

# The SAT's Top 1000 Vocabulary Words

The following words have most often appeared on SAT's. The acronym, **SAT**, has had several meanings over the years: From 1901 to ≈ 1941, it meant **Scholastic Achievement Test**. From 1941 to ≈ 1990, it was called the **Scholastic Aptitude Test**. From 1990 to ≈ 1994, it was hailed the **Scholastic Assessment Test**. Now, it can be defined as either of the aforementioned. Despite the evolving etymology of this all-too-common acronym, its purpose remains lucid indeed: It tests college-level readiness and general academic preparedness. Research has repeatedly demonstrated that a high vocabulary is the most accurate indicator of potential academic success. Thus, the following 1,000 words will certainly aid in increasing your personal readiness for high academics and provide an excellent launching point for foundational college-level vocabulary building exercises.

**Study tip:** Read each complete entry a minimum of five (5) times, while attempting to memorize the words and the understood messages in each sentence. Also, writing your personal version of each sentence will aid in the indelible impression that each message can make. Albeit, there is certainly no more productive means of concrete vocabulary acquisition than the actual use of the terms in your daily verbal or written communiqués!

## A --

### 1. **abase (v.) to humiliate, to degrade**

Though Brutus, a twice-held-back bully, tried his best to verbally abase Travis and the kids he played with, nothing he said seemed to matter to any of them.

### 2. **abate (v.) to reduce or to lessen**

The rain poured down like a broken dike for a long while; then, as the clouds began to move on, it slowly abated.

### 3. **abdicate (v.) to give up a position, usually one of great power or authority**

When King John realized that his enemies would ultimately win, he abdicated his throne and hid himself away.

### 4. **abduct (v.) to kidnap, take by force**

During their holy festival, the king's ancient enemies abducted the beautiful Princess Kristiana from her castle chamber.

### 5. **aberration (n.) something that differs from what's normal**

The doctor's ill-tempered behavior was thought to be nothing more than an aberration, that is, until it continued for a full calendar year.

**6. abet (v.) to aid, assist, encourage**

The spy escaped only because he had a secret friend on the inside to aid and abet his efforts.

**7. abhor (v.) to hate, detest**

Because he wound up tripping himself constantly when he tried to play touch football, Ray began to abhor his favorite sport.

**8. abide a. (v.) to put up with; b. (v.) to remain**

a. Normally, Chuck would never abide such conduct; but, decided to this time because of the strain the girls have been under recently.

b. Despite the beating they've taken from the weather throughout the ages, the grandest of all the mountain chains, the mighty Rockies, yet abide.

**9. abject (adj.) wretched, pitiful**

After losing all her money, Martha fell into abject poverty, having nothing left of value.

**10. abjure (v.) to reject, renounce**

To prove his honesty, the President abjured the evil policies of his wicked predecessor.

**11. abnegation (n.) denial of comfort to oneself**

The zealot slept only on the floor, took only cold showers, and followed religiously many other practices of abnegation and self denial.

**12. abort (v.) to give up on a half-finished project or effort**

After they ran out of food, the men, attempting to jog around the country, had to abort their task and go home.

**13. abridge a. (v.) to cut down, shorten; b. (adj.) shortened**

a. The publisher thought the new compendium was much too long and abridged it.

b. *War and Peace* is such an epic tale, even the abridged version is long and detailed.

**14. abrogate (v.) to abolish, usually by authority**

The Constitution assures that the United States government cannot abrogate our rights.

15. **abscond (v.) to sneak away and hide**

In the confusion, James Bond absconded into the night with the top secret codes.

16. **absolution (n.) freedom from blame, guilt, sin**

Once all the real facts were in, the prudent jury granted Mr. Clydette complete and total absolution, rendering a verdict of not guilty.

17. **abstain (v.) to freely choose not to commit an action**

Everyone demanded Angus to put on the kilt, but he did not want to, so he abstained.

18. **abstruse (adj.) hard to comprehend**

Everyone else in the classroom understood geometry and algebra with ease, but poor John found the entire subject most abstruse.

19. **accede (v.) to agree**

Surprisingly, the coach acceded to the players' request to miss practice to go to a party.

20. **accentuate (v.) to stress, highlight**

Motivational speakers all agree that success in life means accentuating the positives while learning from then dismissing the negatives.

21. **accessible (adj.) obtainable, reachable**

After studying from *Vocabulary Power with Connotative Precision* and getting a great score on his SAT, Kayden realized that his greatest academic goal was then accessible.

22. **acclaim (n.) high praise**

Greg's excellent short story won great acclaim from the literary community.

23. **accolade (n.) high praise, special distinction**

Everyone offered accolades to Samson after he defeated his enemies in battle.

24. **accommodating (adj.) helpful, obliging, polite**

Though the apartment was not big enough for everyone to be comfortable, the good friends were very considerate and accommodating to each other.

**25. accord (n.) an agreement**

After months of negotiating, the former enemies struck an accord that benefitted them both.

**26. accost (v.) to confront verbally**

Though Alecia was normally quite verbose and aggressive, when the clumsy waiter spilled soup on her for the third time, she didn't accost him in the least.

**27. accretion (n.) slow growth in size or amount**

Giant stalactites are formed in the roofs of caves and caverns by the accretion of dripping mineral-laden water.

**28. acerbic (adj.) biting, bitter in tone or taste**

Jack became intensely acerbic and began to cruelly and vindictively make fun of all his buddies.

**29. acquiesce (v.) to agree without protesting**

Though Mr. Cold wanted to stay inside and work in his office, he acquiesced to his wife's demands to "Come on out and eat it while it's hot!"

**30. acrimony (n.) bitterness, discord**

Acrimony enveloped the friendship of Lisdanay and Terri after they both fell for Alvin.

**31. acumen (n.) keen insight**

Because of her linguistic acumen, Lois the Loquacious was able to create in minutes manners of expression that took other students many hours.

**32. acute a. (adj.) sharp, severe; b. (adj.) having keen insight**

a.) Adam could not walk because the pain in his left foot was so acute.

b.) Because she was so acute, Lorraine quickly discerned the magician's saw-the-woman-in-half magic trick.

**33. adamant (adj.) impervious, immovable, unyielding**

Though public pressure was intense, and the across-the-isle foes relentless, Obama remained adamant about his latest proposal.

34. **adept (adj.) extremely skilled**

Tarzan was very adept at jumping from tree to tree just like Cheetah, his pet Chimp.

35. **adhere a. (n.) to stick to something; b. (n.) to follow devoutly**

a.) We adhered to our plan; for, desperation had set in, robbing us of our waywardness.

b.) Henry adhered to the dictates of his religion without any question or shade of doubt.

36. **admonish (v.) to caution, criticize, reprove**

Joe's mother admonished him not to ruin his appetite by eating dessert before dinner.

37. **adorn (v.) to decorate**

We adorned the tree with many colorful ornaments: ribbons, bows, and bells.

38. **adroit (adj.) skillful, dexterous**

The adroit card shark could deal easily from the bottom of the deck with no one noticing, not even when they expected what was happening.

39. **adulation (n.) extreme praise**

Though the play was excellent, Martin didn't think it deserved the overwhelming adulation it received from its writers.

40. **adumbrate (v.) to sketch out in a vague way**

The coach adumbrated his game plan; none of the players were ready for its unorthodox twists and turns.

41. **adverse (adj.) antagonistic, unfavorable, dangerous**

Because of adverse conditions, the novice hikers decided to give up trying to climb the mountain.

42. **advocate a. (v.) to argue in favor of; b. (n.) a person who argues in favor**

a.) Alvin advocated turning left at the stop sign, even though everyone else thought they should turn right.

b.) In addition to wanting to turn left at every stop sign, Alvin was an advocate of eating hamburgers at every meal as a wonderful way to support the U.S. cattle industry.

43. **aerial (adj.) somehow related to the air**

We watched as the F-15 fighters conducted ultra sophisticated aerial acrobatics.

44. **aesthetic (adj.) artistic, related to one's sense of beauty**

We hired Susan, an interior decorator, because she had a wonderful sense of aesthetics.

45. **affable (adj.) friendly, amiable**

Everyone likes to be around Jorge because he is so affable and kind-hearted.

46. **affinity (n.) a spontaneous feeling of closeness**

Jerry didn't know why, but he felt an incredible affinity toward Karen, his new friend.

47. **affluent (adj.) rich, wealthy**

Mrs. Gregory was affluent, owning a huge house, a yacht, and a small Pacific island.

48. **affront (n.) an insult**

Albert was very touchy, and took any slight word as a major affront to his supposed honor and dignity.

49. **aggrandize (v.) to increase or make greater**

Joseph always mentioned the nicknames of his famous friends as a way to aggrandize his personal standing and reputation.

50. **aggregate a. (n.) a whole or total; b. (v.) to gather into a mass**

a.) The three branches of the U.S. Government form an aggregate that's much more powerful than any of its individual parts.

b.) To make any possible rebellion attempt fruitless, the wicked dictator decided to disaggregate as many people from their community support groups as he possibly could.

51. **aggrieved (adj.) distressed, wronged, injured**

The self-important, officious foreman overworked his aggrieved employees as soon as his promotion was final.

52. **agile (adj.) quick, nimble**

The old grey hounds were far too slow to catch the agile young vixens.

**53. agnostic (adj.) doubting the existence of God**

Joey's parents are very religious, but he is agnostic, searching for greater proof.

**54. agriculture (n.) farming**

It was a huge step in the progress of civilization when tribesmen turned to agriculture and started to grow their own food.

**55. aisle (n.) a passageway between rows of seats**

Once the bride got inside the auditorium, she moon-walked down the aisle to the beat of Billie Jean.

**56. alacrity (n.) eagerness, speed**

When Kevin's dad asked him to cut the grass, he did it with great alacrity; because, the new girl next door was standing outside watching.

**57. alias (n.) a false name or identity**

Samuel tried to sneak into a frat party, using an alias and a fake ID.

**58. allay (v.) to soothe, ease , put to rest**

The police chief gave a fiery speech to try to allay the fears of his officers when they learned of the escape of the city's worst nemesis ever.

**59. allege (v.) to assert, usually without proof**

The detective alleged that Carl was the perpetrator; however, after the investigation turned up no evidence, Carl was set free.

**60. alleviate (v.) to relieve, make more bearable**

This information will alleviate the fears of the soldiers, but only for a while.

**61. allocate (v.) to distribute, set aside**

The president allocated 25 percent of the nation's budget to improve the school system.

**62. aloof (adj.) reserved, distant**

The brilliant scientist seemed so aloof, when he was preoccupied with astronomical equations.

**63. altercation (n.) a dispute, fight**

Jack and Jill blamed everybody but themselves for the altercation they had on the hill.

**64. amalgamate (v.) to bring together, unite**

Because of her great charisma, the mayoral candidate was able to amalgamate all of the city officials into a formidable campaign committee.

**65. ambiguous (adj.) uncertain, variably interpretable**

Dr. Jones's answer to the question was much too ambiguous to satisfy his critics.

**66. ambivalent (adj.) having opposing feelings**

My feelings for my *X* are truly ambivalent; love and hate in tandem dominate my heart.

**67. ameliorate (v.) to improve**

The tension and mistrust in the air was ameliorated when the CEO announced that the bonus was going to be divided evenly.

**68. amenable (adj.) willing, compliant**

My teacher was amenable to the idea that his best students should be honored at the assembly.

**69. amenity (n.) an item that increases comfort**

Oprah's guest house is decked with a multitude of amenities - gadgets and toys galore.

**70. amiable (adj.) friendly**

An amiable chap, Herbert Billingsworth got along smashingly with everyone he met.

**71. amicable (adj.) friendly**

Connie wanted an amiable separation; but, her violent boyfriend, Brutus, refused to be amicable.

**72. amorous (adj.) showing love, particularly affectionate**

Ray saw Pam wearing her slinky red dress; his amorous heart began to palpitate out of control.

**73. amorphous (adj.) without a fixed or definitive shape or type**

The amorphous nature of gases causes them to be the unparalleled paragons of shape-shifters.

**74. anachronistic (adj.) out of its proper time**

Dinosaurs in downtown West Palm Beach would certainly constitute a monumental anachronistic event.

**75. analgesic (n.) something that reduces pain**

The injured athlete cried for his analgesic, saying, “The pain is unbearable. Stop it! Stop it!”

**76. analogous (adj.) similar to, so that an analogy can be drawn**

Though they are not the same shape, the structure of a rectangle is analogous angle-wise to that of a square.

**77. anarchist (n.) one who opposes and wants to eliminate all forms of government and law**

True to the nature of every anarchist, Boris challenged the existence of every kind of government on the planet.

**78. anathema (n.) something cursed, a detestable person**

“I never want to see that murderer. He is anathema to me -- cursed forever, he is!” exclaimed the unforgiving widow.

**79. anecdote (n.) a short, humorous account**

Billy’s quaint Southern anecdote had his sophisticated hostess rolling on the floor, breathless and teary-eyed.

**80. anesthesia (n.) a substance that causes loss of sensation**

When the pain became unbearable, the nurse administered a stronger anesthesia to the operating site.

**81. anguish (n.) extreme sadness, torment**

Beatrice went through awful anguish when she was first confronted with the truth of her condition.

**82. animated (adj.) lively**

Today's animated cartoons are the most life-like ever, touching all modern situations with virtual perfection.

**83. annex a. (v.) to incorporate a space; b. (n.) a space attached to a larger space**

a.) After lengthy debate and compromise, the United States annexed Alaska, making it our largest state.

b.) They have learned to do their studying in a little annex attached to their bedroom.

**84. annul (v.) to make void or invalid**

Annulling a bad law becomes an easy chore once the majority of the population recognizes it as hurtful to the innocent.

**85. anomaly (n.) something that does not fit into the normal order**

“Such a spatial anomaly could account for these so-called ripples in time,” said Mr. Spock to his noble and heroic captain.

**86. anonymous (adj.) being unknown, unrecognized**

Mary received a love poem from a somewhat anonymous admirer, her romantically minded hubby.

