estrade (n)	raised platform, dais.
Estranged (adj.)	separated. [<i>n: estrangement</i>]. L. extraneus : stranger . <i>Estranged from his wife for over a year due to a petty quarrel, the young man sensed a feeling of resentment surge within him.</i>
Estuary (n)	the wide tidal mouth of a river. L. aestus : tide – aestuarium : tidal channel.
Ethereal (adj.)	light, airy; delicate, esp. in appearance; heavenly. [<i>adv.: ethereally</i>].
Ethnic (adj. & n)	(adj.) related to a common racial, tribal or national group; (n) member of an ethnic group. Gk. ethnikos : heathen – ethnos : nation .
Ethnography (n)	the scientific description of races and cultures of humankind. [<i>adj.: ethnographic</i>].
Ethos (n)	the characteristic spirit or attitudes of a community, people or system, or of a literary work, etc. Gk. ēthos : nature, disposition .
Etiquette (n)	conventional rules of social behaviour.
Etymology (n)	branch of linguistics concerned with the formation of words and development of their meanings. Gk. etymon : root + logy : knowledge .
Eugenics (n)	the science of improving the population by controlled breeding for desirable inherited characteristics. [<i>adj.: eugenic</i>].
Eulogy (n)	an expression of praise; speech or writing in praise of a person. L. eulogia : praise . <i>The minister's speech was reduced to a eulogy of the Prime Minister.</i>
Euphemism (n)	the use of a more pleasant, less direct name for something too harsh or unpleasant. Gk. eu : well + phēmē : speaking . <i>The use of euphemism sometimes helps to diffuse a crisis.</i>
Euphony (n)	pleasantness of sound esp. of a word or phrase; harmony. [<i>adj.: euphonic</i>]. Gk. eu + phōnē : sound .
Euphoria (n)	feeling of well-being esp. based on overconfidence or over-optimism. Gk. euphoros : borne well , healthy – eu + phero : bear . <i>My euphoria after clearing the test was short lived as all euphoria is.</i>
Euthanasia (n)	the painless killing of a person suffering from a terminal and painful disease. Gk. eu + thanatos : death .
Evanescent (adj.)	quickly fading. [<i>n: evanescence</i>]. L. e + vanus : empty . <i>The evanescent nature of human memory is one of man's greatest enemies.</i>
Eviscerate (v. tr.)	disembowel; empty of essential contents. L. viscus : any of the soft internal organs of the body .
Evocative (adj.)	tending to draw forth or inspire feelings, memories, etc. [<i>n: evocativeness</i>]. L. e + vocare : call . <i>The movie was evocative of gang wars on the streets of Mumbai.</i>
Exacerbate (v. tr.)	make worse; irritate. L. acerbus : bitter . <i>The oppressive behaviour of the police can only help to exacerbate the agony of the bereaved family.</i>
Exacting (adj.)	making great demands; calling for great effort. [<i>adv.: exactingly</i>]. <i>The bureaucrats resisted the Finance Minister's exacting tactics vis-à-vis public money.</i>

Exasperate (v. tr.)	infuriate; irritate intensely; make worse. [<i>n</i> : exasperation]. L. asper : rough. <i>Exasperated with his parents' refusal to listen to him, the child in turn tried to exasperate them with his unruly behaviour.</i>
Exceptionable (adj.)	open to objection; to which objection may be taken. [<i>adv.</i> : exceptionably]. <i>The media must be rapped for exceptionable news items, which have no basis in truth.</i>
Exceptional (adj.)	unusual; not typical; outstanding (as in unusually good). <i>The lyricist's new songs are exceptional in their euphony.</i>
Excerpt (n & v. tr.)	(<i>n</i>) a short piece taken from a film, music, book, etc.; (<i>v.</i>) take an excerpt. [<i>n</i> : excerption]. L. <i>carpere</i> : pluck.
Excision (n)	pruning; lopping; deletion.
Excogitate (v. tr.)	think out; contrive. [<i>n</i> : excogitation]. L. cogitare : ponder.
Excoriate (v. tr.)	remove part of the skin by abrasion; strip or peel off; censure severely. corium : hide.
Excrecence (n)	an abnormal or morbid outgrowth on the body of a plant. [<i>adj.</i> : excrescent]. L. crescere : grow.
Excruciating (adj.)	acutely tormenting. L. ex + cruciare : torment from <i>crois</i> : cross. <i>The excruciating pain from the wound left me gasping for breath.</i>
Exculpate (v. tr.)	free from blame. [<i>n</i> : exculpation; <i>adj.</i> : exculpatory]. L. ex + culpa : blame. <i>The prisoner expressed hope that the jury exculpates him from the charge of homicide.</i>
Excursive (adj.)	diverse; digressive. [<i>n</i> : excursiveness].
Execrable (adj.)	abominable, detestable. L. ex + sacer : sacred. <i>The execrable man tried to molest my friend as we walked along the road.</i>
Exegesis (n)	critical explanation of a text, esp. of Scripture. [<i>adj.</i> : exegetic(al); <i>n</i> : exegetist; exegete]. Gk. exēgeomai : interpret.
Exhort (v. tr.)	urge or advise strongly or earnestly. [<i>adj.</i> : exhortative, exhortatory]. <i>The student was exhorted to refrain from further unruly behaviour.</i>
Exigency (n)	an urgent need or demand; an emergency. L. ex + agere : drive. <i>The family decided to save the money for exigencies if any.</i>
Exiguous (adj.)	scanty, small. [<i>n</i> : exiguity; <i>adv.</i> : exiguously].
Exonerate (v. tr.)	free from blame; exculpate. [<i>n</i> : exoneration]. L. ex + oneris : burden. <i>Considering the extreme youth of the boy, the court decided to exonerate him with only a sharp rebuke.</i>
Exorbitant (adj.)	grossly excessive. [<i>adv.</i> : exorbitantly; <i>n</i> : exorbitance]. L. ex + orbita : orbit. <i>The exorbitant cost of coffee has compelled people to reaffirm their loyalty for tea.</i>
Exorcise (v. tr.)	expel by invocation or by use of a holy name; free of a supposed evil spirit. [<i>n</i> : exorcism; exorcisation; exorcist]. Gk. ex + horkos : oath – exorkizō. <i>The voodoo doctor was called in to exorcize the house of the evil spirit.</i>
Exordium (n)	the introductory part of a treatise or discourse. [<i>adj.</i> : exordia]. L. ex + ordiri : begin.

Exotic (adj. & n)	(adj.) introduced, or originated from a foreign country; attractively strange. [<i>n</i> : <i>exoticism</i>]. Gk. exō : outside . <i>The search for exotic locales takes film directors to far-flung and unheard of places.</i>
Expatiate (v. tr.)	speak or write at length or in detail. [<i>n</i> : <i>expiation</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>expatiatory</i>]. L. ex + spatium : space as in <i>exspatiari</i> : digress <i>The speaker was urged to expatiate upon his last but relevant point.</i>
Expatriate (adj., n, v)	(adj.) living abroad for a long period; expelled from one's country; (v) expel from one's own country. L. ex + patria : native country . <i>The expatriate businessman returned to his country.</i> <i>The government has decided to expatriate the prisoner.</i>
Expediency (n)	suitability for the purpose. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>expedient</i>].
Expedite (v. tr.)	hasten; assist the progress of. <i>The government has asked the ministry of external affairs to expedite the process of negotiations between the two countries.</i>
Expiate (v. tr.)	pay the penalty for; make amends for. [<i>n</i> : <i>expiation</i>]. L. ex + pius : devote . <i>People try to expiate their sins by rigorous penance and abstinence from sensual pleasures.</i>
Expletive (n)	a swear word.
Explicable (adj.)	that can be explained.
Exponent (n)	a person who promotes or favours an idea; a representative or practitioner of an activity; a person who explains or interprets something; (Math) a raised symbol or expression beside a numeral indicating how many times it is to be multiplied by itself (e.g.: 5 ²). <i>Birju Maharaj is a much-venerated exponent of Kathak.</i>
Ex post facto (adj. & adv.)	with retrospective action or force. L. in the light of subsequent events . <i>An ex post facto analysis of the Ayodhya syndrome is that the Congress could have prevented the action but did not.</i>
Expostulate (v. intr.)	make a protest. L. ex + postulare : demand . <i>The convict expostulated with the warden at length but was asked to return to his cell.</i>
Expropriate (v. tr.)	take property away from its owner. [<i>n</i> : <i>expropriation</i>]. L. ex + proprium : property . <i>Although Mary Roy's brother tried to expropriate her property, she won it through a legal proceeding against him.</i>
Expunge (v. tr.)	erase or remove a name from a list, a passage from a book, etc. [<i>n</i> : <i>expunction</i>]. L. ex + pungere : prick . <i>The civic authorities erroneously expunged the sweeper's name from the payroll.</i>
Expurgate (v. tr.)	remove matter thought to be objectionable from a book. [<i>n</i> : <i>expurgation</i>]. L. ex + purgare : cleanse . <i>The community leaders requested the writer to expurgate certain sections of his book.</i>
Exquisite (adj.)	extremely beautiful or delicate; acute; highly sensitive or discerning. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>exquisitely</i>]. <i>With her exquisite taste in clothes, my mother has an envious wardrobe.</i> <i>The exquisite vase at the exhibition stole my breath away.</i>
Exsiccate (v. intr.)	dry up.
Extant (adj.)	still existing, surviving. L. ex + stare : stand . <i>Extant volcanoes, though rare, are potentially dangerous.</i>
Extempore (adj. & adv.)	without preparation. L. on the spur of the moment . (tempus: time).

Extensive (adj.)	having a wide scope; covering a large area in space or time. L. tendere: stretch .
Extenuate (v. tr.)	lessen the seriousness of by reference to some mitigating factor. [<i>adv.: extenuatingly; n: extenuation</i>]. <i>You can extenuate the effect of this crime by seeking pardon from the aggrieved family.</i>
Exterminate (v. tr.)	destroy completely. [<i>n: extermination</i>]. L. ex + terminus: boundary . <i>The anti-insurgency group has resolved to exterminate terrorists from the Valley.</i>
Extinguish (v. tr.)	cause to die out; destroy; abolish; wipe out. [<i>adj.: extinguishable</i>]. L. stinguere: quench .
Extirpate (v. tr.)	destroy; root out. [<i>n: extirpation</i>].
Extol (v. tr.)	praise enthusiastically. [<i>n: extolment</i>]. L. tollere: raise . <i>Though the entire nation extols the virtue of non-violence, violence seems to be omnipresent.</i>
Extort (v. tr.)	obtain by force, threats. [<i>n: extortion, adj.: extortive</i>]. L. torquere: twist . <i>The lower cadres of the police regularly extort money from traders.</i>
Extradite (v. tr.)	hand over a person accused or convicted of a crime to the state in which the crime was committed. [<i>n: extradition</i>].
Extraneous (adj.)	of external origin. irrelevant or unrelated. [<i>adv.: extraneously; n: extraneousness</i>].
Extravagant (adj.)	spending excessively; immoderate in the use of resources. [<i>adv.: extravagantly</i>]. L. extravagari: vagari: wander . <i>Extravagant spending can lead to penury.</i>
Extricate (v. tr.)	free from a difficulty or constraint. [<i>n: extrication</i>]. L. ex + tricae: perplexities . <i>It became increasingly difficult to extricate myself from the mess my new responsibilities landed me in.</i>
Extrinsic (adj.)	not essential; not inherent; originating or operating from without. L. exter: outside + secus: beside . <i>These are details, which are extrinsic to the idea and need not be treated as intrinsic to it.</i>
Extrovert (n & adj.)	a sociable person; (Psychol.) a person concerned with external/ objective considerations. L. extra: outside + vertere: turn .
Extrude (v. tr.)	thrust or force out. [<i>n: extrusion; adj.: extrusive</i>]. L. trudere: thrust .
Exuberant (adj.)	lively; growing profusely; effusive, lavish. L. uberare: be fruitful from uber: fertile .
Exude (v.)	(tr.) display freely or abundantly; (intr.) escape or cause to escape gradually; ooze out. L. sudare: sweat . <i>The candidate was selected primarily because she exuded confidence.</i>
Exult (v. intr.)	be immensely happy or joyful; have a feeling of triumph. [<i>n: exultancy</i>]. L. salire: leap . <i>Indians exulted over their cricket team's victory at Sharjah.</i>
Exuviate (v. tr.)	shed; divest. [<i>n: exuviation</i>].

F

Fable (n & v)	a story, esp. a supernatural one, not based on fact; a tale, esp. with animals as characters, conveying a moral; a false statement; (v. tr.) describe fictitiously. [<i>adj.: fabled</i>].
Fabricate (v. tr.)	construct or manufacture; invent or concoct (a story, evidence, etc.). [<i>n: fabrication</i>]. <i>The defendant fabricated the story in order to prove his rival wrong.</i>
Fabulist (n)	a composer of fables; a liar.
Fabulous (adj.)	exaggerated, absurd, incredible; (colloq.) excellent, marvellous.
Façade (n)	the face or principal front of a building; an outward or deceptive appearance. Fr. face .
Facet (n)	an aspect of a multi-dimensional thing. [<i>adj.: faceted</i>].
Facetious (adj.)	characterised by flippant or inopportune humour. [<i>adv.: facetiously</i>]. L. facetia: jest . <i>A facetious person makes a fool of himself.</i>
Facile (adj.)	easily achieved but of little value. L. facere: do .
Facsimile (n)	an exact copy; production of an exact copy by electronic scanning and transmission in this way. [<i>v. tr.: facsimiled</i>]. L. facere: make + similis: like .
Faction (n)	a dissenting group within a larger group. <i>The warring factions of the national government ultimately succumbed to pressure and resigned.</i>
Factionous (adj.)	inclined to or characterised by faction.
Factotum (n)	an employee who does all kinds of work.
Fairway (n)	a navigable channel; a regular course or track of a ship; the part of a golf course between a tee and its green, kept free of rough grass.
Fait accompli (n)	a thing that has been done and is past arguing against or altering. Fr. accomplished fact .
Fallacious (adj.)	deceptive; showing or based on false reasoning. [<i>n: fallacy</i>].
Fallible (adj.)	capable of making mistakes. L. fallere: deceive . <i>Man is fallible.</i>
Falsetto (n)	a method of voice production used by male singers, esp. tenors, to sing notes higher than their normal range. It. false .
Famulus (n)	an attendant on a magician or scholar. L. servant .
Fanfaronade (n)	arrogant talk. (like fanfare).
Farcical (adj.)	extremely ludicrous or futile; absurd. <i>The government's attempts at eradication of child labour are farcical in their method of implementation.</i>
Farfetched (adj.)	strained; unconvincing.
Farouche (adj.)	sullen, shy.
Farrago (n)	hotch-potch. [<i>adj.: farraginous</i>]. L. farraginis: mixed fodder .

Farrow (n & v. tr.)	a litter of pigs; (v.) (for a sow) produce a litter. West Ger. færh : pig .
Fascicle (n)	a separately published instalment of a book, usu. not complete in itself; a bunch or bundle. L. fascēs : bundle of rods . (root of fascism).
Fascinate (v. tr.)	attract irresistibly; capture somebody's interest; paralyse with fear. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>fascinated</i> , <i>fascinating</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>fascination</i>]. L. fascinum : spell .
Fastidious (adj.)	fussy; very careful in matters of taste. [<i>n</i> : <i>fastidiousness</i>]. <i>It is extremely difficult to please my grandfather due to his fastidious nature.</i>
Fatal (adj.)	causing or ending in death; ruinous. Fate: L. fatum : that which is spoken from fari: speak.
Fathom (n & v. tr.)	(n) a measure of six feet or the depth of water; (v) grasp or comprehend. Ger. fæthm : outstretched arms . (v) <i>I could not fathom the intent of the warning.</i>
Fatidical (adj.)	gifted with prophetic power.
Fatigue (n & v)	(n) extreme tiredness due to exertion; clothing of various types worn by military personnel; (v) tire, exhaust. L. fatigare : tire out . <i>Due to intense fatigue, I could not accompany my family for the picnic.</i> <i>The army was ordered to march out in camouflage fatigue.</i>
Fatuous (adj.)	idiotic. L. fatuus : foolish . <i>The comedienne's fatuous look did not evoke laughter.</i>
Fauna (n)	the animal life of a region or geological period.
Faux pas (n)	a blunder, tactless mistake. Fr. false step . <i>My sister's faux pas have made her the object of ridicule among her friends.</i>
Fawn (n)	behave in a servile manner; flatter for favour; a young deer in its first year; light yellowish brown. <i>The young recruit fawned upon the manager in order to ensure his position with the firm.</i>
Fealty (n)	a feudal tenant's fidelity to his lord; allegiance. L. fidelis : faithful .
Febrile (adj.)	of or relating to fever. L. febris : fever .
Fecund (adj.)	prolific, fertile. [<i>n</i> : <i>fecundability</i> ; <i>v</i> : <i>fecundate</i>]. L. fecundus : fruitful . <i>The author's fecund imagination has always given birth to wonderfully vivid characters.</i>
Feign (v. tr.)	simulate; pretend. L. fingere : mould, contrive . <i>Afraid that he would have to go to school on the wet, cold morning, the child feigned illness and stayed in bed.</i>
Feint (n)	sham attack to divert attention or fool an enemy.
Felicitate (v. tr.)	congratulate. [<i>n</i> : <i>felicitation</i>]. L. felix : happy .
Feline (adj.)	relating to the cat family. L. feles : cat . <i>The actress sashayed down the ramp with feline grace.</i>
Felo de se (n)	self-murderer; self-murder.

Felony (n)	a usu. violent crime.
Felony (n)	an usu. violent crime.
Femur (n)	(Anat.) the thigh bone; (Zool.) the third segment of the leg of an insect. L. femoris : thigh .
Fenestrated (adj.)	having windows; perforated. L. fenestra : window .
Ferocious (adj.)	fierce, savage. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>ferociously</i>].
Ferret (n & v. tr.)	(n) a small domesticated polecat; a person who searched assiduously; (v) to search, rummage. L. fur : thief . <i>The thief ferreted about the house for valuables.</i>
Fertile (adj.)	fruitful; producing in abundance; inventive.
Fertilizer (n)	chemical or natural substance added to soil in order to make it more fertile.
Fervid (adj.)	ardent, intense; glowing. L. fervere : boil . <i>The Naxalites revolted against the system with a fervid passion and conviction in their ideals.</i>
Fester (v.)	make or become septic; cause continuing annoyance; rot, stagnate.
Fete (n, v. tr.)	an outdoor function involving the gaiety, enjoyment, and sale of goods usually for charity; a great entertainment; (v) honour or entertain lavishly.
Fetid (adj.)	stinking. [<i>n</i> : <i>fetidness</i>]. L. fetere : stink . <i>The atmosphere was fetid with the rotting carcasses lying unattended nearby.</i>
Fetish (n)	(Psychol.) a thing abnormally stimulating or attracting sexual desire; an inanimate object worshiped by primitive peoples for its supposed inherent magical powers; a thing evoking irrational devotion or respect. [<i>n</i> : <i>fetishism</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>fetishistic</i>]. Port. fetico : charm . <i>Most Indians have a fetish for imported goods.</i>
Fettle (n & v)	good physical condition; high spirits.
Feudal (adj.)	relating to the system whereby people held land and received protection in return for giving work or military help; outdated. [<i>n</i> : <i>feudalism</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>feudalistic</i>]. <i>Feudal lords were notorious for their exacting ways with the serfs.</i> <i>Your feudal attitude will not endear you to the younger generation.</i>
Feudatory (adj.)	under overlordship; owing service to a lord.
Fiasco (n)	complete and humiliating failure of something planned. <i>Our grand plans of going to New Zealand ended in a fiasco due to the outbreak of plague in the country.</i>
Fiat (n)	decree, order. L. let it be done .
Fickle (adj.)	inconstant. Old Eng.: fōecne : deceitful .
Fictitious (adj.)	counterfeit; imaginary; not genuine. <i>The landlord's fictitious wife materialised out of thin air and shocked the wits out of the tenants.</i>
Fidelity (n)	faithfulness; loyalty; precision in reproduction of sound. L. fides : faith .

Fiduciary (adj. & n)	(adj.) of a trust, trusteeship; held or given in trust; (of a paper currency) depending for its value on public confidence or securities; (n) a trustee.
Fidget (v. tr., n)	act restlessly or nervously; (n) a person who fidgets. [<i>adj.: fidgety</i>]. fidge: to twist.
Fiend (n)	an evil spirit; demon; a very wicked or cruel person. [<i>adj.: fiendlike</i>]. <i>The lady who snatched the child away from the parents was a no less than a fiend.</i>
Figment (n)	a thing invented or existing only in the imagination.
Filial (adj.)	of or suitable for a son or daughter. [<i>adv.: filially</i>] L. filius: son, filia: daughter. <i>The siblings returned home from a sense of filial duty, which they had ignored for long.</i>
Filigree (n)	ornamental work of fine gold or silver wire formed into delicate tracery; anything delicate resembling this. [<i>adj.: filigreed</i>]. L. filum: thread + granum: seed. <i>She wore a delicate pair of earrings with filigree on it.</i>
Fillip (n & v)	(n) a stimulus; (v. tr.) stimulate, propel. <i>The employees were given a fillip when the executive officer declared a pay hike.</i>
Finale (n)	the last movement of an instrumental composition; a piece of music closing the act; the close of a drama; the conclusion. It. as final . <i>The grand finale marked the end of another memorable event in the history of the Olympics games.</i>
Finesse (n)	refinement; artfulness in handling a difficulty tactfully. <i>Boris Becker plays with a finesse that few in his profession have exhibited.</i>
Finical (adj.)	(also as finicky) fastidious; over-particular.
Firmament (n)	(Lit) the sky, regarded as a vault or arch.
Fission (n)	the action of dividing or splitting into two or more parts; (Biol.) the division of a cell into new cells as a mode of reproduction. L. fiss: cleave.
Fissure (n, v.)	an opening; a deep crack in rock or earth; (Bot. & Anat.) a narrow opening in an organ, etc.; (v) split or crack. <i>The mountaineer was sucked into the fissure, which he did not notice while surveying the area.</i>
Fizzle (out) (v. intr.)	come to a weak, unsatisfactory end. <i>The party fizzled out after a short while due to the ennui which set in.</i>
Flabbergast (v. tr.)	overwhelm with astonishment; dumbfound. (used esp. as flabbergasted).
Flabby (adj.)	hanging down, limp; flaccid. [<i>n: flabbiness</i>].
Flaccid (adj.)	hanging loose or wrinkled; limp; flabby; (of plant tissue) less rigid; relaxed; lacking vigour, feeble. [<i>n: flaccidity</i>]. L. flaccus: flabby. <i>With his flaccid temperament, Rajesh was a wet blanket for every plan.</i>
Flagellate (v. tr.)	flog. [<i>n: flagellation</i>]. L. flagere: whip. <i>Some masochists flagellate themselves in order to derive perverse sensual pleasure.</i>
Flagitious (adj.)	utterly villainous; deeply criminal. [<i>adv.: flagitiously</i>]. L. flagitium: shameful crime.

Flagrant (adj.)	glaring; notorious; scandalous. [<i>n: flagrancy</i>]. L. flagrare: blaze . <i>In flagrant violation of the rules, the opposition candidates indulged in large-scale booth rigging during the elections.</i>
Flair (n)	an instinct for selecting or using something that is excellent, useful, etc.; a talent. <i>My history teacher had a flair for dealing with students.</i>
Famboyant (adj.)	showy; brightly coloured and conspicuous. [<i>n: flamboyance; adv.: flamboyantly</i>]. <i>Dressed in flamboyant clothes, the actor campaigned for the ruling party in the rural areas.</i>
Flatulent (adj.)	causing formation of gas in the alimentary canal; inflated; pretentious. [<i>n: flatulence</i>]. L. flatus: blow .
Flaunt (v.)	display; show off. <i>We often try to flaunt possessions we are proud of.</i>
Flavescant (adj.)	turning yellow; yellowish. L. flavus: yellow .
Flexuous (adj.)	winding; full of bends. L. flexus: bending .
Flimflam (n)	trifle, nonsense; idle talk. [<i>v.: flimflamming; flimflammed</i>].
Flimsy (adj.)	insubstantial; lightly or carelessly assembled; paltry, trivial. [<i>n: flimsiness; adv.: flimsily</i>]. <i>The student refused to take the test on a flimsy pretext.</i>
Flora (n)	the plants of a particular region, geological period or environment. L. floris: flower . <i>The tropical countries have a rich wealth of flora and fauna.</i>
Florid (adj.)	ruddy, flushed; elaborately ornate; flowery. [<i>n: floridity</i>]. L. floris . <i>I do not enjoy writers who have a florid and expansive style of writing.</i>
Florist (n)	a person who deals in or grows flowers. [<i>n: floristry</i>].
Floruit (v & n)	(intr.) flourished (used for a painter, writer, etc. whose exact dates are unknown); (n) the period or date at which a person lived or worked. L. he or she flourished .
Flotilla (n)	a small fleet. Old Fr. flote: multitude .
Flotsam and Jetsam (n)	odds and ends; rubbish.
Flounder (v. & n)	struggle; perform a task badly or without knowledge. <i>Ramesh floundered his way through the assignment but was ultimately successful at accomplishing the task.</i>
Fluctuate (v. intr.)	vary irregularly; vacillate. [<i>n: fluctuation</i>]. L. fluctus: flow, wave . <i>Since the voltage fluctuates in this area, every house possesses a stabiliser.</i>
Fluent (adj.)	flowing naturally and readily; able to speak quickly and easily; flowing gracefully. L. fluere: flow . <i>My neighbours speak fluent French.</i>
Flummox (v. tr.)	bewilder, confound.
Flunk(e)y (n)	a liveried footman; a male servant.
Fluorescent (adj.)	having the quality of radiating light when electric waves are passed through.
Fluviatile (adj.)	of, found in, or produced by a river or rivers. L. fluvius: river .

Foible (n)	a minor weakness or idiosyncrasy; (Fencing) the part of a sword blade from the middle to the point. <i>The foibles of politicians can be ignored if they work for the greater good of the electorate.</i>
Foist (v. tr.)	impose on; fix an authorship falsely; introduce surreptitiously or unwarrantably. Dut.: vuisten: take in the hand. <i>The responsibility for handling the difficult assignment was foisted upon the unwilling candidate.</i>
Foment (v. tr.)	instigate or stir up trouble; bathe with warm and medicated liquid; apply warmth to. L. fomentum: poultice, lotion from fovere: heat, cherish. <i>Politicians try to foment trouble between communities in order to gain mileage from it.</i>
Forage (n & v. intr.)	(n) food for horses and cattle; the act of searching for food; (v.) go searching; rummage. Old Fr. forrage: fodder. <i>The marooned sailors went to forage for food in the sultry heat.</i>
Foray (n & v)	a sudden attack, raid. Back formation from forage: related to fodder.
Forbear (v.)	abstain or desist. <i>The audience was asked to forbear from asking embarrassing questions.</i>
Forbid (v. tr.)	refuse to allow. <i>I forbid the watchman to allow any stranger into the house in my absence.</i>
Forebode (v. tr.)	be an advance warning of; have a presentiment (usu. evil). <i>All the evidence presented forbode ill for the defendant.</i>
Foreboding (n)	an expectation of trouble or evil; an omen. [adv.: forebodingly]. <i>Julius Caesar's wife had a foreboding of some momentous misfortune the night before his murder.</i>
Forensic (adj.)	relating to courts of law, esp. in relation to crime detection. <i>The police have to perforce resort to forensic evidence in cases related to crime.</i>
Forfeit (n, adj., v)	(n) penalty for breach or neglect of contract; something surrendered as penalty; (Law) property, right or privilege lost as a legal penalty; (adj.) lost or surrendered as a penalty; (v. tr.) lose the right to. <i>Fathers often forfeit the right to keep their children in divorce cases.</i>
Forlorn (adj.)	sad, abandoned or lonely; of wretched appearance, hopeless, dejected. <i>The girl, who was betrayed by her fiancé, sat forlorn by the river.</i>
Formidable (adj.)	inspiring fear or dread; inspiring respect or awe; likely to be difficult to overcome. L. formidare: fear. <i>The formidable strength of the Pakistani army did not deter the Indian soldiers.</i>
Forswear (v. tr.)	renounce on oath; abjure. <i>The company lost three of its best employees who forswore their loyalty to the company in favour of a multi-national company.</i>
Forte (n)	a person's strong point; a thing in which a person excels; the part of a sword blade from the hilt to the middle. Fr. fort: strong. <i>Writing poetry is not my forte.</i>
Fortification (n)	the act or instance of strengthening, defending. L. fortificacio: act of strengthening. <i>Engrossed in the fortification of the area, the army did not notice the enemy advance.</i>
Fortuitous (adj.)	characterised by chance; accidental; casual. L. by chance. <i>The general manager's promotion to the post of chief executive officer was fortuitous.</i>
Fossil (n)	the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal, usu. petrified while embedded in rock, amber, etc.; an antiquated person or thing; redundant.

Foster (v. tr. & adj.)	promote the growth or development of; encourage or harbour; (n) having a family connection by fostering and not by birth; concerning fostering a child. Old Eng. fostrian : related to food . <i>My neighbour, who is an orphan, was brought up in the United States by his foster parents.</i> <i>The government has decided to foster communal harmony.</i>
Fountainhead (n)	the original source. <i>India is the fountainhead of Vedanta philosophy.</i>
Frabjous (adj.)	delightful, joyous. As devised by Lewis Carroll, perhaps to suggest fair and joyous . <i>The frabjous little party came to an unwanted end at the stroke of twelve.</i>
Fracas (n)	noisy disturbance or quarrel. It. fracassare : make an uproar . <i>The peaceful evening was disrupted by an unnecessary fracas in the neighbourhood.</i>
Fractious (adj.)	irritable, peevish, unruly. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>fractiously</i>]. Discord, breach of peace . <i>The Parliament session was adjourned due to the violence of the fractious crowd.</i>
Fragile (adj.)	weak; easily broken. [<i>n</i> : <i>fragility</i>]. L. frangere : break . <i>Due to her fragile health, the old lady was advised to stay indoors.</i>
Fragrant (adj.)	sweet-smelling. L. fragrare : smell sweet .
Frail (adj.)	fragile, delicate; in weak health; unable to resist temptations. [<i>n</i> : <i>frailness</i>]. L. frangere .
Franchise (n & v)	the right to vote at state elections; the principle or qualification for this; authorisation granted to an individual or group to sell its goods or services in a particular way; (v) grant a franchise to. Old Fr. franche : free .
Fratricide (n)	the killing of one's brother or sister; a person who does this. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>fratricidal</i>]. L. frater : brother .
Freak (n & v)	an abnormally developed individual or thing; an abnormal, irregular or bizarre occurrence; an unconventional person; a person with enthusiasm for a specified interest; (v.) adopt a wild lifestyle. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>freakish</i>].
Freebooter (n)	a lawless adventurer. [<i>v</i> : <i>freeboot</i>].
Frenetic (adj.)	frantic; frenzied. Gk. phrenitis : delirium from phrenos: mind.
Frenzy (n)	wild excitement or agitation. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>frenzied</i>]. Phrenos . <i>Cassandra entered the murder chamber in frenzy.</i>
Frippery (n & adj.)	showy; unnecessary finery; empty display in speech, literary style, etc.; (adj.) frivolous. Fr. frepe : rag .
Fritter (v. tr.)	waste; break into pieces. <i>The businessman frittered away his energy and resources in a futile bid to wrest the contract.</i>
Frivolity (n)	lack of seriousness. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>frivolous</i>]. L. silly , trifling .
Frolic (n & v. tr.)	(v) play about cheerfully; (n) cheerful play, merriment. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>frolicsome</i>]. Dut. vrolik : gladly . <i>Children love to frolic around in water.</i> <i>After the fun and frolic of the picnic, the children refused to study.</i>
Froward (adj.)	difficult to deal with; perverse.

Frown (n & v.)	(intr.) wrinkle one's brows as a sign of disapproval; (tr.) express defiance; subdue with a frown; (n) the action of frowning; a vertically furrowed condition of the brow. Celtic froigne : surly look .
Frowzy (adj.)	musty, ill-smelling; unkempt.
Fructify (v.)	(intr.) bear fruit; (tr.) make fruitful; impregnate. L. fructus : fruit .
Frugivorous (adj.)	feeding on fruit. L. frugis : fruit + vorous . <i>Some tribal societies are frugivorous.</i>
Frump (n)	a dowdy, unattractive, old-fashioned woman. Middle Dut. frumple : wrinkle .
Fudge (n & v. tr.)	(n) a soft, toffee-like sweet; made with milk, sugar, butter, etc.; nonsense; a piece of dishonesty; a piece of late news inserted in a newspaper page; (v) put together in a makeshift or dishonest way.
Fuehrer (n)	a tyrannical leader. Ger. leader .
Fugacious (adj.)	(Lit) fleeting; hard to capture. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>fugaciously</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>fugacity</i>]. L. fugere : flee .
Fugitive (adj. & n)	(adj.) that has run away; transient; of passing interest; flitting, shifting; (n) a person who flees, esp. from justice, an enemy, danger; an exile or refugee. Fugere . 1. <i>My thoughts, fugitive as they were, eluded me till I captured them on paper.</i> 2. <i>The doctor, who had unwittingly killed the pregnant woman, lived a fugitive's life for many years, seeking refuge in inconspicuous villages.</i>
Fulgent (n)	(Lit) brilliant, shining. L. fulgere : shine . <i>The fulgent moon has been a source of delight and inspiration to many a poet and artist.</i>
Fuliginous (adj.)	(Lit) dusky. L. soot .
Fulminate (v. intr.)	express censure loudly and forcefully; explode violently; (Med) develop suddenly. [<i>n</i> : <i>fulmination</i>]. L. lightning . <i>The student body fulminated against the arbitrary methods adopted by the Principal and his staff.</i>
Fulsome (adj.)	disgusting by excess of flattery; excessive, cloying. <i>Offended by the fulsome praise bestowed on him by the management, the labour leader walked away.</i>
Funambulist (n)	a rope-walker. L. funis : rope + ambulare : walk .
Funereal (adj.)	related to a funeral; gloomy, dismal, dark. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>funerally</i>]. <i>The funereal aspect of the place drove the revelers away.</i>
Fungicide (n)	a fungus-destroying substance. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>fungicidal</i>].
Furbish (v. tr.)	remove rust from; polish, burnish; renovate, revive. <i>I have decided to furbish my apartment before my funds run dry.</i>
Furlough (n)	leave of absence, esp. granted to a member of the services or to a missionary. Ger. verlaub : for leave .
Furore (n)	an uproar; a craze. L. furere : be mad . <i>The declaration of the party manifesto created a furore in the country.</i>

Furtive (adj.)	clandestine, done by stealth. L. furtum : theft . <i>The man's furtive efforts at entering the building were ultimately noticed and the culprit brought to book.</i>
Fuscous (adj.)	dark-coloured; sombre. L. fuscus : dusky .
Fusillade (n & v)	a continuous discharge of firearms; a sustained outburst of criticism; (v. tr.) assault by a fusillade.
Fusion (n)	the act or instance of melting or joining by melting; a coalition. L. fus : pour, melt .
Fustian (n & adj.)	(n) a thick twilled cotton cloth with a short nap, usu. dyed in dark colours; bombast; (adj.) bombastic; worthless. L. fustaneous : relating to cloth from Fostat, a suburb of Cairo.
Futuristic (adj.)	ultra-modern; suitable for the future. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>futuristically</i>].

PGFA

G

Gadfly (n)	a cattle-biting fly; an irritating or harassing person. <i>The landlord is a virtual gadfly when it comes to collection of rent at the beginning of the month.</i>
Gadget (n)	any small and usu. mechanical device or tool. [<i>n</i> : gadgeteer, gadgetry].
Gaffe (n)	a blunder; an indiscreet act or remark. <i>Amused at the debutante's gaffe, the party broke into laughter.</i>
Gaffer (n)	an old fellow; an elderly rustic.
Gag (n & v. tr.)	(n) a piece of cloth pushed into or held over the mouth to prevent speaking or crying out or to hold it open during surgery; a joke or comic scene in a play. (v) <i>The dacoits gagged the old man before fleeing with all the valuables in the house.</i>
Gaiety (n)	the state of being gay or happy; mirth; merry-making. <i>The alumni night was marked with gaiety and bonhomie.</i>
Gainsay (n)	deny, contradict.
Galaxy (n)	any of the many independent systems of stars, dust, gas, etc., held together by gravitation; a brilliant gathering or company. <i>The hall was chock-a-block with a galaxy of the country's brightest academicians.</i>
Galimatias (n)	Rigmarole; confused or meaningless talk.
Gallant (adj. & n)	(adj.) brave, chivalrous; markedly attentive to women; (n) a ladies' man; a paramour.
Galligaskins (n)	breeches, trousers.
Gallio (n)	indifferent, carefree person.
Gallows (n)	a wooden structure for the hanging of criminals.
Galore (adv.)	in abundance. Irish go leór : to sufficiency.
Galumph (v. intr.)	move noisily or clumsily; prance in triumph. Coined by Lewis Carroll: gallop + triumph .
Galvanise (v. tr.)	rouse forcefully, esp. by shock or excitement; stimulate; coat with zinc as a protection against rust. Galvanism, named after L. Galvani, Italian physiologist.
Gambol (v & n)	(intr.) skip or frolic playfully; (n) a playful frolic.
Gamin (n)	a street urchin; an impudent child.
Gamma globulin (n)	a mixture of blood plasma proteins, often given to boost immunity.
Gamut (n)	the whole range or scope of anything. <i>The danseuse ran the entire gamut of emotions from anger to submission in a short recital.</i>
Gander (n & v)	(n) a male goose; (intr.) look, glance.
Gangle (v. intr.)	move ungracefully.
Gangrene (n & v)	(Med.) death and decomposition of a part of the body tissue, resulting from obstruction in circulation or bacterial infection; moral corruption; (tr. & intr.) affect or become affected with gangrene.
Garble (v. tr.)	unintentionally distort or confuse; mutilate to misrepresent. <i>The boy garbled out some information regarding terrorists in his neighbourhood.</i>

Garish (adj.)	showy; obtrusively bright; gaudy. <i>The model was dressed in garish clothes.</i>
Garner (v. tr. & n)	(v) collect; deposit, store; (n) granary. <i>The spy was asked to garner information about the country's nuclear potential and development.</i>
Garnish (v. tr. & n)	(v) decorate or embellish (food); (n) a decoration or embellishment.
Garrison (n & v. tr)	(n) the troops stationed in a fortress or town to defend it; the building occupied by them; (v) provide with or occupy as a garrison.
Garrulous (adj.)	talkative; loquacious. L. garrire : chatter . <i>The garrulous old woman was the bane of the neighbourhood.</i>
Gasconade (n)	boasting. From Gascon , in France, known for its braggarts.
Gastronomy (n)	the art of eating and drinking well. Gk. gastro : stomach + nomos : law .
Gauche (adj.)	socially awkward; tactless. Fr. left-handed : awkward .
Gaudy (adj.)	tastelessly bright or showy.
Gauge (n & v. tr.)	(n) a standard measure to which certain things must conform; any of various instruments for measuring this; the distance between pair of rails or the wheels on an axle; the scope or extent of something; a graduated instrument for measuring the force or quantity of rainfall, stream, tide, etc.; (v) measure exactly. (n) <i>It is essential to gauge a person's potential before recruiting him for a job.</i>
Gawky (adj.)	awkward or ungainly.
Gazelle (n)	a graceful soft-eyed antelope found in Asia or Africa.
Gazette (n & v. tr.)	a newspaper, esp. one belonging to a particular organisation or institution; a periodical publication giving current events; announce or publish in an official gazette. Venetian gazeta de la novita : a half penny worth of news -- gazeta: a Venetian small coin.
Gelatinous (adj.)	of a jelly-like consistency.
Genealogy (n)	the study of the history of a family from past to present. Gk. genea : race .
Generic (adj.)	characteristic of or relating to a class; general, not specific. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>generically</i>].
Genesis (n)	the origin. Gk. gen : be produced (gignomai: become).
Genetic (adj.)	of genes; causal; inherited.
Genetics (n)	the study of heredity and the variation of inherited characteristics. [<i>n</i> : <i>geneticist</i>].
Genial (adj.)	jovial, sociable, kindly; mild and warm; conducive; cheering. <i>All the children in the neighbourhood loved the genial old man.</i>
Genre (n)	a kind or style, esp. of art or literature. Fr. a kind . <i>John Keats belongs to the genre of poets termed the 'Romantics'.</i>
Genteel (adj.)	affectedly or ostentatiously refined.
Gentry (n)	the class of people next below the nobility in position and birth.

Genuflect (v. intr.)	bend the knee, esp. in worship or as a sign of respect. [<i>n</i> : <i>genuflection</i>]. L. genu : the knee + flectere : bend. <i>It is common custom to genuflect before a sovereign.</i>
Geocentric (adj.)	considered as viewed from the centre of the earth; having the earth as the centre. Gk. geo : earth + centre .
Geology (n)	the science of the earth, the composition, structure and origin of its rocks. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>geologic/geological</i>]. Geo + logos .
Geriatrics (n)	a branch of science dealing with the health and care of old people.
Germane (adj.)	relevant. <i>The point regarding a uniform civil code is germane to the present situation of communal disharmony.</i>
Gerontology (n)	the scientific study of old age, the process of ageing and the problems of old people. Gk. geron ontos : old people + logos .
Gestation (n)	the process of carrying or being carried in the womb; the private development of a plan, etc. L. gerere : carry.
Gesticulation (n)	the use of gestures to accompany speech. Gesture – L. gere gest : wield. <i>Excessive gesticulation can mar a good speech.</i>
Gewgaw (n)	a gaudy plaything or ornament.
Geyser (n)	an intermittently gushing hot spring throwing up a tall column of water; an apparatus for heating water rapidly. The name of a particular spring in Iceland, related to geysa : to gush.
Ghastly (adj. & adv.)	horrible, frightful; unpleasant; deathlike; pallid. Middle Eng. ghost .
Gibberish (n)	unintelligible or meaningless speech; nonsense.
Gimcrack (adj. & n)	showy but worthless; a cheap, showy ornament.
Gimlet-eyed (adj.)	a person with a piercing glance.
Gingerly (adv. & adj.)	(adv.) in a cautious manner; (adj.) showing great care. <i>The lady touched the coffeepot gingerly in order to ascertain its warmth.</i>
Gist (n)	the essence of a matter.
Gleam (n & v)	(n) a brief light, a temporary show; (intr.) emit gleam; shine with a faint or intermittent brightness. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>gleamingly</i>]. Glimmer . <i>A faint gleam of light shone through the blinds.</i> <i>Hope gleamed in the old woman's eyes when her son walked towards her.</i>
Glib (adj.)	fluent and voluble; insincere and shallow; smooth, unimpeded. Glibbery : slippery. <i>President John F. Kennedy was a glib speaker.</i>
Glimmer (n & v)	(n) a feeble or wavering light; (intr.) shine faintly or intermittently. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>glimmeringly</i>].
Gloriole (n)	a halo. L. gloria : glory.
Glossary (n)	an alphabetical list of terms or words found in or relating to a specific subject or text. L. an explanatory gloss or phrase .