**87. antagonism (n.) hostility**

Spiderman's greatest and most bizarre nemesis, Doctor Octopus, provided such antagonism that the superhero was pushed to his limits time and again.

**88. antecedent (n.) something that came before**

Many of the great traditions of Western culture had their antecedent birth in the culture of Ancient Greece.

**89. antediluvian (adj.) ancient; before Noah's flood**

The antediluvian society of Babel vanished without a trace thanks to the incredible force and pressure of the great flood!

**90. anthology (n.) a selected collection of writings, songs, etc.**

The new anthology of Smokey Robinson songs is now available at a store near you!

91. **antipathy (n.) a strong dislike, repugnance**

My antipathy grows for Helen each time I remember her terrible, mean-spirited words to me.

92. **antiquated (adj.) old, out of date**

Calculators have quickly become antiquated tools, just like the typewriter that my parents used.

93. **antiseptic (adj.) clean, sterile**

The antiseptic gauze kept Bob's wound clean and germ-free until the doctor could see him.

94. **antithesis (n.) the absolute opposite**

Cold, hard hatred is the antithesis of warm, soft adoration.

95. **anxiety (n.) intense uneasiness**

Because final test scores would be posted at 5:05 p.m., every student's anxiety level peaked around 5:04.

96. **apathetic (adj.) lacking concern, non-emotional**

Disinterested in academics, Kerry was totally apathetic about the causes of the rise and fall of the Roman Empire.

97. **apocryphal (adj.) probably fictitious, probably false or wrong**

Some of the tales of monsters and demons may easily be true; albeit, many of them are apocryphal at best.

98. **appalling (adj.) inspiring shock, horror, disgust**

The jury thought the defendant's account was cold-hearted; thus, they were deeply appalled and found him guilty as charged.

99. **appease (v.) to calm, satisfy**

Lavish gifts were prepared for the angry monarch, hoping to appease his wrath.

100. **appraise (v.) to assess worth or value**

A real estate assessor will be here to appraise this house around 3:00 p.m.

101. **apprehend** a. (v.) to seize, arrest; b. (v.) to perceive, understand, grasp

a.) The criminal was apprehended trying to flee from the scene of the crime.

b.) Apprehending philosophical concepts is the domain of those in pursuit of truth.

102. **approbation** (n.) praise

The President heaped great approbation upon the fire fighter that saved a child.

103. **appropriate** (v.) to take and make use of

Uncle Sam appropriated the fissionable material without delay or explanation.

104. **aquatic** (adj.) relating to water

A marine biologist studies aquatic creatures and reports findings to the curious minded.

105. **arable** (adj.) suitable for growing crops

American farmers seek out arable land with the same way gusto that the early prospectors sought out gold mines.

106. **arbiter** (n.) one who can resolve a dispute or make a decision

The wise arbiter granted the east side of the island to its original owners, and the balance he gave to the newcomers.

107. **arbitrary** (adj.) based on random factors

The man's decision was totally arbitrary, being predicated on nothing.

108. **arbitration** (n.) the process or act of resolving a dispute

The plaintiffs sought immediate arbitration when a judge gave them a hint of an unfavorable ruling.

109. **arboreal** (adj.) of or relating to trees

Arboreal creatures live in the trees of every country on Earth.

110. **arcane** (adj.) obscure, secret, known only by a few

The professor of ancient writings suggested that the tablet was arcane but somewhat decipherable.

111. **archaic (adj.) of or relating to an earlier period in time, outdated**

Because of the micro-chip, machines like the typewriter will soon be archaic.

112. **archetypal (adj.) the most representative or typical example of something**

The image of an aging Einstein has become the archetypal image of every genius.

113. **ardor (n.) extreme vigor, energy, enthusiasm**

The ground troops conveyed their intense ardor for battle, as they scraped their swords against the stone pillars.

114. **arid (adj.) excessively dry**

The great deserts are the most arid places on our whole planet, allowing cactus only to thrive and the occasional scorpion.

115. **arrogate (v.) to take without justification**

With his stiff chin raised, the self righteous monarch arrogated the right to determine what the truth should be in his kingdom.

116. **artifact (n.) a remaining piece from an extinct culture or place**

Archeologists crave artifacts the way paleontologists crave the bones of dinosaurs.

117. **artisan (n.) a craftsman**

The artisans of ancient Greece fashioned chests and cabinets fit for the king's palace.

118. **ascertain (v.) to perceive, to receive, to learn**

Thinking he could ascertain the codes to the alarm, the thief slipped silently into the bank president's office.

119. **ascetic (adj.) practicing restraint as a means of self-discipline, usually religious**

Serious Christians live ascetic lifestyles, denying themselves all of the sinful pleasures that abound in our land.

120. **ascribe (v.) to assign, credit, attribute to**

True wisdom has been ascribed to those who seek goodness, truth, and virtue above all else.

121. **aspersion (n.) a curse, expression of ill-will**

The rival teams constantly cast aspersions on each others' athletic prowess.

122. **aspire (v.) to long for or to aim toward**

The adolescent writer aspires to write and publish the great American novel someday.

123. **assail (v.) to attack**

At dusk of the evening, the bloody battle will begin, and our unwary foes will be assailed without mercy.

124. **assess (v.) to evaluate**

Trying to assess the work of a professional is a task best left to the experienced.

125. **assiduous (adj.) hard-working, diligent**

The senior students labored assiduously to finish their projects before the deadline.

126. **assuage (v.) to ease, pacify**

The angry beast would in no wise relent in its attack, for its rage had not been assuaged by the meager offerings.

127. **astute (adj.) very clever, crafty**

My most astute pupil wrote an absolutely splendid explanation that logically addressed 99% of the questions posed by the panel.

128. **asylum a. (n.) a place of refuge, a sanctuary; b. (n.) institution for the insane.**

a. The deep woods are my personal asylum when silliness surrounds me and threatens to stay.

b. All rapists and most murderers should be placed in asylums then diagnosed and cured.

129. **atone (v.) to repent, make amends**

To atone for his crimes, sad and regretful jaywalker volunteered for community service.

130. **atrophy (v.) to wither away, decay**

Any body parts deprived of blood for an extended period will surely atrophy and die.

131. **attain (v.) to achieve, arrive at**

The runners work fifty hours a week to attain their competitive level of fitness.

132. **attribute a. (v.) to credit, assign; b. (n.) a facet or trait**

a.) He attributes the bulk of his success to his wife's constant pep talks.

b.) One attribute that all toddlers have is an insatiable curiosity about everything.

133. **atypical (adj.) not typical, unusual**

Using sewing scissors to cut the lawn is the most atypical thing I've ever seen.

134. **audacious (adj.) excessively bold**

An audacious freshman actually challenged the upperclassmen to a match of wits.

135. **audible (adj.) able to be heard**

The cries from the dungeon were barely audible; thus, they were heard only during the hush of the night.

136. **augment (v.) to add to, expand**

To augment his root word vocabulary, Kevin bought a Greek and Latin compendium of basic root meanings

137. **auspicious (adj.) favorable, indicative of good things**

The most auspicious time is just before dawn; so, that's when we should try again.

138. **austere (adj.) very bare, bleak**

The Saharan Desert is one of the most austere habitats on the planet.

139. **avarice (n.) excessive greed**

Avarice has been the downfall of many an enterprising gentleman. Take note and hide yourself.

140. **avenge (v.) to seek revenge**

Taking justice into your own hands is probably a notion fed by the impulse to avenge, not the impulse to do the right thing.

141. **aversion (n.) a particular dislike for something**

Being a product of the South, I have a natural aversion to anything that's anti-sports!

## **B --**

142. **balk (v.) to stop, block abruptly**

Because I took his comment the wrong way, I just balked at everything else he said.

143. **ballad (n.) a love song**

I wrote a ballad for the love of my life; however, the love of my life wrote one for someone else!

144. **banal (adj.) dull, commonplace**

The presentations lacked originality and spark; thus, they all struck me as banal.

145. **bane (n.) a burden**

That moron seated behind me has been the absolute bane of my existence since grade school.

146. **bard (n.) a poet, or a singer**

William Shakespeare is often hailed the greatest bard of all time.

147. **bashful (adj.) shy, excessively timid**

Jerry was so bashful, he didn't even answer the beautiful girl when she asked him to go to the prom with her!

148. **battery a. (n.) a device that supplies power; b. (n.) assault, beating**

a.) Battery powered cars will be all the rage somewhere in the future.

b.) Assault and battery is a felony, not just a misdemeanor.

149. **beguile (v.) to trick, deceive**

The Devil beguiled Eve and she ate of the forbidden fruit.

150. **behemoth (n.) large creature; something of tremendous power or size**

The behemoths were rolled into place using two tractors and an earthmover.

151. **benevolent (adj.) marked by goodness or doing good**

All public servants should be commended for their benevolent acts for the community.

152. **benign (adj.) favorable, not threatening, mild**

When the doctor said, “It’s benign, Mr. Jackson,” I almost cried aloud.

153. **bequeath (v.) to pass on in a will, give or donate legally**

Matthew’s father bequeathed all of his incredible wealth to him and his little brother.

154. **berate (v.) to scold vehemently**

The aggravated policeman berated the ill-tempered driver for using profane language in front of a youngster..

155. **bereft (adj.) devoid of, without**

An entire village was bereft of food and medical supplies after the tsunami.

156. **beseech (v.) to beg, plead, implore**

The medical community spoke with one voice as it beseached the country to stop smoking.

157. **bias (n.) a tendency, inclination, prejudice**

The judge’s bias against drunk drivers caused him to step aside and allow one of his colleagues to preside in the matter.

158. **bilk (v.) cheat, defraud**

The salesman bilked several of his prospects out of thousands of dollars in down payments.

159. **blandish (v.) to coax by using flattery**

Blandishing under-aged teens into taking an alcoholic drink is illegal in most states, but should be illegal in all.

160. **blemish (n.) an imperfection, flaw**

Because of a single blemish on my driving record, my rates are being doubled.

161. **blight** a. (n.) a plague, disease; b. (n.) a scar or mark of discoloration

a.) The potato blight destroyed the livelihood of many families in Ireland.

b.) His attitude was an ugly blight upon his daughter's wedding day.

162. **boisterous** (adj.) loud and full of energy

The cheerleaders were incredibly boisterous during the pep rally last night.

163. **bombastic** (adj.) excessively confident, pompous

The entertainer's bombastic comments caused the audience to boo and hiss.

164. **boon** (n.) a gift or blessing

The bad weather has erased the boon in business that the income tax refunds fueled.

165. **bourgeois** (n.) an upper middle-class person, a successful capitalist

The bourgeois clients of Hampton Province would not wear off-the-rack items.

166. **brazen** (adj.) excessively bold, brash

The invaders brazen attack took the fort by surprise; no one survived.

167. **brusque** (adj.) short, abrupt, dismissive

The bushman's brusque manners offended the hostess to no end.

168. **buffet** a. (v.) to strike with force; b. (n.) arrangement of food on a table

a.) The soldiers buffeted the prisoners, desperate for information.

b.) I love to eat buffet style; the all-you-can-eat expectation suits me to a tee.

169. **burnish** (v.) to polish, shine

Good swordsmen burnish their blades after every bloody use.

170. **buttress** a. (v.) to support, hold up; b. (n.) something that offers support

a.) The column was reinforced so that it could buttress the roof of the building.

b.) A solid granite buttress supports the entire structure with no help needed.

## C --

171. **cacophony (n.) tremendous noise, disharmonious sound**

The amateur orchestra created a deafening cacophony during their warm-ups.

172. **cadence (n.) a rhythm, progression of sound**

The throbbing cadence that the soldiers marched made them seem even more fierce.

173. **cajole (v.) to urge, coax**

Frank tried to cajole his buddy to skip school with him on his birthday.

174. **calamity (n.) an event with disastrous consequences**

Hurricane Francis created a calamity that is still impacting thousands and thousands.

175. **calibrate (v.) to set, standardize**

I attempted to calibrate my car's computer timing system, but failed.

176. **callous (adj.) harsh, cold, unfeeling**

Callous treatment of prisoners is not something that our government condones.

177. **calumny (n.) an attempt to spoil someone else's reputation by spreading lies**

Calumny is a close-to-perfect synonym for the word of slander.

178. **camaraderie (n.) brotherhood, partnership, jovial unity**

Camaraderie among teammates is usually a result of joint suffering and survival.

179. **candor (n.) honesty, frankness**

Brenda's candor was a shock to all who heard her speak so freely of theretofore never broached subjects.

180. **canny (adj.) shrewd, careful**

The canny spy gathered all the proof he needed without ever being detected.

181. **canvas a. (n.) a piece of cloth for an artist to paint; b. (v.) to cover, inspect**

a.) With the canvas in place, the artistic prodigy began to create a wonder.

b.) We canvassed the area, looking for anyone who would buy five boxes of cookies.

182. **capacious (adj.) very spacious**

The work room has finally been expanded; it's now capacious enough for our guests.

183. **capitulate (v.) to surrender**

The enemy country capitulated in full after the second bomb fell on another city.

184. **capricious (adj.) subject to whim, fickle**

Impatient people often make capricious decisions under the least pressure.

185. **captivate (v.) to get the attention of, hold**

The Fourth of July display captivated the children with its colorful bursts.

186. **carouse (v.) to party, celebrate**

The Navy seamen caroused all night after arriving at their first port of call.

187. **carp (v.) to annoy, pester**

The man finally chastised his daughter after enduring her carping for hours.

188. **catalog a. (v.) to list, enter onto a list; b. (n.) a list or collection**

a.) The prosecutor cataloged the victim's injuries then made an impassioned plea to the members of the jury.

b.) Many people shop in on-line catalogs these days just to save gas money.

189. **catalyze (v.) to charge, inspire**

The king's speech catalyzed his warriors and prepared them to face a deadly foe.

190. **caucus (n.) a meeting usually held by people working toward the same goal**

The union representatives are having a caucus with the team owners about retirement compensation for players.

191. **caustic (adj.) bitter, biting, acidic**

The defendant's caustic threats to the jury really sealed his fate.

192. **cavort (v.) to leap about, behave boisterously**

The couple, after several glasses of wedding cheer, cavorted about like silly children.

193. **censure a. (n.) harsh criticism; b. (v.) to rebuke formally**

a.) The censure from the officer really shook the unlicensed teen driver.

b.) The teacher received a sharp censure for threatening to strike one of his students.

194. **cerebral (adj.) related to the intellect**

The library's shelves are stacked with cerebral selections on philosophy, religion, etc.

195. **chaos (n.) absolute disorder**

When the announcement was made, utter chaos broke out in the hallways.

196. **chastise (v.) to criticize severely**

After a severe chastisement by her parents Sue decided to never lie to anyone else ever again.

197. **cherish (v.) to feel or show deep affection toward something**

I cherish those things that are dear to me and that will never leave me.

198. **chide (v.) to voice disapproval**

Candice chided her twins for keeping their room in such disarray.

199. **choreography (n.) the arrangement of dances**

The choreography was superb; only the dancers with sublime skill were allowed to perform it.

200. **chronicle a. (n.) a written history; b. (v.) to write a detailed history**

a.) The chronicle of the Vietnam War is available with graphic footage.

b.) Attempting to chronicle an average month in his classroom is a daunting chore.

201. **chronological (adj.) arranged in order of time**

Drawing timelines is the best way to place events in chronological order.

202. **circuitous (adj.) roundabout**

The politician gave very confusing and circuitous answers to every question.

203. **circumlocution (n.) indirect and wordy language**

The debate team used circumlocution as a strategy to address the illogical aspects of their argument.

204. **circumscribed (adj.) marked off, bounded**

The circumscribed area of the football field was drawn with stripes and yardage numbers.

205. **circumspect (adj.) cautious; aware of what's around you**

Circumspect people always look at situations from all directions.

206. **circumvent (v.) to go around an established route or authority**

To circumvent the teacher's no-talk rule, the students pretended to clear their throats constantly.

207. **clairvoyant (adj.) able to perceive things that normal people cannot**

My mother's incredible ability to see my true intentions was nothing short of clairvoyant.

208. **clamor a. (n.) loud noise; b. (v.) to loudly insist**

a.) Every night our upstairs neighbors made such a clamor that the police would have to be called.

b.) Jesse has been clamoring for a new car all summer long.

209. **clandestine (adj.) secret**

A clandestine rendezvous was planned by the two secret agents.

210. **cleave a. (v.) to divide into parts; b. (v.) to stick together firmly**

a.) Mr. Jones cleaved the wood blocks into kindling in no time at all.

b.) Every married couple must learn to cleave to one another through thick and thin.

211. **clemency (n.) mercy**

After his fifth speeding ticket in a year, Mark could only beg the judge for clemency.

**212. clergy (n.) members of Christian holy orders**

Some members of the clergy pray in the wee hours of the morning while others sleep.

**213. cloying (adj.) sickeningly sweet**

Excessive praise of anyone can become cloying, making the recipient nauseous.

**214. coagulate (v.) to thicken, clot**

The blood finally began to coagulate, after a full hour of intense pressure.

**215. coalesce (v.) to fuse into a whole**

After several months of therapy, the images in Tom's vision began to coalesce once again on his conscious mind.

**216. cobbler (n.) a person who makes or repairs shoes**

Most cobblers make shoes out of the finest materials possible.

**217. coerce (v.) to make somebody do something by force or threat**

The defense team charged the prosecutors with trying to coerce witnesses into lying.

**218. cogent (adj.) intellectually convincing**

Kimberly's position was expressed so cogently, I was forced to agree with her.

**219. cognizant (adj.) aware, mindful**

Being fully cognizant of all the rules, the misguided teen still slipped out of his room after midnight.

**220. coherent (adj.) logically consistent, intelligible**

The victim was hardly coherent; thus, the officers had to delay their questioning.

**221. collateral a. (adj.) secondary ; b. (n.) security for a debt**

a.) During every military conflict, wise leaders always attempt to minimize the collateral damage.

b.) Jack had to leave the title to his car collateral for the \$2500 loan.

**222. colloquial (adj.) characteristic of informal conversation**

*I ain't got none* is a colloquial expression that means *I don't have any*.

**223. collusion (n.) secret agreement, conspiracy**

Some gamblers work in collusion to cheat naive players out of their hard earned cash.

**224. colossus (n.) a gigantic statue or thing**

In ancient Corinth a colossus of Athena stood tall, testifying of a time long ago.

**225. combustion (n.) the act or process of burning**

Combustion engines must have fuel that will ignite and burn with the least spark.

**226. commendation (n.) a notice of approval or recognition**

Jason received commendations from his squad leader for an uncommon act of bravery.

**227. commensurate (adj.) corresponding in size or amount**

Usually starting salaries are commensurate with a person's level of experience.

**228. commodious (adj.) roomy**

The hotel rooms at the Horizon were both commodious and lavishly decorated.

**229. compelling (adj.) forceful, demanding attention**

His description of that lush vale was so compelling, I had to see it, at least once.

**230. compensate (v.) to make an appropriate payment for something**

Because they were to be compensated every two weeks for their labor, the Bordon's arranged their financial affairs accordingly.

**231. complacency (n.) self-satisfied ignorance of danger**

Due to his chronic complacency, Aaron just sat there, knowing his test was coming, and prepared not at all.

**232. complement (v.) to complete, make perfect or whole**

That picturesque cover page really complements the contents of your book, Henry.

**233. compliant (adj.) ready to adapt oneself to another's wishes**

New employees feel this overwhelming need to be compliant with every request made of them, even if it's nonsensical.

**234. complicit (adj.) being an accomplice in a wrongful act**

By keeping the theft secret, Madison became complicit in it, and was thus charged.

**235. compliment (n.) an expression of esteem or approval**

I always compliment young people when they put forth good effort, despite the outcome.

**236. compound a. (v.) to combine parts ; b. (n.) a combination of different parts  
c. (n.) a walled area containing a group of buildings**

a.) The protestors compounded their offense by hurling stones at the police.

b.) Trying to teach compound sentences to middle school students can be a big chore.

c.) The terrorists tried to break into the military compound last night; fortunately, they were thwarted.

**237. comprehensive (adj.) including everything**

My accountant did a comprehensive assessment of my finances and found that my spending had to be curtailed.

**238. compress (v.) to apply pressure, squeeze together.**

The nurse compressed the area of the wound, trying to stop the bleeding.

**239. compunction (n.) distress caused by feeling guilty**

Kerry felt great compunction for the insensitivity he showed to his young employee.

**240. concede (v.) to accept as valid**

Benjamin had to ultimately concede that the new rules were indeed necessary.

**241. conciliatory (adj.) friendly, agreeable**

Buying flowers for his angry bride was a wise and conciliatory gesture on Paul's part.

242. **concise (adj.) brief and direct in expression**

Rules should be pronounced in concise statements of protocol, with nothing left to assume.

243. **concoct (v.) to fabricate, make up**

She concocted the most vile potion imaginable to prank her bratty little brother.

244. **concomitant (adj.) accompanying in a subordinate fashion**

Jealousy, with its concomitant ill will, will never have a proper place in a true friendship.

245. **concord (n.) harmonious agreement**

After numerous sessions with the counselor, the embattled couple finally enjoyed the concord that wedded bliss can bring.

246. **condolence (n.) an expression of sympathy in sorrow**

Brad offered his condolences to his best friend on the loss of his great-grandmother.

247. **condone (v.) to pardon, deliberately overlook**

Fred felt so guilty for condoning his buddy's mistreatment of his wife.

248. **conduit (n.) a pipe or channel through which something passes**

The water flowed through the conduit into the nearby canal.

249. **confection (n.) a sweet, fancy food**

"Confections are my downfall," complained the struggling dieter.

250. **confidant (n.) a person entrusted with secrets**

A spouse should be a person's best and dearest confidant, knowing and sharing in their deepest secrets.

251. **conflagration (n.) great fire**

The great conflagration consumed the entire city of San Francisco in 1850.

252. **confluence (n.) a gathering together**

A confluence of all three rivers met to form the incredible ocean of water that you see.

**253. conformist (n.) one who behaves the same as others**

Because of their conformist mentality, the small country chose not to go to war with the invaders.

**254. confound (v.) to frustrate, confuse**

Jack the Ripper confounded the police with his here-today, gone-today antics.

**255. congeal (v.) to thicken into a solid**

The sauce had congealed into a thick paste, before it could be used as a topping.

**256. congenial (adj.) pleasantly agreeable**

His congenial smile bespoke his kind heart, so everyone loved him.

**257. congregation (n.) a gathering of people, especially for religious services**

The pastor told his congregation to read I Corinthians chapter 13 for that week's bible study.

**258. congruity (n.) the quality of being in agreement**

The talks produced a perfect congruity of opinions among the diplomats.

**259. connive (v.) to plot, scheme**

Josephine connived her way into the heart of the boss, intent on wielding influence.

**260. consecrate (v.) to dedicate something to a holy purpose**

Albert chose to consecrate his great abilities to the cause of his Lord.

**261. consensus (n.) an agreement of opinion**

The committee was able to reach a consensus on what the spending priorities should be.

**262. consign (v.) to give something over to another's care**

Billy consigned all of his baseball cards to the Sports Authority Trading Center.

**263. consolation (n.) an act of comforting**

Alton's attempt at consolation toward his bereaved friend was taken as an act of supreme brotherhood.

264. **consonant (adj.) in harmony**

The musicians' tunes were consonant and extraordinarily beautiful.

265. **constituent (n.) an essential part**

The most important constituents of her homemade brew was collard juice and green onions.

266. **constrain (v.) to forcibly restrict**

I'm constrained by my belief in peace to simply walk away from an opportunity to battle.

267. **construe (v.) to interpret**

Paul attempted to construe the letter from John as an attempt to sway the judgment of the council.

268. **consummate (v.) to complete a deal or ceremony**

The happy couple planned to consummate their relationship on the Isle of Manville Rey.

269. **consumption (n.) the act of consuming**

Consumption of any intoxicating beverages is permitted only after duty hours.

270. **contemporaneous (adj.) existing during the same time**

The Age of Discovery and The Age of Reason existed contemporaneously, each supporting the other.

271. **contentious (adj.) having a tendency to quarrel or dispute**

Greg's contentious personality made him prone to get into fights with anyone and everyone.

272. **contravene (v.) to contradict, oppose, violate**

Candice contravened her husband's instructions to the children, thus confusing them.

273. **contrite (adj.) penitent, eager to be forgiven**

Bobby's contrite heart caused him to finally see the damage he'd caused to his teammates.

274. **contusion (n.) bruise, injury**

Due to his motorcycle accident, Charles had contusions all over his body.

**275. conundrum (n.) puzzle, problem**

The thunderstorm and the deadline in tandem created a conundrum for the hikers.

**276. convene (v.) to call together**

The council convened to discuss all of the requests for increased funding.

**277. convention a. (n.) an assembly of people; b. (n.) a rule, custom**

a.) The convention will be in town this weekend, taking up all of the hotel space.

b.) The washing of feet is a convention of ancient Eastern culture.

**278. convivial (adj.) characterized by feasting, drinking, merriment**

The convivial atmosphere at the family reunion was so great that even the food had a festive taste.

**279. convoluted (adj.) intricate, complicated**

The witness's story was so convoluted that no one believed it, not even those who needed his testimony.

**280. copious (adj.) profuse, abundant**

Copious amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables were loaded aboard the transfer trucks bound for Alabama.

**281. cordial (adj.) warm, affectionate**

Her cordial invitation was received eagerly, and it was responded to the same.

**282. coronation (n.) the act of crowning**

The queen's coronation ball was the hardest ticket in town.

**283. corpulence (adj.) extreme fatness**

Because the chefs in our group were so skilled, corpulence became a real concern.

**284. corroborate (v.) to support with evidence**

Several witnesses corroborated his story; so the detective released him.

285. **corrosive (adj.) having the tendency to erode or eat away**

Acid and metals seldom go together because of the corrosive character of the former.

286. **cosmopolitan (adj.) sophisticated, worldly**

The lady I met at the banquet was a bit cosmopolitan for a country boy like me.

287. **counteract (v.) to neutralize, make ineffective**

Anti-venom was given to the snakebite victim to counteract the rattler's poison.

288. **coup a. (n.) a brilliant, unexpected act ; b. (n.) the overthrow of a government and assumption of authority**

a.) Carlos, our local chess master, performed a coup that trapped his opponent's king in twelve moves.

b.) The rebel's coup was entirely successful; the dictator is out of power this very night.

289. **covert (adj.) secretly engaged in**

The CIA's covert operations in the Middle East are as invisible as clean air.

290. **credulity (n.) readiness to believe**

Ted's credulity made him and his all-too naive cousin really easy victims

291. **crescendo (n.) a steady increase in intensity or volume**

The crescendo of the bass drum started to sound like the heartbeat of an angry giant.

292. **criteria (n.) standards by which something is judged**

Seldom do entering freshman meet the criteria set for leadership on the council.

293. **culmination (n.) the climax toward which something progresses**

The culmination of all our efforts, we hope, will be the installing of a person we can all respect and admire.

294. **culpable (adj.) deserving blame**

The driver was found to be just as culpable as the shooter; thus, they both will be locked up for quite some time.

295. **cultivate (v.) to nurture, improve, refine**

A true politician learns early on to cultivate many friendships and to do many favors.

296. **cumulative (adj.) increasing, building upon itself**

The cumulative effect of days upon days of heavy rains was a river that raged beyond its borders.

297. **cunning (adj.) sly, clever at being deceitful**

Every cat burglar must be as cunning and as quiet as his name suggests.

298. **cupidity (n.) greed, strong desire**

His cupidity made him enter the lotto, using every cent of his grocery money.

299. **cursorly (adj.) brief, to the point of being superficial and inadequate**

Giving cursorly attention to important matters will, at some point, bring problems.