Glower (v. intr.)	stare or scowl angrily. Middle Eng: glow: stare + er. <i>My father glowered at me when I showed him my school report card.</i>
Glutinous (adj.)	sticky; like glue.
Gnarled (adj.)	knobly, twisted, rugged. <i>The beggar's gnarled hands reached out to the family for alms.</i>
Gnash (v.)	(tr.) grind (the teeth); (intr.) strike together; grind.
Gnawing (adj.)	persistent; worrying. <i>The young man gave in to a nervous breakdown due to the gnawing fear of the enforcement agencies that were harassing him.</i>
Gnome (n)	a dwarfish figure believed to be guarding earth's treasures; a person with sinister influence.
Goluptious (adj.)	luscious; delightful.
Gordian Knot (n)	an intricate knot; a difficult problem or task. Named after Gordius, king of Phrygis, who tied an intricate knot that remained tied till cut by Alexander the Great.
Gorge (n & v.)	(n) a narrow opening between hills; a rocky ravine; the act of eating greedily; (intr.) eat greedily; (tr.) satiate, glut. Fr. gorge: throat. (v) <i>The famished travellers gorged themselves at leisure at the wayside inn.</i>
Gorgon (n)	each of the three snake-haired sisters in Greek mythology who could turn those who looked at them to stone; a frightening or repulsive person (esp. a woman). Gk. gorgos: terrible.
Gormandize (v)	eat voraciously.
Gory (adj.)	involving bloodshed.
Gossamer (n)	a filmy substance of spider's webs; delicate, filmy material; light and flimsy. Middle Eng. goose + summer: early November, when geese were eaten.
Goth (n)	an uncivilized or ignorant person; a Germanic tribe that invaded the Roman empire in the 3 rd -5 th century.
Gothic (adj.)	the Goths or their language; the style of architecture in West Europe prevalent in the 12-16 th century characterized by pointed arches; a style of novel-writing using horror and supernatural events; (Printing) old fashioned German black letter. <i>Gothic music has the capacity to elevate the spirit.</i> <i>Gothic churches have high, vaulted ceilings.</i>
Gourmand (n & adj.)	(n) a glutton; (adj.) fond of eating to excess; gluttonous. [<i>n: gourmandism</i>].
Gourmet (n & adj.)	(n) a connoisseur of good food; (adj.) of a style or standard suitable for gourmets.
Graffiti (n & v)	(n) inscriptions or drawings scribbled, scratched or sprayed on a surface; (tr.) cover with graffiti. It. graffio: scratch.
Grandee (n)	a Spanish or Portuguese nobleman of the highest rank; a person of high rank or eminence.
Grandiloquent (adj.)	pompous or bombastic. [<i>n: grandiloquence</i>]. L. grand + loquus: speaking. <i>The grandiloquent minister promised the world to the villagers but could not deliver any of his promises.</i>
Grandiose (adj.)	producing or meant to produce an imposing effect; planned on an ambitious scale. <i>The state's grandiose plans to eradicate child abuse have come to naught.</i>

Granulate (v.)	form into grains; (tr.) make the surface rough. [<i>n</i> : <i>granulation</i>].
Graphology (n)	the study of handwriting, esp. as a supposed guide to character; (Ling.) the study of the systems of writing. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>graphological</i>]. Gk. graphē : writing . <i>Many organisations in the United States resort to graphology while recruiting employees.</i>
Gratis (adj. & adv.)	free. L. gratia : favour .
Gratuitous (adj.)	given or done free of charge; lacking good reason; unwarranted. <i>The man's gratuitous smile left me bewildered.</i>
Gravamen (n)	the essence of an argument; a grievance. L. gravare : to load from <i>gravis</i> : heavy.
Gregarious (adj.)	fond of company. [<i>n</i> : <i>gregariousness</i>]. L. gregis : flock .
Gressorial (adj.)	(Zool.) walking; adapted for walking. L. gradi gress : walk .
Greybeard (n)	an old man.
Grimalkin (n)	an old she-cat; a spiteful old woman.
Gripe (v & n)	(intr.) complain peevishly; (tr.) affect with gastric or intestinal pain; (n) gastric or intestinal pain; a complaint.
Grisly (adj.)	causing horror, disgust or fear.
Groggy (adj.)	unsteady from being semi-conscious, hung over, etc. [<i>adv</i> .: <i>groggily</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>grogginess</i>]. <i>The little boy walked out of his dormitory looking groggy with sleep.</i>
Grotesque (adj. & n)	(adj.) comically or repulsively distorted; unnatural; absurd; (n) a decorative form interweaving human and animal features. <i>The grotesque picture amused the entire congregation in the exhibition hall.</i>
Grotto (n)	a small natural or artificial cave. It. grotta from L. <i>crypta</i> from Gk kruptē : crypt . <i>The children designed a pretty grotto on-stage as a part of depicting Christ's birth.</i>
Grouse (n)	a petty complaint.
Grout (n)	a thin, fluid mortar for filling gaps in tiling; sediment, dregs.
Grovelling (adj.)	cringing, fawning, base. [<i>v.tr.</i> : <i>grovel</i>]. Old Norse gruf : face down . <i>The deputy's grovelling behaviour was repulsive to the officer.</i>
Gruesome (adj.)	horrible, grisly, disgusting. Scandinavian grue : to shudder + some . <i>The gruesome murder of the musician shocked the city into silence.</i>
Gubernatorial (adj.)	of or relating to the governor. L. gubernator : governor . <i>The paramilitary police, in the wake of the riots, cordoned off the gubernatorial residence.</i>
Guerdon (n & v)	a reward or recompense; (v. tr.) give a reward to. L. donum : gift .
Guile (n)	treachery; deceit; cunning. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>guileful</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>guilelessness</i>]. <i>The secretary wormed her way into the residence through guile.</i>
Guillotine (n & v)	(n) a machine with a heavy knife-blade used in France for beheading. <i>Hundreds of people were guillotined in France in the wake of the revolution in 1757.</i>
Guinea pig (n)	a domesticated kept used for research; a person or thing used for experiments.

Gullible (adj.)	easily persuaded or deceived; credulous. Old Norse gull : dupe, fool . <i>The gullible young girl was cheated by her fiancé who relinquished her for another girl.</i>
Gumption (n)	resourcefulness; initiative; enterprising spirit; <i>The trader's gumption not only impressed his bankers but also made them cautious about encouraging him further.</i>
Gustatory (adj.)	pertaining to the sense of taste. [<i>n</i> : <i>gustation</i>]. L. gustus : taste .
Gusto (n)	zest, vigour. <i>The students completed their assignments with a gusto that delighted their teachers.</i>
Guttural (adj.)	throaty, harsh-sounding. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>gutturally</i>]. L. guttur: throat.
Guzzle (v)	consume greedily or excessively. Old Fr. gosiller : chatter, vomit . <i>The dipsomaniac guzzled alcohol despite the doctor's warning against it.</i>
Gymnastic (adj.)	related to physical exercises and training for improving physical agility and coordination. Gk. gumnazo : exercise .
Gyration (n)	revolution; whirling; spiralling. [<i>v</i> : <i>gyrate</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>gyratory</i>].

PGFA

H

- Habeas Corpus (n)** a writ requiring a person to be presented before a judge or court in order to investigate the lawfulness of his or her detention.
L. **you must have the body.**
- Habiliment (n)** clothes suited to a particular purpose.
Old Fr. **habiller**: **fit out.**
- Habit (n)** a regular tendency or practice; an addictive practice; the dress of a particular class, esp. of a religious order.
L. **habēre**: **have, to be constituted.**
Your habit of procrastinating will put you in trouble soon.
The nuns walked out in their habit.
- Habitable (adj.)** that can be inhabited, lived in. [*n*: *habitability*].
L. **habitare**: **inhabit.**
This place is not habitable and I would therefore like to shift to a better place.
- Habitat (n)** the natural home of an organism.
L. **it dwells.**
- Habitual (adj.)** done as a habit, done constantly; usual; given to a habit. [*adv.*: *habitually*].
Being a habitual liar, it became difficult for the woman to convince the court of the truth of her statement.
- Habitué (n)** a habitual visitor or resident.
My friend from Bombay visits us so often here that he is a virtual habitué of this house.
- Hackneyed (adj.)** made commonplace by overuse.
Promises made by politicians have become hackneyed now.
- Haft (n)** the handle of a dagger or knife.
- Haggle (v. & n)** (intr.) dispute or bargain persistently; (n) a dispute or wrangle.
Some people love to haggle over the prices of almost all products.
I was so engrossed in watching the haggle between the customer and shopkeeper, that I did not notice the pickpocket.
- Hagiography (n)** writing the biographies of saints; an idealised biography of a person.
Gk. **hagios**: **holy** + **graphy**.
- Hair-splitting (adj.)** making overfine distinctions; quibbling.
The discussion was ruined by the hair-splitting indulged in by the two most prominent speakers.
- Halcyon (adj. & n)** (adj.) calm, peaceful, happy, prosperous (of a period); (n) (Mythol.) a bird thought to breed in a nest floating at sea, charming the waves and wind into calm.
- Half-wit (n)** an extremely foolish person; a person who is mentally deficient. [*adj.*: *half-witted*].
- Hallucination (n)** the apparent perception of an object or sense not actually present. [*adj.*: *hallucinatory*].
L. **hallucinari**: **wander in mind.**
- Hamstring (n & v)** (Anat.) each of five tendons at the back of the knee in humans; (tr.) (hamstrung, hamstrung) cripple by cutting the hamstrings; prevent the activity or efficiency.
- Hanky-panky (n)** naughtiness; dishonest dealing; trickery.
- Haphazard (adj. & adv.)** random; done by chance.
hap: **chance** + **hazard.**
Driving haphazardly could be injurious to health.
- Hapless (adj.)** unfortunate.
The hapless old woman shed copious tears over the dead body of her twice-widowed husband.

Haptic (adj.)	relating to the sense of touch. Gk. haptikos : able to touch .
Hara-kiri (n)	ritual suicide by disembowelment with a sword formerly practiced by Samurai to avoid dishonour. Jap. hara : belly + kiri : cutting .
Harangue (n & v)	(n) a lengthy and earnest speech; (tr.) make a harangue, lecture. <i>The judge's harangue left the press bereft of speech.</i>
Harbinger (n)	a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another; a forerunner. <i>The new year dawned as a harbinger of good news and prosperity.</i>
Hardihood (n)	boldness, daring.
Haemoglobin (n)	a red oxygen-carrying protein containing iron, present in the red blood cells of vertebrates. Gk. hemato/haimat : blood + globulin .
Haemorrhage (n)	leakage of blood due to rupture of blood vessel; an extensive damaging loss suffered by a state, organisation, etc. esp. of people or assets. Gk. haima : blood + rhēgnumi : burst . <i>The accident victim died of brain haemorrhage.</i>
Hare-brained (adj.)	rash, wild.
Harmony (n)	notes of music combined to create a pleasing effect; agreement, concord. Gk. harmonia : joining, concord . <i>The eccentric neighbours live in perfect harmony.</i>
Harness (n & v)	(n) equipment by which a horse or other draught animal is fastened to a cart and controlled; (tr.) attach a harness; make use of natural resources esp. to produce energy. (v) <i>The country has decided to harness solar energy in order to make up for the shortage of hydro electricity.</i>
Harridan (n)	a bad-tempered old woman. Fr. haridelle : old horse .
Harrowing (adj.)	greatly distressing.
Harum-scarum (adj.)	wild and reckless.
Haughty (adj.)	arrogant, disdainful. [<i>n</i> : <i>haughtiness</i>]. L. altus : high . <i>The army officer's haughty manner made him unpopular with the civilians.</i>
Hauteur (n)	haughtiness of manner.
Haver (v & n)	(intr.) babble; talk foolishly; vacillate; (n) foolish talk.
Haywire (adj.)	badly disorganised; out of control; erratic. <i>All our ideas went haywire when the reality of the situation dawned on us.</i>
Hearth (n)	the floor of a fireplace or the area in front of a fireplace; symbol of home.
Hearty (adj.)	strong, vigorous; spirited; warm, friendly. <i>The farmer's hearty laughter echoed in the corridors.</i>
Hebdomadal (adj.)	weekly. Gk. hepta : seven .
Hecatomb (n)	(in ancient Greece or Rome) a large public sacrifice, originally of 100 oxen; any extensive sacrifice. Gk. hekaton : hundred + bous : ox .
Heckle (v. tr)	interrupt and harass. [<i>n</i> : <i>heckler</i>].
Hectare (n)	a measure for the area of land equal to 10,000 square meters. [<i>n</i> : <i>hectarege</i>].

Hector (v & n)	(tr.) bully, intimidate; (n) a bully. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>hectoringly</i>]. <i>The police hectoring the crowd into dispersing from the site.</i> <i>The police officer sent to control the situation proved to be a real hector.</i>
Hedonism (n)	belief in pleasure as the highest good and the proper aim of human beings.
Hegira (n)	general exodus or departure. Ar. Hijra : departure from one's country .
Hegemony (n)	leadership or dominance, esp. by one state or confederacy. Gk. hēgemōn : leader ; hēgeomai : lead . <i>America's hegemony over the world is proving to be increasingly unbearable for most countries that want to strike it out on their own.</i>
Heirloom (n)	a piece of personal property that has been in a family for many generations; a piece of property received as part of an inheritance.
Heliocentric (adj.)	regarding the sun as centre. Gk. hēlios : sun .
Heliograph (n & v)	a signalling apparatus that reflects sunlight in flashes from a movable mirror; a message sent in this manner; an engraving obtained chemically by exposure to light; (tr.) send a message by using this method.
Hellenic (adj.)	concerning the Greek, their art, sculpture, etc. Gk. hellen : a greek .
Helot (n)	a serf. [<i>n</i> : <i>helotism</i> , <i>helotry</i>].
Hemlock (n)	poison derived from the plant of the same name.
Henchman (n)	a trusted supporter or attendant (derogatory). <i>The slumlord was followed by two of his henchmen.</i>
Herbivorous (adj.)	feeding only on plants.
Heresy (n)	a belief or practice contrary to orthodox doctrine. [<i>n</i> : <i>heresiology</i>]. Gk. hairesis : choice sect . <i>It is a heresy to say that since there is no god, there should be no religion either.</i>
Heretic (n)	one who holds an unorthodox opinion. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>heretical</i>].
Hermaphrodite (n & adj.)	having both male and female sexual organs; (Bot) a plant having both stamens and pistils in the same flower; combining opposite qualities. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>hermaphroditic</i>].
Hermetic (adj.)	with an airtight closure; protected from outside agencies; esoteric.
Heterodox (adj.)	(of a person, etc.) not orthodox. Gk. heteros : other + doxa : opinion .
Heterogeneous (adj.)	of diverse character or nature. [<i>n</i> : <i>heterogeneity</i> ; <i>adv.</i> : <i>heterogeneously</i>].
Hexapod (n & adj.)	(n) an insect with six legs; (adj.) six-legged. Gk. hexa : six + poda : foot .
Heyday (n)	full bloom; the flush of youth, prosperity, energy, enthusiasm, etc. <i>In the heyday of his creativity, Rembrandt created some of the world's most renowned paintings.</i>
Hiatus (n)	a break or gap in a sequence. L. hiare : gape . <i>Due to a hiatus in my preparation for the final examination, I lost interest and enthusiasm.</i>
Hibernation (n)	remaining dormant throughout winter. [<i>v. tr.</i> : <i>hibernate</i>]. L. hibernus : wintery .

Hidebound (adj.)	narrow-minded, bigoted; (of cattle) with the skin clinging to the body due to an underfed condition. hide: skin + bound . <i>Hidebound ideas reveal fear of social ostracization.</i>
Hideous (adj.)	frightful, repulsive, revolting. [adv.: <i>hideously</i> ; n: <i>hideousness</i>]. <i>The beggar's hideous face scared the girl away.</i>
Hidrosis (n)	(Med.) perspiration. Gk. hidrōs: sweat.
Hierarchy (n)	arrangement of an organization or system into higher and lower ranks according to grades of status or class; a range in order of importance. [adj.: <i>hierarchical</i>]. Gk. hieros: sacred + arkhēs: ruler. <i>Most revolutions were started with the objective of crushing an oppressive pattern of hierarchy in society.</i>
Hieratic (adj.)	relating to priests; relating to the ancient Egyptian writing of abridged hieroglyphics as used by priests; relating to Egyptian or Greek traditional styles of art. Gk. hiereus: priest.
Hieroglyph (n)	picture of an object depicting a word, syllable or sound as found in ancient Egyptian and other writing; a secret or enigmatic symbol. Gk. gluphe: carving.
Highbrow (adj. & n)	(adj.) intellectual, cultural; (n) an intellectual or cultured person.
Highfalutin (adj. & n)	absurdly pretentious or pompous. <i>The writer has used highfalutin prose in his memoirs.</i>
Hijack (v. tr. & n)	to seize control of vehicle forcefully to steer it to a different destination.
Hinterland (n)	a remote or fringe area; an area served by a port; the deserted uncharted areas beyond a coastal district. Ger. hinter: behind + land .
Hirsute (adj.)	hairy, shaggy. [n: <i>hirsutism</i>].
Hoarse (adj.)	rough and deep; croaking; husky. [n: <i>hoarseness</i>].
Hobbledehoy (n)	a clumsy youth.
Hobby-horse (n)	a child's toy consisting of a stick with a horse's head; a preoccupation; a preoccupation; a favourite topic of conversation. <i>Lashing out at cultural invasion is my father's hobby-horse.</i>
Hobnob (v. intr.)	mix socially or informally. <i>Some people make it a habit to hobnob with the rich and the famous.</i>
Hocus pocus (n & v)	deception, trickery; verbal formula used in conjuring.
Hogwash (n)	nonsense, rubbish.
Hoity-toity (adj., n)	(adj.) haughty, snobbish, petulant.
Holocaust (n)	large scale destruction, esp. by fire or nuclear war. Gk. holo: whole + kaio: burn. <i>The holocaust in Nagasaki-Hiroshima after World War II ravaged a million lives and affected an entire generation.</i>
Holograph (adj. & n)	(adj.) wholly hand-written document; (n) document entirely hand-written by the person in whose name it appears. Gk. holo + graph .
Homespun (adj. & n)	made of yarn spun at home; simple, unsophisticated; (n) anything plain or homely. <i>Mahatma Gandhi motivated an entire nation to wear only homespun cloth.</i>
Homicide (n)	the killing of one human being by another. Gk. homo: man + cido: kill.

Homiletics (n)	the art of preaching. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>homilectic</i>]. Gk. homilēō : hold, converse .
Homily (n)	a sermon; a tedious moralising discourse. <i>The teacher subjected the class to a long session of homilies regarding a virtuous life.</i>
Homogeneous (adj.)	of the same kind; uniform; (Math.) containing terms all of the same degree. [<i>n</i> : <i>homogeneity</i>]. Gk. homo : same + genos : kind . <i>The doctor described the potion as a homogeneous mixture meant to cure arthritis.</i>
Homogeny (n)	similarity due to common descent.
Homeothermic (n)	an organism that maintains its body temperature at a constant level, usu. above that of the environment, by a metabolic activity; a warm-blooded organism. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>homeothermic</i>].
Homologate (v. tr.)	acknowledge, admit.; confirm, accept; approve. [<i>n</i> : <i>homologation</i>]. L. homologare : agree . homo + logos: word.
Homonym (n)	word of the same spelling or sound as another but with a different meaning. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>homonymic</i>]. Gk. homo + onoma : name . <i>'Here' and 'hear' are homonyms.</i>
Homo sapiens (n)	humans regarded as a species. L. wise man.
Homunculus (n)	a little man, a manikin; dwarf.. L. homo minins : man .
Hoodoo (n & v)	bad luck; a thing or person that brings about bad luck; a strangely shaped rock pinnacle formed by erosion; (tr.) make unlucky; bewitch.
Horde (n)	a large group, a gang. Turkic: ordu : camp . <i>The Tartars used to come down the hills in savage hordes to plunder and loot.</i>
Horology (n)	the art of measuring time or making clocks. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>horologic, horological</i>]. Gk. hora : time + logos .
Horologe (n)	a timepiece. Gk. hora + logos : telling .
Horrendous (adj.)	awful. L. horrere : shudder .
Horseplay (n)	boisterous play. <i>The children indulged in horseplay of the extreme kind and had to be reined in before they hurt themselves.</i>
Hortative (adj.)	(also hortatory) tending or serving to exhort. L. hortari : exhort . <i>The hortatory tone of the lecture demonstration irritated the audience.</i>
Horticulture (n)	the art of garden cultivation. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>horticultural</i>]. L. hortus : garden .
Hosanna (n)	a shout of adoration. Heb. Hôšî 'a-nnâ : save now . <i>The congregation sang hosannas to the Saviour.</i>
Hostage (n)	a person held as security for the fulfilment of a condition. <i>The foreign tourists were held hostage for a long period by the terrorists.</i>
Hostile (adj.)	unfriendly, enemy like.
Hotchpotch (n)	a confused mixture, a jumble. Old Fr. hocher : shake + pot .

Hoyden (n)	a boisterous girl.
Hubris (n)	excessive pride; (Gk. tragedy) arrogance towards the gods or defiance of their power and authority leading to nemesis. [<i>adj.: hubristic</i>]. <i>The existence of hubris in man has always been considered as an evil that must need be set right by the gods.</i>
Huckster (n)	peddler, hawker; publicity agent for broadcast material. Low Ger. huck : to bargain.
Hue and cry (n)	loud clamour or outcry. <i>The entire populace has raised a hue and cry for the arrest of the dreaded criminal.</i>
Hugger-mugger (adj., adv., n, v)	(adj., adv.) secretly; confusedly; (intr) proceed in a secret or confused manner.
Hullabaloo (n)	a clamour. <i>The public created unnecessary hullabaloo about the advertisement featuring a semi-clothed woman.</i>
Humanitarian (n & adj.)	(n) a person who tries to promote human welfare or philanthropy; (adj.) relating to or holding the views of philanthropy. [<i>n: humanitarianism</i>]. <i>The humanitarian principles of the President have culminated in the establishment of a school for the needy.</i>
Humid (adj.)	warm and damp. L. umere : moist. <i>Bombay's humid weather is repugnant to me.</i>
Humiliate (v. tr.)	injure someone's dignity or self-respect. [<i>n: humiliation; adj.: humiliating; adv.: humiliatigly</i>]. L. humilis : lowly.
Humility (n)	humbleness; meekness. <i>The judge begged forgiveness of the defendant with due humility for his mistake.</i>
Hurly-burly (n)	commotion; boisterous activity. <i>In the hurly-burly of war, crimes against women are ignored.</i>
Husbandman (n)	a farmer.
Hustle (v & n)	(tr.) push roughly, jostle; deal with roughly; hurry; (n) an act or instance of hustling.
Hustings (n)	parliamentary proceedings. <i>Most future ministers have to first prove themselves at the hustings.</i>
Hyacinthine (adj.)	beautiful, lovely. <i>The hyacinthine looks of the girl made her the centre of attention in every group.</i>
Hybrid (n & adj.)	(n) the offspring of two plants and animals of different species or varieties; a person of mixed cultural or racial origin. Middle Dut. husselen : shake, toss.
Hydra (n)	any water snake; something which is difficult to eliminate or destroy; Gk. hudra : water snake, esp. one which grew again when its head was cut off.
Hydrant (n)	a pipe with a nozzle to which a hose can be attached for drawing water from the main.
Hydroponics (n)	the process of growing plants ins and, gravel or liquid without soil and with added nutrients. Gk. hydro : water + ponos : labour.
Hymen (n)	(Anat.) a membrane which partially closes the opening of the vagina and is broken at the first occurrence of sexual intercourse. [<i>adj.: hymenal</i>]. Gk. humēn : membrane.

Hyperbole (n)	an exaggerated statement not meant to be taken literally. <i>Poets often use hyperbole for heightened effect.</i>
Hyperborean (n & adj.)	an inhabitant of the extreme north of the earth.
Hypercritical (adj.)	excessively critical. <i>A hypercritical teacher can be detrimental for students.</i>
Hypermetropia (n)	the condition of having long sight. Gk. hyper: beyond, above + metron: measure + ops: eye.
Hypnosis (n)	a sleep-like state in which the subject acts only on external suggestion. Gk. hupnos: sleep. <i>Mandrake the magician is a past master at hypnosis.</i>
Hypochondria (n)	abnormal anxiety about one's health. Gk. hupokhondria: the soft parts of the body below the ribs where the melancholy was thought to arise.
Hypothecation (n)	pledging, mortgaging.
Hypothesis (n)	a proposition made as a basis for reasoning without the assumption of its truth. Gk. hupothesis: foundation.

Icarian (adj.)	of or like Icarus who flew from Crete on wings made of wax which melted as he passed too near the sun, plunging him into the sea; rash or adventurous.
Ichthyophagous (adj.)	fish-eating.
Icon (n)	image, statue, portrait; an object of admiration, esp. as a representative symbol of something. Gk. ikon : image .
Iconoclasm (n)	the breaking of images or cherished beliefs. [<i>n</i> : <i>iconoclast</i>]. Icon + klao : break + ism . <i>An iconoclast, with his conviction in iconoclasm, does not adhere to any fixed norms of society.</i>
Iconography (n)	illustration of subjects by drawings or figures; study of portraits, esp. of an individual; the study of artistic images or symbols. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>iconographic</i>]. Gk. eikono + graphy .
Idealism (n)	the practice of forming or following ideals; imaginative treatment. [<i>n</i> : <i>idealist</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>idealistically</i>]. Gk. idea : form, pattern from id : see . <i>Idealism does not always help in life; one must also have a practical bent of mind when idealism fails.</i>
Ideate (v)	imagine; conceive; form ideas. [<i>n</i> : <i>ideation</i> ; <i>adj</i> .: <i>ideational</i>].
Idée fixe (n)	an idea that dominates the mind; an obsession. Fr. fixed idea . <i>The thought of starting a business in floriculture has become an idée fixe for my friend.</i>
Ideograph (n)	graphic representation of a thought.
Ideologue (n)	a visionary; a theorist; an adherent of an ideology or a system of ideas. Gk. idea + logue . <i>Dr. Radhakrishnan was an ideologue, but unlike many ideologues, he transformed his ideas into practice.</i>
Idiosyncrasy (n)	a mental constitution, view or feeling or mode of behaviour peculiar to a person; anything highly individualized or eccentric. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>idiosyncratic</i>]. Gk. idios : own + sun : together + krasis : mixture . <i>Each individual has his or her idiosyncrasies and adds to the diversity of human existence.</i>
Idolum (n)	mental image, fallacy.
Idyll (n)	a blissful period or scene; a short description in poetry or prose of such a scene or lifestyle.
Igneous (adj.)	fiery; (Geol.) rocks produced by volcanic action or by the action of magma. L. ignis : fire .
Ignis fatuus (n)	will-o'-the-wisp; something misleading. L. foolish fire , because of its movement.
Ignoble (adj.)	dishonorable; shameful; of low birth, reputation. L. in + nobilis : noble . <i>Ignoble thoughts filled the man's mind as he stalked the woman.</i>
Ignominious (adj.)	humiliating; deserving dishonour. [<i>n</i> : <i>ignominiousness</i>]. <i>Such ignominious behaviour should not be condoned.</i>
Ignominy (n)	dishonour; infamy; infamous conduct. L. nomen : name . <i>The ignominy attached to his name will trouble his entire life.</i>

Iguana (n)	a type of large lizard with a spiny crest along the back, native to America, West Indies and some Pacific Islands.
Illegible (adj.)	unreadable, not legible. il + L. legere: read. <i>His handwriting is so bad that it is absolutely illegible.</i>
Illicit (adj.)	unlawful, forbidden. <i>The shack in the market nearby brews illicit liquor.</i>
Illusory (adj.)	deceptive; unreal. L. illudere: mock. <i>In search of an illusory image of the perfect woman, Ramesh found his hair turning grey and decided to marry at the first opportunity.</i>
Illustrious (adj.)	distinguished, renowned. L. lustrare: light up. <i>The congregation consisted of quite a few illustrious personalities from diverse fields.</i>
Imbecile (n & adj.)	(n) a person of abnormally weak intellect; a stupid person; (adj.) idiotic; stupid. <i>Only an absolutely imbecile person could fail to understand the significance of this situation.</i>
Imbibe (v. tr.)	absorb, assimilate; drink liquor; inhale. in + L. bibere: drink. <i>Children imbibe the values practiced by their parents.</i>
Imbroglia (n)	a confused or complicated situation. It. imbrogliare: confuse.
Imbrue (v. tr.)	(Lit) stain (one's hand, sword, etc. in or with blood); soak, saturate.
Immaculate (adj.)	pure, spotless, perfectly clean; perfectly executed; faultless. in + L. macula: spot. <i>The acrobat's immaculate performance on the floor left the audience spellbound.</i> <i>The politician's immaculate clothes belied his corrupt nature.</i>
Immanent (adj.)	inherent; indwelling; (of the supreme being) permanently pervading the universe. [<i>n: immanence</i>]. L. in + manere: remain. <i>The artist's immanent sensitivity to pain evoked soul-stirring paintings.</i>
Immedicable (adj.)	that cannot be healed or cured.
Immigrate (v)	(intr.) come as a permanent resident to a country other than one's native land; (tr.) bring in as an immigrant. [<i>n: immigration; adj.: immigratory</i>].
Imminent (adj.)	impending; about to happen. [<i>n: imminence; adv. Imminently</i>]. L. imminere: overhang, project. <i>The fear of imminent disaster in the wake of the massive earthquake clung to the village like a shroud.</i>
Immune (adj.)	(Biol.) resistant to infection, toxin, etc. due to the presence of specific antibodies or sensitised blood cells; free or exempt from. <i>Slum dwellers are immune to various kinds of infections due to constant exposure to unhygienic conditions.</i>
Immure (v. tr.)	imprison, enclose within walls. [<i>n: immurement</i>]. L. murus: wall.
Immutable (adj.)	unchangeable. [<i>n: immutability</i>]. L. mutare: change. <i>The immutable laws of nature demand that man must not tamper with natural resources beyond a certain extent.</i>

Impalpable (adj.)	not easily grasped by the mind; intangible. [<i>n</i> : <i>impalpability</i>]. im + palpable: that can be touched or felt. <i>The impalpable nature of the problem posed a dilemma to the group appointed to deal with it.</i>
Impale (v. tr.)	transfix or pierce with a sharp weapon or instrument. [<i>n</i> : <i>impalement</i>]. L. palus: stake.
Imparadise (v. tr.)	bring into a state of supreme happiness; enrapture.
Impartible (adj.)	not divisible.
Impasse (n)	a deadlock; a position from which progress is impossible. <i>The bilateral talks between the two states, regarding sharing of river water has come to an impasse.</i>
Impassive (adj.)	incapable of feeling emotion; serene; not subject to suffering. [<i>n</i> : <i>impassivity</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>impassively</i>]. <i>The impassive nature of the girl saved her a lot of trauma when her house was robbed.</i>
Impeccable (adj.)	faultless; exemplary. L. peccare: sin. <i>The woman's impeccable behaviour was a sign of good breeding.</i>
Imperceptible (adj.)	that cannot be perceived; gradual, slight.
Impecunious (adj.)	having little or no money. L. pecunia: money. <i>The family's impecunious condition was due to the father who spent his money on illicit liquor.</i>
Impede (v. tr.)	retard by obstructing; hinder. L. impedire: shackle the feet of. (pes; foot) <i>The government unnecessarily tries to impede the work of non-governmental organisations.</i>
Impediment (n)	a hindrance or obstruction; a defect in speech. Impedire.
Impenitent (adj.)	not repentant; not feeling sorry for wrongdoing. L. paenitere: repent. <i>The impenitent liar drove the priest to fury.</i>
Imperative (adj. & n)	(adj.) urgent; obligatory; commanding; an essential thing. L. imperare: parare: make ready. <i>It was imperative for the nation to move its troops onto Siachen glacier.</i>
Impersonate (v. tr.)	pretend to be another person for the purpose of entertainment or fraud.
Impertinent (adj.)	rude; absurd; out of place; irrelevant. [<i>n</i> : <i>impertinence</i>]. im + L. tenere: hold. <i>The boy was scolded for being impertinent.</i> <i>The impertinent question was ignored by the panel, which did not want to waste time on unnecessary details.</i>
Impervious (adj.)	not responsive; not allowing anything to pass through. im + per + L. via: way. <i>The community you are referring to, is impervious to all external influence.</i>
Impetuous (adj.)	acting rashly. [<i>n</i> : <i>impetuosity</i>]. im + L. petere: seek. <i>The impetuous young boy lost all his money in the gamble.</i>
Impetus (n)	the force or energy with which a body moves; the driving force or impulse. L. force from impetere: assail; ref. petere. <i>The enthusiasm of the club for social activities received an impetus in the form of a cheque donated by the governor.</i>

Impinge (v. tr.)	have an effect; make an impact; encroach. [<i>n: impingement</i>]. L. pangere: fix, drive . <i>To deny franchise to women is to impinge upon their political and legal rights.</i>
Implacable (adj.)	that cannot be appeased. [<i>n: implacability</i>]. <i>My father proved to be implacable when I did badly in the examination.</i>
Implicit (adj.)	implied though not plainly expressed. Absolute; unquestioning; (Math) not explained directly in terms of independent variables. <i>A dictatorship demands implicit obedience from citizens.</i>
Importunate (adj.)	making persistent or pressing requests; (of affairs) urgent. [<i>adv: importunately</i>].
Impost (n)	government tax or levy. L. imposit: inflict .
Impostor (n)	a pretender; a person who assumes a false character; a swindler. L. imposit: inflict; deceive . <i>The impostor was identified when the king announced his escape from the prison.</i>
Imprecation (n)	a spoken curse; the act of uttering an imprecation. L. in + precari: pray .
Imprest (n)	money advanced to a person for use in State business. Old Fr. prest: loan, advance, pay .
Imprimatur (n)	an official licence to print; official approval. L. let it be printed .
Improbability (n)	wickedness; lack of moral integrity. L. in + probus: good .
Impromptu (adj., adv, n)	(adj., adv) extempore, unrehearsed; (n) an extempore speech or performance; a short piece of solo instrumental music. L. in promptu: produce . <i>The orator gave a wonderful impromptu speech on the need for civic sense in citizens.</i>
Improvident (adj.)	lacking foresight or care for the future; not frugal or thrifty; incautious. [<i>n: improvidence</i>]. <i>The improvident couple had to live on dole for a long time because they did not have any money to sustain them.</i>
Imprudent (adj.)	rash, indiscreet. [<i>n: imprudence; adv: imprudently</i>]. L. videre: see .
Impudent (adj.)	rudely disrespectful; shamelessly presumptuous. in + L. pudere: be ashamed . <i>The impudent mob shoved against the barricade to hurl stones at the cavalcade carrying the minister.</i>
Impudicity (n)	shamelessness; immodesty. pudere .
Impugn (v. tr.)	challenge or call in question. [<i>adj: impugnable; n: impugnment</i>]. L. in + pugnare: fight .
Impuissant (adj.)	weak, impotent. [<i>n: impuissance</i>]. L. posse: be able . <i>The impuissant crowd watched as the man was hacked to death, without trying to save him.</i>
Impunity (n)	exemption from punishment or the harsh consequences of an action. L. impunis: poena: penalty . <i>The smuggler has been carrying out his operations with impunity for years.</i>
Impute (v. tr.)	ascribe cause to ; consider as the outcome of. [<i>n: imputation</i>]. L. imputare: enter in the account . <i>The police imputed the murder to an old rivalry between the erstwhile friends.</i>

Inadvertent (adj.)	unintentional; negligent. [<i>n: inadvertence; adv: inadvertently</i>]. in + advertent: attentive. <i>The girl met the boy she was to marry inadvertently as she stumbled out of the ladies' room.</i>
Inalienable (adj.)	that cannot be transferred to another; cannot be diverted, estranged. [<i>adv: inalienably</i>]. <i>Citizens cannot be robbed of their inalienable rights except under an emergency.</i>
Inamorata (n)	a female lover.
Inamorato (n)	a male lover. L. amor: love.
Inanimate (adj.)	not endowed with life; spiritless, dull. L. anima: life, soul. <i>Inanimate objects are not sentient.</i>
Inanition (n)	emptiness, esp. exhaustion due to lack of nourishment. L. inanire: make empty.
Inanity (n)	silliness; senselessness; emptiness. L. inanis: empty. <i>The student was rapped for asking absolutely inane questions.</i>
Inapposite (adj.)	out of place; inappropriate. [<i>n: inappositeness</i>]. <i>Your public remarks regarding the scandal were inapposite.</i>
Inarticulate (adj.)	unable to speak distinctly or express oneself clearly; (Anat.) not jointed. L. in + artus: join. <i>The inarticulate candidate could not secure admission into the institute despite his academic brilliance.</i>
Incarcerate (v. tr.)	imprison or confine. L. in + carcer: prison. <i>The state offenders were incarcerated in the Bastille till revolutionaries pulled the infamous prison down.</i>
Incarnadine (n, adj., v)	(Poet) crimson; flesh colour; (adj.) flesh coloured; crimson; (tr.) dye incarnadine. L. caro carnis: flesh.
Incarnation (n)	embodiment in flesh; (Med.) the process of forming new flesh. caro carnis.
Incendiary (n & adj.)	(of a substance or device) designed to cause fires; relating to the malicious setting on fire of property; tending to stir up strife. L. incendium: conflagration from <i>incendere</i> : set fire to.
Incertitude (n)	uncertainty, doubt. L. certus: certain. <i>Incertitude regarding the outcome of the case has made life unbearable.</i>
Incessant (adj.)	continual, unceasing. [<i>adv: incessantly</i>]. in + L. cesare: cease. <i>The incessant rain dampened my spirits.</i>
Inchoate (adj. & v)	just begun; undeveloped; rudimentary; (tr.) begin, originate. [<i>n: inchoateness, adv: inchoately</i>]. in + L. choare: begin. <i>A child's inchoate speech is always pleasing to its parents.</i>
Incinerate (v. tr.)	consume by fire; reduce to ashes. [<i>n: incineration</i>]. in + L. cinirere: ashes.
Incipient (adj.)	beginning; in an initial stage. [<i>n: incipience</i>]. L. incept: begin.
Incise (v. tr.)	make a cut in. [<i>n: incision</i>]. in + L. caedere: cut.

Incisive (adj.)	acute; mentally sharp; clear and effective; clear and penetrating. caedere. <i>Spivak's incisive critique of Mahashweta Devi's stories has made them more popular than ever before.</i>
Inclement (adj.)	(of the weather, climate) severe, esp. cold and stormy. [<i>n</i> : inclemency; <i>adv</i> : inclemently]. in + clement: mild. <i>We cancelled our plans of trekking up the Sahyadri due to the inclement weather.</i>
Incognito (adj., adv & n)	(adj., adv) with one's name or identity kept secret; (n) such a person. L. cognoscere: know. <i>The spy travelled incognito through Germany and reverted to his original identity on entering France.</i>
Incoherent (adj.)	(of a person) unable to speak intelligibly; (of speech) lacking logic or consistency. [<i>n</i> : incoherence, incoherency; <i>adv</i> : incoherently]. <i>The man's incoherent speech was irritating, especially as he refused to keep silent.</i>
Incommodious (v. tr.)	hinder, inconvenience; trouble. L. commodus: convenient.
Incompatible (adj.)	discordant; opposed in character; inconsistent; unable to work or live in harmony. [<i>n</i> : incompatibility; <i>adv</i> : incompatibly]. <i>The incompatible couple next door kicks up a huge row each time there is a disagreement between them.</i>
Incondite (adj.)	(of Literary composition) crude, unpolished; ill constructed.
Incongruity (n)	absurdity; disagreement; inappropriateness. [<i>adj</i> : incongruous]. L. congruere: agree.
Inconsequential (adj.)	unimportant. [<i>n</i> : inconsequentiality]. <i>The match was inconsequential since it was for charity.</i>
Incontinence (n)	inability to control bowel and/or bladder movements; lack of self-restraint (sexual desire). contain. <i>Mr. Shah's incontinence was often a source of embarrassment to him and his family.</i>
Incontrovertible (adj.)	indisputable; indubitable. [<i>n</i> : incontrovertibility]. <i>The government's decision to implement a uniform civil code is incontrovertible.</i>
Incorporate (v & adj.)	(tr.) to make whole; to unite; combine into one substance; admit as a member of a company; constitute as a legal corporation; (intr.) to be united; (adj.) formed into a legal corporation; embodied. [<i>n</i> : incorporation]. L. corpus: body. <i>The municipal corporation has incorporated the fringe villages into the municipality.</i> <i>The company has been registered as incorporate with effect from January this year.</i>
Incorporeal (adj.)	not composed of matter; not having a material body or existence; (Law) having no physical existence. [<i>n</i> : incorporeality, <i>adv</i> : incorporeally].
Incorrigible (adj.)	incurably bad or depraved; not amenable to improvement. [<i>n</i> : incorrigibility]. in + L. com regere: guide. <i>Don Juan is the epitome of incorrigible romanticism.</i>
Incredible (adj.)	that cannot be believed; amazing. L. credere: believe. <i>The trapeze artist performed an incredible feat on the trapezium.</i>
Incredulous (adj.)	unwilling to believe. [<i>n</i> : incredulity; <i>adv</i> : incredulously]. credere. <i>The incredulous public has refused to acknowledge the election manifestoes of various political parties.</i>
Incrustation (n)	accretion of habit; hard coating

Incubate (v)	(tr.) to sit on or artificially heat (eggs) in order to bring forth young birds, etc; cause the development of by creating suitable conditions; (intr.) sit on eggs, brood. L. cubat : lie .
Incubus (n)	a male demon believed to have sexual intercourse with sleeping women; a nightmare; a person or thing that oppresses like a nightmare. L. incubo : nightmare .
Inculcate (v. tr.)	to urge or impress; fix ideas in the mind of another. [<i>n</i> : <i>inculcation</i>]. L. calcere : tread from calx calcis: heel. <i>A country should try to inculcate patriotism in its citizens.</i>
Inculpate (v. tr.)	involve in a charge; accuse, blame. [<i>n</i> : <i>inculpation</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>inculpative</i>]. L. culpare : blame from culpa: fault.
Incumbent (adj. & n)	resting as a duty; pressing; currently holding office; (n) the holder of an office or post. L. incumbere : lie upon as in cubare: lie. 1. (n) <i>The current incumbent of Rashtrapati Bhavan is a highly distinguished individual.</i> 2. (adj.) <i>It is incumbent upon the country to adopt a two-party system and do away with the multitude of parties with no national base.</i>
Incursion (n)	a sudden or brief invasion or attack.
Indecorous (adj.)	improper; in bad taste. in + L. decorus : seemly . <i>Facetious humour can turn out to be indecorous.</i>
Indefatigable (adj.)	that cannot be tired out; unwearied; unremitting. [<i>n</i> : <i>indefatigability</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>indefatigably</i>]. L. in + defatigare : wear out . <i>The organisation has been working indefatigably for the uplift of the poor and downtrodden.</i>
Indelible (adj.)	that cannot be erased or removed. [<i>n</i> : <i>indelibility</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>indelibly</i>]. In + Fr. delere : efface . <i>The woman left an indelible mark on the youth's impressionable mind.</i>
Indemnity (n)	compensation for loss incurred. L. damnum : loss, damage . <i>France demanded a high indemnity from Germany after World War II.</i>
Indicia (n)	indication, sign; distinguishing marks. Index .
Indictment (n)	accusation. [<i>v. tr</i> : <i>Indict</i>].
Indigenous (adj.)	originating naturally in a region. [<i>adv</i> : <i>indigenously</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>indigenouness</i>]. L. indigena: in + gen : born . <i>The government has decided not to disturb or tamper with the indigenous peoples of the islands.</i>
Indigent (adj.)	needy, poor. [<i>n</i> : <i>indigence</i>]. L. indigēre – in + egēre : need . <i>Indigent nations have to depend on external aid and thus kowtow to the country helping them.</i>
Indignant (adj.)	feeling or showing scornful anger or a sense of injured innocence. [<i>adv</i> : <i>indignantly</i>]. L. regard as unworthy. In + dignus : worthy .
Indiscretion (n)	injudiciousness or carelessness in what one says or does.
Indite (v. tr.)	put into words; compose.
Indomitable (adj.)	unyielding; that cannot be subdued. [<i>adv</i> : <i>indomitably</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>indomitableness</i>]. in + L. domitare : tame . <i>Nelson Mandela's indomitable nature saw him through his incarceration on Robben Island.</i>
Indubitable (adj.)	that cannot be doubted. [<i>adv</i> : <i>indubitably</i>]. L. dubitare : doubt .