300. **curt (adj.) abruptly and rudely short**

Edgar's curt reply to Sharon's question made me believe there was trouble in paradise.

301. **curtail (v.) to lessen, reduce**

Since breaking his leg at the tournament, Bill has had to curtail his riding classes.

## **D --**

302. **daunting (adj.) intimidating, causing one to lose courage**

After a month, Kevin found cutting his grass and his sick neighbor's a daunting task.

303. **dearth (n.) a lack, scarcity**

Because of the dearth of arable land in the valley, mostly farmers chose to relocate.

304. **debacle (n.) a disastrous failure, disruption**

After his latest debacle, wonder boy has taken a much less conspicuous posture.

305. **debase (v.) to lower the quality or esteem of something**

To bolster his profits, the Cookie King chose to debase the quality of his ingredients, thereby lowering his costs.

**306. debauch (v.) to corrupt by means of sensual pleasures**

Massages and hot tubs are key ingredients necessary to debauch most weekends.

**307. debunk (v.) to expose the falseness of something**

To debunk the theory of evolution, some creationists point to the Law of Biogenesis.

**308. decorous (adj.) socially proper, appropriate**

The decorous manners of the guests made hosting the evening a task most pleasant.

**309. decry (v.) to criticize openly in an effort to devalue**

In his attempt to decry the value of the portrait, the investor pointed to its fringes.

**310. deface (v.) to ruin or injure something's appearance**

The boys threw eggs and sprayed shaving cream to deface their teacher's car.

**311. defamatory (adj.) harmful toward another's reputation**

The defamatory remarks made by the officer were deemed slanderous by all who heard.

**312. defer (v.) to postpone something; to yield to another's wisdom**

Due to a bout with strep throat, the opera singer chose to defer all of his engagements.

**313. deferential (adj.) showing respect for another's authority**

The captain chose to be deferential, in light of the general's unexpected presence.

**314. defile (v.) to make unclean, impure**

She defiled herself when she accepted a dare to undress in a public square.

**315. deft (adj.) skillful, capable**

Milton's deft attempt at humor was a sensational surprise; no one knew about his wit.

**316. defunct (adj.) no longer used or existing**

The divorced man spoke of his defunct marriage with the most baleful sigh.

**317. delegate (v.) to hand over responsibility for something**

The principal delegated the task of finding a new teacher to the department chairman.

**318. deleterious (adj.) harmful**

The deleterious effects of going without food for many days can be seen many years after the fact.

**319. deliberate (adj.) intentional, reflecting careful consideration**

Though Martha made a deliberate attempt to calm the situation, tempers yet burned.

**320. delineate (v.) to describe, outline, shed light on**

Shaunt'e clearly delineated her position on the matter, almost convincing her opponent.

**321. demagogue (n.) a leader who appeals to a people's prejudices**

The demagogue addressed the people with many tales of gloom and doom.

**322. demarcation (n.) the marking of boundaries or categories**

Lying is one moral demarcation that I will not cross.

**323. demean (v.) to lower the status or stature of something**

The coach refused to demean his players by blaming them for the loss.

**324. demure (adj.) quiet, modest, reserved**

She remained demure, even in the face of monumental temptations to join the fun.

**325. denigrate (v.) to belittle, diminish the opinion of**

The essay denigrated all of the people who'd gone ahead of the current group.

**326. denounce (v.) to criticize publicly**

The executive denounced all the criticism of his company, calling it unfounded.

**327. deplore (v.) to feel or express sorrow, disapproval**

Nelson deplored the terrible working conditions at his old job.

328. **depravity (n.) wickedness**

The assassin's depravity made him willing to slay even the faces of the innocent.

329. **deprecate (v.) to belittle, depreciate**

Self-deprecating humor is the hallmark of the self assured.

330. **derelict (adj.) abandoned, run-down**

The derelict ship just drifted in the harbor, waiting to be boarded by the curious.

331. **deride (v.) to laugh at mockingly, scorn**

The 6th graders proved to be bullies, and derided the 3rd and 4th graders.

332. **derivative (adj.) taken directly from a source, unoriginal**

"His scowling countenance is a derivative of his paternal lineage," claimed his mom.

333. **desecrate (v.) to violate the sacredness of a thing or place**

The pagan's desecrated the temple by challenging the priests to duels and fist fights.

334. **desiccated (adj.) dried up, dehydrated**

The desiccated remains of the Egyptian mummies can still strike amazement into the hearts of Westerners.

335. **desolate (adj.) deserted, dreary, lifeless**

The desert, especially at night, seems to be the most desolate place on earth.

336. **despondent (adj.) feeling depressed, discouraged, hopeless**

Geraldine became completely despondent when the news of the accident came.

337. **despot (n.) one who has total power and rules brutally**

The despot used threats of death and torture to control his citizenry.

338. **destitute (adj.) impoverished, utterly lacking**

The tornados destroyed many homes and left every family destitute and poor.

339. **deter (v.) to discourage, prevent from doing**

Nothing can deter an attacking lion once its victim has been chosen.

340. **devious (adj.) not straightforward, deceitful**

Wanting to avoid punishment, the devious teen blamed the broken cup on his sister.

341. **dialect (n.) a variation of a language**

The southerners were given away, as their dialect announced they weren't from Maine.

342. **diaphanous (adj.) light, airy, transparent**

Diaphanous garbs in summer can help anyone get an authentic all-over tan.

343. **didactic a. (adj.) intended to instruct; b. (adj.) overly moralistic**

a.) She became very didactic, once the students revealed their many needs.

b.) Few people appreciated didactic stories that preach and don't also entertain.

344. **diffident (adj.) shy, quiet, modest**

The diffident young man did not speak during introductions, for his constant fear of seeming too audacious.

345. **diffuse a. (v.) to scatter, thin out, break up; b. (adj.) not concentrated, scattered or disorganized**

a.) Clod diffused the tension in the house by telling one of his creative anecdotes.

b.) Martha tried desperately to explain her diffuse thought process, but to no avail.

346. **dilatory (adj.) tending to delay, causing delay**

Wise parents learn dilatory tactics to avoid giving unrehearsed answers to teens.

347. **diligent (adj.) showing care in doing one's work**

The diligent researcher checked and re-checked the data, ensuring it was valid.

348. **diminutive (adj.) small or miniature**

The bullies, big and ill-tempered, picked on the diminutive children all the time.

349. **dirge (n.) a mournful song, especially for a funeral**

The singer sang a dirge as the casket was carried slowly to its place of rest.

350. **disaffected (adj.) rebellious, resentful of authority**

The disaffected soldier ignored his orders, slipped into the night, and left his company to battle without him.

351. **disavow (v.) to deny knowledge of or responsibility for**

When spies are caught, their respective governments will disavow any knowledge of their actions.

352. **discern (v.) to perceive, detect**

It is extremely difficult to discern subtle messages when they are contained in foreign tongues.

353. **disclose (v.) to reveal, make public**

The CEO was required to disclose all documents related to their latest European purchase.

354. **discomfit (v.) to thwart, baffle**

The interrogators attempted to discomfit their prisoners so that information could be gained.

355. **discordant (adj.) not agreeing, not in harmony with**

When the beginning band started to play, the discordant sounds flooded the room like a noisy cloud.

356. **discrepancy (n.) difference, failure of things to correspond**

The discrepancy in the cost figures caused the principals to fear the upcoming audit.

357. **discretion (n.) the quality of being reserved in speech or action; good judgment**

I will leave it to your discretion as to whether or not to invite the new girl; she seems a bit suspect.

358. **discursive (adj.) rambling, lacking order**

Bob's speech became discursive after the hecklers started to yell their disapproval.

359. **disdain** a. (v.) to scorn, hold in low esteem; b. (n.) scorn, low esteem

a.) Intolerant people tend to disdain all those who disagree with them.

b.) I hold all irresponsible abuses of powers in great disdain.

360. **disgruntled** (adj.) upset, not content

Jackie became totally disgruntled when her fiancé forgot the anniversary of their first date.

361. **disheartened** (adj.) feeling a loss of spirit or morale

The team became sorely disheartened when the other team scored five runs in a row.

362. **disparage** (v.) to criticize or speak ill of

Usually, insecure people try to disparage the efforts of others.

363. **disparate** (adj.) sharply differing, containing sharply contrasting elements

Because of the presence of disparate elements, it was difficult to identify the substance with certainty.

364. **dispatch** (v.) to send off to accomplish a duty

The commander dispatched a lone soldier to carry the message of surrender to their opponents.

365. **dispel** (v.) to drive away, scatter

It's hard to dispel the notions that become a part of you in childhood.

366. **disperse** (v.) to scatter, cause to scatter

It was our mission to disperse the rowdy crowd before violence could escalate.

367. **disrepute** (n.) a state of being held in low regard

Bad behavior, even if it's just intermittent, will cause one to fall into disrepute.

368. **dissemble** (v.) to conceal, fake

The lying witness tried to dissemble the facts; however, the clever attorney trapped him easily.

**369. disseminate (v.) to spread widely**

The teacher gave the papers to the student to disseminate to her classmates.

**370. dissent a. (v.) to disagree; b. (n.) the act of disagreeing**

a.) I must dissent, gentlemen; this simply cannot be.

b.) After the dissent was registered, everyone knew it was going to be a long night.

**371. dissipate a. (v.) to disappear, cause to disappear; b. (v.) to waste**

a.) The sun finally came out, and the fog dissipated like smoke.

b.) Thanks to a card game, Joe's paycheck was dissipated in less than an hour.

**372. dissonance (n.) lack of harmony or consistency**

There was a remarkable dissonance between what Jasper said and what Jasper did.

**373. dissuade (v.) to persuade someone not to do something**

Gloria tried to dissuade him from going out in such bad weather; but, he went anyway.

**374. distend (v.) to swell out**

The malnourished children's stomachs begin to distend when their hunger approaches starvation.

**375. dither (v.) to be indecisive**

The many options before him caused him to dither on his choices.

**376. divine (adj.) godly, exceedingly wonderful**

Our plight was of such that only **divine** intervention was going to make a difference.

**377. divisive (adj.) causing dissent, discord**

Theo was disciplined because his comments were deemed divisive by his employers.

**378. divulge (v.) to reveal something secret**

Under pressure, the frightened captive started to divulge all he knew.

**379. docile (adj.) easily taught or trained**

Some sharks are docile; others are very aggressive.

**380. dogmatic (adj.) aggressively and arrogantly sure about unproved principles**

Because of his personal connections with the group, he was very dogmatic about their innocence.

**381. dormant (adj.) asleep or temporarily inactive**

The medication caused the virus to become dormant; thus, it could no longer be transmitted to others.

**382. dour (adj.) stern, joyless**

The counselor was a dour fellow indeed, finding nothing whatsoever to laugh about or to even smile about.

**383. dubious (adj.) doubtful, of uncertain quality**

I heard his story; however, I remain somewhat dubious as to its truth.

**384. duplicity (n.) crafty dishonesty**

Super spies must deal in duplicity in all of their contacts, lest they be found out and dealt with.

**385. duress (n.) hardship, threat**

The lawyer was able to convince the jury that his client only committed the offense because of the extreme duress he was under – thanks to the victim.

**386. dynamic (adj.) actively changing; powerful**

Learning, according to educators, is a dynamic process that must be seen and understood in that light.

## **E --**

**387. ebullient (adj.) extremely lively, enthusiastic**

Because Ken was so ebullient in his manner, his party turned out to be the most fun of them all.

**388. eclectic (adj.) consisting of a diverse variety of elements**

The freshmen this year are so eclectic that they constantly find fascination with every new subject, and consequently change their majors to match.

**389. ecstatic (adj.) intensely and overpoweringly happy**

I was ecstatic when the news came about the graduation of my eldest son, Dr. Raymond L. Johnson!

**390. edict (n.) an order, decree**

When the king's edict was read, the malcontents in his kingdom began to slowly disappear until not one was left.

**391. efface (v.) to wipe out, obliterate, rub away**

Because the letter was offensive to all who read it, every word of it was effaced.

**392. effervescent (adj.) bubbly, lively**

The effervescent spirit of the cheerleaders was truly infectious; everyone was screaming and shouting through the whole game.

**393. efficacious (adj.) effective**

The compound proved to be quite efficacious; every patient recovered almost instantly.

**394. effrontery (n.) impudence, nerve, insolence**

The brash teen had the effrontery to yell back at her parents, when she knew full well that she was in the wrong.

**395. effulgent (adj.) radiant, splendid**

The monarch's new palace, made of gold and silver, was the most effulgent structure ever constructed.

**396. egregious (adj.) extremely bad**

Tammy's behavior was so egregious that she was thrown off the team that very hour.

**397. elaborate (adj.) complex, detailed, intricate**

Pyramids are designed with very elaborate pathways, designed to trap would-be robbers.

**398. elated (adj.) overjoyed, thrilled**

Marvin was totally elated to find out that his project won first place.

**399. elegy (n.) a speech given in honor of a dead person**

The widow Morgan chose to read her husband's elegy herself, feeling the message was too personal for anyone else to read.

**400. elicit (v.) to bring forth, draw out, evoke**

Pearson's melancholy tale was designed to elicit sympathy from all who heard it.

**401. eloquent (adj.) expressive, articulate, moving**

As the young woman spoke, her words were so eloquent many listeners became teary-eyed.

**402. elucidate (v.) to clarify, explain**

Professor Jazz decided to elucidate further when he noted the blank expressions on his students' faces.

**403. elude (v.) to evade, escape**

To elude capture, the clever criminals waded into the river and floated with the logs.

**404. emaciated (adj.) very thin, enfeebled looking**

The gaunt guitar player is the perfect example of an emaciated man.

**405. embellish a. (v.) to decorate, adorn; b. (v.) to add details to, enhance**

a.) The last chore on Christmas Eve is to embellish the spruce pines with ribbons and bows.

b.) The talented speaker embellished his argument with quaint expressions that suggested he was just a regular guy running for office.

**406. embezzle (v.) to steal money by falsifying records**

The crooked bank executive was sentenced to 20 years in prison for embezzling millions of dollars.

**407. emend (v.) to correct or revise a written text**

Many times, editors will emend the words of a script to make it have a broader appeal.

408. **eminent** a. (adj.) distinguished, prominent, famous; b. (adj.) conspicuous

a.) The eminent scientist made an earth-shattering announcement at the conference.

b.) The malformations of Jeff's face stood out eminently when the sunlight struck at an angle.

409. **emollient** (adj.) soothing

"This emollient will make your skin as smooth as a baby's bottom," the manager said.

410. **emote** (v.) to express emotion

Seeing the inspiring scene for the tenth time, everyone began to emote as they'd done the first time.

411. **empathy** (n.) sensitivity to another's feelings as if they were one's own

I have great empathy for everyone who has to go through what I've faced.

412. **empirical** a. (adj.) based on observation or experience ; b. (adj.) capable of being proved or disproved by experiment

a.) The scientist gathered empirical data to prove that his predictions weren't baseless.

b.) Every word Einstein spoke was considered empirical; for the experimental proof was on the table.

413. **emulate** (v.) to imitate

Teens constantly emulate their idols, singing and dancing as much like them as their modest abilities will allow.

414. **enamor** (v.) to fill with love, to fascinate (usually used with "of" or "with")

The husband-hunting women sought to enamor the eligible bachelors with their smiles and seductive movement.

415. **encore** (n.) a repeat performance at the audiences' insistence.

"Encore! Encore!" the crazed fans screamed, over and over again.

416. **encumber** (v.) to weigh down, burden

Trying not to encumber my parents further, I chose not to tell them about my lost job.

417. **enervate (v.) to weaken, exhaust**

The marathoners, languishing in the heat, were completely enervated after the tenth mile.

418. **enfranchise (v.) to grant the vote to**

The Fifth Amendment enfranchised those who would rather not admit their guilt in a court of law.

419. **engender (v.) to bring about, create, generate**

Trying to engender strife among the groups of voters, the devilish candidate sabotaged one group and blamed it on the other.

420. **enigmatic (adj.) mystifying, cryptic**

The inscriptions of the monolith were so enigmatic, our best linguists couldn't decipher them.

421. **enmity (n.) ill will, hatred, hostility**

The opposing parties felt such enmity for one another, they could not bear so much the mentioning of the other's name.

422. **ennui (n.) boredom, weariness**

I felt such ennui that I colored my bedroom brown and threw all of my flowers out of the window.

423. **entail (v.) to include as a necessary step**

Genuine success entails many elements, the least of which is not solid conviction.

424. **enthrall (v.) to charm, hold spellbound**

Enthralled with her beauty, the young man didn't notice her ill temper.

425. **ephemeral (adj.) short-lived, fleeting**

Physical beauty is ephemeral at best; it lasts only as long as your youth.

426. **epistolary (adj.) relating to or contained in letters**

One of the chief epistolary writings of Paul is the book of Romans.

427. **epitome (n.) a perfect example, embodiment**

The running back for Miami was the epitome of athleticism, being fast, agile, and strong.

428. **equanimity (n.) composure**

Glenn maintained his equanimity, even in the face of terrible accusations against him.

429. **equivocal (adj.) ambiguous, uncertain, undecided**

Politicians usually give equivocal answers to difficult questions.

430. **erudite (adj.) learned**

My physics teacher is such an erudite scholar that she has calculated, in her head, the distance from each planet relative to the Earth.

431. **eschew (v.) to shun, avoid**

Good men must learn to cherish the right things and eschew the wrong.

432. **esoteric (adj.) understood by only a select few**

Even the most gifted students can't fully fathom the esoteric nature of existence itself

433. **espouse (v.) to take up as a cause, support**

Constantly, we should all espouse the virtues of honesty and integrity to our children.

434. **ethereal (adj.) heavenly, exceptionally delicate or refined**

The maiden's elegant attire and other-worldly expression struck everyone as somewhat ethereal.

435. **etymology (n.) the history of words, their origin and development**

From my study of the etymology of terms, I now know that the word "Herculean" derives from the Greek myth of Hercules, the son of Zeus.

436. **euphoric (adj.) elated, uplifted**

Young lovers tend to become euphoric about the object of their desire, not seeing any flaws in them that may be obvious to others.

437. **evanescent (adj.) fleeting, momentary**

All life on this Earth is most evanescent, appearing like a vapor then vanishing away.

438. **evince (v.) to show, reveal**

The lecturer's endless address evinced his life-long passion for his subject.

439. **exacerbate (v.) to make more violent, intense**

Mrs. Johnston exacerbated her problem by lying about what she'd done.

440. **exalt (v.) to glorify, praise**

Our youth should be taught to exalt important things in life: the elderly, civil conduct, and moral laws.

441. **exasperate (v.) to irritate, irk**

Thomas's constant jabbering started to exasperate all of his classmates, provoking some of them to actually threaten his physical safety.

442. **excavate (v.) to dig out of the ground and remove**

The treasures of Solomon's mines were never excavated; for, they could never be located.

443. **exculpate (v.) to free from guilt or blame, exonerate**

In today's legal environment, one must have a good lawyer if one is to be exculpated from the least charge.

444. **excursion (n.) a trip or outing**

Our class is going on a brief excursion to the John Prince Park, as a reward for the test scores that were much better than expected.

445. **execrable (adj.) loathsome, detestable**

The criminal's act was utterly execrable, offending even the other hardened inmates.

446. **exhort (v.) to urge, prod, spur**

Parents usually exhort their children to perform their very best in everything, especially academics.

447. **exigent (adj.) urgent, critical**

The situation became instantly exigent when the injured player started to spit blood.

448. **exonerate (v.) to free from guilt or blame, exculpate**

As the false witness finally broke down and started to tell the truth, Jake knew he would ultimately be exonerated.

449. **exorbitant (adj.) excessive**

It's never good to criticize anyone exorbitantly, even if they did something for which they should be ashamed.

450. **expedient (adj.) advisable, advantageous, serving one's self-interest**

Though I can exempt myself from the chores that the other workers have to do, it wouldn't be expedient; for, they need to feel that I am one of them.

451. **expiate (v.) to make amends for, atone**

In an attempt to expiate my crime, I offered to wash Mrs. Jones's car every week for a year.

452. **expunge (v.) to obliterate, eradicate**

Theodore is attempting to have his teenage record expunged on the grounds that he was only a minor when his misdeeds were done.

453. **expurgate (v.) to remove offensive or incorrect parts, usually of a book**

The editors were required to expurgate the misinformation from the text and print and apology along with the true account.

454. **extant (adj.) existing, not destroyed or lost**

The memoirs of Julie Mayes were proven to be extant, when an old forgotten chest was opened and examined.

455. **extol (v.) to praise, revere**

Coach Val began to extol the virtues of his players, calling them the finest group of young men he'd ever had the pleasure of coaching.

456. **extraneous (adj.) irrelevant, extra, not necessary**

"Remove all extraneous paraphernalia from your desk tops, please," Mr. Goss instructed.

457. **extricate (v.) to disentangle**

After the evidence was carefully examined, it became clear that the accused would be extricated and set free.

458. **exult (v.) to rejoice**

George exulted for hours when he finally landed that six-figure position.

## F --

459. **fabricate (v.) to make up, invent**

I don't know why Elvin felt the need to fabricate some wild story; the truth would have served just as well.

460. **façade a. (n.) the wall of a building; b. (n.) a deceptive appearance or attitude**

a.) Because the sun strikes the east façade of the building, we get to see it rise every morning.

b.) Julian's façade fooled all of his associates, except, of course, those who knew the real him.

461. **facile a. (adj.) easy, requiring little effort; b. (adj.) superficial, achieved with minimal thought or care, insincere**

a.) Come on, Johnny, cleaning your room is a facile chore at best.

b.) The prince's words came across as facile and contrived; thus, his father knew he was lying.

462. **fallacious (adj.) incorrect, misleading**

Captain Ken took the witness's statement as a fallacious bunch of lies designed to get his friend off the hook.

463. **fastidious (adj.) meticulous, demanding, having high and often unattainable standards**

Because the boss is so fastidious, he never gives a satisfactory evaluation of anyone.

464. **fathom a. (v.) to understand, comprehend; b. (n.) six feet deep**

a.) It's truly difficult to fully fathom the quantity of water that's on our beautiful Earth.

b.) Along the west shoreline, the Lake Omari drops to three fathoms.

465. **fatuous (adj.) silly, foolish**

Carl considers himself a serious writer; however, he pens some of the most infantile, fatuous tales I've ever heard.

466. **fecund (adj.) fruitful, fertile**

The exotic prince insisted that all of his would-be brides be both beautiful and fecund.

467. **felicitous a. (adj.) well suited, apt; b. (adj.) delightful, pleasing**

a.) His dark blue suit was very felicitous, complementing the attire of his lovely wife perfectly.

b.) A warm greeting from a long-time friend is always felicitous and welcome.

468. **feral (adj.) wild, savage**

The feral hogs in the South Eastern United States are creating major ecological problems.

469. **fervent (adj.) ardent, passionate**

Martha's love for Quinton was fervent like the summer sun; there was no cooling it.

470. **fetid (adj.) having a foul odor**

The fetid stench of week-old meat saturated the butcher, and exposed him to all.

471. **fetter (v.) to chain, restrain**

Everyone should ensure that their yard dogs are either fenced or fettered to a tree.

475. **fickle (adj.) shifting in character, inconstant**

Young boys are so fickle, young girls should always be prepared for heartbreak.

476. **fidelity (n.) loyalty, devotion**

The soldier's fidelity to his band was rewarded with a Medal of Distinction.

477. **figurative (adj.) symbolic**

Using **figurative** language, Alice compared the storm to an angry man wielding burning daggers.

478. **flabbergasted (adj.) astounded**

When Jethro proposed to Elaine, everyone was completely ***flabbergasted***, saying they thought it would never happen.

479. **flaccid (adj.) limp, not firm or strong**

Over cooking noodles makes them ***flaccid*** and mushy like mashed potatoes.

480. **flagrant (adj.) offensive, egregious**

The referee hit the player with a ***flagrant*** foul for going to the head with his elbow.

481. **florid (adj.) flowery, ornate**

The mansion was replete with thick columns and ***florid*** gardens galore.

482. **flout (v.) to disregard or disobey openly**

***Flouting*** the speed limit, the celebrating teens sped up to 100 mph.

483. **foil (v.) to thwart, frustrate, defeat**

Inspector Goodfellow ***foiled*** the thief's attempt to rob his fifth bank in as many months.

484. **forage (v.) to graze, rummage for food**

***Foraging*** for food, the cows wandered into the neighboring fields.

485. **forbearance (n.) patience, restraint, toleration**

The officer showed great ***forbearance*** in listening to the rants of the outraged driver.

486. **forestall (v.) to prevent, thwart, delay**

The governor ***forestalled*** the execution in deference to a family member's request.

487. **forlorn (adj.) lonely, abandoned, hopeless**

Jennifer seemed so ***forlorn***, when Aliza, her best friend, moved to Alabama.

488. **forsake (v.) to give up, renounce**

I have decided to ***forsake*** all of my vices, especially the tobacco and alcohol.

489. **fortitude (n.) strength, guts**

The fireman demonstrated great ***fortitude***, entering the blazing inferno boldly.

490. **fortuitous (adj.) happening by chance, often lucky or fortunate**

Finding my lost coin was truly a ***fortuitous*** event, rivaling finding that lotto ticket.

491. **forum (n.) a medium for lecture or discussion**

Television provides the perfect ***forum*** for political candidates to be witnessed thinking on their feet and handling difficult questions.

492. **foster (v.) to stimulate, promote, encourage**

Good manners will always ***foster*** positive interactions, even between those who disagree.

493. **fractious (adj.) troublesome or irritable**

The ***fractious*** behavior of the fans caused the next game to be cancelled and moved to another venue.

494. **fraught (adj.) (usually used with “with”) filled or accompanied with**

The Forest of Highlands is ***fraught*** with dangers -- some seen, others unseen.

495. **frenetic (adj.) frenzied, hectic, frantic**

Trying to maintain such a ***frenetic*** pace all day is what causes Jim to simply collapse at night.

496. **frivolous (adj.) of little importance, trifling**

Being preoccupied with ***frivolous*** things is a great way to use up your mental energy.

497. **frugal (adj.) thrifty, economical**

Though I'm not quite as ***frugal*** as I should be, I'm certainly not a spendthrift.

498. **furtive (adj.) secretive, sly**

Janine saw the ***furtive*** smile her boyfriend gave to the waitress; thus, she spent the balance of her evening with a good book and a cup of hot cocoa.

## **G --**

499. **garish (adj.) gaudy, in bad taste**

Bob must be color blind; because, that's the only thing that could possibly explain the garish decorations in his living room.

500. **garrulous (adj.) talkative, wordy**

The garrulous gals chatted and gabbed all through the movie, to the great irritation of those who also paid to see and hear it.

501. **genial (adj.) friendly, affable**

Genial conduct is one of the sure signals of dignified intelligence.

502. **gluttony (n.) overindulgence in food or drink**

Because of Michael's gluttony, he ended up overeating again, then throwing up all he'd eaten.

503. **goad (v.) to urge, spur, incite to action**

Calvin's friend, Roger, constantly tries to goad him into skipping school with him.

504. **gourmand (n.) someone fond of eating and drinking**

With my diet of chips, cookies, and fries, you'd never confuse me with a real gourmand.

505. **grandiloquence (n.) lofty, pompous language**

Grandiloquence is not a very good substitute for imparting real, thoughtful ideas.

506. **grandiose (adj.) on a magnificent or exaggerated scale**

The computer company is planning a grandiose celebration replete with lasers and every manner of dazzling device.

507. **gratuitous (adj.) uncalled for, unwarranted**

Thanks to the gratuitous gestures of total strangers, we were able to collect all that we needed.

508. **gregarious (adj.) drawn to the company of others, sociable**

The gregarious college kids couldn't be satisfied until they found out where the weekend party would be.