Induct (v. tr.)	introduce formally into office; initiate. L. ducere : lead . <i>The company has determined to induct new trainees for the shop floor.</i>
Indulgent (adj.)	too ready to overlook faults. [<i>adv</i> : <i>indulgently</i>]. L. indult : give free rein to . <i>An indulgent mother can ruin a child.</i>
Indurate (v)	make or become hard; make callous or unfeeling; (<i>intr.</i>) become inveterate. L. indurare : durus : hard .
Inebriate (v, adj., n)	make drunk, intoxicated; excite; (<i>adj.</i>) drunken; (<i>n</i>) a drunken person, esp. a habitual drunkard. [<i>n</i> : <i>inebriation, inebriety</i>].
Inedible (adj.)	that which is not suitable for eating. [<i>n</i> : <i>inedibility</i>].
Ineffable (adj.)	unutterable; too great for description in words; that must not be uttered. [<i>n</i> : <i>ineffability</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>ineffably</i>]. L. effari : speak out, utter .
Ineluctable (adj.)	against which it is useless to struggle; that cannot be escaped from. [<i>n</i> : <i>ineluctability</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>ineluctably</i>]. L. eluctari : struggle out . 1. <i>The insurmountable odds working against you have made this dilemma ineluctable.</i> 2. <i>Ineluctable fate drew the victim into its net.</i>
Inept (adj.)	clumsy, unskilful; silly; out of place. [<i>n</i> : <i>ineptitude, ineptness</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>ineptly</i>]. <i>Inept handling of this crucial element has ruined the entire mechanism.</i>
Inert (adj.)	without inherent power, action or resistance; sluggish, slow. <i>Despite her handicap, the girl refuses to lead an inert life and spends time painting with the help of her toes.</i>
Inevitable (adj. & n)	(<i>adj.</i>) unavoidable; that is bound to occur; that is tiresomely predictable; (<i>n</i>) an inevitable fact, event, truth, etc. L. evitare : avoid . (<i>adj.</i>) <i>It is inevitable that you secure admission into the prestigious institution.</i> (<i>n</i>) <i>Death, the inevitable of his young life, did not deter the cancer patient who continued to lead a fulsome life.</i>
Inexorable (adj.)	relentless; that cannot be persuaded by request. [<i>n</i> : <i>inexorability</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>inexorably</i>]. in + L. exorare : entreat . <i>The inexorable torture inflicted by the enemy soon became unbearable to the Parisians and they decided to wrest their city back from German control.</i>
Inexpedient (adj.)	not advantageous; not politic.
Inexpiable (adj.)	that cannot be appeased; (of offence) that cannot be expiated; that cannot be repaired. in + L. ex + pius : devote . <i>The inexpiable hatred of a section of the people for foreigners is unwarranted and should not be encouraged.</i> <i>The inexpiable error must be punished severely.</i>
Inexplicable (adj.)	that cannot be explained or accounted for. L. inexplicabilis : that cannot be unfolded .
Infallible (adj.)	incapable of committing mistakes; unfailing. [<i>n</i> : <i>infallibility</i>]. L. fallere : deceive . <i>The method I am advocating is infallible, as man is not.</i>
Infamous (adj.)	notoriously bad; having a bad reputation. [<i>adv</i> : <i>infamously</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>infamy</i>].
Infanticide (n)	the killing of an infant soon after birth; a person who commits such a deed. infant + caedere : kill .
Infantile (adj.)	like a child; immature; in its infancy. [<i>n</i> : <i>infantility</i>]. <i>Infantile behaviour is irritating.</i>

Infatuated (adj.)	affected by an intense fondness or admiration. in + L. fatuus: foolish. <i>The young boy is infatuated with his teacher.</i>
Infectious (adj.)	(of a disease) which can be spread through air, water, etc; contaminating; spreading quickly. L. inficere: taint.
Infernal (adj.)	hellish; fiendish; detestable. [adv.: <i>infernally</i>]. L. infernus: situated below. <i>The infernal situation refuses to be contained and is adding to the city's trauma.</i>
Infest (v. tr.)	(cause trouble) by being present in large numbers. [n: <i>infestation</i>]. L. infestare: assail from <i>infestus</i> : hostile. <i>The house is infested with rats.</i>
Infidelity (n)	disloyalty. in + L. fidelis: faithful.
Infiltrate (v.)	penetrate; access surreptitiously or by degrees; introduce by filtration. [n: <i>infiltration, infiltrator</i>]. <i>Pakistani troops infiltrated into Indian territory under cover of night.</i>
Infirmity (n)	a hospital; a place for those who are ill. <i>The soldiers were kept in the makeshift infirmary far from the actual place of battle.</i>
Infirmity (n)	physical or mental weakness. <i>Due to an infirmity of mind, Sudhir could not decide upon his course of action and lost the wonderful job offered to him.</i>
Inflammatory (adj.)	tending to cause anger; tending to swelling up of the body. <i>Hitler's inflammatory speeches roused an entire nation and led to widespread massacre.</i>
Influx (n)	a continual stream of people or things. L. flux: flow. <i>The influx of refugees from across the border should be checked immediately.</i>
Infraction (n)	(Law) violation or impingement. [v. tr: <i>Infract</i>]. L. frangere: break.
Infringement (n)	violation; transgression, encroachment. L. frangere: break. <i>Any infringement upon the rights of the citizen should be discouraged.</i>
Infructuous (adj.)	futile, unfruitful.
Infundibular (adj.)	funnel-shaped. L. fundere: pour.
Infuse (v. tr.)	imbue, instil, inculcate. Fundere. <i>Try to infuse some energy into your performance.</i>
Ingenious (adj.)	clever at inventing, constructing; skilful, resourceful. [adv.: <i>ingeniously</i> ; n: <i>ingeniousness/ingenuity</i>]. L. ingenium: cleverness. <i>It was ingenious of you to attend to the injured victim with the proper resources before the others could even react to the accident.</i>
Ingenuous (adj.)	innocent, artless. L. ingenuus: frank. <i>The filmmakers exploited the ingenuousness of the girl.</i>
Ingest (v. tr.)	absorb; take in food. [n: <i>ingestion</i>]. L. gerere: carry. <i>The doctors asked the patient to ingest some liquid food only before the operation.</i>

Ingrate (n & adj.)	(n) an ungrateful person; (adj.) ungrateful. L. gratus : grateful . <i>The ingrate fool did not acknowledge his parents' active role in his upbringing.</i>
Ingratiate (v.)	bring oneself into favour. [<i>n</i> : <i>ingratiation</i>]. L. in gratiam : in favour . <i>The fawning young recruit into the party tried to ingratiate himself with the seniors.</i>
Ingredient (n)	a component or element in a recipe, mixture or combination. L. ingress : enter from <i>gradi</i> : step .
Ingress (n)	the act or right of entering; (Astron.) the start of an eclipse or transit. [<i>n</i> : <i>ingression</i>].
Ingurgitate (v. tr)	swallow greedily; engulf. [<i>n</i> : <i>ingurgitation</i>]. L. gurgitis : whirlpool .
Inhabitant (n)	one who occupies a place, region, building, etc. [<i>v. tr. Inhabit</i>]. L. habitare : dwell .
Inherent (adj.)	existing in something esp. as a permanent or characteristic attribute; firmly established by nature or habit. L. haerere : to stick . <i>Fear of God is inherent to man.</i>
Inhibit (v. tr.)	hinder, restrain; forbid, prohibit. in + L. haebere : hold .
Inimical (adj.)	hostile, harmful. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>inimically</i>]. in + L. amicus : friend . <i>The weather is inimical to his failing health.</i>
Iniquitous (adj.)	wicked, unrighteous; unjust. [<i>n</i> : <i>iniquity</i>]. in + L. aequus : just .
Injudicious (adj.)	unwise, ill-judged. [<i>n</i> : <i>injudiciousness</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>injudiciously</i>]. <i>It was injudicious of the government to allow the demolition of the national monument.</i>
Injunction (n)	an authoritative warning or order; (Law) a judicial order restraining a person from an act or compelling redress to an injured party. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>injunctive</i>]. L. inungere : enjoin . <i>The family was restrained by an injunction that denied them the right to enter the disputed premise.</i>
Inkling (n)	a slight knowledge or suspicion; a hint. <i>The village did not have any inkling of the savagery awaiting them at night.</i>
Innate (adj.)	natural; inborn; (Phil) originating in the mind. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>innately</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>innateness</i>]. L. nasci : be born . <i>The brothers have an innate talent for chess.</i>
Innocuous (adj.)	harmless; not injurious; inoffensive. L. <i>innocus</i> – in + nocere : hurt . <i>The prudish woman was offended by the innocuous joke at which the others laughed.</i>
Innovation (n)	change; introduction of a new element. [<i>v. tr. Innovate</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>innovative</i>]. L. in + novus : new .
Innuendo (n & v)	(n) an elusive or oblique remark or hint (usu. disparaging); a remark with a double meaning (usu. suggestive); (intr.) make innuendoes. L. innuere : nod at .
Inordinate (adj.)	immoderate, excessive; disorderly; intemperate. L. ordo inis : order . <i>The man's inordinate alcoholism has ruined his family.</i>

Inquest (n)	(Law) an inquiry by a coroner's court into the cause of death; a judicial inquiry to ascertain the facts relating to an incident. Enquire.
Inquietude (n)	mental or physical uneasiness. L. in + quietus : quiet .
Inquisition (n)	(usu. derogatory) an intensive search or investigation; a judicial inquiry. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>inquisitional</i>]. L. inquisitio onis : examination . <i>The villagers were subjected to a traumatic inquisition after the revolutionaries were traced to their village.</i>
Insatiable (adj.)	not easily satisfied; extremely greedy. [<i>n</i> : <i>insatiability</i>]. L. satis : enough .
Inscrutable (adj.)	wholly mysterious; impenetrable. [<i>n</i> : <i>inscrutability</i>]. L. scrutari : search . <i>The inscrutable ways of God have always bewildered mystics.</i>
Insensate (adj.)	without sensibility; without physical sensation; unconscious; stupid, unfeeling. L. sens : feel . <i>The insensate government has failed to alleviate the sufferings of the people in the valley.</i>
Insidious (adj.)	proceeding inconspicuously but harmfully; treacherous; stealthy. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>insidiously</i>]. L. insidiosus : cunning from <i>insidiae</i> : ambush. <i>The marauders' insidious tactics helped them to avoid the traps laid for them.</i>
Insignia (n)	badges; distinguishing marks. L. insignis : distinguished . <i>The army officer wore his insignia even after he retired.</i>
Insinuate (v. tr.)	convey indirectly; hint; introduce into office, etc., by subtle manipulation. [<i>n</i> : <i>insinuation</i> ; <i>adv.</i> : <i>insinuatingly</i>]. <i>The group insinuated that the new member might be asked to relinquish office.</i> <i>The young girl insinuated herself into favour with the young man whom she liked.</i>
Insipid (adj.)	dull; tasteless; flavourless. L. in + sapidus : taste .
Insolent (adj.)	insulting; offensively contemptuous or arrogant. [<i>n</i> : <i>insolence</i> ; <i>adv.</i> : <i>insolently</i>]. <i>Terrorism springs perhaps from an insolent attitude towards the system, born out of indigence and frustration.</i>
Insolvency (n)	inability to pay one's debts. [<i>adj.</i> & <i>n</i> : <i>insolvent</i>]. <i>Micawber, in David Copperfield, finds himself constantly in a state of insolvency.</i>
Insomnia (n)	habitual sleeplessness. [<i>adj.</i> & <i>n</i> : <i>insomniac</i>].
Insouciance (n)	state of being unconcerned, carefree. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>insouciant</i>]. Fr. soucier : care . <i>The man carried on an affair with his friend's wife with an insouciance that shocked his friend.</i>
Instauration (n)	restoration, renewal. Restore.
Instigate (v. tr)	provoke; bring about by incitement or persuasion. [<i>n</i> : <i>instigation</i>]. <i>The irate mob instigated the police to set up an inquiry committee into the arson and violence.</i>
Insular (adj.)	like an island; separated from others like an island; ignorant of other cultures, thought processes, etc.; (climate) equable. [<i>n</i> : <i>insularity</i>]. L. insula : island . <i>An insular society cannot survive for long because society by nature is always in a constant state of flux.</i>

Insulate (v. tr.)	prevent the passage of electricity, heat or sound from (a thing, etc.) by interposing non-conductors; isolate; detach from its surroundings. L. insula + ate: do. <i>The school tried to insulate its students from the outside world with the false hope that by doing so, it would be able to control their upbringing and ideals.</i>
Insulin (n)	a hormone produced in the pancreas by the islets of Langerhans, which regulates the amount of glucose in the blood, the lack of which causes diabetes.
Insuperable (adj.)	insurmountable; invincible. [<i>n: insuperability</i>]. L. superare: overcome. <i>The almost insuperable odds in this case will be difficult to tackle.</i>
Insurgent (adj. & n)	(adj.) rising in active revolt; (n) a rebel. [<i>n: insurgence, insurgency</i>]. L. in + surgere: rise. <i>India has to deal with insurgents who are funded by countries with vested interests.</i>
Insurrection (n)	a rising in open resistance to established authority; a rebellion. Surgere.
Intaglio (n & v)	(n) a carving incised on hard material; a process of printing from an engraved design; (tr.) engrave. L. intagliare: cut into.
Integer (n)	a whole number; a thing complete in itself. L. untouched, whole.
Integrate (adj. & v.)	(tr.) combine parts into whole; complete; (Math.) find the integral of; whole, complete. Make whole.
Integrity (n)	moral uprightness; honesty. Ref.: integer.
Integument (n)	a natural outer covering; skin, husk, etc. [<i>adj.: integumental</i>]. L. in + tegere: cover.
Intellect (n)	the faculty of reasoning, knowing and thinking as distinct from feeling; a clever or knowledgeable person, the intelligentsia regarded collectively. L. intellectus: understanding.
Intelligentsia (n)	the class of intellectuals regarded as possessing culture and political initiative; people doing intellectual work.
Inter (v. tr.)	to bury (a dead person). L. terra: earth.
Intercalate (v.tr.)	insert; interpose, e.g., the 29 th of February as an intercalated day to harmonize it with the solar year. [<i>adj.: intercalary</i>]. L. inter: between + calare: proclaim (proclaim the insertion of a day, etc).
Intercede (v. intr.)	to intervene on behalf of another; plead on behalf of another. L. inter + cedere: go (intercess: intervene).
Interdict (n & v)	an authoritative prohibition; a decree banning an action; (tr.) prohibit. [<i>n: interdiction, adj.: interdictory</i>]. L. inter + dicere: say. (interdicere: interpose, forbid by decree).
Interface (n & v)	(Phy.) a surface forming a common boundary between two regions; a point of interaction between two systems, processes, subjects, etc., (v) connect with another piece of equipment with an interface.
Interim (n, adj.)	(n) the intervening time; (adj.) intervening, temporary, provisional. L. inter + suffix im. (n) <i>In the interim, the new government drew up a comprehensive document for land ceiling.</i> (adj.) <i>The interim government was headed by Jawaharlal Nehru.</i>

Interlocutor (n & adj.)	a person who takes part in a dialogue or conversation. [<i>n</i> : <i>interlocution</i>]. L. inter + loqui : speak . (interloqui: interrupt in speaking).
Interloper (n)	an intruder; a person who interferes in another's affairs, esp. for profit.
Interlude (n)	a pause between two acts of a play; an intervening time; a temporary amusement; a piece of music played between other pieces. L. inter + ludus : play . <i>The orchestra performed a delightful interlude as the curtain came down on the second act.</i>
Interminable (adj.)	endless. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>interminably</i>]. in + L. terminus : end . <i>The interminable noise attracted the attention of the guards nearby.</i>
Intermit (v.)	(intr.) (Med.) stop or cease activity briefly; (tr.) suspend; discontinue for a time. L. inter + mittere : let go .
Intermittent (adj.)	occurring at intervals. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>intermittently</i>]. inter + mittere . <i>The theatre was sparsely populated due to the intermittent drizzle.</i>
Intern (n & v)	(n) a fresh graduate receiving supervised training in a hospital and acting as an assistant physician or surgeon; (tr.) to confine to prison or to a particular area. [<i>n</i> (for v): <i>internment</i>]. (n) <i>The intern at the government hospital was unhappy with her training.</i> (v) <i>The criminal on parole was once again interned for breaking parole.</i>
Internecline (adj.)	mutually destructive. L. inter : mutually + necare : kill from <i>internecare</i> : slaughter. <i>The tribes are on the verge of extinction due to a prolonged internecline warfare.</i>
Interpellation (n)	interruption of session in the legislature for questions or explanations. [<i>v. tr.</i> <i>Interpellate</i>]. L. inter + pellere : drive .
Interpolate (v. tr)	insert in a book, esp. to give false impressions as to its date; interject in a conversation; estimate from surrounding known values. [<i>n</i> : <i>interpolation</i>]. L. interpolare : furbish up .
Interregnum (n)	an interval when the normal government is suspended, or when there is no leader to control a country, esp. between successive regimes. L. inter : between + regnum : reign . <i>In the interregnum, the country experienced a crisis hitherto unexpected.</i>
Interstice (n)	intervening space; a chink or crevice.
Intervene (v. tr.)	to interfere; occur in time between events. L. inter + venire : come . <i>The neutral state had to intervene in the problem between the two countries in order to solve the problem.</i>
Intestate (adj. & n)	(adj.) not having made a will before death; (n) a person who has died in the same manner. L. testis : witness (testari). <i>The patriarch died intestate plunging the heirs into avoidable acrimony.</i>
Intimidate (v. tr.)	frighten or overawe esp. to subdue or influence. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>intimidating</i>]. L. in + timidus : timid .
In toto (adv.)	completely.
Intractable (adj.)	difficult to control or deal with; difficult, stubborn. L. tractare : handle . <i>The police could not control the intractable crowd and had to resort to firing.</i>
Intramural (adj.)	situated within walls; taking place within a single institution. L. murus : wall .

- Intransigent (adj. & n)** (adj.) uncompromising; stubborn. [*n: intransigence*].
in + L. **transigere**: **come to an understanding**. (trans + agere: to act).
The intransigent prisoner was beaten severely by the police.
- Intrepid (adj.)** fearless. [*n: intrepidity*].
 L. **in** + **trepidus**: **alarmed**.
Shivaji was an intrepid soldier who conquered not only enemies but also the steep Sahyadri which is today dotted with the forts he built.
- Intricate (adj.)** very complicated.
 L. **in** + **tricae**: **tricks**.
The dress was woven with intricate floral designs on it.
- Intrigue (n & v. intr.)** (n) an underhand plot or plotting; (v) carry on an underhand plot.. [*adj.: intriguing*].
 L. **tricae**.
 (v) *The clique of ministers intrigued against the prime minister.*
 (n) *The intrigue for the overthrow of the prime minister was foiled by timely action.*
- Intrinsic (adj.)** inherent; essential; belonging naturally. [*adv.: intrinsically*].
 L. **intrinsecus**: **inwardly**.
- Introvert (n, adj. & v)** (n) one who concerns himself with his own thoughts and feelings; one who tends to stay alone rather than socialise; a shy person; (adj.) typical of an introvert; (v) direct one's thoughts inwards; (Zool.) withdraw (an organ) within its own tube or base. [*n: introversion; adj. introverted*].
The introvert at the party was too scared to talk to the other guests.
His introvert nature made him extremely lonely.
- Intruder (n)** one who comes uninvited or unwanted. [*v. tr. Intrude; n: intrusion*].
 L. **in** + **trudere**: **thrust**.
The intruder was apprehended at the moment of intrusion into the building.
- Intuition (n)** knowing by instinct what is going to happen; immediate insight; immediate apprehension by a sense.
 L. **in** + **tueri**: **look**.
- Intumesce (v. intr.)** swell up. [*n: intumescence; adj.: intumescent*].
in + L. **tumere**: **swell**.
- Inunction (n)** smearing or rubbing with oil.
- Inundate (v. tr.)** flood; overwhelm. [*n: inundation*].
in + L. **unda**: **wave**. (Inundare: flow).
The enquiry office was inundated with calls after the news of the crash spread.
- Inure (v)** (tr.) accustom to something unpleasant; (intr.) come into operation; take effect. [*n: inurement*].
Close proximity to the dumping yard has inured the people to the stench.
- Invaluable (adj.)** inestimable; above valuation.
- Invective (n)** abusive rhetoric.
 L. **invehi**: **assail**.
The supervisor's letter was replete with invective levelled at the directors.
- Inveigh (v. intr.)** speak or write with strong hostility.
 L. **invehi**.
The workers union inveighed against the management for not increasing their bonus.
- Inveigle (v. tr.)** entice; persuade by guile. [*n: inveiglement*].
 Old Fr. **aveugler**: **to blind**.
In the poem 'The Spider and the Fly', the spider inveigles the fly to enter its web.
- Inventory (n & v)** (n) a complete list of goods in stock; the goods listed in this; (tr.) make such a list.
- Invertebrate (adj. & n)** (adj.) not having a backbone; lacking firmness of character.

Investiture (n)	ceremony in which someone enters a high office; ceremony at which a sovereign confers honours. L. in + vestire: clothe
Inveterate (adj.)	long and firmly established habit, attitude, custom, etc, esp. an undesirable one. <i>Being the inveterate alcoholic that he is, the man failed to save enough for his family.</i>
Invidious (adj.)	likely to excite indignation or resentment against the person responsible. [<i>n: invidiousness</i>]. L. invidia: envy . <i>The task of addressing the workshop problem was an invidious one and I did not feel like handling the responsibility.</i>
Invigorate (v. tr.)	give vigour or strength to. [<i>adj.: invigorating; adv.: invigoratingly; n: invigoration</i>]. L. vigorat: make strong . <i>The weather in the mountains should invigorate you.</i>
Invincible (adj.)	unconquerable. [<i>n: invincibility</i>]. L. vincere: overcome . <i>The invincible fortress posed a dilemma to the troops.</i>
Inviolable (adj.)	sacred; something which cannot be violated. [<i>n: inviolateness</i>]. in + L. violat: treat violently . <i>The temple was left unharmed because, by its very nature, it was inviolable.</i>
Involuted (adj.)	involved; intricate. L. volvere: roll .
Invulnerable (adj.)	that cannot be wounded or hurt. [<i>n: invulnerability</i>]. L. vulnerare: wound .
Ionosphere (n)	a part of the atmosphere above the stratosphere, extending to about 1,000 km above the earth's surface, which reflects radio waves. [<i>adj.: ionospheric</i>].
Iota (n)	the ninth letter of the Greek alphabet; the smallest possible amount.
Ipso facto (adv.)	by that very fact or act. <i>As soon as the man admitted to having committed the crime, he was convicted ipso facto.</i>
Irascible (adj.)	irritable; hot-tempered. [<i>n: irascibility</i>]. L. ira: anger . (irasci: grow angry). <i>The irascible customer at the counter threw a massive tantrum when the salesmen on duty ignored him.</i>
Irenical (adj.)	aiming or aimed at peace. Gk. eirēnē: peace .
Iridescent (adj.)	showing rainbow-like gleaming or luminous colours; changing colour with position. [<i>n: iridescence</i>].
Irksome (adj.)	annoying; tiresome; tedious. <i>Having the naughty child at home for the holidays was extremely irksome since I wanted some peace to study.</i>
Irradiate (v.tr.)	light up; shine upon.
Irrational (adj.)	illogical; unreasonable.
Irredeemable (adj.)	hopeless; absolute; something that cannot be recovered; (of paper currency) for which the issuing authority does not undertake ever to pay coin. [<i>adv.: irredeemably</i>].
Irrefutable (adj.)	that cannot be proved wrong or contradicted; too strong to be disproved. <i>Hitler's arguments were irrefutable to Nazi Germany.</i>
Irrefragable (adj.)	unanswerable; indisputable; inviolable. L. refargari: oppose .

Irresolute (adj.)	hesitant; undecided. [<i>n: irresoluteness; adv.: irresolutely</i>]. <i>As I stood irresolute before the public address system, my friend egged me on to address the gathering.</i>
Irreverent (adj.)	disrespectful. L. re + vereri: fear . <i>The irreverent country has forgotten the leaders who fought for its independence.</i>
Irrevocable (adj.)	that cannot be changed once started; unalterable; gone beyond recall. L. re + vocare: call . <i>Mahatma Gandhi's irrevocable decision to stem communal riots led him to tour the riot torn areas of Noakhali at a time when the entire country was celebrating freedom.</i>
Irritant (adj. & n)	(adj.) causing irritation; (n) an irritant substance.
Irrupt (v. tr.)	enter forcibly or suddenly. L. in + rumpere: break .
Isobar (n)	a line on amp joining places having equal atmospheric pressure. Gk. iso: equal + baros: weight .
Isotherm (n)	a line on a map joining places having equal temperature. Gk. iso + therme: heat .
Iterate (v. tr.)	repeat. [<i>n: iteration</i>]. L. iterum: again .
Itinerant (adj. & n)	(adj.) travelling from place to place; (n) a tramp, an itinerant person. [<i>n: itineracy</i>]. L. itiner: journey . <i>The itinerant troupe performed plays in each village town on their way.</i>
Itinerary (n & adj.)	(n) a detailed route; a record of travel; (adj.) of roads or travelling. L. itiner . <i>The visiting dignitary's itinerary included a visit to Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated.</i>
Ivory Tower (n)	a state of seclusion or separation from the ordinary worlds or the harsh realities of the world. <i>Ensconced in his ivory tower of literary theories and imagined fallacies, the professor could not understand the mundane realities of life.</i>

J

Jab (v & n)	(tr.) poke roughly; stab, thrust; (n) an abrupt blow with one's fist or a pointed implement.
Jabbering (adj.)	chattering incoherently; uttering rapidly. <i>The children were jabbering in the class when the stern-looking teacher walked in.</i>
Jabberwocky (n)	a piece of nonsensical writing or speech, esp. for comic effect. Title of a poem in Lewis Carroll's 'Through the Looking Glass'.
Jackanapes (n)	a pert or insolent fellow; a mischievous child; a tame monkey. Jack Napes, in reference to the Duke of Suffolk, whose badge was an ape's clog and chain.
Jacquerie (n)	a peasant's revolt.
Jactitation (n)	(Med.) the restless tossing of the body in illness. L. jactare : throw.
Jade (n)	worn-out horse; a disreputable woman. [adj.: <i>jaded</i>]; a hard, green gemstone; the green colour of jade.
Jamboree (n)	a celebration or merry-making; a large gathering of scouts.
Janitor (n)	a caretaker of a building; a doorkeeper. [adj.: <i>janitorial</i>]. L. janua : door.
Janizary (n)	(Hist.) a member of the Turkish infantry forming the Sultan's guard in the 14 th -19 th century; a devoted follower or supporter. Turk. jeni : new + çeri : troops. (yeniçeri).
Janus-faced (adj.)	hypocritical; insincere.
Jargon (n)	words or expressions used by a particular group or profession; gibberish. Computer jargon is increasingly being incorporated in the ordinary man's daily register.
Jaundiced (adj.)	affect with envy, resentment or jealousy. Old Fr. jaune : yellow. <i>Looking at everything through a jaundiced vision can ruin a person's happiness and future.</i>
Jaunty (adj.)	cheerful and self-confident; dashing.
Jejune (adj.)	shallow; puerile; intellectually unsatisfying; dry; uninteresting. [adv.: <i>jejunely</i> ; n: <i>jejuneness</i>]. <i>The conversation in the officers' mess was jejune, to say the least.</i>
Jeopardy (n)	danger; hazard. <i>The colonel's plans of climbing Mount Everest are in jeopardy because of the impending war with the neighbouring country.</i>
Jeremiad (n)	lamentation; a list of woes. <i>From the dismal prophet Jeremiah in the Old Testament.</i>
Jettison (v & n)	(tr.) throw overboard; abandon. L. jactare : throw. <i>The captain jettisoned the extra ration.</i>
Jingoism (n)	a policy favouring war; militant patriotism. [adj.: <i>jingoistic</i>]. From jingo , a word in a popular song, first applied to those supporting the sending of British fleets against Russia in 1878.
Jinx (n & v)	(n) a person or thing that seems to cause bad luck; (tr.) subject to bad luck. Variant of jynx : wryneck, charm. <i>The senior athlete tried to jinx the new star's career by not supporting his candidature for the Olympics.</i>

Jocose (adj.)	playful; joking. [<i>adv.: jocosely; n: jocosity</i>]. L. jocus: jest . <i>The artist's jocose mood was a sign of rejuvenated work.</i>
Jocular (adj.)	merry; fond of joking. [<i>n: jocularity</i>]. L. jocus .
Jocund (adj.)	cheerful; sprightly. [<i>n: jocundity</i>]. L. jucundus from juvare: delight . <i>In a jocund mood I strolled out into the neighbourhood and played a game or two with the kids.</i>
Jointure (n & v)	an estate settled on a wife for the period during which she survives her husband; (tr.) provide with a jointure.
Jostle (v & n)	(tr.) push against; push abruptly or roughly; (intr.) knock or push esp. in a crowd; struggle; (n) the act of jostling; a collision.
Journeyman (n)	a qualified mechanic or artisan who works for another.
Joust (n)	fight on horseback with lances.
Jovial (adj.)	merry, convivial. [<i>n: joviality</i>].
Judicious (adj.)	sensible, prudent. [<i>adv.: judiciously</i>]. L. judicium: judgement from judex: judge . <i>It was a judicious move to incorporate the princely states in Indian territory.</i>
Juggernaut (n)	a large, heavy vehicle; a massive overwhelming force. Jagannath : lord of the world – the name of an image of Krishna in Hindu mythology, carried in procession on a huge cart. <i>The juggernaut of political machinery has begun to sweep the country once again.</i>
Junket (n & v)	(n) merry feast on somebody else's money; picnic; (tr.) go on a junket. <i>Politicians are infamous for their innumerable junkets on tax-payer's money.</i>
Junta (n)	a political or military clique taking power in a coup d' état; a cabal or secret group.
Juridical (adj.)	pertaining to legal proceedings. L. juris: law + dicere (dicas): say .
Jurisprudence (n)	the science or philosophy of law; skill in law. [<i>adj.: jurisprudent</i>]. L. juris: law + prudentia: knowledge .
Jurist (n)	an expert in law; a legal writer. [<i>adj.: juristic/juristical</i>]. L. jus juris: law . <i>Nani Palkhivala is an eminent jurist.</i>
Juror (n)	a member of a jury; a person who takes an oath. L. jurat: swear .
Justiciable (adj.)	liable to legal consideration. Old Fr. justicier: bring to trial .
Juvenile (adj. & n)	(adj.) youthful, young; immature; (n) a young person; an actor playing the part of a youthful person. [<i>n: juvenility</i>]. L. juvenis: young . <i>Cases of juvenile delinquency are on the rise in cities.</i>
Juxtapose (v. tr.)	place side by side. [<i>n: juxtaposition</i>]. L. juxta: next + (pose) ponere: place . <i>I tried to juxtapose the concurrent thoughts within the parameters given to me.</i>

K

Kaleidoscopic (adj.)	constantly changing; producing changing patterns. Gk. kalos : beautiful + eidos : form + scope .
Karaoke (n)	a form of entertainment in which people sing popular songs as soloists against a pre-recorded backing. Jap. empty orchestra .
Katabatic (adj.)	(Meteor) (of wind) caused by local downward motion of esp. cool air. Gk. katabainō : go down.
Kayak (n & v)	(n) an Eskimo one-man canoe consisting of a light wooden frame covered with sealskins; a small covered canoe resembling this; (intr.) travel by kayak; paddle a kayak (kayaked, kayaking).
Kempt (adj.)	combed; neatly kept. kemb : comb.
Kibbutz (n)	a communal, esp. farming settlement in Israel. Heb. kibbūs : gathering.
Kickshaw (n)	a fancy dish in cookery; something elegant but insubstantial; a trifle. Fr. something .
Killjoy (n)	a person who prevents other people's enjoyment; a gloomy person.
Kindred (n & adj.)	(n) one's relations referred to collectively; resemblance or affinity in character; (adj.) related by blood or marriage; allied or similar in character. kin + Old Eng. ræden : condition.
Kinship (n)	blood relationship; the sharing of characteristics or origins.
Kismet (n)	destiny, fate.
Kith and kin (n)	friends and relations.
Kleptomania (n)	a recurring urge to steal, without regard for profit.
Knave (n)	a rogue, scoundrel. [<i>n</i> : knavery]. Old Eng. cnafa : boy, servant.
Knight-errant (n)	a medieval knight wandering in search of chivalrous adventure; a man of a chivalrous or quixotic nature. [<i>n</i> : knight-errantry].
Knurl (n)	a small projecting knob, ridge, etc. [<i>adj.</i> : knurled].
Kolkhoz (n)	a collective farm in the former USSR. Russian: collective farm .
Kosher (adj. & n)	(adj.) (of food prepared or premises where food is sold) fulfilling requirements of Jewish law; correct, genuine.
Kowtow (v. & n)	(intr.) act obsequiously; (n) Chinese custom of kneeling and touching the ground with the forehead in worship or submission. Ch. ke : knock + tou : head (ketou). <i>I was ashamed to find my seniors kowtowing to the managing director.</i>
Krans (n)	a precipitous or overhanging wall of rocks. Afrikaans from Dut. krans : coronet.
Kudos (n)	glory; renown.
Kulak (n)	a peasant working for personal profit in Soviet Russia. Russian: tight-fisted person . <i>Lenin's Bolshevik policies were harsh to the prosperous kulaks.</i>

L

Labile (adj.)	(Chem.) unstable (of a compound); liable to displacement or change. [<i>n: ability</i>]. L. labi : to fall.
Laborious (adj.)	needing hard work; show signs of toil; pedestrian; not fluent. [<i>adv: laboriously</i>]. <i>I ultimately accomplished the laborious task of completing the report in a day.</i>
Labyrinth (n)	a complicated irregular network of passages or paths; maze. [<i>adj.: labyrinthian</i>]. Gk. laburinthos , referring to the maze constructed by Daedalus to house the Minotaur.
Lacerate (v. tr.)	mangle or tear; distress or cause pain to. [<i>n: laceration</i>]. L. lacer : torn. <i>The lion lacerated the unfortunate victim's flesh as soon as he was thrown into the arena.</i> <i>The employer's words lacerated the sentiments of the young man who was convinced of his innocence and sincerity.</i>
Lachrymose (adj.)	tearful; melancholy; inducing tears. L. lacrima : tear. <i>The movie was a failure among the younger generation because of its lachrymose effect.</i>
Lackadaisical (adj.)	unenthusiastic; listless; dull; feebly sentimental and unaffected. [<i>adv: lackadaisically</i>]. <i>The principal censured the class's lackadaisical response to the annual day celebrations.</i>
Lackey (n)	a servile political follower; a footman or manservant.
Lacklustre (adj.)	lacking in vitality, force or conviction. The lacklustre celebration could have been avoided, since nobody was interested in it.
Laconic (adj.)	brief; concise; terse. [<i>adv: laconically; n: laconicism</i>]. Gk. lakōn : Spartan , the people of Sparta known for their terse speech. <i>All the students feared the laconic professor.</i>
Lactation (n)	the secretion of milk by the mammary glands; the suckling of young. L. lactare : suckle from lac lactis: milk.
Lacuna (n)	a hiatus; gap; a missing portion or empty page, esp. in an ancient manuscript, etc.; (Anat.) a cavity or depression especially in the bone. L. lacus : pool, basin , lake. <i>There is a lacuna in your argument.</i>
Lading (n)	a cargo.
Lagan (n)	goods or wreckage lying on the bed of the sea, sometimes with a marker buoy for later retrieval.
Lagoon (n)	a stretch of salt waters separated from the seas by a sandbank, coral reef, etc. L. lacus
Laic (adj. & n)	(adj.) non-clerical; lay; secular; (n) non-cleric. [<i>adj.: laical; adv: laically</i>].
Laicism (n)	political movement or programme having secularisation as its principal aim.
Laissez-faire (n)	the theory and/or practice of government abstention from interference from workings of the market. Fr. let act .
Lambast (v. tr.)	thrash, beat; criticise severely. <i>The critic lambasted the upstart fiction writer for attacking communism in Kerala.</i>
Lambent (adj.)	(of a flame or a light) playing on a surface with a soft radiance but without burning; (of eyes, etc) softly radiant. [<i>n: lambency; adv: lambently</i>].
Lamebrain (n)	a stupid person.
Lament (n & v.)	(n) an expression of grief; (tr.) express of feel grief. <i>The girl lamented the loss of her fiancé's photograph.</i>

Lampoon (n & v)	(n) a satirical attack on a person; (tr.) satirize. [<i>n: lampoonery</i>]. <i>Charles Dickens lampooned the utilitarians through his book 'Hard Times'.</i>
Languid (adj.)	idle; inert; lacking vigour; apathetic; uninteresting; sluggish. [<i>adv: languidly; n: languidness</i>]. L. laxus : slack . <i>A languid mind cannot grasp the subtle nuances of any topic or language.</i>
Languish (v. intr.)	grow feeble; lose or lack vitality; droop or pine. L. laxus . <i>Sir Walter Raleigh's last days were spent languishing in the Tower of London.</i>
Languor (n)	lack of energy or alertness; inertia, idleness; dullness; fatigue. L. laxus .
Laniary (adj. & n)	(adj.) adapted for tearing; canine. L. lanius : butcher from <i>laniare</i> : to tear.
Lanky (adj.)	ungracefully thin and long or tall. [<i>n: lankiness; adv: lankily</i>]. <i>The lanky girl was ashamed of her looks.</i>
Laodicean (adj.)	lukewarm and half-hearted, esp. in religion or politics.
Lapidary (adj. & n)	concerned with stones; engraved upon stones; (n) a cutter, polisher or engraver of gems. L. lapis idis : stone .
Laputan (adj.)	chimerical; visionary; absurd.
Larceny (n)	the theft of personal property; an act of stealing. L. robber, mercenary . <i>The larceny was imputed to the poor family living on the outskirts of the town.</i>
Lard (n & v. tr.)	(n) pig's fat; (tr.) insert strips of fat or bacon in meat before cooking it.
Largesse (n)	money or gifts freely given buy a person in a high position; generosity, beneficence. L. largus : copious . <i>The wealthy merchant's largesse was motivated by a desire to impress people rather than by genuine goodwill or generosity.</i>
Larrikin (n)	a hooligan.
Lascivious (adj.)	lustful; evoking lust. [<i>adv: lasciviously</i>]. L. lascivus : wanton .
Lassitude (n)	weariness. L. lassus : tired . <i>Due to extreme lassitude, my mother refused to climb up to the temple at night.</i>
Latent (adj.)	concealed, dormant. L. be hidden . <i>The latent anger in him suddenly exploded at the sight of the man who had ruined his life.</i>
Lateral (adj.)	sideways; descended from a brother or sister of a person in a direct line. L. lateris : side .
Latitude (n)	(Geog.) the angular distance on a meridian north or south of the equator, expressed in degrees and minutes; regions and climes with reference to temperature; liberality, freedom from narrow-mindedness. [<i>adv: latitudinally</i>]. L. latus : broad . <i>Your evaluation of this paper reveals a tendency that allows for much latitude in thinking.</i>
Latitudinarian (adj.)	allowing latitude especially in religion. [<i>n: latitudinariansm</i>].
Laudable (adj.)	praiseworthy. L. laudis : praise . <i>The woman's role in her husband's life was laudable.</i>
Laudation (n)	praise.
Laudatory (adj.)	expressing praise.

Lavish (adj. & v)	<i>The mayor's laudatory speech for his deputy's efforts flattered the latter.</i> (adj.) giving or producing in large quantities; (tr.) bestow or spend. Old Fr. lavasse ; deluge of rain .
Laxity (n)	lack of care or concern. L. laxus . <i>The accident occurred due to the driver's laxity.</i>
Lay (v, adj., n)	(tr) place horizontally on a surface; (adj.) non-clerical; (n) a short lyric or narrative poem meant to be sung. (v) <i>The tired man lay himself down on the ground.</i> (adj.) <i>The lay congregation could not appreciate the priest's spartan lifestyle.</i>
Layabout (n)	a habitual loafer or idler.
Leer (v. tr.)	look slyly, lasciviously or maliciously. Old Eng. to glance over one's cheek .
Lees (n)	sediment; dregs, refuse. <i>Faced with death, the terminally ill patient decided to drink life to the lees.</i>
Leeward (adj., adv, n)	the side sheltered from the wind. <i>Trapped on the leeward side of the mountain, the little village faced continuous drought.</i>
Legacy (n)	a gift left in a will. L. legare : bequeath .
Legate (n)	a member of the clergy representing the Pope; an ambassador or delegate. L. legare : depute .
Legatee (n)	the recipient of a legacy.
Legerdemain (n)	conjuring or juggling; sleight of hand. Fr. léger de main : light of hand ; dexterous .
Legible (adj.)	readable.
Legist (n)	person well-versed in law.
Lenient (adj.)	merciful, tolerant, not strict. L. lenis : gentle .
Leonine (adj.)	like a lion.
Lese-majesty (n)	treason; affront to ruler. L. laesa majestas : injured sovereignty from laedere laes: injure + majestas.
Lethal (adj.)	sufficient to cause death. [<i>n</i> : lethality ; <i>adv</i> : lethally]. L. letum : death . <i>The pugilist dealt a lethal blow to his opponent.</i>
Lethargy (n)	lack of energy or vitality; (Med.) morbid drowsiness or prolonged and unnatural sleep. [<i>adj</i> .: lethargic]. Gk. lēthargos : forgetful from lēth: forget. <i>Struck by acute lethargy, I did not feel like going for the romantic comedy playing in the theatre nearby.</i>
Leukaemia (n)	any case of malignant disease in which the blood-forming organs produce increased number of white blood cells. Gk. leukos : white + haima : blood .
Levee (n)	a formal reception for guests and visitors; an embankment against river floods; a landing place.
Leviathan (n)	(Bible) a sea monster; anything very large and powerful; an autocratic monarch or state. <i>The river in spate looked like a leviathan waiting to engulf its victims.</i>

Levigate (v. tr.)	reduce to a fine, smooth powder. [<i>n: levigation</i>] L. levigat: smooth.
Levitation (n)	the act or instance of rising and floating in air (esp. with ref. to supernatural powers). [<i>v.tr. levitate</i>]. L. levis: light.
Lexicographer (n)	compiler of dictionaries. Gk. lexis: word + graphy.
Lexicon (n)	a dictionary; the vocabulary of a person, branch of knowledge, etc. Gk. lexis.
Liaise (v. intr.)	establish a link, act as a link.
Liaison (n)	communication or co-operation between units, persons, etc.; an illicit sexual relationship. Fr. lier: bind.
Libation (n)	the pouring out of a drink offering to a god. L. libare: pour as offering.
Libertine (adj. & n)	(adj.) licentious, dissolute; (n) such a person; a person who follows his or her own inclinations; a free thinker on religion. L. libertus: made free.
Libidinous (adj.)	lustful. L. libido dinis: lust. <i>Hindi movies portray almost all villains as being libidinous.</i>
Licentious (adj.)	immoral, esp. in sexual relations. [<i>adv: licentiously; n: licentiousness</i>]. L. licere: be lawful. <i>Licentious behaviour invites trenchant criticism in Indian society.</i>
Licit (adj.)	lawful. L. licere.
Liege (n & adj.)	(adj.) entitled to feudal allegiance, faithful; (n) feudal lord.
Lien (n)	(Law) right over another's property to protect a debt charged on that property. L. ligare: bind. <i>The family's eldest son held his father's property in lien after the latter's death.</i>
Limber (adj., v, n)	(adj.) lithe, agile, flexible; (intr.) warm up in preparation for athletic activity; (n) the detachable front part of a gun carriage.
Limbo (n)	a state of uncertainty; a state of neglect or oblivion. L. limbus: hem, border. <i>The court's decision on the scams is in limbo.</i>
Limn (v. tr.)	paint, depict, portray.
Limpid (adj.)	clear, transparent; (of writing) easily understood. [<i>adv: limpidly</i>]. <i>The girl's limpid eyes drove the boys crazy.</i>
Linchpin (n)	a person or thing essential or vital to an organisation; a pin passed through an axle-end to keep a wheel in position.
Lineament (n)	a distinctive feature or characteristic of the face. L. lineare: make straight.
Lingering (adj.)	slow to end, move or disappear. related to lengthen.
Lingo (n)	a foreign language; the vocabulary of a special subject or group of people. L. lingua: tongue.
Linguist (n)	a person skilled in language(s) or linguistics. L. lingua.

Linguistics (n)	the scientific study of language and its structure. L. lingua .
Liquidation (n)	total destruction; winding up of a company and apportioning of its assets; elimination. <i>The boardroom battle between the two partners resulted in the liquidation of the company.</i>
Liquidity (n)	availability of adequate money in one's possession. <i>The company had to sell off some of its assets in order to solve the liquidity crisis.</i>
Lissome (adj.)	supple, agile, lithe. lithe + some . <i>The lissome athlete was the star of the competition.</i>
Litany (n)	religious song; church chant. Gk. litaneia : prayer from līte : supplication.
Lithe (adj.)	flexible, supple.
Litigant (n)	a party to a lawsuit.
Littoral (adj. & n)	(adj.) relating to the shore of the sea, a lake, etc.; (n) a region lying along a shore. L. litoris : shore .
Liturgy (n)	a form of public worship, esp. in the Christian church.
Livestock (n)	animals on a farm, regarded as an asset.
Livid (adj.)	furiously angry; of a bluish leaden colour. L. livere : be bluish .
Loath (adj.)	reluctant. <i>I was loath to accept the proposal but succumbed to my parents' wishes.</i>
Loathe (v. tr.)	regard with disgust; detest. <i>I loathe selfish people.</i>
Loathsome (adj.)	detestable; offensive. Middle Eng. loath : disgust . <i>The loathsome fool struck the old man across the mouth.</i>
Lodestar (n)	a guiding star such as the Pole star; a guiding principle.
Lodgement (n)	the act of lodging or process of being lodged; the depositing or a deposit of money.
Lofty (adj.)	towering; of an imposing height; dignified; sublime; aloof, haughty. <i>It is not possible for everybody to have lofty ideals.</i>
(at) Loggerheads (n)	in conflict or disagreement with. <i>The two brothers are at loggerheads with each other over the property.</i>
Logistics (n)	the organisation of moving, lodging and supplying troops and equipment; the detailed organisation and implementation of a plan or operation.
Logomachy (n)	a dispute about words; controversy turning on mere verbal points. Gk. logos : word + makhia : fighting . <i>The argument regarding the justification of ideology in every walk of life was ultimately reduced to fiery logomachy.</i>
Longevity (n)	long life. L. longus : long + aevum : age .
Loon (n)	a crazy person. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>loony</i>].
Lopsided (adj.)	unevenly balanced. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>lopsidedly</i>].

Loquacious (adj.)	talkative. [<i>adv: loquaciously, n: loquacity</i>]. L. loqui: talk . <i>The loquacious teacher could not ever complete the lecture on time.</i>
Lothario (n)	a rake or libertine.
Lotus-eater (n)	a person given to indolent enjoyment.
Lubricate (v. tr.)	to make smooth by applying oil or grease. [<i>n: lubrication</i>]. L. lubricus: slippery .
Lucubration (n)	nocturnal study or meditation; (in plural) literary writings esp. of a pedantic or elaborate character. L. lucubrare: work by lamplight .
Lucent (adj.)	shining, luminous. [<i>n: lucency</i>]. L. lucere: shine . <i>The lucent moon aroused the romantic in the artist.</i>
Lucid (adj.)	clear; easy to understand. [<i>n: lucidity; adv: lucidly</i>]. <i>The report was presented in a lucid manner.</i>
Lucrative (adj.)	profitable. L. lucrari: to gain . <i>The business proposition was a lucrative one and I could not ignore it.</i>
Ludicrous (adj.)	absurd, ridiculous. [<i>adv: ludicrously</i>].
Lugubrious (adj.)	doleful, mournful, dismal. L. lugere: mourn . <i>The lugubrious atmosphere was ruinous for the party.</i>
Luminous (adj.)	radiant, bright, visible in darkness. [<i>n: luminosity, adj.: luminously</i>].
Lurid (adj.)	vivid or glowing in colour; an unnatural glare; showy; horrifying; ghastly; sensational, shocking. [<i>adv: luridly</i>]. L. luror: wan or yellow in colour .
Luscious (adj.)	ripe and healthy; beautiful and delicious; over rich in sound, imagery or voluptuous suggestion.
Lustrate (v. tr.)	ceremonial washing; purify by expiatory sacrifice.
Lustre (n)	brilliance, brightness.
Luxuriant (adj.)	lush.
Lynx-eyed (adj.)	keen-sighted.
Lyophilic (adj.)	easily dissolved in a solvent.
Lyrical (adj.)	poetic.
Lysis (n)	the disintegration of a cell. Gk. luis: loosening .