509. **grievous (adj.) injurious, hurtful; serious or grave in nature**

Dr. Green committed a **grievous** error in his calculations, and announced that the sun was going to explode in 2010.

510. **guile (n.) deceitfulness, cunning, sly behavior**

Professional con men use **guile** as easily as others use a straw to drink soda.

## H --

511. **hackneyed (adj.) unoriginal, trite**

After twenty-five straight encores of the new song, though it was beautiful, it became ever so **hackneyed**.

512. **hallowed (adj.) revered, consecrated**

For lovers of rock and roll, Woodstock is considered **hallowed** ground.

513. **hapless (adj.) unlucky**

The **hapless** Red Raiders lost every one of their games this year by an embarrassing margin.

514. **harangue a. (n.) a ranting speech; b. (v.) to give such a speech**

a.) Every student had heard the teacher's **harangue** about late homework at least two dozen times.

b.) Mrs. Shepherd **harangued** her class a full fifteen minutes about their constant talk.

515. **hardy (adj.) robust, capable of surviving through adverse conditions**

Oaks are very **hardy** trees, able to survive the harshest winter.

516. **harrowing (adj.) greatly distressing, vexing**

Going through that bank robbery was a **harrowing** experience that I shall never forget.

517. **haughty (adj.) disdainfully proud**

The **haughty** rich kids constantly flaunted their brand name garbs and their sports cars.

518. **hedonist (n.) one who believes pleasure should be the primary pursuit of humans**

Because he was such a hedonist, Brandon spent his every waking hour searching for something that felt good, tasted good, or sounded good.

**519. hegemony (n.) domination over others**

The seniors' hegemony over the underclassmen was a well documented reality on our campus.

**520. heinous (adj.) shockingly wicked, repugnant**

The killings were of such a heinous nature details were withheld from the public.

**521. heterogeneous (adj.) varied, diverse in character**

Because we were placed in heterogeneous groupings, variety was all we knew from day one.

**522. hiatus (n.) a break or gap in duration or continuity**

Benjamin's hiatus lasted so long everyone concluded that he wasn't planning to ever return.

**523. hierarchy (n.) a system with ranked groups**

In the American system of hierarchy and power, civil authorities are placed above military authorities, but not by much.

**524. hypocrisy (n.) pretending to believe what one does not**

It's very difficult for men given to truth to tolerate the hypocrisy that liars engage in daily.

**525. hypothetical (adj.) supposed or assumed true, but unproven**

Many times, the hypothetical enters the realm of the real when understanding matures.

## I --

**526. iconoclast (n.) one who attacks commonly held beliefs or institutions**

John protests everything that the establishment offers, in true iconoclastic style.

**527. idiosyncratic (adj.) peculiar to one person; highly individualized**

Joshua's idiosyncratic behavior identifies him as the only living descendent of Crazy John Maddox.

**528. idolatrous (adj.) excessively worshipping one object or person**

The undying devotion that modern day kids have for rock stars and athletes is nothing shy of idolatrous.

**529. ignominious (adj.) humiliating, disgracing**

What they did to that baby was the most ignominious act I'd ever heard of or even imagined.

**530. illicit (adj.) forbidden, not permitted**

The pipes and other paraphernalia found in that house were deemed illicit by the investigating officers.

**531. immerse (v.) to absorb, deeply involve, engross**

To master a foreign tongue, one must immerse oneself in it for an extended period of time.

**532. immutable a. (adj.) not changeable; b. (adj.) stoic, not susceptible to suffering**

a.) The laws of physics are immutable and constant, never able to be changed or altered in the least.

b.) The Eastern philosophies espouse truths that empower one to become immutable.

**533. impeccable (adj.) exemplary, flawless**

His driving record is impeccable, having no marks for moving violations or even parking tickets.

**534. impecunious (adj.) desperately poor**

All of the impecunious children sat on the sides of the streets of their impoverished village, searching for but finding no kindness from the passersby.

**535. imperative a. (adj.) necessary, pressing; b. (n.) a rule, command, or order**

a.) It is absolutely imperative that you take the pills according to the directions on the bottle.

b.) The commander issued an imperative that every soldier must be present and accounted for by eighteen hundred hours.

**536. imperious (adj.) commanding, domineering**

General Thurman had the most **imperial** presence the tenderfoots had ever encountered; thus, they cowered when he spoke.

**537. impertinent (adj.) rude, insolent**

Most of your comments were dismissed because they were at best **impertinent** and at worst, unfounded and wrong.

**538. impervious (adj.) impenetrable, incapable of being affected**

The new armor is **impervious** to any and all attacks by modern weaponry.

**539. impetuous (adj.) rash; hastily done**

Harriet's hasty words were the product of her **impetuous** nature.

**540. impinge a. (v.) to impact, affect, make an impression; b. (v.) to encroach, infringe**

a.) Harold's act of heroism truly **impinged** all who witnessed it, exhorting them to do likewise.

b.) Pauline's need for space started to **impinge** on the space that clearly belonged to her co-workers.

**541. implacable (adj.) incapable of being appeased or mitigated**

The combatants were so betaken by their bloodlust, each was altogether **implacable**.

**542. implement a. (n.) an instrument, utensil, tool; b. (v.) to put into effect, to institute**

a.) The surgeon ensured that all of his **implement** were thoroughly sterile.

b.) The high tech company decided to **implement** new security protocols.

**543. implicit (adj.) understood but not outwardly obvious; implied**

There was an **implicit** message behind Mr. Brookson's well crafted words: get busy, or get out!

**544. impregnable (adj.) resistant to capture or penetration**

Fort Lang was thought to be **impregnable**, until an enemy tank bulldozed through its stone gate.

545. **impudent (adj.) casually rude, insolent, impertinent**

It never ceases to amaze me how today's young people can be so impudent to their elders.

546. **impute (v.) to ascribe, blame**

The conference winning coach chose to impute to his played the total credit for their victories.

547. **inane (adj.) silly and meaningless**

The comic's jokes were completely inane, appealing more to twelve year olds than adults.

548. **inarticulate (adj.) incapable of expressing oneself clearly through speech**

Because the inventor was so inarticulate, she just used pictures and spokespeople to make her pitch.

549. **incarnate a. (adj.) existing in the flesh, embodied; b. (v.) to give human form to**

a.) That beast was fury and death incarnate, clawing and biting at anything that moved.

b.) Sharon's desire for love was so real; she incarnated it and gave it a name.

550. **incendiary a. (n.) a person who agitates; b. (adj.) inflammatory, causing combustion**

a.) Darell's gossipy habits earned him the reputation as an incendiary.

b.) Gasoline is the most incendiary liquid on the market.

551. **incessant (adj.) unending**

The baby's incessant crying drove the young mother to the brink of a nervous breakdown.

552. **inchoate (adj.) unformed or formless, in a beginning stage**

The inchoate form of an embryo causes some to mistakenly conclude that it's not a viable being at all.

553. **incisive (adj.) clear, sharp, direct**

Plato's ***incisive*** questions caused both debaters to get straight to the point they needed to make.

554. **inclination (n.) a tendency, propensity**

Susan had an ***inclination*** to drop her chemistry class but fortunately changed her mind.

554. **incontrovertible (adj.) indisputable**

The prosecutor's evidence was ***incontrovertible***; the defendant was guilty without doubt.

555. **incorrigible (adj.) incapable of correction, delinquent**

When young people are allowed to break laws with impunity, they will certainly become ***incorrigible***.

556. **increment (n.) an enlargement; the process of increasing**

The flood waters grew in ***increments***, increasing with each successive dam burst.

557. **incumbent a. (n.) one who holds an office; b. (adj.) obligatory**

a.) During war time, an ***incumbent*** candidate always has an edge on anyone else running.

b.) It's morally ***incumbent*** upon all who are financially able to help those who are not!

558. **indefatigable (adj.) incapable of defeat, failure, decay**

Even after jogging the uphill route, the ***indefatigable*** runner kept on going to the finish line.

559. **indigenous (adj.) originating in a region**

When invasive species come in to any area, the ***indigenous*** life forms will be threatened.

560. **indigent (adj.) very poor, impoverished**

Many of those holding their I-will-work-for-food signs are truly ***indigent***, having only the clothes on their backs.

561. **indignation (n.) anger sparked by something unjust or unfair**

I resigned from my father's fraternity because of my ***indignation*** at its hazing practices.

562. **indolent (adj.) lazy**

Offering indolent people a real job is a total waste of time.

**563. indomitable (adj.) not capable of being conquered**

The Miami Heat was truly an indomitable team during the 2010 - 2011 season!

**564. induce (v.) to bring about, stimulate**

The doctor said, “Don’t induce vomiting; just drink plenty of water.”

**565. ineffable (adj.) unspeakable, not able to be expressed in words**

The scene of the Nile Valley in spring left me speechless; it was truly ineffable.

**566. inept (adj.) unsuitable or incapable, not qualified**

Carlos demonstrated that he was indeed an inept singer, hitting sour note after sour note in his solo.

**567. inexorable (adj.) incapable of being persuaded or placated**

The inexorable march of the troops, with their minds fixed on vengeance, led them headlong to their own disaster.

**568. inextricable (adj.) hopelessly tangled or entangled**

“Understanding is an inextricable component of true wisdom,” taught Professor Sage.

**569. infamy (n.) notoriety, extreme ill repute**

The infamy of the Jesse and Frank James gang lives to this very day.

**570. infusion (n.) an injection of one substance into another**

The economy needs a major and rapid infusion of flowing, spendable cash.

**571. ingenious (adj.) clever, resourceful**

The general was the most ingenious of all the battle leaders, figuring out his enemy’s tactics and thwarting them on every turn.

**572. ingenuous (adj.) not devious; innocent and candid**

The young man’s plea was so heart wrenching that his ingenuous character could not be denied.

**573. inhibit (v.) to prevent, restrain, stop**

An innutritious diet will at some point *inhibit* a person's good health.

**574. inimical (adj.) hostile, enemy-like**

The *inimical* undertones of those at the peace talks suggested that peace was still a distant reality.

**575. iniquity (n.) wickedness or sin**

"Your *iniquity*," said the preacher to the unrepentant sinner, "will not be forgiven."

**576. injunction (n.) an order of official warning**

Judge Hill issued a temporary *injunction* to freeze the assets of the criminal suspect until a complete investigation could be conducted.

**577. innate (adj.) inborn, native, inherent**

Quinton had great *innate* ability to both compose and play beautiful music.

**578. innocuous (adj.) harmless, inoffensive**

Most domestic spider bites are completely *innocuous*, harming only creatures as tiny as their would-be prey.

**579. innovate (v.) to do something in an unprecedented way**

Young minds come up with many and unique *innovative* strategies to get work done in fun and easy ways.

**580. innuendo (n.) an insinuation**

During the debate, the politician made several *innuendos* about plight of those on Medicare and Medicaid.

**581. inoculate (v.) to vaccinate against a disease.**

In order to increase immunity against malaria, the travelers to the South American jungles were *inoculated* two weeks before their trip.

**582. inquisitor (n.) one who inquires, especially in a hostile manner**

The *inquisitor* was instructed to ask convoluted questions in order to confuse the citizens and get them to confess to crimes they'd not committed.

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583. **insatiable (adj.) incapable of being satisfied**

My appetite for fresh fish is truly insatiable; I can eat it every day of my life.

584. **insidious (adj.) appealing, but imperceptibly harmful, seductive**

Lisa's insidious compliments were designed to guide her victims into a false sense of security.

585. **insinuate (v.) to suggest indirectly or subtly**

"I didn't mean to insinuate that you weren't welcome," insisted the embarrassed host.

586. **insipid (adj.) dull, boring**

The show was terribly insipid from beginning to end; those who didn't fall asleep, left early.

587. **insolent (adj.) rude, arrogant, overbearing**

The kind of insolent behavior the boss's son showed demonstrates a lack of parental involvement and oversight in the young man's life.

588. **instigate (v.) to urge, goad**

Those who instigate fights are just as much to blame as those who actually engage in them.

589. **insular (adj.) separated and narrow-minded; tight-knit, closed off**

Sometimes, insular communities adopt habits of mind that blind them to the concepts embraced by society at large.

590. **insurgent (n.) one who rebels**

An insurgent force made its way toward the capital, with ill intentions.

591. **integral (adj.) necessary for completeness**

The messengers played an integral role in the success of the negotiations.

592. **interject (v.) to insert between other things**

Please allow me to interject one other idea before our final conclusion is reached.

**593. interlocutor (n.) someone who participates in a dialogue or conversation**

As one interlocutor said to another, “Let’s maintain our civility at all times during these discussions.”

**594. interminable (adj.) without possibility of end**

The questioning mind of men has been an attribute that has aided in their technical evolution and therefore must remain interminable.

**595. intimation (n.) an indirect suggestion**

The coach’s intimation was that his team would rally and defeat their arch enemy in the end.

**596. intractable (adj.) difficult to manipulate, unmanageable**

The conduct of testosterone-driven athletes is intractable, especially after a big win.

**597. intransigent (adj.) refusing to compromise, often on an extreme opinion**

The intransigent young woman said she was entitled to the house, the furniture, the car, the boat, and every penny in their joint account.

**598. intrepid (adj.) brave in the face of danger**

The intrepid soldier said he was just doing his job when he braved the bullets and flame throwers to save his comrades.

**599. inundate (v.) to flood with abundance**

“I’m completely inundated with house work!” complained the new bride.

**600. inure (v.) to cause one to become accustomed or acclimated**

After a life time of living in the squalor of extreme poverty, Jason and his sister became inured to it, and later saw it as normal and even proper.

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**601. invective (n.) an angry verbal attack**

The officer's use of invectives against an insolent, very drunk driver earned him a reprimand.

**602. inveterate (adj.) stubbornly established by habit**

After four years of serious college work, I'd become an inveterate studier and thinker.

603. **inviolable (adj.) secure from assault**

Those in control of their tempers are usually utterly inviolable to verbal attack.

604. **irascible (adj.) easily angered**

The irascible Daffy Duck is one of my all time favorite cartoon characters.

605. **iridescent (adj.) showing rainbow colors**

There was an eerie iridescent glow coming from the site of the UFO crash.

606. **irreverence (n.) disrespect**

The irreverence shown by the rap singers was such an insult to effectual worshipers.

607. **irrevocable (adj.) incapable of being taken back**

The Bill of Rights establishes Americans' irrevocable rights under the Constitution.

## **J --**

608. **jubilant (adj.) extremely joyful, happy**

At her wedding, the bride just burst into jubilant song at the thought of actually having her perfect husband.

609. **judicious (adj.) having or exercising sound judgment**

Spending your grocery money on a quick trip to the casino is not very judicious at all.

610. **juxtaposition (n.) two things placed beside each other for the sake of implicit comparison**

The clever detective saw the subtle difference after juxtaposing the two photographs.

## **K --**

611. **knell (n.) the solemn sound of a bell, often indicating a death**

Hearing the solemn knell of the bell told everyone that Mrs. Jennie May had been finally laid to rest.

612. **kudos (n.) praise for an achievement**

After that incredible performance, the reviewers gave cheerful kudos to the new singer.

## **L --**

### **613. laceration (n.) a cut, tear**

The accident left everyone with bruises and lacerations from head to foot.

### **614. laconic (adj.) terse in speech or writing**

The lecturer's laconic style caused him to seem less than sympathetic to his own cause.

### **615. languid (adj.) sluggish from fatigue or weakness**

Brandon's bout with the flu left him languid and pale.

### **616. larceny (n.) obtaining another's property by theft or trickery**

After years of victimizing senior citizens with acts of petty larceny, Slick Willie was finally nabbed.

### **617. largess (n.) great and lavish generosity in the giving of gifts**

On rare occasions, super rich people demonstrate laudable largess in the buying of homes for the poor and building free hospitals for the indigent.

### **618. latent (adj.) hidden, but capable of being exposed**

The insidious germ lay latent in its host, waiting for some other sickness to strike first and make its victim vulnerable.

### **619. laudatory (adj.) expressing admiration or praise**

Acts of kindness should be met with much more laudatory recognition than they are.

### **620. lavish a. (adj.) given without limits; b. (v.) to give without limits**

a.) Lavish praise was heaped upon the officer for his demonstration of awesome valiance.

b.) Lavish praise upon the worthy that all others may see the virtue and imitate it.

### **621. legerdemain (n.) deception, slight-of-hand**

Marvin the Magnificent became world famous for his uncanny skill and legerdemain.

622. **lenient (adj.) demonstrating tolerance or gentleness**

Judge merciless chose not to be lenient in the least with the ten-time offender.

623. **lethargic (adj.) in a state of sluggishness or apathy**

The summer sun in Florida will make even the zestiest exerciser fell lethargic and tired.

624. **liability a. (n.) legal responsibility; b. (n.) a handicap, burden**

a.) The court determined that the driver of the truck had the liability for the blown tires.

b.) Having unconcerned and undedicated players on any team would be a liability.

625. **libertarian (adj.) advocating principles of liberty and free will**

The libertarian candidate spoke of free will and the volition of each individual.

626. **licentious (adj.) displaying a lack of moral or legal restraints**

The licentious woman said, "Hello, Sugar Pumpkin. Has your little wifey left yet?"

627. **limpid (adj.) clear, transparent**

The so-called zero-fat skim milk was so limpid, you could see straight through it.

628. **linchpin (n.) something that holds separate parts together**

The linchpin in the defense strategy was the absence of any physical evidence.

629. **lithe (adj.) graceful, flexible, supple**

The ballet dancers' lithe movements were akin to watching swans glide over the lake.

630. **litigant (n.) someone engaged in a lawsuit**

The litigant's lawyer warned her that she could loose everything if her witness didn't show.

631. **lucid (adj.) clear, easily understandable**

Dr. Bringham's explanation was so lucid, even the freshmen med students were able to grasp it and all of its subtleties.

632. **luminous (adj.) brightly shining**

The light from the luminous object made night seem just like day.

**633. lurid (adj.) ghastly, sensational**

The murder mystery was replete with twists, turns, and the lurid details that Gosa had become famous for.

**M --**

**634. maelstrom (n.) a destructive whirlpool which rapidly sucks in objects**

During the most violent storms in the Arctic Ocean, enormous maelstroms are formed that could pull any ship to the depths of destruction.

**635. magnanimous (adj.) noble, generous**

The nurse's magnanimous spirit caused her to offer one of her own kidney's to her suffering patient.

**636. malediction (n.) a curse**

The witch looked to her master then turned and spoke her malediction upon all the citizens of the town that had sentenced her to burn.

**637. malevolent (adj.) wanting harm to befall others**

The malevolent old man sat in his room all day, writing dirty letters to young girls.

**638. malleable (adj.) capable of being shaped or transformed**

Because young minds are so malleable, even the worst delinquent can be rehabilitated.

**639. mandate (n.) an authoritative command**

In the New Testament, Jesus mandated that the penitent would receive mercy and grace.

**640. manifest a. (adj.) easily understandable, obvious; b. (v.) to show plainly**

a.) The poet's meaning is clearly manifest when you consider his other writings.

b.) The strategy was to manifest deep hurt in the eyes of the jury.

**641. manifold (adj.) diverse, varied**

I have manifold reasons for not going; I just mentioned to you the most obvious ones.

642. **maudlin (adj.) weakly sentimental**

The maudlin themes of all the romance comedies are entirely predictable from the boy meets girl, to the boy loses girl, to the boy gets girl back elements.

643. **maverick (n.) an independent, nonconformist person**

The suspense writer didn't think of himself as a maverick; he was just writing what he thought was usual stuff.

644. **mawkish (adj.) characterized by sick sentimentality**

The mawkishness of yesterday's television story lines was displayed as normal living situations of normal American families.

645. **maxim (n.) a common saying expressing a principle of conduct**

The chief maxim of the day is this: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

646. **meager (adj.) deficient in size or quality**

The meager portion of food did not satisfy Harold's enormous appetite.

647. **medley (n.) a mixture of differing things**

The orchestra played a medley of oldies but goodies.

648. **mendacious (adj.) having a lying, false character**

The mendacious reputation of *Snake* MacFarady caused everyone to turn down his offer to go into business with him and his brother.

649. **mercurial (adj.) characterized by rapid change or temperament**

Sally was so mercurial before her test results came, no one knew what to say to her.

650. **meritorious (adj.) worthy of esteem or reward**

Bernice's meritorious gesture was hailed by all as the perfect peace-making move.

651. **metamorphosis (n.) the change of form, shape, substance**

The metamorphosis that the main character went through is proof positive that sinners can become saints.

652. **meticulous (adj.) extremely careful with details**

The surgeon was very meticulous about the care of the patient's wound.

**653. mitigate (v.) to make less violent, alleviate**

In an attempt to mitigate the squabble between the brothers, their father took blame for most of the problem.

**654. moderate a. (adj.) not extreme; b. (n.) one who expresses moderate opinions**

a.) The damage was deemed moderate by the adjustor, giving the owners much less than they expected.

b.) I consider myself a moderate, especially when it comes to social help networks.

**655. modicum (n.) a small amount of something**

Just a modicum of patience will keep a person out of many jams.

**656. modulate (v.) to pass from one state to another, especially in music**

The technicians are attempting to modulate the frequencies of the incoming signals.

**657. mollify (v.) to soften in temper**

Hank's apology certainly went a long way in mollifying Alfred's hostility.

**658. morass (n.) a wet swampy bog; figuratively, something that traps and confuses**

Wading through the morass at a turtle's pace, the hikers took many hours to reach the town.

**659. mores (n.) the moral attitudes and fixed customs of a group of people.**

Social mores impact the development of a society and the expectations of those who live there in.

**670. morose (adj.) gloomy or sullen**

Jasper's morose disposition made him very unpleasant to ever be around.

**671. multifarious (adj.) having great diversity or variety**

The reason I love Swiss army knives is because of their multifarious, do-everything design.

672. **mundane (adj.) concerned with the world rather than with heaven, commonplace**

The mundane concerns of the uninspired oftentimes seem very trivial to those who visit the muses often.

673. **munificence (n.) generosity in giving**

The extent of the billionaire's munificence astounded even those who knew him well.

674. **mutable (adj.) able to change**

The decisions of the uncertain thinker tend to be very mutable.

675. **myriad (adj.) consisting of a very great number**

There are myriad things to do on an ocean cruise, unless, of course you are a land lover.

**N --**

676. **nadir (n.) the lowest point of something**

The nadir of my existence came when my one and only love found someone else.

677. **nascent (adj.) in the process of being born or coming into existence**

The nascent genius of the young students in Dr. Einstein's class was evident when some of them actually challenged some of his assumptions on relativity.

678. **nebulous (adj.) vaguely defined, cloudy**

I found the teacher's explanation of the events very nebulous, as they were filled with imprecise allusions and hints.

679. **nefarious (adj.) heinously villainous**

The nefarious pirates arrived on the shores of the town with crossbones waving.

680. **negligent (adj.) habitually careless, neglectful**

At some point, negligent behavior leads to disappointment, if not total ruin.

681. **neophyte (n.) someone who is young or inexperienced**

Though Joel was a neophyte, he handled the emergency with the comportment of a veteran.

682. **nocturnal (adj.) relating to or occurring during the night**

Because bats are nocturnal creatures, they live for the moon.

683. **noisome (adj.) unpleasant, offensive, especially to the sense of smell**

The noisome stench of the carcass permeated the whole building, driving the employees to the parking lot.

684. **nomadic (adj.) wandering from place to place**

The nomadic tribesmen move so often, it's impossible to know their whereabouts at all times.

685. **nominal (adj.) trifling, insignificant**

Because there was only a nominal fee involved, Mr. T. Wad paid the cost for everyone.

686. **nonchalant (adj.) having a lack of concern, indifference**

I was shocked at how nonchalant Jennifer handled the news of her expulsion.

687. **nondescript (adj.) lacking a distinctive character**

Undercover detectives are pros at coming across as nondescript observers and passersby.

688. **notorious (adj.) widely and unfavorably known**

The fraternity became notorious for its crazy parties and weird inductions ceremonies.

689. **novice (n.) a beginner, someone without training or experience**

During the game, the novice players contributed just as much as the others.

690. **noxious (adj.) harmful, unwholesome**

The noxious fumes simply overwhelmed the investigators as well as all others within a two-block radius.

691. **nuance (n.) a slight variation in meaning, tone, or expression**

There was but a nuance of difference between the shade I wanted and the shade they had in stock.

692. **nurture (v.) to assist the development of**

The nurture of a loving mother has no substitute.

## O --

693. **obdurate (adj.) unyielding to persuasion or stubbornly insensitive to change**

The young men were as obdurate as the long bearded men of the sea when it came to changing their ways.

694. **obfuscate (v.) to render incomprehensible**

The coding mechanism obfuscated the program, rendering it undecipherable.

695. **oblique (adj.) diverging from a straight line or course, not straightforward**

The river's course was oblique, twisting and turning all the way to the ocean.

696. **oblivious (adj.) lacking consciousness or awareness of something**

The naive travelers were oblivious to the tactics of the big city slickers.

697. **obscure (adj.) unclear, partially hidden**

Thought the markings were obscure, our linguists were able to decode most of them.

698. **obsequious (adj.) excessively compliant or submissive**

The imprisoned women were strangely obsequious to their captors, suggesting some type of mind control.

699. **obsolete (adj.) no longer used, out of date**

The type writer has become an obsolete business tool.

700. **obstinate (adj.) not yielding easily, very stubborn**

Even after hours of enhanced interrogation, the spies remained obstinate and closed mouthed.

701. **obstreperous (adj.) noisy, unruly**

The obstreperous class frustrated the rookie teacher such that she simply walked out.

702. **obtuse (adj.) lacking quickness of sensibility or intellect**

The obtuse ball players thought nothing of exchanging insults with the opposing team.

703. **odious (adj.) instilling hatred or intense displeasure**

The convict's words to the jury were odious from beginning to end.

704. **officious (adj.) insisting on helping when it's neither wanted nor needed**

The new boss was much too officious, telling everybody how to do the jobs they already knew how to do.

705. **ominous (adj.) foreboding or foreshadowing evil; threatening**

The rolling of thunder was an ominous sound, frightening children and adults alike.

706. **onerous (adj.) burdensome**

Having to clean the stables alone is an onerous chore that no one wants to do.

707. **opulent (adj.) characterized by rich abundance verging on ostentation**

The mansion was decorated with the most opulent furnishings I've ever seen.

708. **oration (n.) a speech delivered in a formal or ceremonious manner**

The speaker's oration was well paced and loquaciously delivered.

709. **ornate (adj.) highly elaborate, excessively decorated**

The Yuletide decorations were truly ornate, from the tree to the windows to the sidewalks.

710. **orthodox (adj.) conventional, conforming to established protocol**

Because of their orthodox thinking the elders wouldn't even consider any so-called new fangled ideas.

711. **oscillate (v.) to sway from one side to the other**

Melvin's little oscillating fan hummed all night, trying its best to cool the whole room.

712. **ostensible (adj.) appearing as such, seemingly**

Ostensibly, those who refused to follow directions the first time were sent home.

713. **ostentatious (adj.) excessively showy, glitzy**

Most of the out of town guests thought the hostess's flamboyant way was too ostentatious.

714. **ostracism (n.) exclusion from a group**

After Brad's ostracism from his club, he simply wandered around regretting his egregious actions.

**P --**

715. **pacific (adj.) soothing**

Trying to pacify both sides, the mediator proposed many compromises.

716. **palatable (adj.) agreeable to the taste or sensibilities**

That chocolate cake was the most palatable item on the table, even better than the pie.

717. **palette (adj.) a range of colors or qualities**

The multi-national palette of the quilt was seen as the greatest gesture of peace, soothing even the most ardent of attendees.

718. **palliate (v.) to reduce the severity of, ameliorate**

Attempting to palliate the pain, Dr. Melcott increased the morphine dosage.