M

Macabre (adj.)	grim, gruesome. <i>The scene was murder was macabre and shocking.</i>
Mace (n)	a staff of office as a symbol of the holder's authority; a heavy club with a metal head and spikes. Old Fr. masse : large hammer . <i>The Speaker banged the mace on the table in order to subdue the violent House.</i>
Macerate (v.)	make or become soft by soaking.; (intr) waste away by fasting.
Machiavellian (adj.)	elaborately cunning; scheming, unscrupulous. From N. Machiavelli , Florentine statesman and political writer who advocated the use of morally questionable methods for the welfare of the state. <i>Cardinal Richelieu was known for his machiavellian methods, which were motivated not only by political but also personal interests.</i>
Machinations (n)	plots, intrigues. L. machinari : contrive . <i>Unscrupulous statesmen have often justified machinations in the interest of the state.</i>
Macro (adj.)	prefix meaning large; (Computing) a single instruction that expands automatically into a set of instructions to perform a particular task. Gk. makros : long, large . <i>Macroeconomics is more easily understood than microeconomics.</i>
Macrocosm (n)	the universe; the whole of a complex structure. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>macrocosmic</i>].
Macroscopic (adj.)	visible to the naked eye; regarded in terms of large units.
Madrigal (n)	a short love poem; a 16 th -17 th century part-song for several voices, usu. Arranged in elaborate counterpoint without instrumental accompaniment. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>madrigalian</i>].
Maelstrom (n)	a great whirlpool; a state of confusion. Dut. mael : whirl + stroom : stream . <i>The jilted lover was caught in a whirlpool of emotions that he could not account for.</i>
Maestro (n)	a distinguished musician, esp. a conductor or performer; a great performer in any sphere. It. master . <i>Pandit Allah Rakha is a renowned tabla maestro.</i>
Mafia (n)	an organised body of criminals; a group regarded as exerting a hidden sinister influence.
Magnanimous (adj.)	nobly generous; not petty. [<i>n</i> : <i>magnanimity</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>magnanimously</i>]. L. magnus : great + animus : soul . <i>It was magnanimous of the king to pardon his enemies.</i>
Magnate (n)	a wealthy and influential; (n) a wealthy and influential person. L. magnus : great .
Magnification (n)	the act or an instance of magnifying; the apparent enlargement of an object by lens.
Magnifico (n)	a magnate or grandee.
Magniloquent (adj.)	grand or grandiose in speech. <i>The orator gave a grandiloquent speech on the occasion of martyr's day.</i>
Magnum Opus (n)	the most important work of a writer; a great and usually large work of art. L. great work .
Maim (v. tr.)	cripple, disable; harm. <i>Psychologically maimed by police atrocities, the ideologically motivated terrorist led a vacuous life after release from jail.</i>

Mainstay (n)	chief support. <i>In his hour of crisis, the revolutionary's wife became his mainstay.</i>
Mainstream (n)	the prevailing trend in opinion, fashion, etc.; the principal current of a river.
Major-domo (n)	the chief official of a Spanish or Italian princely household; a butler.
Maladroit (adj.)	clumsy, bungling. Fr. mal: badly + adroit: skilful. <i>The maladroit burglar, who could not break open the safe, was caught trying to do so by the owner.</i>
Malady (n)	an ailment; a disease; something that requires a remedy. L. male: ill + habere: have.
Mala fide (adj. & adv)	acting or done in bad faith.
Malapropism (n)	the use of a word in mistake for one sounding similar, to comic effect. <i>'To dance a flamingo' is a malapropism for 'to dance a flamenco'.</i>
Malaise (n)	a non-specific bodily discomfort; a feeling of uneasiness. Old Fr. mal: bad + aise: ease.
Malarkey (n)	humbug; nonsense.
Malcontent (n & adj.)	(n) a discontented person; a rebel; (adj.) rebellious or discontented. <i>A malcontent person is a potential ideologue.</i>
Malediction (n)	a curse. [adj.: <i>maledictory</i>]. L. maledicere: speak evil from male: bad/ill + dicere: speak.
Malefactor (n)	a criminal; an evildoer. [n: <i>malefaction</i>]. L. male + facere: do.
Malevolent (adj.)	wishing evil to others. [n: <i>malevolence</i>]. L. male: ill + volens: willing.
Malfeasance (n)	(Law) evildoing. [adj.: <i>malfeasant</i>]. L. mal + facere: do.
Malicious (adj.)	characterised by hatred or spite; intending to do harm. [adv: <i>maliciously</i>]. L. malus: bad. <i>Malicious gossip can lacerate a person's reputation.</i>
Malign (v. tr.)	slander. L. malignare: contrive maliciously. <i>Gossipmongers love to malign people.</i>
Malignant (adj.)	virulent or infectious; cancerous; harmful. [n: <i>malignancy</i>]. L. malignare. <i>The patient was diagnosed to have a malignant growth in her stomach.</i>
Malingering (v. intr.)	exaggerate or feign illness in order to escape work or duty. [n: <i>malingerer</i>].
Malleable (adj.)	able to be pressed or hammered permanently out of shape without breaking or cracking. [n: <i>malleability</i>]. L. malleare: to hammer.
Malnutrition (n)	poor health resulting from lack of some foods or essential dietary elements.
Malodorous (adj.)	evil-smelling.
Malpractice (n)	misconduct; unlawful activity.
Mammoth (adj.)	huge.

Manacle (n)	a fetter or shackle for the hand; a handcuff; a restraint. L. manus : hand (manicula).
Mandate (n)	a command; support for a policy or course of action; a papal decree or decision. L. manus : hand + dare : give . <i>The opposition party was given a resounding mandate in the previous elections.</i>
Mandatory (adj.)	of or conveying a command; compulsory. <i>It is mandatory for the students to select either economics or home science in high school.</i>
Mangle (v. tr.)	mutilate; cut; tear to pieces; cut roughly so as to disfigure.
Maniacal (adj.)	raving mad; obsessively enthusiastic. Gk. mainomai : be mad . <i>The candidate behaved in a maniacal manner when he learnt of his failure in the college elections.</i>
Manifest (adj. & v)	clear or obvious to the mind's eye; display or show; reveal itself; a cargo list for the use of custom officers. <i>The traffic policeman's distress at the pollution around him was quite evident to the passersby.</i> <i>The custom officer checked the manifest before him to ascertain the identity of the suitcase in which the cocaine was found.</i>
Manifesto (n)	a public declaration of policy and aims, esp. one issued before an election by a political party, candidate, government, etc.
Manifold (adj.)	(adj.) many and various; having various forms, parts, etc. <i>The parish priest is a man of manifold qualities.</i>
Manikin (n)	a dwarf; an artist's lay figure; an anatomical model of the body.
Manipulate (v. tr.)	to handle skillfully; manage to one's advantage unfairly. [<i>n</i> : manipulation; <i>adj</i> : manipulative].
Mannequin (n)	a model employed by a dressmaker.
Manoeuvre (v.)	a skillful move or clever trick; a planned or controlled movement or series of moves; (intr.) use artifice; (tr.) force, manipulate. L. manus : hand + operari : to work . <i>I managed to manoeuvre the vehicle into the narrow space available in the parking lot.</i>
Manumit (v. tr.)	set free; emancipate. L. manus : hand + emittere : set forth .
Marauder (n)	plunderer. Fr. maraud : rogue . <i>The marauders looted the village in the dead of night.</i>
Maritime (adj.)	related to the sea or seafaring. L. mare : sea .
Marmoreal (adj.)	of or like marble. <i>The marmoreal coldness of the girl stunned me.</i>
Marplot (n)	one who, by meddlesome interference, frustrates a design.
Marrow (n)	the soft fatty substance in the cavities of bones, in which blood cells are produced; often typifying vitality and strength.
Marsupial (n & adj.)	any mammal born incompletely developed and carried and suckled in a pouch on the mother's belly; kangaroo; (adj.) of this order; of or like a pouch. Gk. marsipos : pouch .
Martial (adj.)	pertaining to warfare; warlike, brave. Mars martis : the Roman god of war . <i>The Jats are a martial race.</i>

Martinet (n)	a strict disciplinarian. Named after J. Martinet, the French drill-master. <i>My father is a martinet when it comes to matters related to studies and food.</i>
Marvel (n & v)	(n) a wonderful or astonishing person or thing; (intr.) feel surprise or wonder. From miracle – mirus : wonderful . (n) <i>The Taj Mahal is a marvel of artisanship.</i> (v) <i>Visitors to the Taj Mahal marvel at the consummate artistry epitomised by the monument.</i>
Mascot (n)	a person, animal or thing that is supposed to bring good luck.
Massacre (n & v)	(n) a general slaughter; (tr.) murder a large number of people cruelly or violently; defeat heavily, destroy.
Masticate (v. tr.)	grind or chew food with one's teeth. [<i>n</i> : <i>mastication</i>]. Gk. mastikhao : gnash the teeth .
Materfamilias (n)	the woman head of a family or household. L. mater : mother + family .
Matriarchy (n)	a system of society or government ruled by a woman or women and with descent through the female line.
Matricide (n)	the killing of one's mother; a person who kills one's mother. [<i>adj</i> : <i>matricidal</i>].
Matutinal (adj.)	of or occurring in the morning; early.
Maudlin (adj.)	weakly or tearfully sentimental; weak or mawkish sentiment. <i>The movie, with its maudlin portrayal of women was a failure.</i>
Maunder (v. intr.)	talk in a dreamy or rambling manner; move or act listlessly. <i>The beggar maundered on about hunger but did not notice the coins being dropped into his extended bowl.</i>
Mausoleum (n)	a large and grand tomb.
Maverick (n)	an unbranded calf or yearling; an unorthodox or independent-minded person. <i>Most of the Romantic poets were mavericks and loners.</i>
Mawkish (adj.)	sentimental in a feeble or sickly way. [<i>n</i> : <i>mawkishness</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>mawkishly</i>]. <i>Dreamers often become mawkish when asked about their problems.</i>
Maxim (n)	a general truth or rule of conduct expressed in a sentence. L. maxima : proposition .
Maximalist (n)	a person who rejects compromise and expects a full response to demands.
Mayhem (n)	violent or damaging action; chaos; maiming. <i>The insurgents wreaked mayhem in the city when their demands were rejected.</i>
Mea culpa (n)	an acknowledgement of one's fault or error.
Meagre (adj.)	scanty; lacking fullness.
Meal-mouthed (adj.)	not out-spoken.
Meander (v. & n)	(intr.) wander at random; wind about; (n) the sinuous windings of a river. Gk. Mainandros: the name of a winding river in Phrygia.
Measly (adj.)	inferior; contemptible; worthless.
Meddlesome (adj.)	fond of interfering. L. miscerē : mix . <i>The meddlesome in-laws ruined the couple's marital bliss.</i>
Mediate (v & adj.)	(intr.) intervene in a disagreement to conciliate; (tr.) form the connecting link between; (adj.) connected, not directly, but through some other person or thing. L. medius : middle .

Medieval (adj.)	old-fashioned; related to the Middle Ages. [<i>n</i> : <i>medievalism</i>].
Mediocre (adj.)	neither good nor bad; of middling quality. <i>The mediocre student could not clear the test.</i>
Medley (n)	a varied mixture.
Megadeath (n)	the death of one million people.
Megalomania (n)	a mental disorder producing delusions of grandeur; a passion for grandiose schemes. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>megalomaniac</i>]. Gk. mega : great + mania : obsession. <i>The idea of shifting the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad, was a result of Tughlaq's megalomania.</i>
Meiosis (n)	(Biol.) a type of cell division that results in daughter cells with half the chromosome number of the parent cell; an understatement.
Melancholy (n & adj.)	(n) sadness; (adj.) gloomy.
Mélange (n)	a mixture; a medley. Fr. mêler : mix.
Mêlée (n)	a skirmish; a confused fight. <i>The agitators were caught in a mêlée when the police appeared on the scene.</i>
Meliorate (v.)	improve. [<i>n</i> : <i>melioration</i>]. <i>The government has tried to meliorate the plight of slum dwellers.</i>
Melliferous (adj.)	yielding honey. L. mel : honey.
Mellifluous (adj.)	pleasing; musical; flowing. [<i>n</i> : <i>mellifluence</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>mellifluent</i>]. L. mel + fluere : flow. <i>Lata Mangeshkar's mellifluous voice has enthralled the entire nation.</i>
Mellow (adj. & v)	(adj.) soft and rich; free from harshness; softened or matured by age or experience; (of wine) well-matured; (tr. & intr.) make or become so. <i>The mellow light from the lamp cast gentle shadows in the room.</i>
Melodrama (n)	a sensational dramatic piece with crude appeals to the emotions. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>melodramatic</i>]. <i>Most Hindi movies use melodrama to attract the audience.</i>
Memento (n)	an object kept as a reminder of souvenir. L. meminisse : remember.
Ménage (n)	the members of a household.
Menagerie (n)	a collection of wild animals in captivity for exhibition, etc.
Mendacious (adj.)	lying; untruthful. [<i>n</i> : <i>mendacity</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>mendaciously</i>]. L. mendum : fault. <i>The mendacious statements did not convince anyone in the crowd.</i>
Mendicant (adj. & n)	(adj.) begging; (n) a beggar. [<i>n</i> : <i>mendicity</i>]. L. mendicare : beg.
Mephitic (adj.)	noxious, deadly, foul.
Mercantile (adj.)	of trade; trading; commercial.
Mercenary (adj. & n)	(adj.) primarily concerned with money or other reward; (n) a hired soldier in military service. L. merces : reward. <i>The arms dealer had purely mercenary motives in instigating the war.</i>

Merchandise (n & v)	(n) goods for sale; (tr.) put on the market for sale; advertise or publicise a person or ideas; (intr.) trade, traffic. L. mercari : trade .
Mercurial (adj.)	volatile; sprightly; of or containing mercury. [<i>n</i> : mercuriality ; <i>adv</i> : mercurially]. <i>The old man could not solve the family dispute because of his mercurial temper.</i>
Meretricious (adj.)	showily but falsely attractive. [<i>adv</i> : meretriciously]. L. mereri : be hired . <i>The government's attempts at providing concrete accommodation to slum dwellers was meretricious in nature.</i>
Meritocracy (n)	government by persons selected competitively according to merit; a society governed by such people. [<i>adj</i> : meritocratic].
Mesomorphic (adj.)	having a muscular body build. <i>Wrestlers are mesomorphic.</i>
Metallurgy (n)	the science of production, purification and properties of metals and their application. Gk. metallon : metal + ourgia : working .
Metamorphosis (n)	change of form; (Zool.) transformation between immature form and adult form (pupa to larvae). Gk. meta : change of position or condition + morphe : form .
Metaphor (n)	the application of a name, descriptive term, phrase, to an object or action to which it is imaginatively but not literally applicable. [<i>adj</i> : metaphoric]. <i>The soldier was a lion in battle.</i>
Metaphrase (n & v)	(n) literal translation; (tr.) put into other words. [<i>adj</i> : metaphrastic]. Gk. metaphrazo : translate .
Metaphysical (adj.)	based on abstract reasoning; excessively subtle or theoretical; incorporeal. Gk. meta : beyond + physics .
Mete (v & n)	(tr.) distribute, allot; (n) a boundary or boundary stone. (n) L. meta : boundary . <i>The tribunal meted out punishment to the war criminals in a humane manner.</i>
Metempsychosis (n)	the supposed transmigration of a soul of the human being or animal at death into a new body of the same or a different species. Gk. meta + en : consisting of + psukhe : soul .
Meteoric (adj.)	dazzling; transient; rapid. Gk. meta + aeiro : raise . <i>The writer's meteoric rise in the literary world is attributed to his impeccable credentials as a writer.</i>
Meteorologist (n)	one who studies the processes or phenomena of the atmosphere.
Meticulous (adj.)	giving great or excessive attention to details; very careful and precise. [<i>adv</i> : meticulously].
Métier (n)	one's trade, profession or department of activity; one's forte. <i>One must take career decisions according to one's métier.</i>
Mettle (n)	the quality of a person's disposition or temperament; natural ardour; spirit, courage. <i>You proved your mettle when, out of fear of the police, you failed to help the accident victim lying on the road.</i>
Miasma (n)	an infectious or noxious vapour. [<i>adj</i> : miasmatic]. Gk. miainō : pollute . <i>Corruption has enveloped society like a miasma that cannot be cleared.</i>
Microbe (n)	a minute living being; a micro-organism. Gk. mikros : small + bios : life .

Microbiology (n)	the scientific study of micro-organisms, e.g., bacteria, fungi, etc. Gk. mikros + bios .
Microcosm (n)	miniature representation; humankind viewed as the epitome of the universe; any community or complex unity viewed this way. Gk. mikros + kosmos : world .
Midget (n)	any extremely small person or thing.
Mien (n)	(Lit) a person's look or bearing as showing character or mood. Fr. mine : expression . <i>Your mien reveals your anger, which in this case is best kept concealed.</i>
Migrate (v. intr.)	move from one place of residence to another. [<i>n</i> : <i>migration</i>].
Milieu (n)	one's environment or social surroundings. Fr. mid + lieu : place . <i>A person feels most comfortable in his native milieu.</i>
Militant (n & adj.)	(n) (usu. political) a warlike or excessively aggressive person; (adj.) combative; aggressive. L. militis : soldier . <i>There is a surge of militant patriotism in the country.</i>
Militate (v. intr.)	have force or effect. L. militis . <i>The aim of some nationalistic forces is to militate against liberalisation.</i>
Milksop (n)	a spiritless man or youth.
Millenium (n)	a period of 1,000 years; a period of good governance, prosperity, etc. L. mille : thousand .
Milliner (n)	a person who makes or sells women's hats. [<i>n</i> : <i>millinery</i>].
Mimeograph (n & v)	(n) a duplicating machine which produces copies from a stencil; a copy produced in this way; (tr.) reproduce by this process. Gk. mimeomai : imitate .
Mimetic (adj.)	relating to imitation or mimicry. [<i>adv</i> : <i>mimetically</i>]. Gk. mimetikōs : imitation . <i>Jogesh Dutta is famous for his mimetic art.</i>
Minatory (adj.)	threatening. <i>The minatory effect of the Nazis on the entire world is something that the world will not ever forget.</i>
Miniature (adj., n , v)	(adj.) much smaller than normal; (n) any object reduced in size; (v) represent on a smaller scale.
Minion (n)	(derogatory) a servile agent; a favourite servant; a favourite of a sovereign. <i>Razia Sultan was derided for keeping a minion beside her at all times.</i>
Ministration (n)	aid or service; the supplying of help, justice, first aid, etc. <i>In the absence of a qualified doctor, the village quack was called in to provide ministration to the ailing woman.</i>
Minuscule (adj.)	extremely small or unimportant. <i>The minuscule amount of rice in the beggar's bowl could not possibly satiate his hunger.</i>
Minutia (n)	a precise, trivial and minor detail. <i>The organisers of the event took care of the minutia which others could have ignored.</i>
Mirage (n)	an optical illusion caused by atmospheric conditions; an illusory thing. <i>One of the cruel effects of mirage is the apparent sight of an oasis in the desert.</i>
Misadventure (n)	a misfortune; bad-luck.

Misanthrope (n)	<p>hater of mankind. [<i>adj.</i>: <i>misanthropic</i>; <i>n</i>: <i>misanthropy</i>]. Gk. misos: hatred + anthropōs: man. <i>A misanthrope will not ever work for the benefit of mankind.</i></p>
Misapprehension (n)	<p>misunderstanding. [<i>v. tr.</i> <i>misapprehend</i>].</p>
Miscegenation (n)	<p>the interbreeding of races. L. miscerē: mix + genus: race.</p>
Miscreant (n & adj.)	<p>(n) a villain; a heretic; (adj.) villainous. <i>The miscreants had the audacity to pelt the buses with stones despite an injunction against such activities.</i></p>
Misdemeanour (n)	<p>an offence, a misdeed.</p>
Misgiving (n)	<p>feeling of mistrust or apprehension. <i>I attended the family party with misgivings about my relatives' concern for my well being.</i></p>
Mishap (n)	<p>an unlucky accident.</p>
Misnomer (n)	<p>a name or term used wrongly. L. mis + nomer: name.</p>
Misogynist (n)	<p>one who hates women. [<i>n</i>: <i>misogyny</i>; <i>adj.</i>: <i>misogynistic</i>]. Gk. misos: hatred + gunē: woman.</p>
Misology (n)	<p>a hatred of argument, reason or knowledge.</p>
Misprision (n)	<p>the deliberate concealment of one's knowledge of a crime, treason, etc.; a wrong action or omission; a misreading, misunderstanding; failure to appreciate the value of a thing. <i>The woman's husband was arrested not because of his involvement in the crime committed by her, but because of his misprision of the crime.</i></p>
Missive (n)	<p>a letter. From mission.</p>
Mitigate (v. tr.)	<p>make milder or less intense; moderate. [<i>n</i>: <i>mitigation</i>]. L. mitis: mild. <i>The pastor's words helped mitigate the penitent's guilt and consequent pain.</i></p>
Mnemonics (n)	<p>the art of or system for improving memory. Gk. mnēmōn: mindful.</p>
Mobile (adj.)	<p>movable, not fixed; readily changing its expression; (of a person) able to change his or her social status. [<i>n</i>: <i>mobility</i>]. L. moverē: move. <i>The actor's mobile expressions have made him one of the most successful comedians in recent times.</i></p>
Mobocracy (n)	<p>rule by the mob.</p>
Modish (adj.)	<p>fashionable.</p>
Modus operandi (n)	<p>the particular way in which a person performs a task; the way a thing operates. L. way of operating. <i>The modus operandi of the Germans was simple. It was called the blitzkrieg.</i></p>
Modus vivendi (n)	<p>a way of living or coping; an arrangement whereby those involved in a dispute can carry on pending a settlement. L. way of living.</p>
Moiety (n)	<p>(Law or Lit) a half; each of the two parts in which a thing is divided. L. moitié from medius: middle.</p>
Moil (v. intr.)	<p>to toil hard. Old Fr. moillier: paddle in mud.</p>

Mollify (v. tr.)	to soothe; to appease; soften. L. mollis : soft . <i>The parents tried to mollify the aggrieved children who could not go for the picnic.</i>
Moloch (n)	a Canaanite idol to whom children were sacrificed; a tyrannical object of sacrifice; dreadful thing that causes great loss.
Momentous (adj.)	having great importance. [<i>adv</i> : <i>momentously</i>].
Momentum (n)	(Phy.) the quantity of motion of a moving body, measured as a product of its mass and velocity; the impetus gained by movement; strength or continuity derived from an initial effort. L. moverē : move . <i>The activity to clear the roads of hawkers, once started, gained momentum and ended as a resounded success.</i>
Momus (n)	fault-finder; captious critic.
Monetary (adj.)	pertaining to money. [<i>adv</i> : <i>monetarily</i>].
Monogamous (adj.)	the practice or state being married to one person at a time. [<i>n</i> : <i>monogamist</i>]. Gk. mono : one + gamos : marriage .
Monolithic (adj.)	a massive pillar or structure made out of a single block of stone. Gk. mono + lithos : stone .
Monotheism (n)	the doctrine that there is only one god. Gk. mono + theos : god .
Monotonous (adj.)	dull, lacking in variety.
Monstrous (adj.)	like a monster; abnormally formed; huge; outrageously wrong or absurd. [<i>adv</i> : <i>monstrously</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>monstrosity</i>]. <i>Malaysia committed the monstrous mistake of liberalising the economy without setting the proper mechanism in place.</i>
Moonshine (n)	talk or opinion not based on reality.
Moot (adj. & v)	(adj.) debatable, undecided; (v) raise for discussion. <i>The delegates at the seminar for human rights raised the moot point of human rights in warlike situations.</i>
Moppet (n)	a baby or a small child.
Moratorium (n)	a temporary prohibition or suspension (of an activity); a legal authorization to debtors to postpone payment; the period of such postponement. L. morat : to delay .
Morbid (adj.)	macabre; unwholesome; sickly; melancholy. [<i>n</i> : <i>morbidity</i>]. L. morbus : disease . <i>The man's morbid ideas gave him a jaundiced view of the entire world.</i>
Mordant (adj. & n)	(adj.) caustic, biting; (n) a substance that enables a dye or stain to become fixed in a fabric, etc. <i>The author's mordant replies to the critic's critique of his work, invited widespread criticism.</i>
Mores (n)	customs or conventions regarded as essential to or characteristic of a community. L. mos : custom . <i>The older generation prefers to conform to societal mores rather than get labelled as outcasts.</i>
Morgue (n)	a place where dead bodies are preserved; a mortuary.
Moribund (adj.)	at the point of death; lacking vitality. [<i>n</i> : <i>moribundity</i>]. L. mori : die . <i>The moribund attitude of some older people is responsible for society's stagnation.</i>
Morose (adj.)	sullen and ill-tempered. [<i>adv</i> : <i>morosely</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>moroseness</i>].

Mortician (n)	an undertaker; a manager of fortunes. L. mortis : death .
Mortify (v)	(tr.) cause to feel ashamed or humiliated; bring (the body, etc) to subjection by self-denial or discipline; (intr.) be affected by gangrene or necrosis. [<i>n</i> : <i>mortification</i>].
Mote (n)	a speck of dust.
Motif (n)	a distinctive feature or dominant idea; theme; a decorative design or pattern.
Motley (adj. & n)	(adj.) diverse, varied; (n) an incongruous mixture. <i>The gathering constituted a motley crowd of doctors, sailors and musicians.</i>
Mouch (v. intr.)	to loiter about.
Mountebank (n)	a swindler; an itinerant quack appealing to an audience from a platform.
Muddle (n & v)	(tr.) confuse, bewilder; (n) disorder. Middle Dutch dabble in mud .
Mulct (v & n)	(tr.) extract money from by fine or taxation; swindle; (n) a fine.
Multidentate (adj.)	having many teeth.
Multitudinous (adj.)	numerous.
Mundane (adj.)	dull, routine; worldly. [<i>n</i> : <i>mundaneness</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>mundanely</i>]. L. mundus : world . <i>The mundane work of housekeeping is nonetheless important.</i>
Munificent (adj.)	splendidly generous; bountiful. [<i>adv</i> : <i>munificently</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>munificence</i>]. L. munus : gift . <i>The munificent emperor presented his subjects with clothes on the new year.</i>
Murkiness (n)	gloom, darkness. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>murky</i>]. <i>Politicians conceal their murky past under the cover of white.</i>
Muse (n & v)	(n) the nine goddesses who inspire poetry, music, etc; the source of inspiration for creativity; (intr.) ponder, reflect.
Mutable (adj.)	liable to change; fickle. [<i>n</i> : <i>mutability</i>]. L. mutare : change . <i>Human emotions are mutable.</i>
Mutation (n)	the process of alteration; a genetic change which, when transmitted to offspring, can produce heritable variations. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>mutational</i>]. L. mutare .
Mutilate (v. tr.)	to maim; spoil; render imperfect by an act of destruction. [<i>n</i> : <i>mutilation</i>]. L. mutilus : maimed . <i>The robbers mutilated the man's body before decamping with the ornaments.</i>
Mutiny (n & v)	(n) an open revolt against constituted authority; (intr.) revolt. <i>The sepoy mutiny of 1857 was the first major act of rebellion against British authority.</i> <i>The crew decided to mutiny against their captain's autocratic behaviour.</i>
Myriad (n & adj.)	(n) an indefinitely great number; (adj.) of an indefinitely great number. Gk. myrioi : ten thousand . <i>Walking along the lake, the poet saw myriad daffodils swinging in the breeze.</i>
Myrmidon (n)	a lowly servant; a hired ruffian.
Mystique (n)	an atmosphere of mystery and veneration attending some activity or person; any skill or technique impressive to the layman. <i>The mystique of certain holy men is merely an illusion.</i>
Mythical (adj.)	imagined or invented.

N

Nadir (n)	the part of the celestial sphere directly below an observer; the lowest point in one's fortunes; a time of deep despair. <i>Even at the nadir of his once glorious reign, the king did not deter from his responsibilities.</i>
Naevus (n)	a birthmark in the form of a raised red patch on the skin.
Namby-pamby (adj & n)	(adj.) weak; lacking vigour or drive; (n) such a person.
Napalm (n)	a jellied petrol used in incendiary bombs. Naphthenis + palmitic acid.
Narcissism (n)	excessive or erotic interest in oneself, one's physical features. [<i>adj.: narcissistic</i>]. From Gk. Narkissos , the name of youth who fell in love with his reflection in a pool.
Narcotic (adj. & n)	(adj.) inducing drowsiness, sleep, stupor; (n) such a substance. [<i>n: narcoticism</i>]. Gk. narkoo: make numb .
Nascent (adj.)	in the act of being born; not yet mature. L. nasci: be born . <i>The 'clean city' drive is yet in a nascent stage.</i>
Natal (adj.)	of or from one's birth.
Natality (n)	birth rate.
Natation (n)	the act or art of swimming. L. natare: swim .
Natter (v & n)	(intr.) chatter idly; talk fretfully; (n) aimless chatter; grumbling talk.
Natty (adj.)	smartly or neatly dressed; dapper. [<i>adv: nattily</i>]. Related to 'neat'. <i>The natty young receptionist was an asset to the company.</i>
Naturopath (n)	one who treats diseases without drugs, usu. involving diet, exercise, massage, etc. [<i>n: naturopathy</i>].
Nausea (n)	a feeling of sickness with an inclination to vomit; loathing, revulsion.
Nauseate (v.)	(tr.) disgust; (intr.) loathe. <i>The sight of food nauseates me when I am over satiated.</i>
Nautical (adj.)	of or concerning sailors or navigation. [<i>adv: nautically</i>]. Gk. nautes: sailor from naus: ship.
Naval (adj.)	related to the navy. [<i>adv: navally</i>]. L. navis: ship .
Navigable (adj.)	affording a passage for ships; seaworthy. [<i>n: navigability</i>].
Navigation (n)	the practice of sailing, or of piloting an aircraft. L. navis .
Navvy (n)	a labourer involved in excavating or building roads, canals, etc.
Nebulous (adj.)	hazy, indistinct. [<i>adv.: nebulously</i>]. L. nebula: mist . <i>My idea of the countryside is a nebulous one and cannot be depended on.</i>
Necrology (n)	a list of recently dead people. [<i>adj.: necrological</i>]. Gk. nekros: corpse + logos .

Necromancy (n)	the prediction of the future by supposed communication with the dead. [<i>n</i> : <i>necromancer</i> ; <i>adj</i> .: <i>necromantic</i>]. Gk. nekros .
Necropolis (n)	an ancient cemetery or burial place. Gk. necro + polis : city .
Necropsy (n)	post mortem.
Nefarious (adj.)	wicked; evil; against the law or moral principles. [<i>n</i> : <i>nefariousness</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>nefariously</i>]. <i>The two brothers are involved in nefarious activities and are a nuisance in the neighbourhood.</i>
Negate (v. tr.)	nullify, make ineffective. L. negat : deny . <i>To deny liberalisation is to negate the need for competition in the private sector.</i>
Nemesis (n)	retributive justice; a downfall caused by this; an agent of such a downfall. Gk. nemo : give what is due . <i>Macbeth met his nemesis in the battle against King Duncan's sons.</i>
Neologism (n)	a new word or expression; the coining or use of new words. [<i>v. intr. neologize</i>]. <i>P. G. Wodehouse is renowned for coining humorous neologisms.</i>
Neophyte (n)	a new convert, esp. to a religious faith; a newly ordained priest; a beginner. Gk. neophutos : newly planted (neo: new + phuton: plant).
Neoteric (adj.)	recent; newfangled; modern. <i>Most neoteric devices baffle the conservative masses that cannot understand their benefits or necessity.</i>
Nepotism (n)	favouritism shown to friends and relatives in conferring offices or privileges. It. nepote : nephew . <i>Many top ranking officers in large corporations indulge in nepotism.</i>
Nescient (adj.)	ignorant; lacking knowledge. [<i>n</i> : <i>nescience</i>]. L. nescire : not know . From ne: not + scire: know. <i>The nescient candidate could not clear the course since his lack of knowledge was evident at the personal interview.</i>
Nestle (v.)	(intr.) settle oneself comfortably; lie half-hidden or embedded; (tr.) push affectionately or snugly. From nest .
Nestor (n)	wise counselor; senior of company; advisor.
Nether (adj.)	lower. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>nethermost</i>].
Neuralgia (n)	an intense intermittent pain along the course of a nerve, esp. in the head or face. Gk. neuron : nerve + algos : pain .
Neurasthenia (n)	general term for fatigue, anxiety, etc. Gk. neuron : nerve + asthenēs : weak .
Neuritis (n)	inflammation of a nerve or nerves. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>neuritic</i>].
Neurogenesis (n)	the growth and development of nervous tissue.
Neurologist (n)	one who deals with the scientific study of nerve systems. Gk. neuron + logos .
Neurosis (n)	a relatively mild mental illness involving symptoms of stress (eg. depression, anxiety, etc.) without loss of contact with reality. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>neurotic</i>].
Newfangled (adj.)	objectionably new.
Nexus (n)	a bond, a connection; a connected group, series, or network. L. nex : bind .

Niche (n & v)	<i>The nexus between politicians and the underworld is by now a clichéd relationship.</i> (n) a shallow recess esp. in a wall; comfortable or suitable position in life or employment; a specialised but profitable corner of the market; (tr.) place in a niche. L. nicher : make a nest . <i>India is a niche market for many multinational companies.</i>
Nictitate (v. intr.)	blink or wink. [<i>n</i> : <i>nictitation</i>]. L. nictare : blink .
Nidify (v. intr)	(of a bird) build a nest. L. nidus : nest .
Niggardly (adj. & adv.)	(adj.) stingy, parsimonious; (adv.) stingily.
Niggle (v & n)	(intr.) be over-attentive to details; (tr.) nag pettily; (n) a trifling complaint or criticism. <i>It is irritating to see the principal niggle over inconsequential details at a time when everybody is trying to meet deadlines.</i>
Nightmare (n)	a frightening or unpleasant dream; a haunting or obsessive fear.
Nihilism (n)	the rejection of all religious and moral principles; an extreme form of scepticism that believes that nothing really exists. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>nihilistic</i>]. L. nihil : nothing . <i>Nihilism was practiced in Russia prior to the Bolshevik revolution.</i>
Nimble (adj.)	agile; quick or light in movement or action. [<i>n</i> : <i>nimbleness</i>]. <i>Children are employed in carpet weaving industries because of their nimble fingers.</i>
Nimbus (n)	a bright cloud or halo investing a deity or a person; (Meteor.) a rain cloud. L. cloud , aureole .
Niminy-piminy (adj.)	feeble; lacking in vigour.
Nincompoop (adj.)	a fool.
Nitty-gritty (n)	the realities or practical details. <i>A career woman does not always have the time or energy to attend to the nitty-gritty of domestic affairs.</i>
Nocturnal (adj.)	related to the night; done or active during the night. L. nox noctis : night . <i>Owls are nocturnal birds.</i>
Nocuous (adj.)	noxious, harmful. L. nocēre : hurt . <i>The nocuous emanations from the factory have affected the respiratory system of the people living nearby.</i>
Noetic (adj. & n)	(adj.) of the intellect; purely intellectual or abstract; (n) the science of the intellect.
Noisome (adj.)	harmful, noxious; evil-smelling.
Nom de guerre (n)	an assumed name under which a person fights, plays, writes, etc. Fr. war-name .
Nom de plume (n)	an assumed name under which a person writes. Fr. pen-name .
Nomenclature (n)	a person's or community's system of names for things; a terminology of a science; a catalogue or register. L. nomen : name + calare : call .
Nominal (adj.)	existing in name only; much below the actual value of things; of or like a noun. L. nomen . <i>The President of India is merely the nominal head of state.</i>

Nonagenarian (n & adj.)	(n) a person whose age is between 90 and 100; (adj.) of this age. L. nonaginta : ninety.
Nonce (n)	temporarily.
Nonchalant (adj.)	unexcited; calm and casual. [<i>n</i> : <i>nonchalance</i>]. non + Fr. chaloir : be concerned . The elderly woman looked nonchalant despite the fact that others were getting hysterical.
Nonconformist (n & adj.)	(n) a person who does not conform to the doctrine or discipline of an established Church; maverick; a person who doesn't follow customs. [<i>n</i> : <i>nonconformism</i>].
Nondescript (adj. & n)	(adj.) lacking distinctive characteristics; not easily classified; (n) such a person or thing. non + descript : described .
Nonentity (n)	a person or thing of no importance. L. nonentitas : non-existence .
Nonpareil (adj. & n)	(adj.) unrivalled; (n) such a person or thing. Fr. non + pareil : equal . <i>The adaptation of Shakespeare's Othello in Malayalam was an adaptation nonpareil in the history of cinema.</i>
Nonplus (v & n)	(tr.) completely perplex; (n) a state of perplexity; a standstill.
Non sequitur (n)	a conclusion that does not logically flow from the premises. L. it does not follow .
Norm (n)	a standard or pattern or type; customary behaviour. <i>Most people feel secure and comfortable when conforming to the societal norms.</i>
Normative (adj.)	of or establishing a norm. [<i>adv</i> .: <i>normatively</i>].
Nostrum (n)	a quack remedy, a patent medicine; a pet scheme for political or social reform. L. nostrer : our own make . <i>People feel increasing apathy for the clichéd and futile nostrums of political parties.</i>
Notorious (adj.)	well known, esp. unfavourably. [<i>n</i> : <i>notoriety</i> ; <i>adv</i> .: <i>notoriously</i>]. <i>Charles Shobhraj, the notorious criminal, was repatriated to France.</i>
Nouveau riche (n)	a person who has recently acquired wealth. Fr. new rich .
Novice (n)	a new convert; a probationary member of a religious order before taking the vows; a beginner. L. novus : new . <i>The novice in the convent was caught unawares by the lecherous behaviour of the priest.</i>
Noxious (adj.)	harmful, unwholesome. L. noxa : harm .
Nuance (n & v)	(n) a subtle difference in or shade of meaning, feeling, colour, etc. L. nubes : cloud .
Nubile (adj.)	(of a girl) marriageable or sexually attractive. [<i>n</i> : <i>nubility</i>]. L. nubere : become the wife of . <i>The nubile young girl was the cynosure of all eyes at the party.</i>
Nugatory (adj.)	futile, trifling, worthless. L. nugari : to trifle .
Nullify (v. tr.)	neutralize; invalidate. [<i>n</i> : <i>nullification</i>].
Numen (n)	a presiding deity or spirit.

Numismatics (n)	the study of coins or medals.
Nurture (n & v.)	(n) the process of bringing up (esp. children); fostering care; (tr.) bring up, rear.
Nutrient (n & adj.)	(n) any substance that provides essential nourishment for the maintenance of life; (adj.) serving as or providing nourishment. L. nutrire : nourish .
Nutrition (n)	nourishment. <i>The people of drought-prone Kalahandi die due to lack of nourishment.</i>
Nymphet (n)	a young girl, sexually attractive.

PGGA

O

Oaf (n)	a stupid person. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>oafish</i>].
Oasis (n)	a fertile spot in a desert, where water is found; an area or period of calm in the midst of turbulence.
Obduracy (n)	stubbornness. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>obdurate</i> ; <i>adv.</i> : <i>obdurately</i>]. L. durare : harden from <i>durus</i> : hard. <i>The intransigent youth's obduracy was irritating to the guardians.</i>
Obeisance (n)	a respectful or submissive gesture. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>obeisant</i>]. From obey . <i>Politicians are always surrounded by people eager to pay their obeisance.</i>
Obelisk (n)	a tapering, usu. four-sided stone pillar.
Obese (adj.)	very fat; corpulent.
Obfuscate (v. tr.)	obscure or confuse; bewilder. <i>The new professor has the tendency to obfuscate the simplest of theories.</i>
Obiter dictum (n)	a judge's expression of opinion uttered in court, but not essential to the decision and therefore without any binding authority. L. obiter : by the way + dictum : a thing said .
Obituary (n)	a notice of death in a newspaper; an account of the life of a deceased person. L. obitus : death .
Objurgate (v. tr.)	scold. [<i>n</i> : <i>objurgation</i>]. L. ob : open to + jurgare : quarrel . <i>The teacher objurgated the errant child.</i>
Oblation (n)	a religious offering; the presentation of bread and wine to God in the Eucharist. L. oblat : offer .
Obligatory (adj.)	legally or morally binding. L. ob + ligare : bind .
Oblique (adj., n & v)	(<i>adj.</i>) slanting, diverting from the straight line; (<i>intr</i>) advance obliquely; (<i>n</i>) an oblique stroke or muscle. <i>The oblique rays of the sun entered the room through the skylight.</i>
Obliterate (v. tr.)	erase, blot out; deface. [<i>n</i> : <i>obliteration</i>]. <i>The miscreants obliterated the good efforts of the municipal commissioner to keep the city clean.</i>
Oblivion (n)	the state of forgetting or having forgotten. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>oblivious</i>]. L. oblivio : forget . <i>Although oblivion is preferable at times, it is more prudent to be aware of social and political issues and concerns.</i>
Obloquy (n)	the state of being generally ill-spoken of; abuse, detraction. <i>The obloquy around the minister's name can not be erased completely or soon.</i>
Obnoxious (adj.)	offensive, objectionable. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>obnoxiously</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>obnoxiousness</i>]. L. noxa : harm . <i>I find pigs and rats obnoxious.</i>
Obscurantism (n)	opposition to knowledge and enlightenment. [<i>n</i> : <i>obscurantist</i>]. L. obscurus : dark . <i>Modern Indian society seems to be enveloped in an obscurantism regarding nationhood that can be ruinous for the country.</i>
Obsecration (n)	earnest entreaty. L. sacri : sacred .

Obsequies (n)	funeral rites. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>obsequial</i>].
Obsequious (adj.)	servilely obedient or attentive. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>obsequiously</i> ; <i>n.</i> : <i>obsequiousness</i>]. L. ob + sequi : follow. <i>The fawning public has, in a reprehensibly obsequious manner, bowed to the dictates of a foreigner.</i>
Obsession (n)	the act of preoccupying or being preoccupied with a thought or idea or action. <i>I have only one obsession: to watch a sitcom while having dinner.</i>
Obsolescent (adj.)	becoming obsolete; going out of date. [<i>n.</i> : <i>obsolescence</i>]. <i>The idea of a closed economy is obsolescent.</i>
Obstetrician (n)	a doctor concerned with childbirth. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>obstetric</i>].
Obstreperous (adj.)	turbulent; unruly; vociferous. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>obstreperously</i>]. L. strepere : make a noise. <i>The crowd turned obstreperous at the sight of the rock star.</i>
Obtrude (v. intr.)	to make oneself unpleasantly or unduly noticeable. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>obtrusive</i>]. L. ob + trudere : push. <i>The doctor's arrogant wife obtruded upon the scene all of a sudden.</i>
Obtund (v. tr.)	blunt or deaden (a sense or faculty). L. tundere : beat.
Obtuse (adj.)	dull-witted; slow to understand; not sharp-pointed or sharp-edged. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>obtusely</i>]. <i>An obtuse mind will not be able to grasp the intricacies of this problem easily.</i>
Obviate (v. tr.)	get round or do away with. L. ob : resistance + via : way. <i>Email has almost obviated the use of letters for communication.</i>
Occident (n)	the west as distinct from orient or the east. L. occidens : sunset, setting, west.
Occult (adj. & v)	(adj.) mystical, supernatural; esoteric, beyond the range of human knowledge; (tr.) (Astron.) of a celestial body: conceal an apparently smaller body from view by passing or being in front of it. L. ob + celare : hide.
Ochlocracy (n)	mob rule. [<i>n.</i> : <i>ochlocrat</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>ochlocratic</i>]. Gk. okhlos : mob.
Octogenarian (n & adj.)	(n) a person from 80 to 89 years old; (adj.) of this age. L. octoginta : eighty.
Ocular (adj. & n)	(adj.) connected with the eyes; visual; (n) the eyepiece of an optical instrument. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>ocularly</i>]. L. oculus : eye.
Oculist (n)	a person who specialises in the medical treatment of eye disorders or defects.
Oddment (n)	an odd article; something left over; miscellaneous articles.
Odious (adj.)	hateful, repulsive. L. odi : to hate. <i>The sight of the young man begging was odious to me.</i>
Odium (n)	a general dislike incurred by a person or associated with an action. L. odi .
Odoriferous (adj.)	diffusing a (usu. fragrant) smell. <i>The atmosphere was odoriferous with the incense sticks burning in a quiet corner of the room.</i>

Odyssey (n)	a series of wanderings; a long adventurous journey. From Gk. Odusseia, an epic poem by Homer describing the wanderings of Odysseus.
Oenophile (n)	a connoisseur of wines. [<i>n</i> : <i>oenophilist</i>]. Gk. <i>oinos</i> : wine .
Offal (n)	the less valuable edible parts of a carcass; refuse or waste stuff; putrid flesh. <i>The dog was fed the chicken's offal.</i>
Officious (adj.)	asserting one's authority aggressively; meddlesome. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>officiously</i>]. L. <i>officiosus</i> : obliging . <i>The officious old man made it his business to meddle in everybody's affairs.</i>
Offset (n & v)	(n) a compensation; (tr.) counterbalance, compensate; print by the offset process.
Offspring (n)	a person's child or children or descendants; a result .
Ogdoad (n)	a group of eight. Gk. <i>oktō</i> : eight .
Ogre (n)	a man-eating giant; a terrifying person.
Oleaginous (adj.)	having the properties of or producing oil. L. <i>oleum</i> : oil .
Olfactory (adj.)	relating to the sense of smell. L. <i>olere</i> : to smell .
Oligarchy (n)	government by a small group of people; a state governed in this way. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>oligarchic</i>]. Gk. <i>oligo</i> : few + <i>arkhō</i> : rule .
Omnipotent (adj.)	having great or absolute power; having great influence. [<i>n</i> : <i>omnipotence</i>] L. <i>omnis</i> : all + <i>potentia</i> : power .
Omnipresent (adj.)	present everywhere at the same time. [<i>n</i> : <i>omnipresence</i>].
Omniscient (adj.)	knowing everything or much. [<i>n</i> : <i>omniscience</i>]. L. <i>scire</i> : know .
Omnivorous (adj.)	feeding on both plants and flesh. [<i>n</i> : <i>omnivore</i>]. L. <i>omni</i> + <i>vorare</i> : devour . <i>Man is omnivorous in his food habits.</i>
Onerous (adj.)	burdensome; causing or requiring trouble. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>onerously</i>]. L. <i>oneris</i> : burden . <i>The onerous task of compiling the papers rested on my shoulders.</i>
Onus (n)	burden, duty, responsibility.
Opaque (adj.)	impenetrable to sight; not transparent; dull-witted.
Ophthalmology (n)	the scientific study of the eye. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>ophthalmological</i>].
Opiate (n)	(adj.) containing or derived from or resembling opium; narcotic, soporific; a thing which soothes. <i>Wine works like an opiate on a person's nerves.</i>
Opinionated (adj.)	conceitedly assertive or dogmatic in one's opinions.
Opprobrious (adj.)	severely scornful; abusive. L. <i>disgraceful act</i> .
Opprobrium (n)	disgrace or bad reputation.attaching to some conduct or act. L. <i>disgraceful act</i> . <i>The opprobrium attached to your name will ensure that you are not re-elected this time.</i>
Oppugnant (adj.)	antagonistic; opposing. [<i>n</i> : <i>oppugnance</i>].

Opulence (n)	state of great wealth; abundance of wealth; profusion. L. opes : wealth . <i>The opulence of the viceregal lodge dazzled the visitors.</i>
Oracle (n)	a person or thing regarded as an infallible guide to future action, etc.; divine inspiration or guidance. L. orare : speak .
Oratory (n)	the art or practice of formal speaking; exaggerated, eloquent, or highly coloured language. L. orare : pray, speak . <i>The chief minister of the state is a past master at oratory.</i>
Orchestic (adj.)	of dancing.
Ordain (v. tr.)	confer holy orders on; decree; appoint. [<i>n</i> : <i>ordination</i>]. L. ordo inis : order . <i>The novice was ordained priest last Sunday.</i>
Ordinance (n)	an authoritative order; a decree; an enactment by a local authority.
Ordination (n)	the act of conferring holy orders, esp. on a priest or deacon; the admission of a priest to Church Ministry.
Ordnance (n)	mounted guns; cannon; a branch of government service dealing with military stores and materials.
Ordure (n)	excrement, dung; foul language; filth.
Orectic (adj.)	(Med. & Phil) of or concerning desire or appetite. Gk. oregō : stretch out, reach for .
Orgy (n)	wild, drunken revelry, esp. one at which indiscriminate sexual activity takes place; excessive indulgence in any activity. Gk. orgia : secret rites .
Orient (n, adj., v)	(n) the countries east of the Mediterranean; (tr.) place or exactly determine the position of with the aid of a compass; settle or find the bearings of place or build facing towards the east; determine how one stands in relation to one's surroundings. L. oriens : rising, sunlight, east . (n) <i>Asia is the orient while Europe the Occident.</i> (v) <i>Bewildered with the new situation I desperately tried to orient myself with it.</i>
Orison (n)	a prayer. <i>The mass of people sang orisons to god when the miasma of drought was effaced.</i>
Ornate (adj.)	elaborately adorned. [<i>adv</i> : <i>ornately</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>ornateness</i>]. L. ornare : adorn . <i>The Taj Mahal and such other Mughal buildings are known for their ornate ceilings.</i>
Ornithology (n)	the scientific study of birds. Gk. ornithos : bird + logos .
Orography (n)	the branch of physical geography dealing with mountains. [<i>adj</i> : <i>orographic</i>].
Orotund (adj.)	(of the voice or phrasing) full, round, imposing; (of writing, style, etc) pompous, pretentious. L. ore rotundo : with rounded mouth . <i>Everyone does not admire the writer's orotund turn of phrase.</i>
Oscillate (v)	swing to and fro; vacillate; undergo high-frequency alternations. [<i>n</i> : <i>oscillation</i>]. L. oscillat : swing .
Oscitation (n)	yawning, drowsiness; inattention; negligence. L. oscitare : gape .
Ostensible (adj.)	apparent but not necessarily real; professed. [<i>adv</i> : <i>ostensibly</i>]. <i>The policy was adopted with the ostensible purpose of providing mass employment.</i>

Osteo (combined form) bone.

Osteopathy (n) the treatment of medical disorders through the manipulation and massage of the skeleton and the musculature. [*adj.*: *osteopathic*].

Osteoporosis (n) a condition of brittle and fragile bones caused by loss of bony tissue, esp. as a result of hormonal changes, or deficiency of calcium and vitamins.
Gk. **osteo** + **poros**: **passage, pore**.

Ostracize (v. tr.) exclude from society, favour, common privileges, etc. [*n*: *ostracism*].
The elders of the city ostracized the non-conformist who refused to marry within the caste.

Otiose (adj.) serving no practical purpose; functionless; futile.
L. **otium**: **leisure**.
The equipment you have bought is otiose and was best kept in the shop.

Outlaw (n & v) (n) a fugitive from the law; a person deprived of the protection of law; (tr) declare illegal.
[*n*: *outlawry*].

Outrageous (adj.) shocking; immoderate; grossly cruel; immoral, offensive. [*adv.*: *outrageously*].
The outlaw's assertions were outrageous in their assumed innocence.

Ovation (n) an enthusiastic response, esp. spontaneous and sustained applause.
L. **ovare**: **exult**.
The singer received a standing ovation when she appeared on the stage.

Overbearing (adj.) domineering; overpowering; dictatorial. [*adv.*: *overbearingly*].
The entire family resents the patriarch's overbearing behaviour.

Overcast (adj., v, n) (adj.) of the sky, etc: covered with cloud; dull and gloomy; (tr.) cover with clouds or darkness; stitch over to prevent fraying; (n) cloud covering a large part of the sky.
The overcast sky dampened our spirits.

Overheads (n) money spent regularly to keep a business running.
The overhead expenditure in this business is very high.

Overriding (adj.) most important; arrogantly superseding.
The element of innocence is the overriding consideration in this case.

Overt (adj.) unconcealed; done openly. [*adv.*: *overtly*].
L. **ovrir**: **open**.
The overt brewing of spurious liquor is done under the aegis of the local police.

P

Pabulum (n)	food, esp. for the mind; bland intellectual fare. L. pascere : feed.
Pacemaker (n)	a competitor who sets the pace in a race; a natural or artificial device for stimulating the heart muscle and regulating its contractions; a person who sets an example for others.
Pachyderm (n)	any thick-skinned mammal, esp. an elephant or rhinoceros. [<i>adj</i> : pachydermatous].
Pacify (v. tr.)	appease. L. pax pacis : peace. <i>The UN secretary general tried to pacify Iraq and the USA in order to avert war.</i>
Paeon (n)	song of praise, thanksgiving or triumph.
Pageant (n)	a spectacular or brilliant display, procession or play performed in the open, depicting historical events; tableau on a fixed stage or moving vehicle. <i>The Asian Games came to a colourful end with a pageant depicting the history of the Games.</i>
Paladin (n)	a champion; a knight-errant.
Palatable (adj)	pleasant to taste; acceptance; satisfactory. <i>Jingoistic ideas are not palatable to me.</i>
Palaver (n & v)	(n) prolonged fuss and bother; profuse or idle talk; cajolery; (intr) talk profusely; (tr.) flatter. Port. palavra : word. <i>The palaver over the issue of 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament was absolutely unnecessary.</i>
Paleo	(prefix) ancient.
Palaeography (n)	the study of ancient writings and texts. [<i>adj</i> : palaeographic]. L. palaeo + graphy .
Palaentology (n)	the branch of science that deals with extinct and fossil animals and plants. [<i>adj</i> : palaentological]. L. palaeo + Gk. onta (on: being + eimi: be) + logos .
Palindrome (n)	a word or phrase that reads the same backwards and forwards, (eg.: nurses run, rotator). [<i>adj</i> : palindromic]. Gk. palindromos : running back again from palin: again + drome: run.
Pallingensis (n)	(Biol.) the exact reproduction of ancestral characteristics in ontogenesis. [<i>adj</i> : pallingensis]. Gk. palin + genesis : birth.
Palliative (n & adj.)	(n) sth. Used to alleviate pain, anxiety, etc; (adj.) serving to alleviate. <i>Your soothing words have worked like a palliative on my frayed nerves.</i>
Pallid (adj.)	pale, esp. from illness. [<i>n</i> : pallidity]. From pale. <i>Your pallid countenance reveals your need for a prolonged period of convalescence.</i>
Pallor (n)	paleness. L. pallēre : be pale.
Palpable (adj.)	that can be touched or felt by the senses or mind. [<i>n</i> : palpability]. <i>The darkness in the tunnel was palpable.</i>
Palpitate (v. intr.)	(of the heart) beat rapidly and strongly; throb. [<i>adj</i> : palpitant]. L. palpare : touch gently.
Palter (v. intr)	haggle or equivocate; trifle. [<i>n</i> : palterer].

Paltry (adj.)	worthless, contemptible, trifling. [<i>n</i> : <i>paltriness</i>]. Low Ger. paltrig : ragged . <i>The extra hand was paid a paltry sum after the conclusion of the project.</i>
Paludal (adj.)	of a marsh; malarial. [<i>n</i> : <i>paludism</i>]. L. palus udis : marsh .
Pamper (v. tr.)	over-indulge; spoil.
Panacea (n)	a universal remedy. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>panacean</i>]. L. pan : all/whole + akos : remedy .
Panache (n)	flamboyant confidence of style or manner. <i>Mel Gibson played the role of Hamlet with a panache unmatched by even Laurence Olivier.</i>
Pandemonium (n)	utter confusion; scene of utter confusion. L. place of all demons in Milton's 'Paradise Lost' from Gk. pan : all + daimon : demons . <i>Irresponsible members have reduced parliament to a pandemonium.</i>
Pander (v & n)	(intr) gratify or indulge a person, a desire or weakness, etc.; (n) a go-between in an illicit relationship; a procurer; a person who encourages coarse desires. <i>Citizens should no longer pander to the evil designs of self-gratifying politicians.</i>
Panegyric (n)	a laudatory discourse; an eulogy. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>panegyrica</i>].
Panjandrum (n)	a mock title for an important person; a pompous or pretentious official, etc.
Panoply (n)	a complete or splendid array; a complete suit of armour. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>panoplied</i>]. L. panoplia : full armour from Gk. pan + hopla : arms .
Panorama (n)	an unbroken view of a surrounding region; a complete survey or presentation of a subject; a sequence of events, etc; a wide view. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>panoramic</i>]. Gk. pan + horama : view from <i>horao</i> : see. <i>The train journey opened up a huge panorama of endless fields and rolling hills.</i>
Pantheon (n)	the deities of a people collectively; a temple dedicated to all gods; a group of individuals who are admired, respected or distinguished. Gk. pan + theion : holy from <i>theos</i> : god. <i>My grandmother worships the entire pantheon of Hindu gods and goddesses.</i>
Pantisocracy (n)	(Hist) Utopian community in which all are equal and all rule.
Pantomime (n)	the use of gestures and facial expression to convey meaning, esp. in drama and dance.
Pantomorphic (adj.)	taking all shapes.
Papal (adj.)	of or relating to the pope. L. papa : pope . <i>The papal verdict is against abortion.</i>
Parable (n)	a narrative of imagined events used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson; an allegory. L. parabola : comparison .
Parachronism (n)	an error on chronology, esp. by assigning too late a date. Gk. para : beside, past , beyond + khronos : time .
Paradox (n)	a seemingly contradictory or absurd statement, even if correct; a person or thing conflicting with a preconceived notion of what is reasonable or possible. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>paradoxical</i>]. Gk. para + doxa : opinion .
Paragon (n)	a model of excellence or perfection. It. paragone : touchstone . <i>Lochinvar was a paragon of chivalry and courage.</i>

Parameter (n)	(Math.) a quantity constant in the case considered but varying in different cases; a constant element or factor, esp. serving as a limit or boundary. [<i>adj.: parametric</i>]. Gk. para: beside + metron: measure . <i>Your conduct was justified since it adhered to the parameters of decency.</i>
Paramount (adj.)	supreme; most important; pre-eminent; in supreme authority. [<i>adv.: paramountly</i>]. <i>An atmosphere conducive to exports is of paramount importance to Indian foreign trade.</i>
Paramour (n)	an illicit lover of a married person. Old Fr. par amour: by love .
Paranoia (n)	a mental disorder characterized by delusions of persecution and self-importance; an abnormal tendency to suspect and mistrust others. [<i>adj.: paranoiac</i>]. Gk. paranoos: distracted . <i>The intelligent student's paranoia regarding strangers translated into his failure to embark upon a good career.</i>
Paraphernalia (n)	miscellaneous belongings. Gk. parapherna: property apart from a dowry . <i>The young girl's domestic paraphernalia proved to be an on the journey.</i>
Parasite (n)	an organism/person living off another and benefitting at his/her expense. [<i>adj.: parasitic</i>]. Gk. parasitos: a person who eats at another's table .
Parcenary (n)	joint heirship.
Par excellence (adv.)	without equal. <i>Shakespeare's sonnets are sonnet par excellence.</i>
Parity (n)	equality, equivalence; being at par; (Med.) the condition of having borne children L. equality ; (Med.) L. parus: bearing , from parere: bring forth.
Parlance (n)	a particular way of speaking as regards choice of words, idioms, etc. Old Fr. parler: speak .
Parley (n & v)	(n) a conference for debating points in a dispute, esp. a discussion of terms for an armistice; (intr) hold such a discussion. Old Fr. parler . <i>The two dictators held a parley at Munich before embarking upon the war.</i>
Parlous (adj. & adv.)	dangerous or difficult; (adv.) extremely. Mid Eng: perilous .
Parochial (adj.)	of or concerning a parish; merely local or narrow in scope. [<i>n: parochialism</i>]. <i>The parochial nature of Indian industry is rapidly evolving into a global one.</i>
Parody (n & v)	(n) a humorous, exaggerated imitation of an author, literary work, style, etc; (tr.) compose a parody of, mimic humorously. [<i>adj.: parodic</i>]. (n) <i>Alexander Pope's poem 'Rape of the Lock' is a parody of the epic form.</i> (v) <i>Alexander Pope parodied the epic form in his poem 'Rape of the Lock'.</i>
Parole (n & v)	(n) the release of a prisoner temporarily for a special purpose or completely before the expiry of a sentence, on the promise of good behaviour; (tr) release a prisoner on such terms.
Paronym (n)	a word formed from a foreign word; a word cognate with another. [<i>adj.: paronymous</i>]. Gk. para + onuma: name .
Paronomasia (n)	a play on words; a pun.
Paroxysm (n)	a sudden attack or outburst of anger, laughter, disease, etc. [<i>adj.: paroxysmal</i>]. Gk. para: oxumō: sharp . <i>The actor was caught in a paroxysm of laughter while rehearsing the comic role he was supposed to play.</i>

Parricide (n)	the killing of a near relative, esp. a parent; a person who commits such a crime. [adj.: <i>parricidal</i>]. L. parens : parents.
Parsimonious (adj.)	careful in the use of money and other resources; stinginess. [<i>n</i> : <i>parsimony</i>]. L. parcere : spare. <i>Being parsimonious by nature helped Satish in his later life.</i>
Parthian shot (n)	a remark or a glance reserved for the moment of departure. Parthis, an ancient kingdom in West Asia, from the custom of a retreating Parthian horseman firing a shot at the enemy.
Partisan (n & adj.)	(n) a strong, unreasoning supporter of a party, cause, etc.; (adj.) biased.
Parturition (n)	childbirth; the act of bringing forth. L. parturire : be in labour.
Parvenu (n & adj.)	(n) a person of obscure origin who has gained wealth or position; an upstart; (adj.) characteristic of such a person.
Passepartout (n)	a master key; a simple picture frame (esp. for mounted photographs).
Pastime (n)	a recreation or hobby.
Pastoral (adj. & n)	(adj.) pertaining to shepherds or flocks, etc; portraying country life, usu. In a romantic or idealised form; (n) a pastoral poem, play, etc.; letter from a pastor (esp. the bishop) to the clergy or people. L. pascere past : feed, graze. <i>Gray is famous for his pastoral elegies.</i>
Patent (n, adj. & v)	(n) a government authorization to an individual or organisation conferring a right or title, esp. the sole right to make or use or sell some invention; an invention or process protected by it; (adj.) obvious, plain, made and marked under a patent; (tr.) obtain a patent. [<i>adv</i> .: <i>patently</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>patency</i>].
Pathetic (adj.)	arousing pity, sadness or contempt; miserably inadequate. Ref: pathos. <i>The government's performance on the domestic front has been pathetic.</i>
Pathogen (n)	an agent causing disease. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>pathogenic</i>].
Patina (n)	a film, usu. green, formed on the surface of old bronze; a similar film on other surfaces; a gloss produced by age on woodwork. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>patinated</i>]. L. patina : dish.
Patriarchy (n)	a form of social organisation or government in which a man or men rule and descent is reckoned through the male line. [<i>n</i> : <i>patriarchism</i>]. Gk. patria : family from pater: father + arkhēs: ruler. <i>Patriarchy as a philosophy and system is passe in the age of feminism.</i>
Patricide (n)	killing of one's father; a person who commits such a crime. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>patricidal</i>]. L. pater + cide from caedere : kill.
Patrilocal (adj.)	of system of marriage where the wife goes to live with the husband's family.
Patrimony (n)	property inherited from one's father or ancestor; a heritage. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>patrimonial</i>]. L. patris/pater : father.
Patulous (adj.)	(Bot. & Lit.) spreading; open, expanded.
Paucity (n)	scarcity, lack, dearth. L. paucus : few. <i>There is a paucity of talent in the human resource field in India.</i>
Peasantry (n)	the community of farmers.
Peccadillo (n)	a minor offence, an insignificant fault.

Peccant (adj.)	inducing disease; sinning; morbid. [<i>n</i> : <i>peccancy</i>]. L. peccare : sin .
Peculation (n)	embezzlement. [<i>v</i> : <i>peculate</i>].
Pecuniary (adj.)	pertaining to money. L. pecunia : money . <i>The family's pecuniary condition being bad, they were helped by their generous neighbours for a prolonged period.</i>
Pedagogue (n)	a schoolmaster; a strict or pedantic teacher. Gk. paidos : boy + agōgos : guide .
Pedant (n)	a doctrinaire; a person who insists on a strict adherence to formal rules or literal meaning at the expense of a wider view; a person who rates academic knowledge or technical training above everything else. [<i>adj</i> : <i>pedantic</i>].
Peddle (v)	sell goods, esp. in small quantities; advocate or promote (ideas, philosophy, etc.); sell drugs illegally.
Pedestrian (n & adj.)	(<i>n</i>) a person who is walking, esp. in a town; (<i>adj</i> .) prosaic, dull, uninspired. (<i>adj</i> .) <i>The critic has an absolutely pedestrian approach towards literary theories.</i>
P(a)ediatrics (n)	the branch of medicine dealing with children and their diseases. [<i>adj</i> : <i>paediatric</i>]. Gk. paedo : child + iatros : physician .
Pedigree (n)	a recorded line of descent of a person or esp. a pure bred domestic or pet animal; the derivation of a word; a genealogical table; the history of a person, thing, idea, etc. [<i>adj</i> : <i>pedigreed</i>].
Peevish (adj.)	querulous, irritable. [<i>adv</i> : <i>peevishly</i>].
Pejorative (adj. & n)	(<i>adj</i> .) (of a word, etc) depreciatory; (<i>n</i>) a depreciatory word. [<i>adv</i> : <i>pejoratively</i>]. L. pejorare : make worse .
Pellucid (adj.)	(of water, light, etc) transparent, clear; (of speech, writing, etc) not confused, clear; mentally clear. [<i>n</i> : <i>pellucidity</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>pellucidly</i>]. L. lucere : shine .
Penal (adj.)	pertaining to punishment or its infliction; punishable; extremely severe. [<i>adv</i> : <i>penally</i>].
Penchant (n)	an inclination or liking. Fr. pencher : inclination . <i>Bengal has a penchant for producing realistic, albeit slightly depressing films.</i>
Penetralia (n)	innermost recesses of a building, as of a temple or a palace, a sanctuary, hidden things.
Penitent (n & adj.)	(<i>adj</i> .) regretting and wishing to atone for sins, etc; repentant; (<i>n</i>) such a person. [<i>n</i> : <i>penitence</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>penitently</i>]. <i>The penitents were asked to be present for a confession of their sins.</i> L. paenitere : repent .
Penitentiary (n & adj.)	(<i>n</i>) a reformatory prison; (<i>adj</i> .) of or concerning a reformatory prison.
Pensile (adj.)	pendulous, hanging own. L. pens : hang .
Pensive (adj.)	thoughtful; sorrowfully thoughtful. [<i>adv</i> : <i>pensively</i>]. <i>Sitting in a pensive mood, I did not notice the flight of birds above me.</i>
Penultimate (adj. & n)	the last but one. <i>On the penultimate day of the seminar, the university staged a series of one-act plays.</i> <i>This is the penultimate paper for the day.</i>
Penurious (adj.)	poor, destitute; stingy; scanty. [<i>n</i> : <i>penury</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>penuriously</i>]. <i>In their penurious condition, the people in the valley cannot afford to think of even the basic comforts of life.</i>

Perambulate (v)	(tr.) walk through, over, or about; (intr) walk from place to place. per + L. ambulare: walk.
Perception (n)	the faculty of understanding with the mind or sight; the intuitive recognition of a truth; an interpretation or impression based on one's understanding of something. [<i>adj.: perceptual, perceptual; adv.: perceptually</i>].
Percipient (adj. & n)	(adj.) able to perceive; conscious; discerning; (n) a person who perceives, esp. something outside the range of senses.
Percolate (v.)	(intr) filter or ooze gradually (esp. through a porous surface); (tr) prepare (coffee) by repeatedly passing water through ground beans; permeate; strain through a fine mesh. L. per: through/all over + colare: strain. <i>The idea of starting a business slowly percolated through my mind.</i>
Perdition (n)	eternal death, damnation. L. perdere: destroy.
Perdurable (adj.)	permanent, eternal, durable. [<i>n: perdurability</i>].
Peregrination (n)	extensive journey, esp. at leisure. [<i>v. intr.: peregrinate</i>]. L. peregre: abroad from per: through + ager: field.
Peremptory (adj.)	imperious, dictatorial; admitting no denial or refusal; (Law) not open to appeal or challenge; absolutely fixed, essential. [<i>adv.: peremptorily; n: peremptoriness</i>]. <i>The matron declared the new rules in a peremptory tone.</i>
Perennial (adj.)	lasting through the year; lasting along time or for ever. L. per + annus: year. <i>The perennial rivers of North India have given birth to a huge tract of fertile land.</i>
Perfervid (adj.)	very fervid; zealous, eager.
Perfidy (n)	treachery. [<i>adv.: perfidiously</i>]. L. per + fidus: faith. <i>The perfidy of the act of revealing scientific data to the neighbouring country stunned the entire nation.</i>
Perforate (v. tr.)	pierce; make hole(s) through; make an opening into. <i>My little cousin perforated the box before putting the puppy in it.</i>
Perforce (adv.)	necessarily; unavoidably. <i>The students had to perforce attend the seminar in order to obtain their transfer certificates.</i>
Perfunctory (adj.)	done merely for the sake of getting through a duty; mechanical, superficial. [<i>adv.: perfunctorily</i>].
Perimeter (n)	outer boundary. [<i>adj.: perimetric</i>]. Gk. peri: round, about; nearest to + metron: measure.
Peripatetic (adj.)	itinerant; going from place to place. [<i>adv.: peripatetically</i>]. Gk. peri + pateō: walk. <i>The artist's peripatetic life wrought havoc in his domestic life.</i>
Peripheral (adj.)	of minor importance; on the fringe. <i>Uniform civil code is a peripheral issue compared to the larger issue of a stable government.</i>
Periphery (n)	the boundary of an area or surface; an outer or surrounding region. Gk. periphēreia: circumference. <i>Non-governmental organisations take care of people living on the periphery of society.</i>
Periphrasis (n)	a roundabout way of speaking; a circumlocution.
Perjury (n)	(Law) a breach of an oath, esp. the act of wilfully telling an untruth when on oath. L. per + jurare: swear.

Permeate (v)	(tr) pervade; penetrate throughout; (intr) diffuse itself. [<i>n: permeance/permeation; adj.: permeant</i>]. L. per + meare: pass, go. <i>The membrane of a plant cell allows certain particles to permeate through.</i>
Pernicious (adj.)	destructive, ruinous. [<i>n: perniciousness; adv.: perniciously</i>]. L. perniciēs: ruin from nex necis: death. <i>Locusts have a pernicious effect on crops.</i>
Peroration (n)	the concluding party of a speech; forcefully summing up what has been said. [<i>v: perorate</i>]. L. per + orare: speak.
Perpetrate (v. tr.)	commit or perform a crime, blunder or anything outrageous. [<i>n: perpetration</i>]. L. per + partare: effect. <i>The rats have perpetrated a massive insurgency operation against the household.</i>
Perpetual (adj.)	eternal; lasting for ever. [<i>adv.: perpetually</i>]. L. perpes etis: continuous.
Perpetuity (n)	the state or quality of being perpetual.
Perplexed (adj.)	puzzled, bewildered; confused. <i>The deer ran away perplexed, when the men suddenly invaded their territory.</i>
Persevere (v. intr)	continue steadfastly or determinedly; persist. <i>One must persevere to perform well to carve a niche for oneself in any field.</i>
Persiflage (n)	banter; light raillery.
Persistent (adj.)	continuing obstinately; enduring. [<i>n: persistence/persistency</i>].
Personable (adj.)	pleasing in appearance and behaviour.
Personage (n)	a person of rank or importance; a character in a play.
Persona non grata (n)	a person who is not acceptable or welcome.
Perspicacious (adj.)	having mental penetration or discernment. [<i>adv.: perspicaciously; n: perspicacity/perspicaciousness</i>]. <i>One does not have to be perspicacious to understand that the east is maniacally aping the west.</i>
Pert (adj.)	impudent, esp. in speech or conduct. [<i>n: pertness; adv.: pertly</i>].
Pertinacious (adj.)	stubborn, persistent, obstinate. [<i>n: pertinaciousness/[pertinacity; adv.: pertinaciously</i>]. L. per + tenax: tenacious. <i>The rain like a pertinacious old woman refused to give way.</i>
Pertinent (adj.)	relevant to the matter in hand. [<i>n: pertinence</i>]. L. per + tenere: hold. <i>The candidate's pertinent points rejuvenated the discussion.</i>
Perturb (v. tr.)	throw into confusion or disorder; disturb mentally; agitate. L. per + turbare: disturb.
Pervasive (adj.)	widespread. [<i>adv.: pervasively</i>].
Perverse (adj.)	deliberately or stubbornly departing from what is reasonable or required; wayward. [<i>n: perversity</i>]. <i>The perverse traffic irritated all of us who were in a hurry to reach office.</i>
Pessimist (n)	one who takes the worst view or expects the worst outcome. [<i>n: pessimism</i>]. L. pessimus: worst.
Pesticide (n)	a substance used for destroying insects.

Pestiferous (adj.)	harmful. <i>Pests cannot withstand the pestiferous effect of pesticides.</i>
Pestilence (n)	a fatal epidemic disease, esp. bubonic plague.
Petite (adj.)	of small and dainty build.
Petrification (n)	the process of fossilization whereby organic matter is turned into a stony substance; a state of extreme fear. Gk. petra : rock, petros: stone.
Petrology (n)	the study of the origin, structure, composition, etc. of rocks. [<i>adj.</i> : petrologic]. Gk. petra + logos .
Petulant (adj.)	peevishly irritable or impatient. [<i>n</i> : petulance; <i>adv.</i> : petulantly]. <i>The seductress looked peevish when the hero walked off into the sunset with his heroine on his arm.</i>
Phantom (n & adj.)	a ghost; a mental illusion.
Pharmacist (n)	a person qualified to prepare and dispense drugs. Gk. pharmakon : drug.
Pharmacology (n)	the branch of medicine that deals with the uses, effects, and modes of action of drugs. [<i>adj.</i> : pharmacological].
Phenomenol (adj.)	extraordinary, remarkable; perceptible only to the senses. Gk. phainomai : appear from phaino: show. <i>Mr. Narayanmurthy has the phenomenal capability to motivate workers.</i>
Philander (v. intr)	womanize.
Philanthropy (n)	a love of humankind; practical benevolence, esp. charity on a large scale. Gk. phil : philosophy + anthropos : human being.
Phile	forming nouns and adjectives denoting a fondness for what is specified. <i>My father is an anglophile.</i> <i>My friend, who is a bibliophile, has a huge library at his house.</i>
Philistine (n & adj.)	(n) a member of a group opposing the Israelites in ancient Palestine; a person who is hostile or indifferent to culture, or one whose interests and tastes are commonplace. [<i>n</i> : philistinism].
Phillumenist (n)	a collector of matchbox labels. [<i>n</i> : phillumeny].
Philology (n)	the science of language, esp. in its historical and comparative aspects; the love of learning and literature. [<i>adj.</i> : philological; <i>v. intr.</i> philologize].
Phlegmatic (adj.)	unexcitable, unemotional. [<i>adv.</i> : phlegmatically].
Phobia (n)	an abnormal or morbid fear or aversion; forming abstract nouns denoting fear or dislike (eg: xenophobia). Gk. phobos : fear.
Phoenix (n)	a unique person or thing; a mythical bird, that after living for five or six centuries, in the Arabian desert, burnt itself on a funeral pyre and rose from the ashes with renewed vigour and youth. <i>The political party has risen phoenix-like from its ashes to contest the elections once again.</i>
Phonetic (adj.)	representing vocal sounds; having a direct correspondence between symbols and sounds. [<i>adv.</i> : phonetically].
Phony (adj. & n)	(adj.) sham; counterfeit; fraudulent; (n) such a person.
Phosphorescent (adj.)	radiating light without generating any/much heat. [<i>n</i> : phosphorescence].
Photogenic (adj.)	having an appearance that looks pleasing in photographs; (Biol.) producing or emitting light. [<i>adv.</i> : photogenically].

Photosynthesis (n)	the process by which energy of sunlight is used by organisms, esp. green plants to synthesize carbohydrates from carbon dioxide and water. [<i>v. tr.: photosynthesize</i>].
Phylactery (n)	an amulet, charm; a fringe, a border; a usu. ostentatious religious observance. Gk. phulaktērion : amulet .
Physicist (n)	a person skilled or qualified in physics.
Physiognomy (n)	the cast or form of a person's features, expression, body, etc.; the art of supposedly judging character from facial characteristics; the external features of a landscapes. [<i>adj.: physiognomic</i>]. Gk. physio (phusis: nature) + gnōmōn : judge .
Piacular (adj.)	expiatory. L. piare : appease .
Picaroon (n)	a rogue, a thief; a pirate.
Picturesque (adj.)	beautiful or striking as in a picture; strikingly graphic; vivid.
Piebald (adj. & n)	(adj.) having irregular patches of two colours, esp. black and white; (n) a piebald animal.
Pièce de résistance (n)	the most important or remarkable item; the most substantial dish at a meal. <i>After the entire show, the troupe came up with their pièce de résistance, a pantomime of King Lear's lamentation on the heath.</i>
Piecemeal (adv. & adj.)	(adv.) piece by piece; gradually; (adj.) partial, unsystematic, gradual. <i>The process of liberalisation in India has been implemented in a piecemeal fashion.</i>
Pigeonhole (n & v)	(n) each of a set of compartments in a cabinet or on a wall for papers, letters, etc; a small recess for a pigeon to rest in; (tr) assign to a preconceived category; put a matter aside for future consideration or to forget it.
Pighedaed (adj.)	obstinate. [<i>adv.: pigheadedly; n: pigheadedness</i>].
Pigmentation (n)	the natural colouring of plants, animals, etc.; the excessive colouring of tissue by the deposition of pigment. L. pingere : paint .
Pilfer (v. tr)	steal in small quantities. [<i>n: pilferage</i>]. Old Fr. pillage : plunder . <i>Some members of the legislative assembly have been pilfering state funds over a long period of time.</i>
Pillage (v & n)	(v) plunder; (n) the act or instance of plundering.
Pillory (n & v)	(n) a wooden framework with holes for the head and hands, enabling the public to assault or ridicule a person so imprisoned; (tr) expose to ridicule or public contempt. <i>A large number of revolutionaries were pilloried in France during the French Revolution.</i>
Pilous (adj.)	covered with hair.
Pinchbeck (adj.)	counterfeit; sham; cheap.
Pinnacle (n)	the culmination or climax; a natural peak. <i>At the pinnacle of his power, the dean tendered his resignation.</i>
Pioneer (n, v)	(n) an initiator of a new enterprise, invention, etc.; (tr) initiate or originate; lead; (intr) act or prepare the way. <i>David Livingstone was a pioneer in opening up the 'Dark Continent' to the rest of the world.</i>
Piquant (adj.)	agreeably pungent; sharp or appetizing. [<i>n: piquancy; adv.: piquantly</i>].

Pique (v & n)	(tr) wound the pride of, irritate; arouse curiosity or interest; (n) ill-feeling; enmity, resentment. <i>In a pique of discontent, I resigned from the organisation that I had served faithfully for the past decade.</i>
Pirate ((n & v)	(n) a person who robs ships at sea; a person who infringes another's copyright or other business rights; a plagiarist; (tr) appropriate or reproduce the works or ideas etc. of another without permission, for one's own benefit. [<i>adj.: piratic</i>]. Gk. peiraō : attempt, assault .
Piscine (adj.)	of or concerning fish. L. piscis : fish.
Piteous (adj.)	deserving or causing pity; wretched. [<i>adv.: piteously; n: piteousness</i>]. <i>The group put up a piteous show on the final day of the presentations.</i>
Pithy (adj.)	condensed, terse and forcible.
Pittance (n)	a scanty, meagre allowance, remuneration, etc; a small amount. <i>Labourers in most states receive a pittance for their arduous labour.</i>
Pivot (n & v)	(n) a short shaft/pin on which sth. turns; a crucial person or thing on which an enterprise, organisation, scheme, etc. turns; (intr) turn on or as if on a pivot. [<i>adj.: pivotal</i>]. <i>Research and development is the pivot on which pharmaceutical companies operate and compete.</i>
Pixilated (adj.)	crazy.
Placate (v. tr.)	pacify, conciliate. [<i>adv.: placatingly; adj.: placatory</i>]. <i>Kofi Annan is trying his best to placate the USA and Iraq.</i>
Placid (adj.)	peaceful, unexcitable; mild. [<i>n: placidity</i>]. <i>A placid sea does not look as attractive as a turbulent one.</i>
Plagiarism (n)	the act or instance of passing off another's work, ideas, thoughts, etc. as one's own. [<i>adj.: plagiaristic</i>]. L. plagiarus : kidnapper.
Plaintive (adj.)	mournful. [<i>adv.: plaintively</i>]. <i>The flautist played a plaintive tune.</i>
Plaque (n)	an ornamental tablet of metal or porcelain, esp. attached to a building, etc. in commemoration of a person, events, etc.; a deposit on teeth where bacteria proliferate.
Platitude (n)	a commonplace remark, esp. one solemnly delivered. [<i>adj.: platitudinous</i>].
Platonic (adj.)	(of love or friendship) purely spiritual, not sexual; harmless; pertaining to the Greek philosopher Plato. <i>Rekha could not marry Ashish whom she liked but who wanted to have a purely platonic relationship with her.</i>
Plaudit (n)	a round of applause; an emphatic expression of approval. Plaus : applaud, said by Roman actors at the end of a play.
Plausible (adj.)	(of an argument, statement, etc) seemingly probable or reasonable; persuasive but deceptive. [<i>n: plausibility</i>]. <i>What you say is plausible but perhaps not possible.</i>
Plebeian (adj. & n)	(n) a commoner; (adj.) of low birth; uncultured; of the common people. [<i>n: plebeianism</i>]. L. plebis : common people. <i>The French aristocracy, before the Revolution, was condescending towards the plebeians.</i>
Plebiscite (n)	vote by all electors of a state on an important public question; the public expression of a community's opinion. L. plebis : scitum : decree.

Plenary (adj.)	entire, unqualified; to be attended by all members. L. plenus : full. <i>The party's plenary session was sparsely attended.</i>
Plenipotentiary (n & adj.)	(n) a person invested with the full power of independent action; (adj.) having this power. L. plenus + potentia : power.
Plenitude (n)	fullness, completeness, abundance. L. plenus . <i>The show was dominated by a plenitude of colour and sound.</i>
Plethora (n)	an oversupply; (Med.) an excessive supply of red corpuscles in the blood; an excess of any body fluid. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>plethoric</i>].
Plexus (n)	(Anat.) a network of nerves; any network of web-like formation. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>plexiform</i>]. L. plex : plait.
Pliable (adj.)	supple; compliant; bending easily. [<i>n</i> : <i>pliability</i>]. Fr. plier : bend. <i>The general's pliable mind brought disaster to the army.</i>
Plimsoll Line (n)	a marking on a ship's side showing the limit of legal submersion under various conditions. S. Plimsoll, promoter of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1876.
Plumassier (n)	a person who trades or works in ornamental feathers. From plume .
Plummet (n & v)	(n) a plumb or plumb-line; a sounding line; (intr) fall or plunge rapidly.
Plutocracy (n)	a government (or state ruled) by the wealthy. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>plutocratic</i>]. Gk. ploutos : wealth.
Pluvial (adj. & n)	(adj.) pertaining to rain; (Geol.) caused by rain; (n) a period of prolonged rainfall. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>pluvial</i>] L. pluvia : rain. <i>The pluvial floods wrought havoc on the countryside.</i>
Pneumatic (adj.)	pertaining to air or wind; containing or operated by compressed air; connected with or containing air cavities, esp. in the bone of birds and in fish. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>pneumatically</i>]. Gk. pneuma : wind + pnēo : breathe.
Poach (v)	(tr) catch animals, birds, fish illegally; (intr) trespass.
Pocourante (adj.)	uncaring, indifferent.
Pogrom (n)	an organised massacre. Rus. gromit : destroy. <i>Nazi Germany carried out a massive pogrom against the Jews.</i>
Poignant (adj.)	painfully sharp to the emotions or senses; deeply moving; arousing sympathy; sharp or pungent in taste or smell.
Poise (n & v)	(n) composure, self-possession; equilibrium; (tr) carry (one's head, etc in a particular way); (intr) be balanced; hover in the air. <i>The cricket player revealed admirable poise in the face of unnerving questions.</i>
Polarize (v)	(tr) restrict vibrations to one direction; give magnetic or electric polarity (to a substance or body); reduce the voltage; (tr & intr) divide into two groups of opposing opinion. [<i>n</i> : <i>polarization</i>].
Polemics (n)	the art or practice of controversial discussion. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>polemical</i> : <i>controversial</i>]. Gk. polemos : war.
Poltroon (n)	a coward. [<i>n</i> : <i>poltroneery</i>]. L. poltro : sluggard.

Polyandry (n)	polygamy in which a woman has more than one husband; (Bot) the condition of having many stamens. Gk. poly : many + andros : male.
Polygamy (n)	the practice of having more than one wife or mate; (n) bearing some flowers with stamens only, some with pistils only, some with both, on the same or different plants. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>polygamic</i>]. Gk. poly + gamos : marrying.
Polyglot (adj. & n)	(adj.) of many languages; (of a person) speaking or writing many languages. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>polyglotta</i>]. Gk. poly + glotta : tongue. <i>India is a polyglot culture.</i>
Polymath (n)	a person of much or varied learning; a great scholar. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>polymathic</i> ; <i>m</i> : <i>polymathy</i>]. Gk. poly + manthano : learn. <i>Professor Amartya Sen is a polymath, equally proficient in Economics, Philosophy and the Arts.</i>
Polytheism (n)	the belief in or worship of more than one god. [<i>n</i> : <i>polytheist</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>polytheistic</i>]. Gk. poly + theos : god.
Polypod (adj.)	(Zool.) having many feet. Gk. poly + ped : feet.
Pomology (n)	the science of fruit growing. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>pomological</i>]. L. pomum : fruit + logos .
Pomp (n)	splendour; splendid or grand display or ceremony.
Pompous (adj.)	affectedly grand or solemn; self-important. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>pompously</i>].
Ponderous (adj.)	heavy, unwieldy; dull, tedious. L. pondus eris : weight.
Pontiff (n)	the Pope.
Pontificate (v & n)	(intr) play the pontiff; pretend to be infallible; be pompously dogmatic; (n) the period of the office of bishop or pope.
Popinjay (n)	a conceited person.
Poppycock (n)	nonsense.
Populous (adj.)	thickly inhabited. L. populus : people.
Porous (adj.)	full of perforations; letting through air, water, etc; (of an argument) admitting infiltration. [<i>n</i> : <i>porosity</i>].
Portend (v. tr)	foreshadow as an omen, warn.
Portentous (adj.)	serving as a warning; pompously solemn. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>potentously</i>].
Portly (adj.)	fat, stout. Port in the sense of 'bearing'. <i>The portly woman shoved her way into the bus.</i>
Posse (n)	a strong force or company or assemblage; a body of law enforcers. <i>The outlaws were met with a huge posse of the sheriff's men as they tried to leave the city.</i>
Posterior (n & adj.)	(n) buttocks; (adj.) situated at back; later.
Posterity (n)	all succeeding generations; descendants.

Posthumous (adj.)	occurring after death; (a child) born after the death of its father; (of a book, etc) published after the author's death. [<i>adv.: posthumously</i>]. L. post: after + humus: ground. <i>The President at a grand yet solemn ceremony gave the posthumous bravery awards away.</i>
Post-prandial (adj.)	after dinner or lunch. Post + L. prandium: meal.
Postulate (v & n)	(tr) assume as necessary condition as basis for reasoning; claim; (n) a fundamental prerequisite or condition. [<i>n: postulation</i>]. L. postulat: demand. <i>The premise that your thesis postulates is sufficient to validate your theory.</i>
Potable (adv.)	drinkable. [<i>n: potability</i>]. L. potare: drink.
Potent (adj.)	powerful; forceful; cogent; virile.
Potentate (n)	a ruler or monarch. L. potentia: power.
Pother (n & v)	(n) (Lit) a fuss; (tr) fluster, worry; (intr) make a fuss.
Pot-pourri (n)	a mixture of dried petals and spices used to perfume a room, etc.; a literary or musical medley. <i>The guests were entertained with a pot-pourri of old songs and folk music.</i>
Poultice (n)	a soft, soothing lotion applied to the body, on wounds for relieving soreness and inflammation.
Pragmatic (adj.)	practical. <i>It is essential to handle the financial condition of a country in a pragmatic way.</i>
Prairie (n)	a large area of usu. treeless grassland in North America. L. pratum: meadow.
Prank (n)	a piece of mischief or practical joke.
Prate (v. tr)	chatter foolishly or irrelevantly. [<i>adj.: prating</i>].
Prattle (v & n)	(v) chatter or say in a childish way; (n) childish chatter, inconsequential talk.
Preachment (n)	(derog) sermonising, preaching.
Preamble (n)	an introduction or the preliminary statement. [<i>adj.: preambular</i>]. L. praeambulus: going before.
Precarious (adj.)	uncertain; insecure; perilous. [<i>adv. perilously</i>]. <i>The car was perched on the edge of the cliff in a precarious manner.</i>
Precedent (n & adj.)	(n) a previous case or legal decision taken as a guide for subsequent cases or as a justification; (adj.) preceding in time, order, importance, etc. <i>The sentence of life imprisonment awarded to the rapist will set a precedent for future rape cases.</i>
Precept (n)	a command; rule of conduct; moral instruction; a writ or warrant. [<i>adj.: preceptive</i>]. L. praecept: warn, instruct.
Precinct (n)	an enclosed or clearly defined area; a specially designated area in a town, esp. with the exclusion of traffic. <i>The untouchables were compelled to live outside the precincts of the town where the higher classes lived.</i>
Preciosity (n)	over refinement in art or language, esp. n the choice of words.
Precipice (n)	a vertical or steep face of a rock, cliff, mountain, etc; a dangerous situation.

Precipitate (v, adj. & n)	(tr) hasten the occurrence of; cause to occur prematurely; send rapidly into a certain state or condition; (adj.) headlong; violently hurried. <i>USA has precipitated the crisis in the Middle East by its impatience to deal with an intransigent ruler.</i>
Precipitous (adj.)	dangerously steep. [<i>adv.: precipitously</i>].
Precise (adj.)	accurately expressed; definite; exact; identical.
Precocious (adj.)	(derog.) prematurely developed in some faculty or characteristic. <i>A precocious child can be an embarrassment to its parents.</i>
Precursor (n)	a forerunner; a harbinger. L. prae: pre + currere: run. <i>The inflow of arms into the region is a precursor to the looming war clouds over the subcontinent.</i>
Predatory (adj.)	preying naturally upon others; plundering or exploiting others. L. predari: seize as plunder from praeda: booty. <i>The predatory instinct of some large organisations leads them to take over smaller firms, which do not have the capability to resist.</i>
Predecessor (n)	a former holder of an office or position with respect to a later holder; an ancestor. L. prae + decessor: retiring officer.
Predial (adj. & n)	(adj.) rural, agrarian; attached to farms or the land; (n) such a person; a slave attached to farms. L. praedium: farm.
Predicament (n)	a difficult or unpleasant or embarrassing situation.
Predilection (n)	a preference or special liking. <i>Contenders to any particular post have a predilection to forget their extravagant promises once elected.</i>
Predominant (adj.)	being the strongest or main element. [<i>n: predominance; adv.: predominantly</i>].
Pre-eminent (adj.)	outstanding. [<i>n: pre-eminence adv.: pre-eminently</i>].
Pre-empt (v. tr)	forestall; acquire in advance; prevent by disabling the enemy. [<i>adj.: pre-emptive; n: pre-emption</i>]. L. prae + emere empt: buy. <i>The acquisition attempt was pre-empted by the threatened company by revealing the acquirer company's unethical marketing tactics.</i>
Prehensile (adj.)	(Zool.) capable of grasping. [<i>n: prehensility</i>]. L. pre + hendere: grasp.
Prelate (n)	a high ecclesiastical dignitary; a bishop; an abbot or prior. [<i>adj.: prelati</i>].
Premonition (n)	a presentiment; a forewarning. [<i>adj.: premonitory</i>]. L. prae + mōnere: warn. <i>Caesar's wife had a premonition of his untimely death.</i>
Prenatal (adj.)	pertaining to the period before birth.
Prepense (adj.)	(Law) deliberate, intentional. [<i>adv.: prepensely</i>].
Preponderance (n)	the state or quality of being greater in influence, power, number, importance; predominance. <i>Parliament has a preponderance of unruly members.</i>
Prepossessing (adj.)	charming; creating a favourable impression at once; attractive.
Prerogative (n)	a right or privilege exclusive to an individual or class. L. prae + rogare: ask. <i>It is the prerogative of the Chief Justice to propose the name of his successor.</i>

Presage (n & v)	(n) an omen or portent; a presentiment; (tr) portend, foreshadow, warn. L. prae + sagire : perceive keenly .
Prescient (adj.)	having foreknowledge or foresight. [<i>n: prescience</i>]. L. prae + scire : know .
Prescriptive (adj.)	advising or sanctioning the use of; (Ling) pertaining to the rules of usage; sanctioned by long usage or custom. <i>Restrictive trade practices revealed the prescriptive nature of Indian industry.</i>
Presentiment (n)	a foreboding or vague expectation.
Prestidigitation (n)	conjuring, jugglery, legerdemain. Fr. preste : nimble + digitus : finger .
Pretence (n)	make-belief; a false appearance intended to deceive.
Preternatural (adj.)	supernatural. L. praeter : past or beyond .
Prevalent (adj.)	predominant; generally existing or occurring. [<i>n: prevalence</i>]. <i>Sati is still a prevalent custom in certain remote areas of Rajasthan.</i>
Prevaricate (v. intr.)	speak or act evasively or misleadingly; equivocate. [<i>n: prevarication</i>].
Prig (n)	a self-righteously correct or moralising person. [<i>adj.: priggish</i>].
Primacy (n)	pre-eminence.
Prima donna (n)	the chief female singer in an opera or opera company; a temperamentally self-important person.
Prima facie (adv. & adj.)	(adv.) at first sight; from a first impression; (adj.) based on the first impression. L. primus : first + facies : face . <i>The Court could not take any firm stand on the case on the basis of the prima facie evidence available.</i>
Primeval (adj.)	ancient; pertaining to the first age of the world. L. primus + aevum : age .
Primogeniture (n)	the fact or condition of being the first-born child; the right of succession belonging to the first-born. [<i>adj.: primogenital</i>]. L. primo : first + genitura : beget .
Primordial (adj.)	existing at or from the beginning; primeval. [<i>n: primordiality</i>]. L. primus + ordiri : begin .
Pristine (adj.)	unspoilt; fresh as if new. L. pristinus : former . <i>The snow clad mountains glistened in the sun in their pristine glory.</i>
Privation (n)	lack of the comforts or necessities of life. L. privare : deprive . <i>The journalist suffered undue privations at the enemy country's hands.</i>
Privy (adj.)	sharing in the secret of; hidden or secret. <i>The maid was privy to the queen's secrets.</i>
Probative (adj.)	evidential.
Probity (n)	honesty, uprightness. L. probus : good .
Proboscis (n)	the long, flexible trunk or snout of some mammals; the elongated mouth parts of some insects; the sucking organ in some animals. Gk. pro : before + boskō : feed .

Proceeds (n)	money gained from the sale of something.
Proclivity (n)	a tendency or inclination. L. pro: in front of + clivus: slope.
Procrastinate (v. intr)	delay or postpone. [<i>n: procrastination</i>]. L. pro + crastinus: tomorrow. <i>Since you procrastinated for so long, you lost the deal to your competitor.</i>
Prodigal (adj. & n)	(adj.) recklessly wasteful; (n) such a person. L. prodigus: lavish. <i>The prodigal son's reformed ways endeared him to his family once again.</i>
Prodigious (adj.)	marvellous, amazing; enormous.
Prodigy (n)	a person endowed with exceptional qualities and abilities. L. prodigium: portent. <i>The teenage prodigy's prodigious talent at chess has made him the cynosure of all eyes.</i>
Proem (n)	a preface to a book or speech.
Profane (adj. & v)	(adj.) not sacred; secular; irreverent; (tr) treat with disrespect; violate, pollute. L. prophanus: outside the temple, not sacred. <i>One should not slander any religion and profane its significance in human life.</i> <i>The community treated the priest's practical approach to religion as profane.</i>
Proficient (adj.)	expert. [<i>n: proficiency</i>].
Profligate (adj. & n)	(adj.) recklessly extravagant; licentious; (n) such a person. [<i>n: profligacy</i>]. L. profligare: ruin.
Profusion (n)	abundance. L. pro + fundere: pour. <i>The university boasted of a beautiful campus with a profusion of bougainvillea in it.</i>
Progenitor (n)	ancestor of a person, animal or plant; a political or intellectual predecessor; the origin of a copy. L. pro + gignere: beget.
Progeny (n)	decendant; offspring.
Prognathous (adj.)	having a projecting jaw. [<i>adj.: prognathic</i>]. L. pro: before + Gk. gnathos: jaw.
Prognosis (n)	a forecast; a forecast of the course of a disease. L. pro + Gk. gignōsko: know. <i>The prognosis of the election does not bode well for any party.</i>
Prognostication (n)	foretelling, predicting, indicating. [<i>v. tr. prognosticate</i>]. Pro + gignōskō.
Projectile (n & adj.)	(n) a missile, esp. fixed by a rocket; any object thrown as a weapon; (adj.) capable of being projected by force.
Proletariat (n)	wage earners collectively, esp. those dependent on selling their labour; the lowest class of the community.
Prolific (adj.)	producing abundantly. [<i>adv.: prolifically</i>]. L. proles: offspring.
Prolix (adj.)	lengthy, tedious. [<i>n: prolixity</i>]. <i>The student's report was prolix and badly organised.</i>
Promiscuity (n)	unbridled indulgence in sex; indiscriminate. [<i>adj.: promiscuous</i>]. L. pro + miscere: mix.
Promontory (n)	a point of high land jutting into the sea; a headland.

Promulgate (v. tr)	make known to the public; disseminate. [<i>n</i> : <i>promulgation</i>]. L. pro + mulgere : cause to come forth . <i>The religious sect plans to promulgate its ideas all over the country in a series of well-targeted campaigns and sessions.</i>
Prone (adj.)	lying face downwards; (prone to) disposed to a bad condition, habit, action, etc; more than usually likely to suffer. L. pro : forwards . <i>My sister is accident-prone.</i>
Propensity (n)	an inclination or tendency.
Prophecy (n)	a prediction of future events.
Prophylactic (adj. & n)	(adj.) tending to prevent disease; (n) a preventive medicine or course of action. L. pro + phulassō : guard .
Propinquity (n)	proximity; close kinship. L. prope : near to .
Propitiate (v. tr)	appease an offended person. <i>Devotees throng to the temple nearby to propitiate the gods in times of a drought or flood.</i>
Propitious (adj.)	(of an omen) favourable; suitable; well-disposed. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>propitiously</i>].
Proponent (n & adj.)	(n) a person advocating a motion, idea, theory, etc; (adj.) proposing or advocating a theory. <i>Manmohan Singh is a proponent of liberalisation.</i>
Propound (v. tr)	propose; offer for consideration. <i>Mahatma Gandhi propounded the theory and idea of celibacy.</i>
Prorogue (v)	discontinue meetings without dissolving it.
Prosaic (adj.)	like prose; not poetic; dull; commonplace. <i>Prosaic ideas cannot rejuvenate an organisation or motivate people.</i>
Proscribe (v. tr)	banish, exile; put a [person beyond legal protection; reject or denounce as derogatory. [<i>n</i> : <i>proscription</i>].
Proselyte (n)	a convert. [<i>v</i> : <i>proselytize</i>]. Gk. prosēluthos : stranger, convert .
Protagonist (n)	the chief character or performer. Gk. proto : first, original + agonistes : actor . <i>Hamlet is the protagonist of the eponymous play.</i>
Protean (adj.)	variable; taking many forms; versatile. Gk. Proteus : a sea god able to take many forms. <i>The thesis will serve a protean purpose.</i>
Protégé (n)	a person under the protection or tutelage of another. L. protegere ; protect .
Pro tem (adj.)	temporary.
Protoplasm (n)	the material comprising the living part of a cell, consisting of a nucleus. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>protoplasmic</i>].
Protract (v. tr)	prolong or lengthen in time. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>protractedly</i>]. <i>The court was asked to refrain from protracting the case indefinitely.</i>
Protrude (v. intr)	project; jut out; (tr) thrust or cause to thrust out. L. pro + trudere : thrust .
Provender (n)	animal fodder.

Providential (adj.)	of or by divine foresight; opportune, lucky. [<i>adv.: providentially</i>].
Proviso (n)	a stipulation or limitation in a document.
Provoke (v. tr)	rouse, incite, instigate. [<i>adv.: provokingly</i>]. <i>Incisive investigation into the Enforcement Directorate's human rights violation has provoked widespread anger against the body.</i>
Prowess (n)	skill, expertise, valour, gallantry.
Proximate (adj.)	nearest or next; approximate.
Proxy (n)	authorised agent; person authorised to act as a substitute.
Prudery (n)	extreme propriety in conduct. [<i>adj.: prudish; adv.: prudely</i>]. Fr. prud'homme : good man and true . <i>The Victorian age was characterized by extreme prudery, which was violently subverted later.</i>
Prurience (n)	an unhealthy obsession with sexual matters. [<i>adj.: prurient</i>]. L. prurire : itch, be wanton . <i>Sex is treated with an unnecessary prurience in the media that sends wrong signals to impressionable minds.</i>
Pseudo	(prefix) false
Pseudonym (n)	fictitious name, esp. one used by an author. <i>Mark Twain was the pseudonym of Samuel Langhorne Clemens.</i>
Psyche (n)	the soul, the spirit, the mind. Gk. psukhē : breath, life, soul .
Psychiatry (n)	the study and treatment of mental disorders. Gk. psyche + iatreia : healing .
Psychosis (n)	a severe mental derangement, esp. when resulting in delusions and loss of contact with external reality. Gk. psukhōō : give life .
Psychosomatic (adj.)	caused or aggravated by mental conflict, stress, etc.
Pudency (n)	(Lit) modesty, shame. L. pudere : be ashamed .
Puerile (adj.)	childish, trivial, immature. L. puer : boy . <i>Puerile behaviour from adults is unjustified.</i>
Pugnacious (adj.)	quarrelsome. [<i>n: pugnaciousness/pugnacity</i>]. L. pugnus : fist . <i>The pugnacious kid gets involved in frequent street fights.</i>
Pugilism (n)	boxing. [<i>n: pugilist</i>].
Puissance (n)	great power, might, influence.
Pulchritude (n)	(Lit) beauty. [<i>adj.: pulchritudinous</i>].
Pulmonary (adj.)	pertaining to the lungs; affected with or susceptible to lung diseases. L. pulmo onis : lungs . <i>My grandfather suffers from pulmonary pneumonia.</i>
Pulsate (v. intr)	throb, vibrate. L. puls : drive, beat . <i>The room pulsated with the beat of drums.</i>

Pulverize (v)	(tr) reduce to fine particles; (tr & intr) crumble to dust; defeat totally. L. pulveris : dust .
Punctilious (adj.)	attentive to etiquette; precise in behaviour. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>punctiliously</i>].
Punitive (adj.)	inflicting or intended to inflict punishment; (Law) of damages, taxation, etc: extremely severe. L. punitivus : punishment .
Purblind (adj.)	partly blind; dim-sighted; dim-witted. [<i>n</i> : <i>purblindness</i>].
Purge (v & n)	(tr) make spiritually or physically clean; remove by a cleansing process; (Law) atone for or wipe out; (n) the act or instance of purging. [<i>n</i> : <i>purgation</i>]. L. purgare : purify . <i>The Election Commission has taken a bold step to purge politics of criminals.</i>
Purlieu (n)	outskirts or boundary, limits; a person's usual haunts.
Purloin (v. tr)	steal, pilfer. [<i>n</i> : <i>purloiner</i>].
Purport (v & n)	(tr) profess, be intended to seem; state; (n) the ostensible meaning of something; the sense or tenor. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>purportedly</i>]. L. poratre : carry . <i>The rock group purports to be the best in town.</i>
Purview (n)	scope; the range of physical or mental vision.
Pusillanimous (adj.)	cowardly. <i>The government seems to have taken a pusillanimous attitude to the issue to state sponsored terrorism.</i>
Putative (adj.)	reputed, supposed. [<i>adv.</i> : <i>putatively</i>]. L. putare : think .
Putrefaction (n)	decomposition. [<i>v. intr</i> : <i>putrefy</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>putrid</i>]. L. putris : rotten .
Putrescent (adj.)	in then process of rotting. [<i>n</i> : <i>putrescence</i>].
Pyrotechnics (adj.)	pertaining to fireworks; a display of fireworks.
Pyromaniac (n)	a person with an obsessive desire to set fire to things.
Pyrrhic (adj.)	a victory won at too great a cost to be of use to the victor; a metrical foot of two short or unaccented syllables.

Q

Quack (n)	an unqualified practiser of medicine. [<i>n</i> : quackery]. <i>In the absence of any qualified practitioner, the villagers depended on the quack whose medicines were usually effective.</i>
Quadruped (n & adj.)	(n) a four-footed animal; (adj.) four-footed. [<i>adj</i> .: quadrupedal]. L. quattuor : four + ped : foot.
Quaff (v)	drink deeply. <i>The soldier quaffed the drink and gobbled the food in a hurry to return to the trench.</i>
Quagmire (n)	a soft marshy area that gives way underfoot; a hazardous or awkward situation. Quag, mire : marshy place. <i>Having bitten off more than he could chew by joining politics, the actor could not extricate himself from the quagmire he found himself in.</i>
Quail (v. intr. & n)	(v) be apprehensive with fear; (n) a small short-tailed game bird.
Quaintness (n)	pleasing oddity; attractive because of its unusual appearance. [<i>adj</i> .: quaint]. <i>The quaintness of the cottage was its biggest advantage.</i>
Qualm (n)	misgiving; an uneasy doubt about one's own conduct; a scruple of conscience. <i>The student had no qualms about cheating in the examination.</i>
Quandary (n)	a difficult situation; a state of perplexity. <i>I found myself in a quandary when I received interview calls from two equally reputed institutions for the same date.</i>
Quarantine (n & v)	(n) isolation imposed on persons or animals that have arrived from elsewhere or/and might spread infectious or contagious disease; the period of this isolation; (tr.) impose such isolation.
Quay (n)	a landing place lying alongside or projecting into the water for loading and unloading ships. [<i>n</i> : quayage].
Queasy (adj.)	feeling nauseous; overscrupulous. Old Fr. coisir : hurt. <i>The sight of the cows being butchered made me feel queasy.</i>
Quell (v. tr.)	crush or put down; reduce to submission; suppress or alleviate. Old Eng cwellan : kill. <i>Saddam Hussein has successfully quelled all internal rebellion in his country.</i> <i>I tried in vain to quell my sister's fears regarding the examination.</i>
Querulous (adj.)	complaining, peevish. [<i>adj</i> .: querulously]. L. queri : complain.
Quibble (n & v)	(n) a petty objection; a trivial point of criticism; a pun; an evasion. [<i>adj</i> .: quibbling]. <i>The judge indulged in a prolonged quibbling in order to delay the case.</i>
Quidnunc (n)	a person given to gossip. L. quid : what + nunc : now.
Quid pro quo (n)	a thing given as compensation. L. something for something . <i>The organisation offered the manager a house as quid pro quo.</i>
Quiescent (adj.)	motionless; inert. [<i>n</i> : quiescence].
Quietude (n)	a state of quiet. <i>The quietude of the place haunted me.</i>
Quietus (n)	death, ending; discharge or release from life; a sedative.

Quinine (n)	a bitter, toxic drug for treating malaria.
Quintessence (n)	the most essential part of a substance. [<i>adj.: quintessential</i>].
Quirk (n)	a peculiarity of behaviour; a trick of fate. <i>It is a mere quirk of fate that despite his intelligence and academic brilliance, Ramesh finds himself unemployed.</i>
Quisling (n)	a traitor.
Quittance (n)	an acknowledgement of payment; a release.
Qui vive (n)	on the alert.
Quixotic (adj.)	naively idealistic; extravagantly and romantically chivalrous; impractical. <i>The young man launched his business in a quixotic manner, without weighing the pros and cons of the matter.</i>

PGA

R

Rabbi (n)	a Jewish scholar or teacher, esp. of the law; a Jewish religious leader. [<i>n: rabbinate</i>]. Heb. rabbî : my master .
Rabble (n)	mob; a contemptible or inferior set of people; the lower or disorderly classes of the populace. <i>The demagogue came in for stringent punishment when he incited the rabble to riot in the metropolis.</i>
Rabid (adj.)	furious, violent; fanatical; (of a dog) affected with rabies, a contagious and fatal viral disease. [<i>n: rabidity; adv: rabidly</i>]. L. rabere : rave . <i>The rioters pounced on the unsuspecting travellers in a rabid manner.</i>
Raconteur (n)	a story-teller. Fr. raconter : relate, recount .
Radical (adj. & n)	(adj.) pertaining to the root; fundamental; far reaching, thorough reform; primary; (Math) of the root of a number or quantity; (n) such a person. [<i>n: radicalism</i>]. L. radix : root . <i>Intellectuals in the country have asked for radical reforms on the economic front in order to tackle recession.</i> <i>Fundamentalists are radicals who cannot understand the other person's views.</i>
Ragamuffin (n)	a person in ragged, dirty clothes.
Rail (n & v)	(intr) complain in loud abusive language.
Raiment (n)	clothing.
Raison d'être (n)	purpose or reason accounting for or justifying something.
Rake (n & v)	(n) an instrument used to draw hay together; a dissolute man of fashion; (tr) collect or gather or remove; (tr & intr) search thoroughly.
Rambunctious (adj.)	uncontrollably exuberant; unruly. [<i>adv: rambunctiously</i>].
Ramification (n)	subdivision; branching out; a complex and unwelcome consequence. [<i>v: ramify</i>]. L. ramus : branch .
Rampage (n & v)	(n) wild or violent behaviour; (intr) rush about violently or wildly. [<i>adj.: rampageous</i>]. <i>The rabid dog went on a rampage upon the neighbourhood children.</i>
Rampant (adj.)	unchecked; flourishing; violent or extravagant in action or opinion; luxuriant. Old Fr. ramper : crawl . <i>Corruption is rampant in society.</i>
Rampart (n & v)	(n) a defensive wall with a flat top and usu. a stone parapet; a defence or protection; (tr) fortify or protect.
Ramshackle (adj.)	tumbledown, rickety. <i>Many families in Mumbai and other teeming metropolises live in ramshackle buildings.</i>
Rancid (adj.)	smelling or tasting like rank stale fat. L. rancidus : stinking . <i>The rancid smell of rotting carcasses was unbearable.</i>
Rancour (n)	inveterate bitterness, malignant hatred, spitefulness.
Rankle (v. intr)	(of envy, disappointment, etc) cause persistent annoyance or resentment; fester. <i>The thought of having lost the trophy rankled in my mind.</i>
Ransack (v. tr)	pillage, plunder; thoroughly search Middle Eng from Old Norse rann : house + saka : seek . <i>I ransacked the house for the missing files, but in vain.</i>

Ransom (n & v)	(n) payment demanded or paid for the release of a prisoner; (tr) buy the freedom; hold to ransom. Old Fr. ransoun(e)r : redemption .
Rant (v & n)	(intr) use bombastic language; (tr & intr) declaim, recite theatrically; preach noisily; (n) such an incident; tirade, empty turgid talk.
Rapacious (adj.)	grasping; extortionate; predatory. [adv: <i>rapaciously</i> ; n: <i>rapaciousness/rapacity</i>]. L. rapere : snatch . <i>Rapacious multinationals are rapidly taking over the market from weaker domestic players.</i>
Rapport (n)	harmonious relationship or communication.
Rapprochement (n)	the resumption of harmonious relationship, esp. between states. <i>The two countries reached a rapprochement after prolonged deliberations and negotiation.</i>
Rapture (n)	ecstatic delight; great pleasure or enthusiasm or its expression. [adv: <i>rapturously</i>]. <i>The beauty of nature incites rapture in me.</i>
Rarefy (v)	make or become less dense or solid; (tr) purify, refine (a person); (an idea) make subtle. [n: <i>rarefaction</i>]. L. rarus : rare .
Rate (n & v)	(tr) estimate the worth of; consider; scold angrily. L. rēri : reckon . <i>I rate Bhishma Sahani one of the greatest writers writing in Hindi.</i>
Ratiocination (n)	a logical process; exact and methodical thinking. [v. intr: <i>ratiocinate</i>].
Rationalist (n)	one who bases his opinions or actions upon reason.
Rationalize (v)	make logical and constant; explain.
Raucous (adj.)	harsh-sounding; loud and hoarse. [adv: <i>raucously</i>]. <i>Stock exchanges and market places are arenas of raucous business.</i>
Ravage (v & n)	(v) devastate, plunder; (n) devastation, damage. Fr. ravine : rush of water . <i>Wars ravage not just the bodies but also minds of men and women and very often children.</i>
Ravenous (adj.)	very hungry, voracious; rapacious. <i>I was ravenous after the hard day's work.</i>
Ravine (n)	a deep narrow gorge or cleft.
Ravishing (adj.)	delightful, entrancing. <i>The new Miss World is a ravishing beauty.</i>
Raze (v. tr)	completely destroy, tear down, erase. <i>The corporation has razed all illegal structures in the city.</i>
Reactionary (adj. & n)	(adj.) tending to oppose change and advocate return to a former system.
Realm (n)	a kingdom, sphere, domain.
Reappraisal (n)	reassessment.
Rebate (n)	a practical repayment of money paid; a discount. [adj.: <i>rebatable</i>].
Rebuke (v & n)	(tr) reprove sharply; protest or censure; (n) a reproof. [adv: <i>rebukingly</i>]. <i>After the rebuke from his father, Hari became a sincere student.</i>

Rebut (v. tr)	disprove evidence or charge; force or turn back; check. [<i>n: rebutment/rebuttal; adj.: rebuttable</i>]. <i>The defendant rebutted the charges against him by providing conclusive evidence in court.</i>
Recalcitrant (adj.)	obstinately disobedient; (n) such a person. <i>The recalcitrant criminal was re-arrested for breaking parole.</i>
Recant (v)	(tr) withdraw and renounce as erroneous or heretical; (intr) disavow a former opinion, belief, etc. with a public confession of error. L. recantare: revoke.
Recapitulate (v. tr)	summarize. [<i>adj.: recapitulatory; n: recapitulation</i>]. L. re + capitula: chapter.
Recension (n)	the revision of text; a particular version of a text resulting from such revision. L. re + censere: review.
Recession (n)	a temporary decline in economic activity and prosperity; withdrawal from a place or point. <i>The Indian economy is facing a severe recession this year.</i>
Recherché (adj.)	carefully sought out; rare and exotic; obscure. L. re + chercher: seek.
Recidivism (n)	relapse into crime. [<i>n: recidivist</i>]. L. re + cadere: fall
Recipient (n & adj.)	(n) a person who receives something; (adj.) receptive. L. recipere: receive.
Reciprocate (v)	(tr) return (affection, etc.); (intr) give and receive mutually. [<i>n: reciprocation</i>]. L. re: back + pro: forward.
Recluse (n & adj.)	(n) a person living in seclusion or isolation; a hermit; (adj.) favouring seclusion; solitary. [<i>n: reclusion; adj.: reclusive</i>]. L. re + claudere: shut. <i>The octogenarian has been living the life of a recluse since his retirement from active politics.</i>
Reconcile (v. tr)	make friendly again after an estrangement; make contentedly submissive; settle a quarrel; show compatibility of by an argument or in practice. [<i>adj.: reconcilable; n: reconcilability/reconcilement</i>]. L. re + conciliare: combine. <i>The management is trying to reconcile the two warring factions within the organization.</i> <i>How do you plan to reconcile your theories to your practice?</i>
Recondite (adj.)	(of a subject) abstruse knowledge or allusions. [<i>adv: reconditely</i>]. L. re + condere: hide.
Reconnaissance (n)	the preliminary survey of an area to ascertain strategic features. [<i>v: reconnoitre</i>]. L. recognoscere: recognize. <i>The paratroopers conducted a reconnaissance of the area before their assignment.</i>
Recoup (v. tr)	recover or regain (a loss); compensate or reimburse for a loss. [<i>n: recoupment; adj.: recoupable</i>]. <i>It took the family a year to recoup after their house was robbed during the wedding of the youngest daughter.</i>
Recreant (adj. & n)	(adj.) (Lit) cowardly; apostate; (n) a coward or apostate. Medieval L. recredere: yield in trial by combat.
Recrimination (n)	counter accusations. [<i>v. intr.: recriminate</i>]. Med. L. re + criminare: accuse. <i>The actual issue was lost in the recriminations indulged in by the two groups.</i>

Recrudescence (n)	a fresh outbreak after a dormant period. [<i>v. intr: recrudescere</i>]. L. re + crudus: raw .
Rectitude (n)	moral uprightness. L. rectus: right .
Recumbent (adj.)	lying down; reclining. [<i>n: recumbency</i>]. L. recumbere: lie .
Recuperate (v)	(intr) recover from illness, exhaustion, loss, etc; (tr) regain. [<i>adj.: recuperative; n: recuperation</i>]. L. recover . <i>I was advised to stay in a sanatorium for a month to recuperate from my illness.</i>
Recusant (n & adj)	(n) a person who refuses to submit to an authority or conform to a regulation; (adj.) pertaining to such a person. L. recusare: refuse .
Redaction (n)	preparation for publication, revision, editing, rearrangement. [<i>adj.: redactional</i>].
Redolent (adj.)	suggestive of; smelling of. [<i>n: redolence; adv: redolently</i>]. <i>The atmosphere at the fete was redolent of school life and carefree days.</i>
Redoubtable (adj.)	formidable, esp. as an opponent.
Redound (v. intr)	(of an action, etc) make a great contribution to (one's credit, advantage, etc); come as the final result to; recoil upon.
Reductio ad absurdum (n)	a method of proving the falsity of a premise by showing that the logical consequence is absurd. L. reduction to the absurd .
Redress (v & n)	(tr) remedy or rectify; readjust; (n) reparation for a wrong. [<i>n: redressal</i>]. <i>The tribunal required the aggressor to redress the violence perpetrated against the people during the occupation days.</i>
Redundant (adj.)	superfluous; not needed; that can be omitted without any loss of significance. <i>The machines in the factory are redundant and have to be replaced with modern ones soon.</i>
Refection (n)	refreshment by food or drink; a light meal. L. reficere: refresh .
Referendum (n)	the process of referring a political question to the electorate; a vote taken in this manner. <i>The referendum taken in July conclusively proved the people's resistance to the idea of merging with the neighbouring country.</i>
Refractory (adj. & n)	(adj.) stubborn, rebellious; not yielding to treatment; (of a substance) hard to fuse or work. <i>The wound, in its refractory state, would not heal despite persistent treatment and medication.</i>
Refulgent (adj.)	shining, bright. L. re + fulgere: shine .
Refurbish (v. tr)	brighten up, restore and redecorate. <i>We have decided to refurbish the house.</i>
Refute (v. tr)	prove the falsity or error of; rebut by argument; deny or contradict. [<i>adj.: refutable; n: refutation/refutation</i>]. <i>The police have been trying to refute charges of torture of prisoners.</i>
Regale (v. tr)	entertain lavishly with feasting; entertain or divert with talk, etc; (of beauty, flowers, etc) give delight to. [<i>n: regalement</i>]. Old Fr. gale: pleasure . <i>In the parents' absence, the ten-year-old child regaled the guests with fairy tales.</i>

Regalia (n)	the insignia of royalty used at coronations; the insignia of an order or of civic dignity. L. regis : king.
Regatta (n)	a sporting event consisting of a series of boat or yacht races.
Regicide (n)	the killing of a king; one who commits such a crime. L. regis : king + cidere : kill.
Regime (n)	a system of government; a prevailing order or system of things; the condition under which a scientific or industrial process occurs. L. regere : rule. <i>Under Indira Gandhi's regime, the country had to face a general emergency.</i>
Regimen (n)	esp. (Med) a prescribed course of exercise, way of life and diet; a system of government. L. regere .
Regnant (adj.)	reigning; (of things, qualities, etc.) predominant, prevalent. L. regnare : reign. <i>The regnant director has ordered the staff to be present in the office on time.</i> <i>Honesty is Ravi's regnant quality.</i>
Rehabilitate (v. tr)	restore to effectiveness of normal life by training, etc, esp. after imprisonment or illness; restore to former privileges or reputation or proper condition. [<i>n</i> : rehabilitation; <i>adj</i> .: rehabilitative]. <i>The government has promised to rehabilitate the evacuated villagers to a similar environment.</i>
Reiterate (v. tr)	repeat. [<i>n</i> : reiteration]. L. iterum : again.
Rejuvenate (v. tr)	make young again. [<i>n</i> : rejuvenation]. L. re + juvenus : young.
Relapse (v & n)	(intr) fall back or sink again (into a worse state after an improvement; (n) such an instance, esp. deterioration in a patient's condition after recovery.
Relegate (v. tr)	consign or dismiss to a less important position; demote; refer to information. [<i>adj</i> .: relegable; <i>n</i> : relegation]. L. re + legare : send. <i>I do not like to be relegated to a subordinate position on the basis of my gender.</i>
Relic (n)	something old that reminds of the past; a part of a deceased holy person's body or belongings kept as an object of reverence; a souvenir. L. linquere : 'leave'.
Relinquish (v. tr)	surrender or resign (right or possession). [<i>n</i> : relinquishment]. L. linquere . <i>We were compelled by the hooligans to relinquish hold of our ancestral property.</i>
Relucent (adj.)	shining, bright.
Remedial (adj.)	curative; corrective. L. re + medēri : heal. <i>IMF has asked Thailand to take remedial measures to improve its stagnating economy.</i>
Reminiscence (n)	the act of remembering the past; the recovery of knowledge by mental effort; a past fact or experience that is remembered; the process of narrating this; (Philo) the theory of the recovery of things known to the soul in previous existences. [<i>adj</i> .: reminiscent; <i>v. intr</i> : reminisce]. L. reminisci : remember.
Remiss (adj.)	careless of duty.
Remnant (n)	a small remaining quantity; a surviving trace. Old Fr. remenoir : remain. <i>Remnants from the licence era still haunt the Indian economy.</i>

Remonstrate (v.)	(intr) make a protest; argue forcibly; (tr) urge protestingly. [<i>adj.: remonstrative; n: remonstrance</i>]. L. re + monstrare: show . <i>The nurse remonstrated with the patient's relatives to refrain from creating a disturbance.</i>
Remorse (n)	deep regret for a wrong committed; a compassionate reluctance to inflict pain. L. re + mordēre: bite . <i>The Nazis tortured people with no remorse.</i>
Remunerative (adj)	rewarding; profitable. [<i>n: remuneration; v. tr: remunerate</i>].
Renaissance (n)	the revival of interest in some particular kind of art, literature, movement, idea, etc; the culture, style, etc. of such a period. Re + Fr. naître naiss: be born . <i>Michaelangelo was a renaissance artist.</i>
Renaissance man (n)	a person with many talents and pursuits, esp. in the humanities.
Renal (adj)	pertaining to the kidneys. L. renes: kidneys .
Renascent (adj.)	springing up anew. L. re + nasci: born .
Rendezvous (n & v)	(n) an agreed or regular meeting place; an arranged meeting; (intr) meet at an arranged place or time. Fr. rendez-vous: present yourselves . <i>The couple was discovered by their respective parents at their rendezvous in the park.</i>
Renegade (n, adj.)	(n) a person who deserts a party, principle, etc; (adj.) traitorous; (intr) be a traitor. [<i>v.: renege</i>]. L. re + negare: deny .
Renounce (v)	(tr) surrender; abandon; repudiate; decline further association with or deny relationship with; (Law) refuse or resign a right or position, esp. as an heir or trustee. [<i>n: renouncement</i>]. <i>The businessman shocked everyone with his decision to renounce worldly existence and retire to the Himalayas.</i>
Renovate (v. tr)	restore to good condition; repair. L. re + novus: new .
Reparation (n)	the act or instance of making amends; a compensation. [<i>adj.: reparative</i>]. From repair . <i>Germany had to pay a huge sum of money as reparation to the Allied Powers after the war.</i>
Repartee (n)	the practice or faculty of making witty retorts; sharpness or wit in quick reply; witty retorts collectively. Fr. repartir: reply promptly .
Repatriate (v & n)	(v) restore to his or her native land; (n) a person who has been repatriated. L. re + patria: native land .
Repeal (v & n)	(tr) revoke, rescind or annul; (n) such an act.
Repentant (adj.)	sorrowful about one's wrong actions; remorseful. <i>The penitents came to the convent with a repentant air encircling them like a halo.</i>
Repercussion (n)	consequence, effect; the recoil after impact. [<i>adj.: repercussive</i>]. L. per cutere: shake . <i>The economic sanctions against Iraq have had serious repercussion on the life of the people.</i>

Repertoire (n)	a stock of pieces, etc that a company or a performer knows or is prepared to give; a stock of regularly performed pieces, regularly used techniques, etc. <i>The raconteur related from his repertoire of stories and anecdotes.</i>
Repertory (n)	the theatrical performance of various plays for short periods by one company; a store or collection of information.
Replenish (v. tr)	renew supply. [<i>adj: replenished; n: replenishment</i>]. L. re + plein: full . <i>The scouts had to stop at the foothill to replenish their stock of food and drink.</i>
Replete (adj.)	filled, well-supplied with; stuffed. [<i>n: repleteness/repletion</i>]. L. plere: fill . <i>School textbooks are replete with allusions to the three most prominent leaders at the cost of others.</i>
Replica (n)	a duplicate, an exact copy. [<i>v: replicate; n: replication</i>].
Repository (n)	a warehouse; a receptacle; a book or person regarded as a storehouse of information; the recipient of confidence or secrets. L. reposit: replace . <i>My mother is a repository of knowledge relating to mythology of the various nations.</i>
Reprehend (v. tr)	rebuke, blame, find fault with. [<i>n: reprehension; adj: reprehensible</i>]. L. re + prehendere: seize .
Reprieve (v & n)	(tr) relieve or rescue from impending punishment; (n) such an act or instance; a warrant for this; a respite or temporary escape. <i>The soldiers were given a reprieve from the continuous shelling as the two countries met at the negotiating table.</i>
Reprimand (n & v)	(n) an official or sharp rebuke; (tr) administer this to.
Reprisal (n)	an act of retaliation. <i>The tourists had to bear the brunt of the aggrieved state's reprisals.</i>
Reproach (v & n)	(tr) scold; express disapproval to; (n) a rebuke or censure; a disgraced or discredited state. [<i>adj.: reproachable</i>]. <i>Your conduct is beyond reproach.</i>
Reprobate (n, adj., v)	(n) an unprincipled person; (adj.) immoral; (tr) censure, exclude from salvation. L. re + probane: approve .
Reproof (n & v)	(n) blame; rebuke; (tr) render waterproof again; make afresh proof again (of printed matter, etc).
Repudiate (v. tr)	disown, disavow; refuse dealings with. [<i>n: repudiation</i>]. L. repudium: divorce . <i>The country has repudiated the treaty ratifying critical changes in its nuclear programme.</i>
Repugnance (n)	aversion, antipathy; inconsistency or incompatibility of ideas, statements, etc. L. repugnare: oppose (pugnare: fight). <i>I deigned to talk to the extortionist with repugnance and vehemence.</i>
Requiem (n)	a Mass for the repose of the souls of the dead. L. requies: rest .
Requisite (adj. & n)	required for circumstance or success, etc. <i>I have submitted all the requisite papers.</i>
Requite (v. tr)	make return for a (service, etc).
Rescind (v. tr)	abrogate, revoke, cancel. [<i>adj.: rescindable</i>] L. re + scindere: cut . <i>The court rescinded its order for a ban on loud speakers during festivals.</i>
Rescript (n)	official announcement, esp. a decree or edict issued by a ruler or government, decision made by the Pope on matters of morality; the act or instance of rewriting.

Resent (v. tr)	L. re + scribere: write. show or feel indignation at; be aggrieved by (a circumstance, action or person). <i>I resent being talked to in a condescending manner.</i>
Resilient (adj.)	recoiling; springing back, resuming its original shape after bending, stretching, compression, etc.
Resipiscence (n)	recognition of error; return to good sense.
Resolute (adj.)	determined; decided; firm of purpose. [<i>adv: resolutely; n: resoluteness</i>].
Resonant (adj.)	echoing; resounding L. sonare: sound.
Respite (n & v)	an interval of rest or relief; (tr) grant respite to; relieve. <i>The brief period of sunny days provided a much-needed respite from the incessant rain.</i>
Resplendent (adj.)	brilliant; dazzlingly or gloriously bright. L. re + splendere: glitter.
Respondent (n & adj.)	(n) a defendant, esp. in appeal or divorce case; a person who makes an answer or defends an argument; (adj.) making answer; responsive. L. spondere: pledge. <i>The respondents to the poll responded with encouraging alacrity.</i>
Restitution (n)	the act or an instance of restoring a thing to its proper owner; reparation for an injury; (Theo.) the restoration of a thing to its original state. [<i>adj.: restitutive</i>].
Restive (adj.)	restlessness; fidgety; (of a horse) refractory. <i>The restive horse refused to move from its spot during the race.</i>
Resurgence (n)	a return to life and activity. [<i>adj.: resurgent</i>]. L. re + surgere: rise.
Resuscitate (v.)	revive from unconsciousness or apparent death; return or restore to vigour or vividness. [<i>adj.: rescuscitative</i>]. L. re + suscitare: raise.
Retaliate (v)	(intr) repay an injury, insult, etc; make reprisals; (tr) cast back upon a person; repay in kind. [<i>adj.: retaliative/retaliatory; n: retaliation</i>]. <i>The revolutionaries retaliated against the British with equal vigour.</i>
Retarded (adj.)	backward in mental or physical development.
Retentive (adj.)	tending to retain; not forgetful. L. re + tenere: hold. <i>Mentally retarded persons do not have retentive power.</i>
Reticent (adj.)	reserved in speech; disposed to being silent, the use fewer words; not saying more than is necessary. [<i>n: reticence</i>]. L. re + tacere: be silent. <i>The reticent prisoner refused to divulge any information.</i>
Retinue (n)	a body of attendants accompanying an important person. <i>The actress was accompanied by a huge retinue.</i>
Retract (v. tr)	withdraw or revoke. [<i>adj.: retractable</i>]. L. re + trahere: draw.
Retrench (v. tr)	reduce the amount of; cut down expenses; make an employee redundant. <i>Indian companies have had to retrench employees in order to tackle financial crunch.</i>
Retribution (n)	vengeance. [<i>adj.: retributive/retributory</i>]. <i>The retribution by the allies was far-reaching in its impact.</i>

Retrieval (n)	regaining; getting back. [<i>n</i> : retrievability; <i>adj</i> .: retrievable]. Old Fr. trover : find. <i>Retrieval of the stolen jewellery is almost impossible.</i>
Retrocede (v)	recede; cede back again. L. retro : backwards + cedere : go.
Retrograde (adj., n, v)	(adj.) retreating; directed backwards; inverse, reversed; (n) a degenerate person; (intr) move backwards; recede. [<i>adv</i> : retrogradely]. L. retro + gradus : step.
Retrogression (n)	backward or reversed movement; decline. <i>The economic retrogression in South East Asian countries has sent shock waves through the developing nations.</i>
Retrospective (adj. & n)	(adj.) looking back on or dealing with the past; showing an artist's development over his or her lifetime; (n) such an instance; a retrospective exhibition or recital. [<i>n</i> : retrospection; <i>adv</i> : retrospectively] <i>A retrospective analysis would reveal a sinister hand at play in the financial muddle you find yourself in.</i> <i>The seminar provided a retrospective of Bernard Shaw's works.</i>
Revamp (v. tr)	renovate, improve, revise. <i>We plan to revamp the entire show next year.</i>
Revelry (n)	boisterous merrymaking. [<i>v</i> : revel]. Old Fr. reveler : riot. <i>The group of youngsters was disappointed when their plans of revelry were drowned in a torrential downpour.</i>
Reverberate (v. intr)	be echoed or returned repeatedly; have continuing effects. <i>The sound of gunfire reverberated in the valley with traumatic intensity.</i>
Reverie (n)	a dreamy or musing state. Old Fr. rever : be delirious. <i>The teacher had to clap his hands to wake the student up from her reverie.</i>
Reville (v.)	(tr) abuse; criticize abusively; (intr) talk abusively.
Revocation (n)	cancellation; withdrawal. [<i>v</i> .: revoke]. L. re + vocare : call.
Revolt (v & n)	(intr) rise in rebellion; (intr) affect with revulsion, loathing; feel strong disgust; (n) an act of rebelling; a mood of protest or defiance.
Revolting (adj.)	disgusting, horrible. [<i>adv</i> : revoltingly].
Revulsion (n)	a sense of loathing <i>Dirty streets evoke a sense of revulsion in me.</i>
Rhapsody (n)	an enthusiastic, ecstatic or extravagant utterance or composition; (Mus.) apiece of music in one extended movement, usu. emotional in character. [<i>adj</i> .: rhapsodic]. <i>The young man was in a rhapsody over his betrothal to his sweetheart.</i>
Rhetoric (n)	the art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing. <i>The leader's speech was mere rhetoric with no substantial content.</i>
Riant (adj.)	(of face, eyes, etc, esp. of landscape) smiling, cheerful.
Ribald (adj. & n)	(adj.) (of language or its user) coarsely or disrespectfully humorous; (n) one who speaks in this manner. Old Fr. riber : pursue licentious pleasures. <i>The protestor was rapped for using ribald slogans.</i>
Ricochet (n & v)	(n) the action of a projectile, esp. a shell or a bullet, in rebounding off a surface; (intr) rebound one or more times from a surface.

Rife (adj.)	widespread. Old Norse reifa : enrich . <i>The school was rife with rumours of the relationship between the new student and her teacher.</i>
Rigmarole (n)	a lengthy and complicated procedure; a rambling or meaningless account or tale.
Rigor mortis (n)	a stiffening of the body after death. L. stiffness of death .
Rigour (n)	severity, strictness, harshness. L. rigere : be stiff. <i>The rules were enforced in the campus with unprecedented rigour.</i>
Rinderpest (n)	a virulent infectious viral disease. Ger. rinder : cattle + pest .
Riparian (adj. & n)	(Law) of or on a river bank; (n) an owner of property on a river bank. L. ripa : bank .
Riposte (n & v)	(n) a quick sharp reply or retort; a quick return thrust in fencing; (intr) deliver a quick reply or thrust. It. response .
Risible (adj.)	laughable; ludicrous. [<i>n</i> : risibility]. L. ridere : laugh .
Risqué (adj.)	slightly indecent or liable stock. <i>Risqué talk is unwelcome at all times.</i>
Robust (adj.)	strong and sturdy, esp. in physique or construction; vigorous, requiring strength; not given to or not confused by subtleties; full-bodied. [<i>adv</i> : robustly ; <i>n</i> : robustness]. <i>The gymnast's robust health was admired by all.</i>
Rococo (adj. & n)	highly ornamental, florid (of furniture, architecture).
Rodomontade (n, adj., v)	(n) boast or bragging talk or behaviour; an instance of this; (adj.) boastful or bragging; (intr) brag. From the name of a boastful character in the medieval Orlando epics.
Roister (v. intr)	revel noisily; be uproarious. [<i>adj.</i> : roisterous].
Rooster (n)	a domestic cock.
Rostrum (n)	a platform for public speaking. [<i>adj.</i> : rostrate/rostriferous/rostriform].
Rote (n)	mechanical or habitual repetition (with reference to acquiring knowledge). <i>Learning by rote is not an effective approach to education.</i>
Rotund (adj.)	circular; (of a person) large and plump; (of speech, literary style, etc) sonorous, grandiloquent. <i>The writer's new rotund style is loathed by his admirers.</i>
Roué (n)	a debauchee, esp. an elderly one; a rake.
Rubble (n)	waste or rough fragments of stone or brick, etc; pieces of undressed stone used, esp. as filling, for walls; (Geol) loose angular stones. Old Fr. robe : spoils .
Rubicund (adj.)	ruddy, high-coloured. [<i>n</i> : rubicundity]. L. rubere : be red .
Rudimentary (adj.)	fundamental; involving basic principles; incompletely developed. [<i>adv</i> : rudimentarily]. <i>The class was asked to first understand the rudimentary features of filmmaking.</i>
Rue (v & n)	(tr) repent of; bitterly feel the consequences of; (n) repentance.

Ruminate (v.)	meditate, ponder. [<i>n: rumination; adj.: ruminative</i>]. <i>After reading the analysis of urban development in the country, I wanted to ruminate over it since I had to read a paper on it at a seminar.</i>
Rummage (v. & n)	(v) search, esp. untidily and unsystematically (n) a instance of rummaging; a miscellaneous accumulation. <i>I had to rummage through the cupboard to locate an old scarf I required for the play.</i>
Runagate (n)	vagabond.
Runnel (n)	a brook, a gutter.
Runt (n)	a small pig or other animal, esp. the smallest in a litter; a weakling.
Ruse (n)	a stratagem or trick. <i>The terrorists deployed all the ruses they had in their repertoire to weaken the target country.</i>
Rustic (adj. & n)	belonging to the village; simple and uncultured; not sophisticated. L. rusticus: from the country.
Rusticate (v)	send away temporarily from university; make rural. <i>The student was rusticated by the principal for immoral behaviour.</i>
Ruthless (adj.)	cruel; pitiless. [<i>adv: ruthlessly; n: ruthlessness</i>]. Ref to rue.

S

- Sable (n & adj)** a small brown-furred flesh-eating mammal of North Europe and some parts of North Asia; its skin or fur; mourning garments; (adj.) dark and gloomy.
- Sabotage (n & v)** (n) deliberate damage to productive capacity, esp. as a political act; (v) damage similarly. [*n: saboteur*].
Fr. **saboter**: **bungle, wilfully destroy**.
The neighbours persistently sabotaged each other's plans of progress.
- Sabre (n)** a cavalry sword with a curved blade; a light fencing sword with a tapering blade.
- Sabre rattling (n)** display or threat of military force.
Despite USA's sabre-rattling tactics, Kofi Annan has succeeded in defusing the crisis in the Arab world.
- Sacerdotal (adj.)** relating to priests. [*n: sacerdotalism; adv: sacerdotally*].
L. **sacerdos**: **priest**.
- Sackcloth and ashes (n)** (Bib) self-abasement.
- Sacred cow (n)** an idea or institution unreasonably held to be above criticism.
From Hindus' respect for the cow.
In India and the USA, political dynasties are looked upon as sacred cows to the point of illogicality.
- Sacrilege (n)** the violation or misuse of what is regarded as sacred. [*adj.: sacrilegious; adv: sacrilegiously*].
L. **sacri**: **sacred** + **legere**: **take possession of**.
Criticizing the royal family was at one time akin to committing sacrilege.
- Sacrosanct (adj.)** most sacred; inviolable. [*n: sanctity*].
The name of Mahatma Gandhi is no longer considered sacrosanct by the younger generations.
- Sadism (n)** a form of sexual perversion characterized by the enjoyment of inflicting pain or suffering on others; the enjoyment of cruelty to others. [*n: sadist; adj.: sadistic*].
Fr. **sadisme**, from the 'Marquis' de Sade, Fr. writer.
- Safari (n)** hunting or scientific expedition, esp. in East Africa; a sightseeing trip to see African animals in their natural habitat.
Swahili from Arabic **safara**: **to travel**.
- Sagacious (adj.)** mentally penetrating; having practical wisdom; acute mind. [*adv: sagaciously; n: sagacity*].
The sagacious sailor took over the reins from the captain once the latter proved to be ineffective in handling the mutiny.
- Salient (adj.)** prominent. [*n: salience*].
Sovereignty is a salient feature of the Indian constitution.
- Saline (adj. & n)** (adj.) salty; (n) solution of salt in water. [*n: salinity*].
L. **sal**: **salt**.
- Sallow (adj.)** (of the complexion, etc) sickly yellow or pale brown. [*adj.: sallowish; n: sallowness*].
Old Eng. **sal**: **dusky**.
His illness left Nitin with a sallow look.
- Saltation (n)** the act or an instance of leaping or jumping. [*adj.: saltatory*].
L. **salire**: **leap**.
- Saltus (n)** sudden transition or breach of continuity.
- Salubrious (adj.)** healthy, pleasing; agreeable. [*n: salubrity/salubriousness*].
L. **salus**: **health**.
The sanatorium was situated in a salubrious environment.

Salutary (adj.)	beneficial; health-giving. L. salus .
Salvage (n & v)	(n) the rescue of a ship, its cargo or other property from loss; property saved in this way; payment made or due to a person who has salvaged property; (tr) save from a wreck, fire, etc; retrieve or preserve in adverse circumstances. [<i>adv: salvageable</i>]. L. salvare: save . <i>The family managed to salvage its pride despite its accounts being frozen on the basis of false allegations.</i>
Salvation (n)	preservation from loss, calamity, etc; (Theo.) delivery from sin and its consequences; a person or thing that saves. L. salvare .
Salve (n & v)	(n) a soothing ointment; a thing that explains away a discrepancy or palliates a fault; (tr) soothe. <i>Your words have worked like a salve on my wounded pride.</i>
Sanative (adj.)	healing; curative. L. sanare: cure .
Sanctify (v. tr)	consecrate; purify; make religious or binding by religious sanction. [<i>n: sanctification</i>]. L. sanctus: holy . <i>The Pope sanctified the proceedings by his mere presence.</i>
Sanctimonious (adj.)	making a show of holiness. L. sanctus . <i>The novice's sanctimonious air did not convince the head priest.</i>
Sanctity (n)	holiness. L. sanctus .
Sanctuary (n)	a holy place; a place of refuge; a place where birds, animals, etc. breed and are protected. <i>Gir sanctuary is one of the last domains of the Asiatic lion.</i>
Sanctum sanctorum (n)	the holy of holies. L. sanctus .
Sang froid (n)	composure, coolness, etc. in danger or under adverse or agitating circumstances. Fr. cold blood . <i>The couple exhibited admirable sang froid in the face of trenchant criticism from the families.</i>
Sanguinary (adj.)	accompanied by or delighting in bloodshed. L. sanguis inis: blood .
Sanguine (adj.)	optimistic; ruddy, bright; relating to the predominance of blood over other bodily humours, characterised by a ruddy complexion and a courageous and amorous disposition.
Sapid (adj.)	having an agreeable flavour; not insipid; not dull or uninteresting. [<i>n: sapidity</i>]. L. sapere: taste .
Sapient (adj.)	(Lit) wise; aping wisdom. [<i>n: sapience</i>]. L. sapere: be wise .
Sapling (n)	a young tree.
Sarcasm (n)	the use of bitter, esp. wounding, ironic remarks; language consisting of such remarks. [<i>adj.: sarcastic</i>]. Gk. sarkazo: gnash the teeth, speak bitterly . <i>The new recruit was frustrated with the omnipresent sarcasm that formed a part of the office talk.</i>
Sarcoma (n)	a malignant tumour of connective tissue.

Sardonic (adj.)	bitterly mocking or cynical; grimly jocular. Gk. alteration of sardanios , a Homeric epithet of bitter or scornful laughter . <i>The employer's sardonic tone drove shivers down the employee's spine.</i>
Sartorial (adj.)	of or relating to a tailor or tailoring; pertaining to clothes, esp. their elegance, neatness, etc. L. sartor : tailor. <i>The professor was admired not just for his knowledge but also his sartorial sophistication.</i>
Sate (v. tr)	gratify to the full; cloy; surfeit. <i>Being sated with happiness, the philosopher artist launched on a spree of self-destructive activities.</i>
Satiable (adj.)	that can be satisfied.
Satiate (v. tr)	satisfy or gratify. [adv: satiable; n: satiation]. <i>In a desperate hurry to satiate my need for sleep, I took the first train home after work.</i>
Satire (n)	the use of ridicule, irony, sarcasm, etc., to expose folly or vice or lampoon an individual; a composition (prose or poetry) in this form.
Saturate (v. tr)	soak thoroughly; fill to capacity; supply beyond the point at which the demand for the product is satisfied. [adj.: saturated]. L. satur : full.
Saturnine (adj.)	of a sluggish, gloomy temperament. [adv: saturninely]. <i>His saturnine temperament induced a deep pessimism in Satish, that nobody could remove.</i>
Saunter (v & n)	(intr) amble; stroll. Walk slowly; (n) a leisurely ramble. <i>The actor, who won the award for his performance, sauntered up to the stage.</i>
Savant (n)	a learned person, esp. a distinguished scientist. Fr. savoir : know.
Savoir faire (n)	the ability to act suitably in any situation; tact. Fr. know how to do .
Savour (n & v)	(n) a characteristic taste, flavour, relish; (tr) appreciate and enjoy the taste (of food, experience, etc); (intr) suggest by taste, smell, etc. L. sapere : taste. <i>We savoured the evening of classical music at the auditorium.</i> <i>The savour of roast chicken tantalizes the taste buds.</i>
Scabrous (adj.)	having a rough surface; hard to handle with decency; indecent, salacious. [adv: scabrously; n: scabrousness]. L. scaber : rough.
Scald (v. tr)	burn with hot liquid or steam; clean by rinsing with boiling water; produce a scalding effect or sensation. [adj.: scalding]. L. calidus : hot. <i>The hot coffee scalded my tongue.</i> <i>The rumours scalded our reputation.</i>
Scant (adj.)	(adj.) barely sufficient; deficient. <i>With scant regard for the electorate, politicians have expropriated public funds for personal benefits.</i>
Scathing (adj.)	witheringly scornful. Old Eng. scaetha : injury. <i>My family gave me a scathing look when I revealed my disinterest in matters of language and caste.</i>
Scatology (n)	a morbid interest in excrement; a preoccupation with obscene literature, esp. that concerned with the excretory functions. [adj.: scatological]. Gk. scatos : dung + logos .

Scatterbrain (n)	a person given to silly or disorganised thought with lack of concentration. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>scatterbrained</i>].
Scenario (n)	an outline of the plot of a play, film, opera, etc. with details of the scenes, situations, etc; a postulated sequence of imagined events. From scene . <i>In a different scenario you could have aggravated the crisis by your callous talk.</i>
Sceptical (adj.)	inclined to question the truth or soundness of accepted ideas, facts, etc; incredulous; critical. Gk. skepsis : inquiry, doubt . <i>The committee was sceptical of the candidate's hypothesis, but acknowledged the brilliance of the same on subsequent interrogation.</i>
Sceptre (n)	a staff as a symbol of sovereignty. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>sceptred</i>].
Schema (n)	a synopsis, outline, or diagram; a proposed arrangement; (in Kantian philo.) a conception of what is common to all members of a class; a general type or essential form. Gk. skhēma atos : form, figure . <i>In your schema of things, it is essential to understand the subtleties of the situation before implementing the proposal.</i>
Schism (n)	division. Gk. skhisma-atos : cleft from <i>skhizō</i> : split. <i>There is a deep schism between your life and the philosophy you advocate.</i>
Schizophrenia (n)	a mental disease marked by a breakdown in the relation between thoughts, feelings and actions, frequently accompanied by delusions and retreat from social life; a mentality or approach characterized by inconsistent or contradictory elements. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>schizophrenic</i>]. Gk. skhizō : to split + phrēn : mind .
Scholiast (n)	an ancient or medieval scholar, esp. a grammarian who annotated ancient literary texts. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>scholiastic</i>]. Gk. skholiazō : write disputation, philosophy .
Sclerosis (n)	an abnormal hardening of body tissue; (Bot) the hardening of a cell wall with lignified matter. Gk. sklēroō : harden .
Scintilla (n)	trace, spark.
Scintillate (v. intr)	be brilliant; twinkle, emit sparks. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>scintillating</i> ; <i>adv.</i> : <i>scintillatingly</i>]. L. scintilla . <i>The speaker scintillated the audience with her delivery and sparkling humour.</i>
Scion (n)	a shoot of a plant; a descendant; a younger member of (esp. a noble) family. Old Fr. cion : shoot . <i>The youngest scion of the Birla family has proved himself worthy of his father's mantle.</i>
Sciolist (n)	a superficial pretender to knowledge. [<i>n.</i> : <i>sciolism</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>sciolistic</i>]. L. scire : know .
Scour (n & v)	(tr) cleanse or brighten by rubbing, esp. with soap, sand, etc; clear by rubbing, hard work; search thoroughly. <i>The police scoured the area for the criminal.</i>
Scourge (n & v)	a whip used for punishment; a person or thing seen as an agent of punishment, esp. on a large scale; (tr) whip, punish, afflict, oppress. L. corrigia : whip . <i>Indolent people can be the scourge of an entire nation.</i>
Scram (v. intr)	go away.
Scrawny (adj.)	lean, scraggy.
Screwball (n & adj.)	a person whose ideas seem wild and crazy but in a harmless way; (Baseball) ball pitched with reverse spin against the natural curve; (<i>adj.</i>) crazy.

Scrimmage (n)	(n) a rough or confused struggle.
Scruple (n & v)	(n) regard to the morality or propriety of an action; (intr) be reluctant. <i>The murderers killed women and children without the slightest scruple.</i> <i>The murderers did not scruple to kill women and children.</i>
Scrupulous (adj.)	conscientious or thorough even in small matters; punctilious; careful to avoid doing wrong. [n: <i>scrupulosity/scrupulousness</i> ; adv: <i>scrupulously</i>].
Scurrilous (adj.)	grossly or indecently abusive. [adv: <i>scurrilously</i> ; n: <i>scurrility</i>].
Seamy (adj.)	sordid; disreputable. <i>The seamy aspect of his life was carefully hidden from his colleagues.</i>
Secede (v. intr)	withdraw formally from membership of a political federation or a religious body. [n: <i>secession</i>]. L. <i>cedere</i> : go. <i>Some of the states have agitated to secede from the Union.</i>
Secluded (adj.)	hidden; kept away from view or company. L. <i>claudere</i> : shut. <i>Most girls in India and other conservative societies live a secluded life.</i>
Sedate (adj. & v)	tranquil and dignified; equable; put to rest or sleep. L. <i>sedare</i> : settle from <i>sedere</i> : sit. <i>A sedate mind can tackle a crisis better than a restless one.</i>
Sedentary (adj.)	characterized by much sitting and little physical exercise; (Zool.) inhabiting the same locality throughout life. [n: <i>sedentariness</i> ; adv: <i>sedentarily</i>]. L. <i>sedere</i> : sit <i>Due to my sedentary lifestyle, it has become imperative that I indulge in vigorous physical exercise after office hours.</i>
Sediment (n)	matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid, dregs; (Geol.) matter that is carried by wind or water and deposited on the surface of the land. [n: <i>sedimentation</i> ; adj.: <i>sedimentary</i>]. L. <i>sedere</i> .
Sedition (n)	conduct or speech inciting to rebellion; agitation against the authority of a state. <i>Balgangadhar Tilak was arrested on charges of sedition against the British government.</i>
Sedulous (adj.)	persevering, diligent, painstaking. [n: <i>sedulity</i>]. L. <i>sedulus</i> : zealous. <i>The student scored a good grade in the examination through sedulous improvement of his previous errors and problems.</i>
Seethe (v. intr)	boil, bubble over; be very agitated, esp. with anger. <i>My parents seethed with anger when they realized that I had broken the family commandment of adhering to all traditional values.</i>
Segregate (v.)	(tr) isolate; (intr) separate from a mass and collect together. [adj.: <i>segregable/segregative</i>]. <i>Many educational institutions in colonial Africa segregated the students on the basis of colour.</i>
Seismic (adj.)	pertaining to an earthquake or other vibrations of the earth and its crust; of enormous proportions or effect. [adj.: <i>seismal/seismical</i>]. <i>The general elections have a seismic potential this year.</i>
Seismograph (n)	an instrument used to record force, direction, etc. of earthquakes. [adj.: <i>seismographic</i>].
Semantics (n)	the branch of linguistics concerned with meaning.
Sententious (adj.)	fond of pompous moralizing; affectedly formal. <i>The students did not like the teacher's sententious approach to tackling their mistakes.</i>
Sentient (adj.)	having the power of perception by the senses. [n: <i>sentience</i>]. L. <i>sentire</i> : feel. <i>Man is a sentient creature.</i>

Sentinel (n)	a sentry.
Septic (adj.)	infected; putrefying. Gk. sēpō : make rotten .
Septuagenarian (n & adj.)	(n) a person between 70 and 79 years old; (adj.) of this age.
Sepulchre (n)	a tomb; a burial vault or cave. L. sepult : bury .
Sequacious (adj.)	coherent; not inconsequent; servile. [<i>n</i> : <i>sequacity</i>]. L. sequii : follow .
Sequester (v)	(tr) seclude, isolate. Old L. commit for safe keeping . <i>The jilted lover sequestered herself in order to avoid infamy.</i>
Serene (adj.)	calm, tranquil, unruffled. <i>The nun's serene expression calmed the agitated crowd.</i>
Seriatim (adv)	point by point; taking one subject after another in a logical order.
Sericulture (n)	the production of raw silk; silkworm breeding.
Serried (adj.)	pressed closed together. Fr. serrer : close . <i>The boats were anchored together in a serried manner.</i>
Serviette (n)	a napkin for use at table. Old Fr. servir : serve .
Servile (adj.)	like a slave; slavish. [<i>n</i> : <i>servility</i>]. L. servus : slave . <i>Most of us harbour a servile attitude to politicians and film stars.</i>
Servitude (n)	slavery; subjection; bondage. L. servus .
Severance (n)	separation. [<i>v</i> : <i>sever</i>].
Sexagenariann (n & adj.)	(n) a person between 60 and 69 years of age; (adj.) of this age.
Sextant (n)	an instrument used in navigation to measure the angular distance of objects with the help of mirrors.
Sheen (n)	a gloss on a surface; radiance, brightness. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>sheeny</i>].
Sheep's eyes (n)	amorous glances.
Sheet anchor (n)	a second anchor for use in emergencies; a person or thing depended upon on in the last resort.
Shibboleth (n)	a custom, doctrine, phrase, etc, distinguishing a particular class or group of people. Heb šibbōlet : ear of corn, used as a test of nationality for its difficult pronunciation.
Shiftless (adj.)	lacking resourcefulness; lazy; inefficient.
Shilly-shally (v, adj., n)	(intr) vacillate; (adj.) vacillating; (n) indecision. Originally shall I?
Shoddy (adj.)	shabby, poorly made. <i>The cabinet's shoddy performance has been widely criticized by the media.</i>
Shrivel (v)	contract or wither into a wrinkled, folded, rolled-up state. Swedish skryvla : to wrinkle . <i>The plants shriveled up in the scorching heat.</i>

Sibling (n)	each of two or more children having one or more parents in common.
Sidereal (adj.)	of or concerning the constellations or fixed stars. L. sideris : star .
Siege (n)	a military expedition in which an attacking force seeks to compel the surrender of a fortified place by surrounding it and cutting off supplies, etc; a period in which such a siege takes place; a persistent attack. The Mughal forces laid siege to the Maratha fort for a period of forty days.
Siesta (n)	an afternoon sleep or rest esp. in hot countries.
Silt (n & v)	sediment deposited by water in a channel, harbour, etc; (v) choke or be choked with silt.
Silviculture (n)	growing or tending of trees as a branch of forestry. L. silva : wood + culture .
Simian (adj. & n)	(adj.) pertaining to apes; (n) an ape or monkey. Gk. simos : flat-nosed .
Similitude (n)	likeness; a comparison or the expression of a comparison. L. similis : like . <i>There is no similitude between your thought and actions.</i>
Simper (v & n)	(intr) smile in a silly way; (tr) express similarly; (n) a silly or affected smile.
Simulate (v. tr)	pretend to have or feel; imitate or counterfeit. [<i>n</i> : <i>simulation</i>]. L. similis : like . <i>Instructors from the defence academy simulated war conditions in the campus to impart training to the students.</i>
Sinecure (n)	a position that requires little or no work but usu. yields profit or honour. [<i>n</i> : <i>sinecurism</i>].
Sine die (adv)	with no appointed date. L. without day . <i>Parliament was adjourned sine die.</i>
Sinew (n)	tough fibrous tissue connecting muscle to bone; muscles; bodily strength.
Sinuous (adj.)	tortuous, undulating. <i>The sinuous road from Ranikhet to Nainital was blocked due to an avalanche.</i>
Siren (n)	a device for making a loud warning sound; a dangerous, fascinating woman; irresistibly tempting. Gk. each of a number of women or winged creatures whose singing lured sailors on to rocks.
Skew (adj., n, v)	oblique, slanting; (Math) lying in three dimensions; (n) a slant; (v) distort, move obliquely.
Skim (v)	(tr) take scum or cream or floating layer from the surface of a liquid; keep touching lightly in passing over; treat superficially; (intr) go lightly over a surface; the act or instance of skimming; a thin covering on a liquid. <i>I skimmed over the letters to quickly grasp their import.</i>
Skinflint (n)	a miserly person.
Skittish (adj.)	lively; playful; (of a horse) nervous.
Skulk (v & n)	(v) move stealthily, lurk or keep oneself concealed, esp. in a sinister or cowardly way; sneak away in time of danger; (n) a person who behaves in this way; a company of foxes. Swedish skolka : shirk .
Slacken (adj.)	to reduce in activity, force, etc.
Slake (v. tr)	assuage or satisfy. <i>I bought a bottle of mineral water to slake my thirst.</i>

Slander (n & v)	(n) a malicious, false and injurious statement; calumny; (tr) defame falsely. [<i>adj.: slanderous; n: slanderer</i>]. <i>Politicians take pride in slandering each other on the eve of elections.</i> <i>The slander indulged in by my rivals could not harm my reputation ultimately.</i>
Slattern (n)	slovenly woman.
Slender (adj.)	of small girth or breadth; gracefully thin; relatively small or scanty. <i>The building was supported on slender pillars.</i>
Sleuth (n & v)	(n) a detective; (v) investigate.
Slither (v & n)	(intr) slide unsteadily; (n) such an instance. <i>The snake slithered away before the people could catch it.</i>
Slothful (adj.)	lazy. [<i>adv: slothfully; n: slothfulness</i>]. <i>A slothful nature cannot be conducive to a good work environment.</i>
Slovenly (adj.)	carelessly and untidy; unmethodical; (<i>adv</i>) in a slovenly manner. <i>The woman was dressed in a slovenly manner.</i>
Sluggard (n)	a lazy person.
Sluggish (adj.)	inert; inactive; slow-moving. [<i>adv: sluggishly</i>]. <i>The river is sluggish in this part of the country on its way across the plain.</i>
Smack of (adv)	be suggestive of.
Smart (adj. & v)	(<i>adj.</i>) sharp, severe; vigorous; (<i>intr</i>) feel acute or sharp pain; rankle. (<i>adj.</i>) <i>The experience dealt a sharp blow to the man's pride.</i> (<i>intr</i>) <i>I am still smarting from the consequences of the confrontation.</i>
Smithereens (n)	small fragments. <i>The car was reduced to smithereens in the blast.</i>
Smother (v. tr)	suffocate, stifle; extinguish. Old Eng. smorian : suffocate . <i>The puppy smothered its owner with affection when he returned home after a long journey.</i>
Smug (adj.)	self-satisfied; complacent. <i>Smug with my recent success, I did not notice the loopholes in my new project.</i>
Snowball (v)	throw or pelt with snowballs; (<i>intr</i>) increase rapidly. <i>The problem in South East Asia has snowballed into a massive crisis.</i>
Sobriquet (n)	a nickname; an assumed name.
Sodality (n)	confraternity or association. Fr. sodalis : comrade .
Sojourn (n & v)	(n) a temporary stay; (<i>intr</i>) stay temporarily. <i>On my brief sojourn in the Garhwal region, I came across some exotic flowers and orchids.</i> <i>I sojourned in the Garhwal region recently in search of rare orchids.</i>
Solarium (n)	a room fitted with sunlamps or fitted with extensive areas of glass for exposure to the sun. L. sundial ; sunning place .
Solatium (n)	a thing given as compensation or consolation. L. solace .
Solicitous (adj.)	showing interest or concern; anxious. [<i>adv: solicitously; n: solicitousness</i>]. <i>My hosts were solicitous to know about my problems during my stay with them.</i> <i>My hosts were solicitous about my injury and took good care of me.</i>
Solecism (n)	a mistake of grammar or idiom; a blunder in the manner of speaking or writing. [<i>adj.: solecistic</i>]. Gk. soloikos : speaking incorrectly .

Soliloquy (n)	the act of talking when alone or regardless of any hearers, used esp. in drama; a part of a play involving this. L. solus : alone + loqui : speak. <i>Hamlet's soliloquies are among the best in Shakespearean theatre.</i>
Solvent (adj. & n)	(adj.) able to dissolve or form a solution with something; having enough money to meet one's liabilities; (n) a dissolving or weakening agent.
Somatic (adj.)	of or relating to the body as distinct from the mind. [<i>adv</i> : somatically].
Somnambulism (n)	sleepwalking. [<i>adj</i> .: somnambulant]. L. somnus : sleep + ambulare : to walk.
Somnolent (adj.)	sleepy, drowsy. [<i>n</i> : somnolence]. L. somnus : sleep. <i>The warm afternoon induced a somnolent mood in all of us.</i>
Sophistry (n)	use of clever but misleading arguments. [<i>n</i> : sophism; <i>sophist</i>]. Gk. sophisma : clever device.
Sonorous (adj.)	having aloud, full or deep sound; resonant; imposing. L. sonor: sound .
Soporific (adj.)	tending to produce sleep. L. sopor : sleep. <i>The soporific effect of the medicine I took yesterday has made me inefficient today.</i>
Sordid (adj.)	dirty or squalid; ignoble, mean. L. sordere : dirty. <i>The sordid details of the accident has have struck terror in my heart.</i>
Sovereignty (n)	supremacy; self-government. <i>The Indian Constitution mentions sovereignty as one of the inalienable rights of the country.</i>
Sow (n, v)	a female pig; (tr) scatter or put in the earth.
Sparse (adj.)	thinly dispersed or scattered; not dense. [<i>n</i> : sparsity/sparseness]. <i>The area being rocky, there is sparse vegetation here.</i>
Spartan (adj.)	frugal; possessing the qualities of courage, endurance, stern frugality, etc, associated with Sparta; austere; lacking comfort. <i>JRD Tata led a spartan life.</i>
Spasm (n)	a sudden involuntary muscular contraction; a sudden convulsive movement or emotion. Gk. spao : pull. <i>The girl's face contorted as another spasm of pain engulfed her body.</i>
Spasmodic (adj.)	not continuous; in bursts of activity; occurring or done by fits and starts. [<i>adv</i> : spasmodically]. <i>The spasmodic/sporadic firing terrified the civilians.</i>
Spate (n)	a river flood; a large or excessive amount. <i>The minister was waylaid by a spate of questions relating to his spurious deals.</i>
Spatial (adj.)	pertaining to space. L. spatium : space.
Spawn (v & n)	to lay eggs, produce or generate in large quantities (like fish). Old Fr. espandre : expand.
Spearhead (n & v.)	(n) an individual or group chosen to lead a thrust an attack; (tr) to do so. <i>The commandos were specially trained to spearhead the attack on the terrorists hiding in the dense forest.</i>
Specious (adj.)	false; superficially plausible but actually wrong. <i>The judge delivered some specious arguments, which did not convince the plaintiff.</i>

Spectral (adj.)	ghostlike; of or concerning the spectrum, a band of colours.
Sphinx (n)	an enigmatic or inscrutable person; any of a series of ancient Egyptian stone figures having a lion's body and a human head. Gk. sphiggo : draw tight. <i>Sonia Gandhi has been described by the media as a sphinx due to her inscrutable personality and tight-lipped silence on all issues.</i>
Spite (n & v)	(n) ill will or malice towards a person; (tr) thwart, mortify, annoy. (n) <i>My sibling quarrels with me out of spite.</i> <i>In order to spite me, my sibling quarrels with me.</i>
Splenetic (adj.)	ill-tempered; peevish.
Spoliation (n)	a plunder or pillage, esp. of neutral vessels in war; extortion; (Law) the destruction, mutilation, or alteration of a document to prevent its being used as evidence. L. spoliatio : spoil.
Spoof (n; v)	(n) a parody; a hoax or swindle; (tr) parody, hoax, swindle.
Spoonerism (n)	a transposition, usu. accidental of the initial letters etc. of two or more words. Eg.: 'why did you ball the coy' for 'why did you call the boy'.
Sporadic (adj.)	occurring occasionally; scattered. [adv: <i>sporadically</i>]. Ref to 'spasmodic' for sentence.
Sprig (n & v)	a small branch or shoot; a youth; (tr) ornament with sprigs.
Sprightly (adj.)	vivacious; lively.
Spruce (n, adj. & v)	(n) a coniferous tree; (adj.) neat in appearance; trim, smart; (v) make or become smart. (adj.) <i>The man looked spruce and fresh in his newly ironed clothes.</i> (v) <i>The group was asked to spruce up its act.</i>
Spurious (adj.)	false. L. spurius : false.
Squabble (n & v)	(n) a petty or noisy quarrel; (intr) engage in such a quarrel.
Squalid (adj.)	dirty; mean or poor in appearance. [n: <i>squalidity</i>]. L. squalere : be rough or dirty. <i>The poor family lived in a squalid environment, which was not in keeping with their family background.</i>
Squander (v. tr)	spend money wastefully. <i>The alcoholic squandered away all his money on drink.</i>
Squeal (n & v)	(n) a prolonged shrill sound; (make a squeal; (tr) utter words in this manner.
Squelch (v & n)	(intr) make a sucking sound as though walking in mud; silence; crush; put an end to; (n) an instance of squelching. <i>My friend squelched the squelch of his new shoes by replacing them with his old ones.</i>
Squirm (v & n)	(intr) wriggle; writhe; show or feel embarrassment or discomfiture; (n) such a movement. <i>I squirmed in my sofa when the manager read out his assessment of our individual performances.</i>
Staccato (adv, adj. & n)	(adv & adj.) with each sound sharply separated. <i>The staccato of gunfire reached in the stillness of the night.</i>
Staid (adj.)	of quiet and steady character; sedate.
Stalk (v.)	(tr) pursue or follow stealthily; (intr) walk in a haughty manner. <i>The enamoured man stalked the woman everyday when she went to work.</i>
Stallion (n)	a full grown male horse.

Star-crossed (adj.)	unlucky; ill-fated. <i>Hindi filmdom has revelled in portraying star-crossed lovers.</i>
Statute (n)	a written law passed by a legislative body.
Statutory (adj.)	required, permitted or enacted by statute. <i>There is serious debate on the issue of statutory death penalty for rapists.</i>
Stentorian (adj.)	(of voice) very loud. [<i>n</i> : stentor].
Sterling (adj.)	(adj.) genuine; of standard value or purity Old Eng. steorra : star . <i>The renowned mime artist put up a sterling performance.</i>
Stertorous (adj.)	laboured and noisy; sounding like snoring. [<i>adv</i> : stertorously]. L. stertere : snore .
Stifle (v. tr)	smother, suppress; experience or cause to experience constraint or breathing; kill by suffocating. [<i>adj</i> : stifling].
Stigmatize (v. tr)	describe as unworthy or disgraceful. [<i>n</i> : stigmatization].
Stilted (adj.)	stiff and unnatural; bombastic. [<i>n</i> : stiltedness]. <i>It was tough to improve my stilted speech without going to a speech therapist.</i>
Stimulant (adj. & n)	(adj.) anything which encourages or increases further or greater activity. L. stimulare : urge, goad . <i>I need a stimulant to continue work on the tedious project.</i>
Stingy (adj.)	niggardly, mean. [<i>adv</i> : stingily; <i>n</i> : stinginess]. <i>The stingy girl would not part with a penny.</i>
Stochastic (adj.)	determined by a random distribution of probabilities; (of a process) characterized by a sequence of random. Gk. stokhazamai : aim at, guess .
Stodgy (adj.)	heavy and indigestible; dull and interesting.
Stoic (n & adj.)	(n) a member of the ancient Greek school of philosophy founded at Athens by Zeno, which sought virtue as the greatest good and taught control of one's feelings and passions; (adj.) of or like the Stoics. [<i>adj</i> : stoical]. <i>My mother's stoic approach to every crisis has helped her tide over them.</i>
Stolid (adj.)	lacking or concealing emotion or animation; not easily excited or moved. [<i>adv</i> : stolidly; <i>n</i> : stolidity].
Stowaway (n)	a person who hides on board a ship or aircraft to get free passage.
Straitjacket (n & v)	(n) a strong garment with long sleeves for confining the arms of a violent prisoner, mental patient, etc.; restrictive measures; (tr) severely restrain. <i>Foreign diplomats in Iraq find themselves in a straitjacket when it comes to touring the country.</i>
Straitlaced (adj.)	severely virtuous; morally scrupulous; puritanical. <i>Widows put on a straitlaced air that is extremely irritating to younger girls.</i>
Stratagem (n)	a cunning plan or scheme, esp. for deceiving an enemy; trickery. <i>The navy's stratagem for confronting the enemy fleet was a masterpiece in war planning.</i>
Stratocracy (n)	a military government; domination by soldiers. Gk. stratos : army + cracy . <i>Pakistan has had a virtual stratocracy for many years.</i>
Strenuous (adj.)	requiring or using great effort; energetic or unrelaxing. L. strenuus : brisk .
Stricture (n)	a critical or censorious remark; (Med.) a morbid narrowing of a canal or duct.

Strident (adj.)	loud and harsh. <i>Parties have been campaigning in strident tones.</i>
Stringent (adj.)	strict; precise; leaving no loophole or discretion; tight, hampered by scarcity. L. stringere: draw tight. <i>The new party professes to campaign on a stringent budget.</i>
Stultify (v. tr)	make ineffective, useless or futile, esp. as reason of tedious routine; cause to appear foolish or absurd. [<i>n: stultification</i>]. L. stultus: foolish.
Stupefy (v. tr)	make stupid or insensible; stun with astonishment. [<i>n: stupefaction</i>]. L. stupere: be amazed. <i>The news of the bomb blast stupefied the nation.</i>
Stupendous (adj.)	amazing or prodigious, esp. in terms of size or degree. L. stupere.
Stupor (n)	a dazed, torpid or helplessly amazed state. [<i>adj.: stuporous</i>]. <i>I crawled out of the damaged car in a stupor.</i>
Stygian (adj.)	(Lit) dark, gloomy, indistinct; (Gk. mytho.) of or relating to the Styx, a river in Hades. Gk. stugnos: hateful, gloomy.
Stymie (n & v)	(n) a situation where an opponent's ball lies between the player and the hole; a difficult situation; (tr) obstruct, thwart. <i>The MFN has often tried to stymie the self-sufficiency of developing countries.</i>
Suave (adj.)	smooth, polite, sophisticated. [<i>n: suavity</i>]. L. suavis: agreeable.
Subaltern (n & adj.)	(n) an officer below the rank of captain; (adj.) of inferior rank. <i>Ranjit Guha has done commendable work in the field of subaltern studies, dealing with the underprivileged masses who are ignored by elitist politics.</i>
Subjugate (v. tr)	subdue; vanquish. L. subjugare: bring under the yoke. <i>The privileged sections of society have always tried to subjugate the less privileged in order to maintain status quo.</i>
Sublimate (v)	(tr) divert into a culturally higher or socially more acceptable activity; (Chem.) convert the solid state directly to its vapour; refine, purify, idealize.
Subliminal (adj.)	(Psycho) below the threshold of sensation or consciousness. [<i>adv: subliminally</i>]. L. sub + limen inis: threshold.
Suborn (v. tr)	induce by bribery, etc to commit perjury or any other unlawful act. [<i>n: subornation</i>]. L. subornare: incite secretly (ornare: equip).
Subpoena (n & v)	(n) a writ ordering a person to attend a law court; (tr) serve such a writ. L. under penalty: the first words of the writ.
Sub rosa (adj. & adv)	(of communication, consultation, etc) in secrecy and confidence. <i>The negotiation between the two parties was held sub rosa.</i>
Subsistence (n)	the state or an instance of keeping oneself alive; the means of supporting life; a livelihood. <i>A minimum salary is required for subsistence.</i>
Substantive (adj.)	having separate and individual existence; having a firm and solid basis; substantial; (Law) relating to rights and duties.
Substantiate (v. tr)	prove the truth of (a charge, statement, claim, etc); give good grounds for.
Subsume (v. tr)	include in a rule, class, category, etc. [<i>adj.: subsumable</i>]. <i>The name of the best contender was subsumed in the list of all the contenders.</i>

Subterfuge (n)	an attempt to avoid blame or defeat esp. by lying or deceit; a statement etc. resorted to for such a purpose; this as a practice or policy. L. subterfugere : escape secretly from subter: beneath + fugere: flee.
Subterranean (adj.)	existing, occurring or done under the earth's surface; secret, underground, concealed. L. sub + terra : earth . <i>The hostage was taken to a subterranean vault.</i>
Subtle (adj.)	evasive or mysterious; hard to grasp faint, delicate; ingenious. [<i>n</i> : subtleness; <i>adv</i> : subtly].
Subvert (v. tr)	overturn, overthrow, upset. L. sub + vertere : turn . <i>Literary theory has often tried to subvert prevalent theories to give a more holistic view of literary works.</i>
Succinct (adj.)	briefly expressed; terse, concise. [<i>n</i> : succinctness; <i>adv</i> : succinctly]. <i>The preamble to the constitution should be succinct.</i>
Succour (n & v)	(n) aid, assistance, esp. in time of need; (tr) assist. <i>The forest, with its abundance of fruits and berries, provided succour to Robinson.</i>
Succulent (adj. & n)	(adj.) juicy, palatable; desirable; thick and fleshy. [<i>n</i> : succulence]. L. succus : juice .
Sudoriferous (adj.)	secreting sweat. L. sudor : sweat .
Suffrage (n)	the right of voting in political elections; a view expressed by voting. <i>Women were denied suffrage till the early 20th century.</i>
Suffuse (v. tr)	spread from within to colour or moisten. L. fundere : pour . <i>Anger suffused his features.</i>
Sullen (adj.)	morose, resentful; melancholy, dismal.
Sully (v. tr)	disgrace or tarnish; soil, dirty. <i>My erstwhile friends tried to sully my reputation.</i>
Sumptuous (adj.)	lavish; rich, costly. <i>The hosts laid out a sumptuous feast for the guests.</i>
Sunder (v.)	separate, sever.
Sundry (adj. & n)	(adj.) various, several; (n) items or oddments not mentioned individually. Old Eng syndrig : separate .
Superannuated (adj.)	retired with a pension; discarded as too old for use. L. super + annus : year .
Supercilious (adj.)	assuming an air of contemptuous indifference or superiority. [<i>n</i> : superciliousness]. <i>The principal listened to the student's complaints with a supercilious air.</i>
Supererogation (n)	the performance of more than duty requires. [<i>adj</i> : supererogatory]. <i>Your efforts at supererogation have been ignored by the company which does not expect its employees to do so.</i>
Superfluity (n)	the state of being redundant, more than enough. [<i>adj</i> : superfluous]. L. fluere : to flow .
Supernal (adj.)	heavenly; divine; lofty; of or concerning the sky.
Supernumerary (adj.)	in excess of the normal number.
Supine (adj.)	lying face upwards; morally or mentally inactive.

Supplant (v. tr)	dispossess and take the place of, esp. by underhand means. L. planta : sole .
Suppliant (adj. & n)	(adj.) petitioning humbly; (n) a person who petitions humbly. [v. tr: <i>supplicate</i> ; adj. & n: <i>suppliant</i>]. L. sub + plicare : bend . <i>The suppliant went down on his knees to ask for forgiveness of the king.</i> <i>The man was suppliant in asking for his daughter's release.</i>
Surfeit (n & v)	(n) an excess, esp. in eating and drinking; a feeling of satiety and disgust resulting from this; (tr) overfeed; (intr) overeat. <i>A surfeit of emotion marred the otherwise well-made movie.</i>
Surly (adj.)	bad-tempered and unfriendly; churlish.
Surmise (n & v)	(n) a conjecture or suspicion about the existence or truth of something; (tr) infer doubtfully; (intr) make a guess. <i>Since you have based your theory on a surmise, the chance that you may go wrong is high.</i> <i>It is better that you do not surmise, but base your theory on some conclusive evidence.</i>
Surrealism (n)	a 20 th century movement in art and literature aimed at expressing the subconscious mind, eg. by the irrational juxtaposition of images. Fr. sur + realism . <i>Surrealism made a conscious break from the emotional and didactic literature of the past.</i>
Surreptitious (adj.)	covert; kept secret; clandestine. <i>The spies discovered the surreptitious meeting.</i>
Surrogate (adj.)	a substitute, esp. for a person in a particular role or office. L. surrogare : elect as a substitute . <i>Surrogate mothers sometimes experience trauma when they have to return the babies.</i>
Surveillance (n)	close observation, esp. of a suspected person. L. vigilare : keep watch .
Susceptible (adj.)	impressionable; sensitive; easily moved by emotion. <i>Those who are susceptible to cold should take great care to avoid it.</i>
Sustenance (n)	nourishment; food; a livelihood.
Suture (n & v)	(n) (Surgery) the joining of edges of a wound or incision by stitching; the thread or wire used for this; the seamlike junction of two bones, esp. in the skull; (tr) stitch up with a suture. L. suere sut : sew .
Suzerain (n)	a feudal overlord; a sovereign or lord having some control over another state that is internally autonomous. [n: <i>suzerainty</i>].
Svelte (adj.)	slender; lissom; graceful. <i>Most girls join gymnasiums to develop a svelte figure.</i>
Swagger (v, n, adj.)	(intr) walk or behave arrogantly; (n) such a gait or manner; (adj.) smart or fashionable. <i>The scion of the business family talked with a swagger, which was not appreciated by the company.</i> <i>The scion swaggered to office.</i>
Swathe (v & n)	(tr) bind or enclose in bandages or garments, etc; (n) a bandage or wrapping.
Swelter (v & n)	(intr) be uncomfortably hot; (n) such an atmosphere or condition. [adj.: <i>sweltering</i>]. <i>In the swelter of the furnace, the workers had to don protective clothing.</i>
Sybarite (adj.)	a person who is self-indulgent or devoted to sensuous luxury; fond of luxury or sensuousness. [adj.: <i>sybaritic</i>]. <i>Being a sybarite did not help the businessman's son when the family assets were liquidated.</i>

Sycophant (n)	a servile flatterer. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>sycophantic</i>].
Sylvan (adj.)	of the woods. L. silva : wood . <i>In the sylvan surroundings, I recuperated faster than expected.</i>
Symbiosis (n)	an interaction between two different organisms living in close physical association, usu. to the advantage of both; a mutually advantageous association or relationship between persons. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>symbiotic</i>]. Gk. sumbioō : live together from <i>sumbios</i> : companion (<i>bios</i> : life).
Synagogue (n)	a Jewish place of worship. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>synagogal</i>].
Synchronize (v)	(tr) cause to occur simultaneously; co-ordinate; combine; (intr) be simultaneous. [<i>n</i> : <i>synchronization</i>]. <i>The co-ordinator tried to synchronize the two events to make up for the lack of sufficient time.</i>
Syndrome (n)	a group or concurrent symptoms of a disease; a characteristic combination of opinions, emotions, behaviour, etc. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>syndromic</i>]. Gk. dramein : to run . <i>The syndrome pointed at infatuated ardour.</i>
Synonym (n)	word or phrase that means exactly or almost the same as another in the given language; a word denoting the same thing as another but suitable to a different context, (eg: serpent for snake); a word equivalent to another in some but not all senses, (eg: vessel for ship). [<i>adj.</i> : <i>synonymic</i>]. <i>Call is a synonym for beckon.</i>
Synthesis	the process or result of building up separate elements, esp. ideas, into a connected whole, esp. into a theory or system; a combination or composition. <i>A culture is a synthesis of disparate elements such as religion, language, economic condition, etc. that fuse into one composite whole.</i>

T

Tableau (n)	a picturesque presentation; a dramatic or effective situation suddenly brought about.
Tableland (n)	plateau.
Tabloid (n)	a newspaper, usu. popular in style with bold headlines and large photographs, having pages half the size of those of the average broadsheet; anything in a compressed or concentrated form. <i>Mid-Day is Mumbai's most popular tabloid.</i>
Taboo (n, adj. & v)	(n) setting a person, thing, etc apart as prohibited, sacred or accursed; a prohibition or restriction; (adj.) avoided or prohibited esp. by some social custom; (tr) put under taboo. <i>Indian society is governed by a set of taboos.</i> <i>Smoking in public is taboo in Delhi.</i>
Tacit (adj.)	understood or implied without being stated. [<i>adv: tacitly</i>]. L. tacitus: silent . <i>The organisation has a tacit understanding with the foreign office.</i>
Taciturn (adj.)	reserved in speech; uncommunicative. [<i>n: taciturnity</i>]. L. tacitus . <i>Due to her taciturn behaviour the lady was not popular among her colleagues.</i>
Tactical (adj.)	pertaining to tactics. Gk. tasso: arrange . <i>It was a tactical error not to consolidate on the air force's victory.</i>
Tactile (adj.)	pertaining to the sense of touch. [<i>adj.: tactual; n: tactility</i>]. L. tangere: touch .
Tadpole (n)	the larva of an amphibian.
Tainted (adj.)	contaminated; corrupt; not spotless. <i>The girl's tainted character prevented her marriage.</i>
Talisman (n)	an object, subject, etc., supposed to be endowed with magic powers, esp. of averting evil from or bringing good luck to its holder. [<i>adj.: talismanic</i>].
Tantalize (v. tr)	torment or tease by the sight or promise of what is unobtainable; torment with disappointment. From Gk. king Tantalus who was condemned to stand in water which receded when he tried to drink it and under branches which drew back when he tried to pick the fruits.
Tantamount (adj.)	equivalent to. It. tanto montare: amount to so much . <i>Your disrespect of the king is tantamount to disrespect of the state.</i>
Tantrum (n)	an outburst of bad temper or petulance.
Tardy (adj.)	slow to act or come or happen. Fr. tardus: slow . <i>The tardy student was rebuked for not submitting his assignment on time.</i>
Tarmacadam (n)	a material of stone or slag bound with tar, used in paving roads, etc. (Tarmac: a runway made of this).
Tautological (adj.)	the saying of the same thing twice over in different words, esp. as a fault of style; a statement that is necessarily true. [<i>adj.: tautological</i>]. Gk. tauto: the same + logy . <i>The speech was tautological and did not convey much information.</i>
Tawdry (adj. & n)	(adj.) showy but worthless; gaudy; vulgar; (n) cheap or gaudy finery.
Tawny (adj. & n)	(adj.) of an orange or yellow-brown colour; (n) this colour.

Taxidermy (n)	the art of preparing, stuffing and mounting animal skins with lifelike effect. Gk. derma : skin + taxis : arrangement.
Technocracy (n)	the government or control of society or industry by technical experts. Gk. tekhnē : art + cracy .
Techy (adj.)	peevish, irritable.
Tedious (adj.)	tiresomely long; boredom. L. taēdere : to weary.
Teetotaler (n)	a person advocating or practicing abstinence from alcohol drink.
Telepathy (n)	the supposed communication of thoughts or ideas otherwise than by the known senses. [adj.: <i>telepathic</i>].
Tellurian (adj. & n)	(adj.) of or inhabiting the earth; (n) an inhabitant of the earth. L. tellus uris : earth.
Temperance (n)	moderation or self-restraint esp. in eating and drinking; total or partial abstinence from alcoholic drinks. <i>The doctor advised his patient to practice temperance to avoid further kidney ailments.</i>
Temerity (n)	rashness, audacity. L. temere : rashly. <i>The outlaw had the temerity to flout the sheriff's orders.</i>
Temperamental (adj.)	liable to erratic or moody behaviour. [adv: <i>temperamentally</i>].
Temperate (adj.)	moderate; avoiding excess. L. temperare : mingle. <i>Bangalore has a temperate climate.</i>
Tempestuous (adj.)	turbulent; wild and stormy. L. tempus : storm. <i>Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler had a tempestuous relationship.</i>
Tempo (n)	the speed at which music is or should be played, esp. as characteristic (eg. waltz tempo); the rate of motion or activity. It. tempus : time.
Temporal (adj.)	of worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs; of or relating to time. L. tempus : time. <i>Although the priest preached against greed for temporal affairs, he was criticized for his secret accumulation of wealth.</i>
Temporize (v. intr)	avoid committing oneself so as to gain time; employ delaying tactics.
Tenable (adj.)	that can be maintained or defended against attack or objection. [<i>n</i> : <i>tenability</i>]. L. tenere : hold. <i>Your argument is tenable.</i>
Tenacious (adj.)	keeping a firm hold of property; retentive; persistent, resolute. L. tenere .
Tendentious (adj.)	calculated to promote a particular cause or purpose; having an underlying purpose. <i>Liza's argument advocating feminism was tendentious in the context.</i>
Tendon (n)	a cord or strand of firm fibrous tissue attaching a muscle to a bone. Gk. tenōn : sinew.
Tenet (n)	doctrine; dogma.
Tenterhooks (n)	anything that causes tension or agitation. <i>I was on tenterhooks during the examination since I had not prepared well.</i>

Tenuous (adj.)	slight, of little substance; thin, slender, small. <i>The tenuous link between government and industry is in danger of being jeopardized by government attitude.</i>
Tenure (n)	the length of time during which one holds an office; a condition or form of right or title under which property is held. Old Fr. tenir : hold .
Tepid (adj.)	slightly warm; unenthusiastic. L. teperē : lukewarm . <i>The tepid reaction from the audience disheartened the organisers.</i>
Tergiversation (n)	change of one's party or principles; equivocate. [v. <i>intr</i> : <i>tergiversate</i>]. L. tergum : back + vertere : turn .
Termagant (n)	an overbearing or brawling woman; a virago or shrew.
Ternary (n)	composed of three parts; (Math.) using three as a base. L. terni : three each .
Terpsichorean (adj.)	of or relating to dancing. Terpsichore: name of the Muse of learning.
Terrestrial (adj. & n)	(adj.) of or on or relating to the earth. L. terra : earth .
Terricolous (adj.)	living on or in the ground.
Terse (adj.)	brief, concise, curt. L. tergere : polish . <i>The research committee wrote a terse letter to the research scholar for neglecting her work.</i>
Tertiary (adj. & n)	(adj.) third in order or rank; (Geol.) of or relating to the first period in the Cenozoic era with evidence of the development of mammals and flowering plants; (n) this period or system. L. tertius : third .
Tête-à-tête (n, adv, adj.)	(n) a private conversation or interview usu. between two persons; (adv) together in private; (adj.) private; confidential.
Thalassic (adj.)	of the sea or seas. Gk. thalassa : sea .
Thaumaturgy (n)	the working of miracles. [<i>n</i> : <i>thaumaturge</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>thaumaturgic</i> ; <i>adj.</i> : <i>thaumaturgical</i>]. Gk. thauma matos : marvel + ergos : working .
Theism (n)	belief in the existence of god. Gk. theos : god + ism .
Theocracy (n)	a form of government by God or by a god directly or by a priestly order. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>theocratic</i>].
Theocrasy (n)	the mingling of deities into one personality; the union of the soul with God through contemplation.
Therapeutic (adj.)	curative. Gk. therapeuō : cure , wait on. <i>Swimming is therapeutic.</i>
Therapy (n)	the treatment of physical or mental disorders other than by surgery. Gk. therapeia : healing .
Thermal (adj. & n)	relating to heat. Gk. thermē : heat .
Thesaurus (n)	a book that lists words in groups of synonyms and related concepts. Gk. thesauros : treasure .

Thespian (adj. & n)	(adj.) of or relating to tragedy or drama; (n) an actor or actress. Thespis: the name of the originator of Gk. traditional tragedy. <i>Dilip Kumar is a thespian.</i>
Thickset (adj.)	heavily or solidly built; set or growing close together. <i>The thickset man could not be defeated by his more slender rivals.</i>
Thrall (n)	slave; a state of slavery. [<i>n: thralldom</i>]. <i>Pandit Ravi Shankar's performance held in audience in thrall.</i>
Thrasonical (adj.)	bragging or boastful.
Threnody (n)	a lamentation, esp. on a person's death; a song of lamentation. [<i>adj.: threnodia</i>]. Gk. thrēnos : wailing + ōidē : ode .
Threshold (n)	a point of entry or beginning; a strip of wood or stone forming the bottom of a doorway and crossed in entering a house or room; a limit below which a stimulus causes no reaction. <i>Standing on the threshold of the 21st century it is essential that we introspect and rectify our mistakes.</i>
Throe (n)	a violent pang, esp. of childbirth or death; anguish. Old Eng. thrawu : calamity influenced by throwian: suffer. <i>The century is caught in the throe of simultaneous birth and death.</i>
Thrombosis (n)	formation of a thrombus, i.e., a blood clot formed in the vascular system impeding blood flow. Gk. thrombos : blood clot, lump .
Throttle (n & v)	(n) a valve controlling the flow of fuel or steam in an engine; the throat, gullet or windpipe; (tr) choke or strangle. <i>With mock furiousness, Ravi threatened to throttle his friend for flirting with his fiancée.</i>
Thwart (v, n)	(tr) frustrate or foil; (n) a rower's seat placed across a boat. <i>I am determined to thwart my brother's attempts at being a deliberate introvert.</i>
Tidings (n)	information.
Timorous (adj.)	timid; easily alarmed. (timid) L. timere : fear . <i>A timorous nature can be easily exploited.</i>
Tinsel (n)	superficial brilliance or splendour; glittering metallic strips, thread used as decoration to give a sparkling effect; (tr) adorn with tinsel. Old Fr. estincele : spark . <i>Filmdom, with all its glitter and glamour has aptly been described as tinsel town.</i>
Tipple (v & n)	(intr) drink intoxicating liquor habitually; (tr) drink repeatedly in small amounts; (n) a drink, esp. a strong one.
Tirade (n)	a long vehement denunciation; angry speech. <i>The priest's tirade against the younger generation's values was largely ignored.</i>
Titanic (adj.)	gigantic, colossal. Gk. mythology: a member of an group of early gigantic gods.
Titular (adj. & n)	(adj.) of or relating to a title; existing in name or title alone; (n) the holder of an office etc., without the corresponding functions or obligations. <i>The President is the titular head of state.</i>
Toady (n)	a person who flatters for personal gain.
Toddler (n)	a child who is just beginning to walk.
Tome (n)	a huge, heavy book or volume.
Toothsome (adj.)	delicious, appetizing.

Topography (n)	a detailed description, characterization on a map, etc., of the natural and artificial features of a town, etc; (Anat.) the mapping of the surface of the body with reference to the parts beneath. Gk. topos : place + graphy .
Topsy-turvy (adj. & adv)	in utter confusion; upside down. <i>The boat lay topsy-turvy after the robbers ransacked it.</i>
Tornado (n)	a violent storm with whirling winds, esp.: in West Africa at the beginning and end of the rainy season and in the USA over a narrow path accompanied by a funnel-shaped cloud; an outburst or volley of cheers, missiles, etc.
Torpid (adj.)	sluggish, inactive, dull, apathetic. [<i>n</i> : torpor]. L. torpēre : sluggish.
Torrid (adj.)	very hot and dry; (of emotions and actions) emotionally charged. <i>The torrid weather rendered the atmosphere in the house torpid.</i> The couple had a torrid affair before they recognized the incompatibility between them.
Torso (n)	the trunk of the human body. It. stalk , stump , torso.
Tortuous (adj.)	full of twists and turns; devious, circuitous. [<i>n</i> : tortuosity]. <i>The road up the hill was a tortuous one.</i>
Totalitarian (adj. & n)	(adj.) of or relating to a centralized dictatorial form of government requiring complete subservience to the state; (n) a person advocating such a system. [<i>n</i> : totalitarianism]. <i>George Orwell's 'Nineteen Eighty Four' is a parody of a totalitarian state.</i>
Tourniquet (n)	a device for stopping the flow of blood through an artery by twisting a bar, etc. in a ligature or bandage.
Toxic (adj.)	poisonous. [<i>n</i> : toxicity]. <i>Toxic fumes enveloped the entire city after the explosion.</i>
Tracery (n)	ornamental stone openwork; a fine decorative pattern. [<i>adj</i> : traceried].
Tract (n)	a large area of land; (Anat.) an area of an organ or system; a short treatise.
Tractable (adj.)	manageable; docile. <i>Being tractable, Sita was easily manipulated by her self-appointed benefactors.</i>
Traduce (v. tr)	speak ill of; misrepresent. L. traducere : disgrace. <i>Since political opponents tend to traduce each other's parties, the Election Commission has asked for a restraint on such activities.</i>
Trait (n)	a distinguishing feature or characteristic.
Trammel (n & v)	(n) an impediment to free movement; a triple dragnet for fish; (tr) confine or hamper. <i>Privatization of the insurance sector has been trammelled by the move against it in Parliament.</i>
Trance (n)	a sleeplike state. <i>The members of the religious sect went into a trance once the recitation started.</i>
Tranquil (adj.)	calm, unruffled. <i>The tranquil surface of the lake reflected the blue of the sky.</i>
Transcendental (adj.)	vague, obscure, abstract, visionary; (in Kantian philo.) necessary to experience; regarding the divine as the guiding principle in man. [<i>n</i> : transcendentalism]. <i>Transcendental philosophy is difficult to understand.</i>
Transcribe (v. tr)	make a copy of, esp. in writing; transliterate; write out in ordinary characters or continuous prose. [<i>adj</i> : transcriptive; <i>n</i> : transcript]. L. trans + scribere : write. <i>I have to first transcribe the coded message in order to read it.</i>

Transfigure (v. tr)	change the form of.
Transfix (v. tr)	pierce with a sharp implement or weapon; root to the spot with horror or astonishment.
Transgress (v. tr)	violate law or commandment; infringe. [<i>n: transgression</i>]. <i>I do not dare transgress the law set down by my parents for fear of hurting them.</i>
Transient (adj. & n)	fleeting; lasting for only a short time; (n) a temporary visitor, worker, etc. <i>Happiness is transient.</i>
Transition (n)	a passing or change from point, place, state or condition to another. <i>The transition from teenage to adolescence is fraught with complex problems.</i>
Translucent (adj.)	allowing light to pass through diffusely; semi-transparent. L. trans + lucere : shine .
Transmute (v. tr)	change the form, nature or substance of. [<i>adv: transmutable; n: transmutability</i>]. L. trans + mutare : change .
Transpire (v.)	(intr) (of a secret or something unknown) leak out; come to be known; prove to be the case; occur; (tr & intr) emit or be emitted through the skin or lungs; perspire; (intr) (of a plant) release water vapour. [<i>n: transpiration</i>]. L. spirare : breathe . <i>It is not clear what transpired between Mussolini and The Pope but the latter agreed to sign the covenant with Mussolini.</i>
Traumatic (adj.)	distressing, worrying; distress emotionally disturbing. [<i>adv: traumatically</i>]. Gk. traumatōs : wound . <i>The people of Kashmir have led a traumatic existence due to terrorism in the valley over the last few years.</i>
Travail (n & v)	(n) a painful or laborious effort; the pangs of childbirth; (intr) undergo a painful effort. L. trepalium : instrument of torture . <i>The entire village congregated at the headman's house to hear him narrate the travails he experienced in restoring law and order in the village.</i>
Traverse (v & n)	(tr) travel or lie across; consider or discuss the whole extent of; thwart or oppose. [<i>adj.: traversable</i>]. <i>Vivekananda traversed the entire breadth of the country to ascertain the condition of the people thoroughly before taking a definite stand.</i>
Travesty (n & v)	(n) a grotesque misrepresentation or imitation; (tr) make such an imitation. L. travestir : disguise . <i>The imbroglio in the State Assembly was a travesty of democracy.</i>
Treachery (n)	betrayal.
Tremor (n & v)	(n) a shaking or quivering; a thrill of (fear, delight) etc.; a slight earthquake; (intr) undergo a tremor. L. tremere : tremble . <i>The Garhwal region was rocked by a series of tremors in the early hours of the morning.</i>
Tremulous (adj.)	trembling or quivering; timid or vacillating. L. tremere .
Trenchant (adj.)	(of a style or language) incise, terse, vigorous; keen. [<i>n: trenchancy; adv: trenchantly</i>]. <i>I faced trenchant criticism from my parents for my unladylike conduct at the party.</i>
Trepidation (n)	a feeling of fear or alarm; trembling of limbs, etc. L. trepidare : be agitated . <i>With trepidation I entered the Principal's room after he caught me agitating along with others on the campus.</i>
Tribulation (n)	a great affliction or oppression; a cause of this. L. tribulum : sledge for thrashing . <i>After a series of trials and tribulations, Odysseus returned home unscathed.</i>

Tribunal (n)	a board appointed to adjudicate in some matter, esp. one of public concern; judicial authority. <i>A special tribunal was set up at Nuremberg to deal with war crimes after World War II.</i>
Tribute (n)	a thing said or done or given as a mark of respect or affection, etc; a payment made regularly by one state or ruler to another as a sign of dependence. L. tributum : assign (originally in the sense of dividing between tribes).
Triennial (adj. & n)	(adj.) lasting three years; recurring every three years; (n) a visitation of an Anglican diocese by its bishop every three years. L. tri + annus : year .
Trite (adj.)	hackneyed; worn out by constant use. [<i>n</i> : triteness ; <i>adv</i> : tritely].
Trivial (adj.)	not too important; trifling; commonplace or humdrum. L. trivialis : commonplace . <i>The film lost time in trivial details without going into the root of the problem it tried to depict.</i>
Troglodyte (n)	a cave dweller, esp. of prehistoric times; (derog.) a wilfully old-fashioned person. [<i>adj</i> : troglodytic ; <i>n</i> : troglodytism].
Trojan (adj. & n)	(adj.) of or relating to ancient Troy in Asia Minor; a person who works, fights, etc., courageously. <i>The Trojans are synonymous with courage and endurance.</i>
Trollop (n)	a disreputable or promiscuous girl or woman.
Troupe (n)	a company of actors or acrobats. <i>The itinerant troupe performed a series of plays in the city.</i>
Truant (n, adj., v)	(n) a child who stays away from school without leave or explanation; a person missing from work; (adj.) shirking, idle, wandering; (intr) stay away as a truant. [<i>n</i> : truancy]. Gaelic truaghan : wretched . <i>The child was scolded by teachers for playing truant.</i>
Truculent (adj.)	aggressively defiant; pugnacious; fierce, savage. [<i>n</i> : truculency ; <i>adv</i> : truculently]. L. trux trucis : fierce .
Trudge (v & n)	(intr) go on foot laboriously; (tr) traverse (a distance) this way; (n) a similar kind of walk. <i>We trudged up the hill and into the city because our car had a flat tyre.</i>
Truism (n)	an obviously true or hackneyed statement; a proposition that states nothing beyond what is implied in any of its terms. [<i>adj</i> : truistic].
Trumpery (n & adj.)	(n) worthless finery; a worthless article; (adj.) showy but worthless. Old Fr. tromper : deceive .
Truncate (v & adj.)	(tr) cut the top or the end (from a tree, a body, a piece of writing, etc); (adj.) (Bot., Zool) ending abruptly. [<i>n</i> : truncation]. L. truncare : maim .
Tryst (n & v)	(n) a time and place for a meeting, esp. of lovers; such a meeting; (intr) make a tryst. Mid. Eng. an appointed station in hunting . <i>India's tryst with destiny, at one time a popular notion, has become a truism now.</i>
Tumid (adj.)	swollen, inflated; bombastic. L. tumere : swell . <i>The tumid dead body was discovered due to the stench emanating from it.</i> <i>The poet's tumid language did not suit the occasion.</i>
Tumultuous (adj.)	noisily vehement; uproarious; disorderly; agitated. <i>The tumultuous waters swirled around the raft manned by the sailors.</i>
Turbid (adj.)	(of a liquid or colour) muddy, thick, not clear; confused, disordered. L. turba : a crowd, a disturbance . <i>The turbid water of the estuary is the bane of nature lovers.</i>

Turgid (adj.)	pompous, bombastic; distended, swollen. [<i>n</i> : <i>turgidity</i>]. L. turgere : swell . <i>A turgid script ruined the play.</i>
Turmoil (n)	violent confusion, agitation.
Turpitude (n)	baseness, depravity, wickedness. L. turpis : disgraceful, base . <i>Iago as the villain in Othello is an agent of turpitude in the play.</i>
Tutelage (n)	guardianship. L. tutela : watch . <i>Chandragupta attained fame and glory under the tutelage of Chanakya.</i>
Tutelary (adj.)	serving as guardian. L. tutela .
Twaddle (n & v)	(n) useless, senseless or dull writing or talk; (intr) indulge in this.
Tyrannicide (n)	the act or an instance of killing a tyrant; the killer of a tyrant. Tyrant + cide .
Tyro (n)	a beginner or novice. L. tyro : recruit .

U

- Ubiquitous (adj.)** present everywhere or in several places simultaneously. [*n: ubiquity*].
L. **ubique: everywhere.**
The ubiquitous housefly is a domestic menace.
- Udometer (n)** a rain gauge.
L. **udus: damp + metre.**
- Ukase (n)** an arbitrary command; an edict of the Russian government.
Russian **ukaz: ordinance, edict.**
- Ulterior (adj.)** hidden, secret; situated beyond.
L. **further.**
I cannot discern the ulterior motive at play in this overt generosity towards me.
- Ultimatum (n)** final warning.
L. **ultimare: come to an end.**
The United States has given an ultimatum to Iraq to reduce its nuclear arsenal or face war.
- Ultraist (adj.)** the holder of extreme positions in religion, politics, etc. [*n: ultraism*].
L. **ultra: beyond; extreme.**
The ultraist party in the state has refused to compromise on its demands in favour of more fundamental policies.
- Ultra vires (adv. & adj.)** beyond one's legal power or authority.
- Ultrasonic (adj.)** of or involving sound waves with a frequency above the upper limit of human hearing.
L. **ultra + sonus: sound.**
- Ululate (v. intr.)** howl, wail. [*n: ululation; adj.: ululant*].
- Umbrage (n)** offence; sense of slight or injury.
The young girl took umbrage at the lecherous looks cast at her by the man sitting next to her.
- Umbrageous (adj.)** forming a shade or screen.
L. **umbra: shadow area in an eclipse.**
- Umpteen (adj.)** indefinitely many. [*adj.: umpteenth*].
I have remonstrated on this topic umpteen times and am loath to do so again.
- Unabated (adj.)** undiminished.
The rain continued unabated through the night.
- Unanimity (n)** complete agreement. [*adj.: unanimous; adv.: unanimously*].
L. **unus: one + animus: mind.**
- Unconscionable (adj.)** unscrupulous; excessive.
The act of vengeance perpetrated by the enemy country can be described in only one way, unconscionable.
- Uncouth (adj.)** lacking in ease and polish; uncultured, rough.
The rural youth's uncouth ways were ridiculed by his peers.
- Unctuous (adj.)** unpleasantly flattering; oily. [*n: unction, unctuousness adv.: unctiously*].
Unctuous ways serve perhaps those who have no sense of self-respect.
- Undaunted (adj.)** not discouraged by difficulty or danger. [*adv.: undauntedly*].
The knight, undaunted by the dragon, swore to slay it.
- Undulate (v & adj.)** (v) have or cause to have a wavy motion or look; (adj.) wavy. [*adv.: undulately*]
L. **unda: wave.**
The waves undulated in a rhythmic motion.
The undulate motion of the water was soothing to the mind.

Unearth (v. tr.)	discover by searching or in the course of digging or rummaging; dig out of the earth. <i>In the process of excavating for ancient artefacts, the archaeologists unearthed an entire civilisation.</i>
Unequivocal (adj.)	unmistakable; not ambiguous; clear. un + L. equi: equal + vocare: call. <i>The judge's verdict was unequivocal.</i>
Unexceptionable (adj.)	entirely satisfactory; with which no fault can be found. <i>The biography was unexceptionable.</i>
Unfeigned (adj.)	genuine, sincere.
Unflappable (adj.)	imperturbable; remaining calm in a crisis. <i>The unflappable courage of the swimmer was evident when he dived into the choppy waters without much ado to rescue the child.</i>
Unflinching (adj.)	fearless; firm. <i>The revolutionary withstood the whiplash unflinchingly.</i>
Ungainly (adj.)	awkward, clumsy. <i>I did not like the new receptionist for her ungainly ways.</i>
Unguent (n)	a soft substance used as ointment or for lubrication. L. unguere: anoint.
Unhinged (adj.)	unsettled or disordered. [<i>v. tr. unhinge</i>].
Unilateral (adj.)	performed by or affecting only one person or party. [<i>adv.: unilaterally</i>]. <i>India's unilateral decision to curb hostilities will not be very effective in the long run.</i>
Unimpeachable (adj.)	beyond reproach or question or censure. <i>The new chief justice has had an unimpeachable track record.</i>
Unison (n)	accord, harmony; (adj.) (Mus.) coinciding in pitch. <i>The voices sang in unison.</i>
Unmitigated (adj.)	not modified or lessened; absolute, unqualified. <i>In the absence of a bread-earner, the family's penury continued unmitigated.</i>
Unravel (v)	(tr.) undo; probe and solve a mystery; disentangle; (intr.) become disentangled or unknotted. <i>The CBI is trying to unravel the mystery of the missing files.</i>
Unrelenting (adj.)	unmerciful; not yielding without reduction in force.
Unruly (adj.)	not easily controlled or disciplined. <i>The unruly class was disqualified from the debate because of their undisciplined behaviour.</i>
Untenable (adj.)	that cannot be defended. <i>Your argument that Akbar was only a Mughal ruler and not an Indian ruler is untenable.</i>
Unwitting (adj.)	unintentional; unaware of the state of the case; without knowing. [<i>adv.: unwittingly</i>]. <i>Mr. Singh became the unwitting victim of a love affair and succumbed to it with his eyes shut and heart open.</i>
Unwonted (adj.)	not customary or usual.
Upbraid (v. tr.)	chide or reproach a person. <i>The teacher upbraided the student for laxity in completing her homework.</i>
Upheaval (n)	a violent or sudden change or disruption; (Geol.) an upward displacement of part of the earth's crust. <i>The general economic upheaval has effected the closure of factories and mass unemployment in the country.</i>

Uphill (adv., adj., n)	(adv.) in an ascending direction up a slope, hill, etc; (adj.) ascending, sloping up; (n) an arduous slope. <i>The completion of the project is an uphill task.</i>
Uproar (n)	a violent disturbance; a tumult. Dut. roer : confusion . <i>The Speaker admonished the House for creating uproar over trivial matters.</i>
Urbane (adj.)	suave; courteous; refined and elegant in manner. <i>The city lad's urbane manners contrasted with the uncouth manners of his rural friend.</i>
Urchin (n)	a mischievous child, esp. young and raggedly dressed.
Usher (n & v)	(n) a person who shows people to their seats in the theatre; a doorkeeper; (v) to introduce, show in, etc.
Usufruct (n & v)	(n) the right of enjoying the use and advantages of another's property short of the destruction or waste of its substance; (tr.) hold in usufruct. [<i>n</i> : usufructuary]. Use + fruit .
Usurp (v)	(tr.) seize or assume wrongfully; (intr.) encroach. L. usurpare : seize for use . <i>The king's youngest son usurped the royal throne after defeating his brothers in battle.</i>
Usury (n)	the act or practice of lending money at interest.
Utilitarian (adj. & n)	(adj.) designed to be useful; severely practical; (n) an adherent of such a principle or philosophy. [<i>n</i> : utilitarianism]. <i>One of the dangers of being a utilitarian is that the trivial joys of life sometimes pass one by.</i>
Utility (n)	the condition of being useful or profitable. <i>This machine has limited utility and therefore should not be purchased.</i>
Utopia (n)	an imagined perfect place or state of things.
Uxorious (adj.)	greatly or excessively fond of one's wife. L. uxor : wife .

V

Vacillate (v. intr.)	fluctuate in opinion or resolution; waver; move from side to side. L. vacillat : sway . <i>The court has been vacillating on the topic of pollution control by banning cigarette smoking in public places.</i>
Vacuity (n)	emptiness. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>vacuous</i>]. L. vacuus : empty . <i>The unconquerable vacuity of his mind can be filled only with conceit and vain talk.</i>
Vacuous (adj)	empty; lacking expression; unintelligent.
Vagabond (n, adj & v)	(n) a wanderer or vagrant, esp. an idle one; (adj) having no fixed habitation; (intr.) wander about as a vagabond. L. vagari : wander .
Vagary (n)	an eccentric idea or act; a caprice. L. vagari . <i>The vagaries of nature cannot be predicted.</i>
Vagrant (n & adj)	(n) a person without a settled home or regular work; a tramp; (adj) wandering, unpredictable. L. vagari .
Vainglorious (adj)	boastful; vain. [<i>n</i> : <i>vainglory</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>vaingloriously</i>].
Valedictory (adj & n)	(adj) serving as a farewell; (n) a farewell address. L. vale: farewell from valēre : be well or strong . <i>The valedictory message for the teacher was full of warmth.</i>
Valetudinarian (n & adj)	(n) a person of poor health or unduly anxious about health; (adj) of poor health. [<i>n</i> : <i>valetudinarianism</i>]. L. valetudinarius : in ill health from valēre : be well.
Valiant (adj)	courageous. [<i>adv</i> : <i>valiantly</i>]. L. valēre : be strong .
Validate (v. tr.)	confirm, ratify. <i>The treaty was validated by the two kings at a meeting in a neutral country.</i>
Valour (n)	bravery esp. in battle. L. valēre .
Vampire (n)	(in fiction) a reanimated corpse that leaves its grave to suck the blood of persons sleeping; a person who preys ruthlessly on others. [<i>adj</i> : <i>vampiric</i>]. Turkish: witch .
Vandalism (n)	wilful or malicious destruction or damage to property. [<i>adj</i> : <i>vandalistic</i>]. <i>The refugees lost their property to vandals whose vandalism left no trace of their house or furniture.</i>
Vanguard (n)	the foremost part of an army or fleet advancing or ready to advance; the leaders of a movement, opinion, etc. <i>The opposition party is at the vanguard of the nationalist movement.</i>
Vapid (adj)	dull. [<i>n</i> : <i>vapidity</i>].
Variant (adj & n)	(adj) differing in form or details from the main one; variable or changing.
Variegated (adj)	marked with irregular patches of different colours; diverse in appearance, esp. in colour; (Bot) having leaves containing two or more colours.
Vaticination (n)	prophecy, foretelling. L. vates : prophet .

Vaudeville (n)	US variety entertainment; a stage play on a trivial theme with interspersed songs. [adj: <i>vaudevillian</i>].
Vaunt (v. tr. & n)	(tr.) boast; brag; (n) a boast. <i>Sometimes it serves one's purpose to vaunt one's talents.</i>
Veer (v & n)	(intr) change direction; change in course, opinion, conduct, etc; (n) a change of course, direction, etc.
Vegetate (v. intr.)	live an uneventful or monotonous life. <i>It is traumatic for a lively person to vegetate due to a handicap.</i>
Vehement (adj.)	forceful; showing or caused by strong feeling. [adv: <i>vehemently</i> ; n: <i>vehemence</i>]. <i>A vehement protest from the working classes greeted the new mechanised environment.</i>
Velleity (n)	low degree of volition not conducive to action; slight wish or inclination. L. velle : to wish.
Vellum (n)	fine parchment; smooth writing paper.
Venal (adj.)	able to be bribed or corrupted. [n: <i>venality</i>]. L. venum : thing for sale. <i>The venal officer would not allow passage to anybody without bribe.</i>
Vendetta (n)	a blood feud in which the family of a murdered person seeks vengeance on the murdered or the murderer's family; a prolonged bitter quarrel. L. vindicare : avenge . <i>The two noble families almost decimated each other in a bloody vendetta.</i>
Veneer (n & v)	(n) a thin covering of fine wood or other surface material applied to a coarser wood; deceptive outward appearance of a good quality, etc; (tr.) apply a veneer to; disguise an unattractive character.
Venerable (adj.)	deserving high respect. [v. tr: <i>venerate</i>]. L. venerari : revere . <i>The venerable seer attracted large crowds.</i>
Vengeful (adj.)	seeking vengeance; vindictive.
Venial (adj.)	excusable, pardonable. L. venia : forgiveness . <i>It is no venial sin and therefore can be easily pardoned though not condoned.</i>
Vent (n & v)	an opening; an outlet; (tr.) make a hole or vent in; give vent or free expression to. <i>The molten matter spewed out of the tiny vent.</i> <i>The angry woman gave vent to her fury by lashing out at the man.</i> <i>The woman vented her anger on the man.</i>
Ventilate (v. tr.)	cause air to circulate freely in a room; submit a question to public consideration and discussion; (Med.) oxygenate (the blood); admit or force air (into the lungs). L. ventus : wind . <i>The doctor ordered that the room be ventilated before admitting the next patient.</i>
Ventral (adj.)	(Anat. & Zool.) of or on the abdomen; (Bot) of the front or lower surface. L. ventr : belly .
Ventriloquism (n)	the art of speaking with little or no movement of the lips or jaws in such a way that the sound seems to come from somewhere else. [adj.: <i>ventriloquial</i> ; v. intr. <i>ventriloquize</i>]. L. venter : belly + loqui : speak .
Venture (n & v)	(n) a risky enterprise; (intr.) dare, not be afraid; dare to go outdoors; (tr.) expose to risk. <i>The businessman took up the new venture with supreme self-confidence.</i> <i>The businessman decided to venture into the new business of cultivating mushrooms.</i>
Veracity (n)	honesty. truthfulness; accuracy. L. verus : true . <i>The girl spoke with an innocence that reinforced the veracity of her statements.</i>

Veracious (adj.)	speaking or disposed to speak the truth. [<i>n</i> : <i>veraciousness</i>]. L. verus : true . <i>Admitting the existence of his Swiss bank accounts was one of the few veracious statements ever made by the minister.</i>
Verbatim (adv & adj.)	word for word. L. verbum : word . <i>The culprit repeated his senior's words verbatim.</i>
Verbiage (n)	verbosity; needless accumulation and use of words. L. verbe : word .
Verbose (adj.)	using more words than needed. [<i>n</i> : <i>verbosity</i>]. <i>The essay, though eclectic in its scope, was verbose.</i>
Verdant (adj.)	green, fresh-coloured; lush. [<i>n</i> : <i>verdancy</i> ; <i>adv</i> : <i>verdantly</i>]. L. verdis : green . <i>The verdant hills were a delight to the eye.</i>
Verisimilitude (n)	the appearance or semblance of being true or real; a statement that seems true. [<i>adj</i> .: <i>verisimilar</i>].
Verity (n)	true statement, esp. one of fundamental import; a really existent thing; truth. L. verus : true . <i>We have to examine the verity of his deposition.</i>
Vernal (adj.)	pertaining to spring. L. ver : spring . <i>The vernal breeze soothed my frayed nerves.</i>
Versatile (adj.)	capable of dealing with many subjects; having many different talents or skills. [<i>n</i> : <i>versatility</i>].
Vertex (n)	the highest point; the apex; a meeting point of two lines that form an angle.
Vertigo (n)	dizziness. L. vertere : to turn . <i>Since I suffer from vertigo, I cannot climb hills.</i>
Vestige (n)	trace or piece of evidence; a slight amount; (Biol.) a part or organ of an organism that is reduced or functionless but was well developed in its ancestors. L. vestigium : footprint . <i>The man left prison with not a vestige of prison life evident on person.</i>
Viand (n)	an item of food; provisions; victuals. Old Fr. viande : food .
Vibrant (adj.)	alive, forceful, alive and powerful; resonant; thrilling. L. vibrare : swing . <i>Folk music is a vibrant form of art.</i>
Vicarious (adj.)	experienced in the imagination through another person; deputed, delegated. [<i>adv</i> : <i>vicariously</i>]. <i>Most readers have derived vicarious pleasure from the reading of comic strips.</i>
Vicennial (adj.)	lasting for or occurring every twenty years. L. vicennium : period of twenty years from viginti: twenty + annus: year.
Vicegerent (n & adj.)	(n) one acting in place of regent; (adj.) exercising delegated power. L. vice : in the place of + gerere : carry on .
Vicinage (n)	a neighbourhood. L. vicinus : neighbour . <i>There is no phone booth in the vicinage of this house.</i>

Vicissitudes (n)	variation of fortune. [<i>adj.: vicissitudinous</i>]. <i>Frustrated with the vicissitudes of life, the man decided to renounce worldly pleasures and retire to a hermitage.</i>
Victual (n & v)	(n) food, provisions; (tr.) supply with victuals; (intr) obtain stores. L. victus : food .
Videlicet (n)	(abbreviated as viz.), namely, that is to say.
Vie (v. intr)	compete. <i>The athletes vied with each other for the prize.</i>
Vigilant (adj.)	watchful against danger, difficulty, etc. [<i>adv: vigilantly; n: vigilance</i>]. L. vigilare : keep awake . <i>The vigilant guard prevented the attack from the enemies who crawled up to the ramparts under cover of night.</i>
Vile (adj.)	hateful, shameful; disgusting. L. vilis : cheap, base . <i>It was vile of you to hurl abuse at the girl.</i>
Vilify (v. tr.)	defame; speak evil of. [<i>n: vilification</i>]. <i>The cardinal tried to defame the king in order to gain mileage out of it.</i>
Vindicate (v. tr.)	clear of blame or suspicion; justify by evidence or argument. [<i>n: vindication</i>]. L. vindicare : avenge . <i>The clear proof against the plaintiff helped vindicate the defendant.</i>
Vindictive (adj.)	tending to seek revenge; spiteful. [<i>adv: vindictively</i>]. L. vindicta : vengeance .
Vinous (adj.)	of, like, associated, or addicted to wine. L. vinum : wine .
Vintage (n & adj.)	(n) a season's produce of grapes or the wine made from it; the gathering of grapes for wine making; a wine of high quality from a single identified year and district; a thing made in a particular year; (adj.) of high quality, esp. from the past or characteristic of the best period of a person's work. L. vinum . <i>Pune had a vintage car rally last Sunday.</i>
Vintner (n)	wine merchant. L. vinum .
Virago (n)	a fierce or abusive woman; a shrew. <i>The old woman next door is a virago and thus disliked by the children.</i>
Virile (adj.)	of or characteristic of a man; having masculine vigour or strength; of or having procreative power. [<i>n: virility</i>]. L. vir : man .
Virtu (n)	a knowledge of or expertise in the fine arts; the usu. moral worth inherent in a person or thing.
Virtuoso (n)	a person highly skilled in the technique of a fine art, esp. music. [<i>adj.: virtuosic</i>].
Virulent (adj.)	strongly poisonous; violent or malignant. [<i>n: virulence; adv: virulently</i>]. <i>The letter contained virulent vituperative against the political masters.</i>
Virus (n)	a submicroscopic infective agent.
Visage (n)	face, countenance. <i>The actress's visage clearly displayed her emotions.</i>
Vis-à-vis (prep, adv, n)	in relation to; facing one another. Old Fr. vis : face . <i>The old ideas seem more inviting now, vis-à-vis the new ones that flood the minds of people.</i>

Viscerotonic (adj.)	with predominantly social interests.
Viscid (adj.)	sticky. [<i>n</i> : viscosity].
Viscous (adj.)	semi-fluid; sticky. <i>The viscous lava posed a great hazard to the villages nearby.</i>
Visionary (n & adj.)	(n) a person given to fanciful theories or having foresight; (adj.) existing only in the imagination; not practicable. <i>At times of crisis, every country requires a visionary who can combine vision with practicality.</i>
Vista (n)	a long narrow view; a mental view of along succession of remembered or anticipated events. [<i>adj</i> .: vistaed]. L. vedere : see. <i>A long vista of happy memories opened itself up to me in my days at the sanatorium.</i>
Vitiate (v. tr.)	impair the quality or efficiency of; contaminate; make invalid or ineffectual. <i>The long discourse vitiated my dreams of spending a peaceful evening.</i>
Vitriolic (adj.)	hostile, caustic. <i>At the meeting, the trade union leaders spewed vitriolic against the management.</i>
Vituperative (n)	abusive. [<i>n</i> : vituperation].
Vivacious (adj.)	animated, lively, sprightly. [<i>n</i> : vivacity]. L. vivere : to live.
Vivisection (n)	dissection or other painful treatment of living animals for purposes of scientific research; unduly detailed or ruthless criticism.
Vixen (adj.)	a noisy bad tempered woman; a virago. [<i>adj</i> .: vixenish].
Vociferous (adj.)	clamorous; noisy; insistently and forcibly expressing one's views. [<i>adv</i> : vociferously; <i>v</i> : vociferate].
Vogue (n)	the prevailing fashion; popular use. It. vogare : go well. <i>Mini skirts are not just in vogue; they are a craze.</i>
Volant (adj.)	(Zool.) able to fly. L. volare : to fly.
Volatile (adj.)	evaporating rapidly; changing, fickle; lighthearted; apt to break out into violence. <i>The angry young man's volatile temper is by now well known.</i>
Volition (n)	the power of willing; the exercise of the will. [<i>adj</i> .: volitional]. L. volo : I wish.
Volte-face (n)	a complete reversal of position in argument, opinion, etc. L. volvere : roll + facies : appearance. <i>The government did a complete volte-face on the issue of devaluation.</i>
Volubility (n)	garrulousness; loquacity.
Voluptuous (adj.)	curvaceous and sexually desirable; gratifying the senses. [<i>n</i> : voluptuousness].
Voracious (adj.)	greedy in eating; ravenous. L. vorare : devour. <i>My brother is a voracious eater.</i>
Vortex (n)	a whirl of activity which tends to absorb people in it. [<i>adj</i> .: vortical; <i>n</i> : vorticity]. <i>In college I was caught in a vortex of activity which left me no time to socialise.</i>
Votary (n)	a devoted follower, adherent or advocate of a system, etc; a person vowed to the service of God or a god or a cult. <i>Pupul Jayakar was a votary of Krishnamurthy's philosophy.</i>

Vouchsafe (v. tr.)	condescend to give or grant.; condescend. <i>The deputy director did not vouchsafe to answer the applicant's questions.</i>
Vox populi (n)	public opinion. L. the people's voice.
Vulgarian (n)	a vulgar person.
Vulnerable (adj.)	easily harmed or wounded. [<i>n: vulnerability</i>]. L. vulnerare: to wound. <i>It was unfair to attack the vulnerable man.</i>
Vulnerary (adj. & n)	(adj.) useful or used for the healing of wounds; (n) such a plant, etc.
Vulpine (adj.)	of or like a fox; cunning. L. vulpes: fox. <i>The usurer's vulpine features contorted when he saw his rival move into his neighbourhood.</i>

PGA

W

Waddle (v & n)	(intr.) walk with short steps and a swaying motion; (n) such a gait. <i>The short, fat man's waddle belied his efficiency in handling office work.</i> <i>The short, fat man waddled around the office.</i>
Wag (n & v)	(n) a facetious person, a joker; (tr.) shake or wave rapidly or energetically to and fro. <i>The dog came wagging its tail.</i> <i>The theatrical piece has been written by a famous wag.</i>
Wager (n & v)	(n) a bet; (v) to bet.
Waive (v. tr.)	refrain from insisting on or using (a claim, right, opportunity, etc). Old Fr. waif : abandon . <i>The British tried to waive aside the Indian claim to independence but succumbed to the mounting pressure ultimately.</i>
Wallop (v & n)	(tr.) beat, thrash; (n) a heavy blow. [<i>n</i> : <i>walloping</i>].
Wallow (v & n)	(intr.) roll about in mud, sand, water; indulge in unrestrained sensuality, pleasure, sorrow; (n) such an act. Old Eng: walwian : to roll . <i>The family spent half the evening wallowing in nostalgia for the shared moments of joy.</i>
Wan (adj.)	(of a person's complexion or appearance) pale, exhausted; (of a star, etc) faint, partly obscured. [<i>adv</i> : <i>wanly</i>]. <i>The moon's wan light cast depressing shadows in the garden.</i>
Wanderlust (n)	an eagerness for travelling or wandering.
Wane (v)	(intr.) decrease in size, power, vigour, brilliance, importance. Old Eng: wanian : lessen . <i>Seeing his influence wane, the politician decided to become a columnist in an influential magazine.</i>
Wanton (adj., n & v)	(adj.) licentious, lewd, sexually promiscuous; random, motiveless, arbitrary; luxuriant; (n) an immoral or licentious person, esp. such a woman; (intr.) behave licentiously. <i>The wanton desecration of India's temples by invaders is a gruesome part of Indian history.</i>
Warranty (n)	a written guarantee; an undertaking by an insured person of the truth of a statement or fulfilment of a condition.
Warren (n)	a densely populated or labyrinthine building or district; a network of interconnecting rabbit burrows.
Wary (adj.)	careful, cautious; on one's guard. <i>I am wary of using unmanned lifts in skyscrapers.</i>
Waspish (adj.)	irritable, petulant; sharp in retort. [<i>adv</i> : <i>waspishly</i>].
Wastrel (n)	a wasteful or good-for-nothing person.
Waver (n)	to be indecisive. [<i>adv</i> : <i>waveringly</i>].
Waylay (v. tr.)	lie in wait for; stop to rob or interview. <i>Robbers often waylay incautious people on the highways.</i>
Wayward (adj.)	capricious; childish self-willed; freakish. [<i>adv</i> : <i>waywardly</i>].
Wearisome (adj.)	tiring by monotony or length. tedious. [<i>adv</i> : <i>wearisomely</i>].
Wharf (n & v)	(n) a level quayside area to which a ship may be moored; (tr.) moor at a wharf; store at a wharf.

Whet (v & n)	(tr.) sharpen by grinding; stimulate the appetite or desire; (n) the act or instance of whetting appetite; a small quantity stimulating appetite. <i>The sight of the appetisers whet my appetite.</i>
Whimsical (adj.)	odd or quaint; humorous, fanciful. [<i>n: whimsicality; adv: whimsically</i>]. <i>Infuriated with the non-discerning crowd, the whimsical guitarist suddenly broke his guitar on the stage.</i>
Whine (n & v)	(n) a complaining, prolonged wail as of a dog; an instance of feeble or undignified complaining; (intr.) complain in a querulous tone or a feeble voice. [<i>adv: whiningly</i>].
Whit (n)	a particle; a least possible amount.
Willowy (adj.)	lithe and slender. <i>Her clothes suit Rekha's willowy build.</i>
Wily (adj.)	crafty, cunning.
Winsome (adj.)	winning, attractive, engaging. [<i>adv: winsomely</i>]. Old Eng: wyn: joy + some: giving . <i>The actress's winsome ways endeared her to the masses.</i>
Wiseacre (n)	a person who affects a wise manner.
Wither (v. intr.)	to become reduced in size, freshness, vitality, etc; make or become dry and shrivelled. <i>Due to lack of sufficient sunlight and water, the saplings withered away.</i>
Witless (adj.)	foolish, stupid.
Witticism (n)	a witty remark. <i>Alexander Pope is known for his witticism.</i>
Witting (adj.)	aware, intentional. [<i>adv: wittingly</i>].
Wizard (n & adj.)	(n) a sorcerer; a magician; a person of remarkable powers (adj.) wonderful, excellent. <i>Vishwanathan Anand is a wizard at chess.</i>
Wizened (adj.)	shrivelled-looking.
Wont (adj., n & v)	(adj.) accustomed; (n) what is customary; (v) make or become accustomed. <i>It is my wont to go for a walk every morning.</i>
Wonted (adj.)	habitual.
Wraith (n)	a ghost or apparition. <i>The rector appeared like a wraith to us while we were trying to snuggle into bed after the midnight party.</i>
Wreak (v. tr)	put in operation; give play or satisfaction to; cause; avenge. Old Eng. wreca: drive, avenge . <i>It is the wont of hurricanes to wreak havoc on unsuspecting people.</i>
Wrest (v)	(tr.) wrench away from a person's grasp; distort into accordance to suit one's interests or views. <i>The multi-national was ultimately able to wrest the market from the Indian player in the cosmetics sector.</i>
Writ (n)	a written command in the name of a court, state, sovereign, etc to act or abstain in some way.

X, Y, Z

Xanthippe (n)	shrewish woman or wife; name of Socrates' wife.
Xenophobia (n)	unreasonable fear or dislike of foreigners. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>xenophobic</i> ; <i>n</i> : <i>xenophobe</i>] Gk. xenos : stranger .
Xiphoid (adj.)	(Biol.) sword-shaped. Gk. xiphos : sword .
Xylophone (n)	a musical instrument of wooden or metal bars graduated at length and struck with a small wooden hammer or hammers.
Yen (n)	strong desire; longing or yearning; the chief monetary unit of Japan. <i>I have a yen for chocolates.</i>
Yokel (n)	a rustic.
Yuletide (n)	the Christmas festival.
Zeal (n)	earnestness or fervour; enthusiasm. [<i>adj.</i> : <i>zealous</i>]. <i>The sportsman completed his arduous training with a lot of zeal.</i>
Zealot (n)	a fanatic; an uncompromising or extreme partisan; a member of an ancient Jewish sect aiming at a world Jewish theocracy and resisting the Romans until AD 70. [<i>n</i> : <i>zealotry</i>].
Zenith (n)	the part of the celestial sphere directly above the observer; the highest point in one's fortunes; a time of great prosperity. <i>The musician retired from public performances at the zenith of his fame and musical career.</i>
Zephyr (n)	a mild breeze. Gk. <i>God of the west wind</i> .