719. **pallid (adj.) lacking color**

The decorations were unique, but the bland color choices were a bit pallid for my taste.

720. **panacea (n.) a remedy for all ills or difficulties**

There are no panaceas in the real world; however, an apple a day might be the closest.

721. **paradigm (n.) an example that is a perfect pattern or model**

Using computers as primary teaching tools is certainly a paradigm shift for our teachers.

722. **paradox (n.) an apparently contradictory statement that is perhaps true**

The notion time travel presents a multitude of paradoxes that are just beginning to be understood.

723. **paragon (n.) a model of excellence or perfection**

Hercules is a paragon of the traditional hero type -- powerful, brave, and good.

724. **paramount (adj.) greatest in importance, rank, character**

The paramount issue here is not his condition; it's the condition of his vast estate.

725. **pariah (n.) an outcast, a repulsive person**

After her expulsion from the Ladies' Club International, Shelia became somewhat of a pariah, finding no other club that would take her.

726. **parody (n.) a satirical imitation**

Saturday Night Live is one of the most noted television shows to ever use parody as its chief means of humor.

727. **parsimony (n.) frugality, stinginess**

The old miser's parsimony caused him to choose to eat cat food instead of steak.

728. **partisan (n.) a follower, adherent**

During national emergencies, there's no time or place for partisan politics; everyone must follow the designated leader's plan.

729. **patent (adj.) readily seen or understood, clear**

When Janette didn't even know the combination to her husband's safe, it became patently clear what the problem really was.

730. **pathology (n.) a deviation from the normal; study of disease**

The pathology report made it clear that the tumor had definitely stopped growing, and was perhaps even shrinking.

731. **pathos (n.) an emotion of sympathy**

Even the perpetrators showed sincere pathos for the stricken family.

732. **paucity (adj.) small in quantity**

Dwayne felt the paucity of available food meant that everyone should eat smaller portions, starting with him.

733. **pejorative (adj.) derogatory, uncomplimentary**

Mitch's pejorative comments to his wife were seen as proof positive that he no longer cared nor even respected her.

**734. pellucid (adj.) easily intelligible, clear**

The mountain streams were so pellucid the brown and orange stones on the bottom could be seen with ease.

**735. penchant (n.) a tendency, partiality, preference**

Jeff's penchant for the dramatic had a perfect forum during the impending storm surge.

**736. penitent (adj.) remorseful, regretful**

Marvin the Murderer didn't seem the least bit penitent for his crimes; in fact, he smiled when they were mentioned.

**737. penultimate (adj.) next to last**

I believe Jim's penultimate solution was better than the one he ultimately chose.

**738. penurious (adj.) miserly, stingy**

Estelle's penurious habits caused her and her children to walk around in worn and tattered clothes.

**739. perfidious (adj.) disloyal, unfaithful**

Even after he got married, it was hard for the swinging bachelor to give up his perfidious ways.

**740. perfunctory (adj.) showing little interest or enthusiasm**

The newsman delivered the bad news in such a perfunctory manner, it seemed as though it was just another run of the mill event.

**741. permeate (v.) to spread throughout, saturate**

Leaven, or yeast, tends to permeate everything it touches.

**742. pernicious (adj.) extremely destructive or harmful**

The pernicious intent of the invaders was made very evident when they drew their swords.

743. **perplex (v.) to confuse**

A good military leader will always attempt to perplex his foes with some strategy.

744. **perspicacity (adj.) shrewdness, perceptiveness**

Because of Will's perspicacity, he figured out the problem before it had a chance to grow.

745. **pert (adj.) flippant, bold**

I thought Betty's manner was a bit too pert, as she responded to her mother's questions.

746. **pertinacious (adj.) stubbornly persistent**

The twins had a pertinacious spirit that drove them to stick to their guns no matter what.

747. **perusal (n.) a careful examination, review**

After careful perusal of the layouts, we saw where the leaks had to be coming from.

748. **pervasive (adj.) having the tendency to spread throughout**

The airborne plague became pervasive throughout the countryside, once the winds changed.

749. **petulance (n.) rudeness, irritability**

Such petulance demonstrated by anyone suggests a lack of respect for age and position.

750. **philanthropic (adj.) charitable, giving**

The Tycoon's philanthropic gesture fed thousands and housed tens of thousands.

751. **phlegmatic (adj.) uninterested, unresponsive**

Monica became wholly phlegmatic when she found out their play wasn't going to be televised or even written about in the local paper.

752. **pillage (v.) to seize or plunder, especially in war**

The pillage left in the wake of the Viking's raid left the village destitute of food and gold.

753. **pinnacle (n.) the highest point**

When an athlete is at the pinnacle of his career, his skill level is simply off the charts.

754. **pithy (adj.) concisely meaningful**

I love quotes and proverbs, especially the pithy varieties that say so much in so few words.

755. **pittance (n.) a very small amount, especially relating to money**

The only jobs available to the uneducated pay only a pittance, nothing near what it takes to support a family.

756. **placate (v.) to ease the anger of, soothe**

To placate the angry fans, the organization decided to offer free tickets to the next game.

757. **placid (adj.) calm, peaceful**

The placid lake surface looked like a sheet of emerald glass, glistening in the sunlight.

758. **platitude (n.) an uninspired remark, cliché**

Sometimes, platitudes are used when nothing original can be thought of to say.

759. **plaudits (n.) enthusiastic approval, applause**

The plaudits given to the performance were an indication of the audience's approval.

760. **plausible (adj.) believable, reasonable**

The detective's theory didn't seem plausible at first; but, after some musing, it was seen as the only thing that could possibly be right.

761. **plenitude (n.) an abundance**

After the fierce rains, there was certainly a plenitude of fresh water for people and plants alike.

762. **plethora (n.) an abundance, excess**

There are a plethora of reasons why we should all tell the truth; all of them, however, eluded me that day.

763. **pliable (adj.) flexible**

The reeds of certain plants are so pliable they can be used to make very strong ropes.

764. **poignant (adj.) deeply affecting, moving**

The message of that movie was quite poignant, causing the audience to think and re-think their own values.

765. **polemic (n.) an aggressive argument against a specific opinion**

Alberto's polemic served to rebut his opponent and introduce a new view of reality.

766. **portent (n.) an omen**

The witch's words were an ominous portent of tragedies to come for the great king.

767. **potable (adj.) suitable for drinking**

Creek water can be potable when spring water is scarce.

768. **potentate (n.) one who has great power, a ruler**

Nebuchadnezzar was one of the greatest potentates the world has ever known.

769. **pragmatic (adj.) practical**

Nancy's suggestion proved to be one of the most pragmatic to be discussed all day.

770. **precipice (n.) the face of a cliff, a steep or overhanging place**

Looking down from the icy precipice, the alpha wolf chose its prey.

771. **preclude (v.) to prevent**

Concern for the welfare of others should preclude a person from ever even considering taking advantage of anyone.

772. **precocious (adj.) advanced, developing ahead of time**

Polly Ann was the most precocious child in the class, many times beating her teacher to the answers.

773. **predilection (n.) a preference or inclination for something**

Due to Claud's predilection for sea food, his choice of evening fare was always predictable.

774. **preponderance (adj.) superiority in importance or quantity**

The preponderance of evidence pointed conclusively to the accused.

775. **prepossessing (adj.) preoccupying the mind to the exclusion of all else**

Job's prepossessing thoughts were of Gloria only -- morning, noon, and night.

776. **presage (n.) an omen**

The sight of the dreaded albatross was the presage most disdained by old seamen.

777. **prescient (adj.) to have foreknowledge of events**

Maggie was quite prescient, seeing the future as though it were the past.

778. **prescribe (v.) to lay down a rule**

The doctor prescribed several pills, multicolored and expensive.

779. **presumptuous (adj.) disrespectfully bold**

Clyde, being the presumptuous lad that he was, went to pick up his prom date and found her already gone with someone else.

780. **pretense (n.) an appearance or action intended to deceive**

His anguish over her death was but a pretense, a ruse to suggest his own innocence.

781. **primeval (adj.) original, ancient**

His suit was the color of primeval metal, brown and gray mixed with red.

782. **privation (n.) lacking basic necessities**

Losing his job added tremendously to his family's privation and pain.

783. **probity (n.) virtue, integrity**

Helen's probity was in question when it appeared that she had lied to the investigators.

784. **proclivity (n.) a strong inclination toward something**

Because of human proclivity, there will always be crime and guile in the world.

785. **procure (v.) to obtain, acquire**

Trying to procure sustenance, the hungry man reluctantly stole from total strangers.

786. **profane (adj.) lewd, indecent**

Stanley was suspended from school for three days for using profane language.

787. **profligate (adj.) dissolute, extravagant**

The profligate shopper went to every store in the mall, buying many things she didn't need and couldn't afford.

788. **profuse (adj.) plentiful, abundant**

After the ten-mile run in the 90 degree heat, the track team was dripping with profuse sweat.

789. **promulgate (v.) to proclaim, make known**

To promulgate the notion of ethnic superiority with not a shred of objective evidence is an act of idiocy.

790. **propagate (v.) to multiply, spread out**

Insects have learned to propagate their species in the most dire of survival circumstances.

791. **propensity (n.) an inclination, preference**

Those whose trust has been abused must guard against developing a propensity to mistrust everyone.

792. **propitious (adj.) favorable**

As the propitious moment arrived at last, the signal was given, and the race began.

793. **propriety (n.) the quality or state of being proper, decent**

Observing the dictates of social propriety, Evelyn allowed her guest to be seated first.

794. **prosaic (adj.) plain, lacking liveliness**

The plot of the play was rather prosaic, having characters that sat around and slept for hours, and didn't bother to even dream.

795. **proscribe (v.) to condemn, outlaw**

The court proscribed a sentence of not less than thirty years and not more than fifty.

796. **protean (adj.) able to change shape; displaying great variety**

Chief among Samuel's protean talents was the ability to start a fire with his mind.

**797. prowess (n.) extraordinary ability**

The knight displayed his fight prowess by defeating the emerald-eyed dragon of Coal Mountain.

**798. prudence (n.) cautious, circumspect**

Prudence would dictate that one should get to know on a personal basis those with whom one shares secrets.

**799. prurient (adj.) eliciting or possessing an extraordinary interest in sex**

Thanks to the internet, many adolescents have prurient interests that would flabbergast their parents.

**800. puerile (adj.) juvenile, immature**

The young man was lectured by his professor for his puerile actions and told to go home and grow up.

**801. pugnacious (adj.) quarrelsome, combative**

Pit bulls are infamous for their pugnacious dispositions, fighting anything at any time.

**802. pulchritude (n.) physical beauty**

In today's world, women possessing the greatest degree of pulchritude are called supermodels.

**803. punctilious (adj.) eager to follow rules or conventions**

There's nothing worse than an IRS agent who's punctilious by nature and choice.

**804. pungent (adj.) having a pointed, sharp quality (often describing smells)**

The pungent odor of bleach pervaded the hallways, blocking them, as it were, with its chemical barricade.

**805. punitive (adj.) involving punishment**

When speeders are caught speeding through school zones, punitive measures are and should be guaranteed.

806. **putrid (adj.) rotten, foul**

The putrid stench of the road kill was all over his new tires!

## Q --

807. **quagmire (n.) a difficult situation**

Playing video games when you should be studying is one of the easiest ways to put yourself in an academic quagmire.

808. **quaint (adj.) charmingly old-fashioned**

During our vacation in the mountains, we chanced to stay at a quaint little bed and breakfast.

809. **quandary (n.) a perplexing, bad situation**

When my car stopped cold in the middle of a thunder storm, I knew I was in a quandary.

810. **quell (v.) to control or diffuse a potentially explosive situation**

To quell the violence in the streets, the National Guard had to be called in.

811. **querulous (adj.) whiny, complaining**

The passenger in the last seat is a querulous sort, complaining about the food, the service, and everything else near him.

812. **quixotic (adj.) idealistic, impractical**

The **quixotic** cartoon fan wrote many letters to Bugs Bunny, asking him about his friend, Daffy Duck.

813. **quotidian (adj.) daily**

Intent on tending to his quotidian chores, Mr. Simon focuses on nothing else.

## R --

814. **rail (v.) to scold, protest**

The tenured teachers began to rail against the lack of a cost of living increase.

815. **rancid (adj.) having a terrible taste or smell**

The meat in the box was terribly rancid; its odor was all over the house.

**816. rancor (n.) deep, bitter resentment**

When the will was read, the jilted spouse was brimming with rancor when her late husband's estate was left to some woman he called Jessie Bell.

**817. rapport (n.) mutual understanding and harmony**

It's a difficult task to develop a rapport with someone who's naturally introverted.

**818. rash (adj.) hasty, incautious**

Don't be so **rash** in your judgment, Jonas; he may not be as bad as you think.

**819. raucous (adj.) loud, boisterous**

Maria's **raucous** friends were over again last night, laughing, cursing, and singing their naughty songs.

**820. raze (v.) to demolish, level**

The demolition crew was called in to raze the condemned building before the hurricane season arrived.

**821. rebuke (v.) to scold, criticize**

Mr. Thomas rebuked his son sharply for missing his curfew for the second time this week.

**822. recalcitrant (adj.) defiant, unapologetic**

The drunk driver was recalcitrant and rude to the officers; thus, he got to spend ninety days in the county stockade.

**823. recapitulate (v.) to sum up, repeat**

The speaker began to recapitulate his main points, warning that they all must be remembered and acted upon.

**824. reciprocate (v.) to give in return**

The Bonner's were so cordial to us we felt the need to reciprocate their invitation.

**825. reclusive (adj.) solitary, shunning society**

The **reclusive** clan moved back into the deep woods, away from every human being.

**826. reconcile a. (v.) to return to harmony; b. (v.) to make consistent with existing ideas**

a.) The couple wanted to be **reconciled**, but didn't know how to work through their problems.

b.) Several accountants were called in to **reconcile** the expenditures with the cash on hand.

**827. rectitude (n.) uprightness, extreme morality**

A high degree of **rectitude** should be a requisite for anyone serving in a public office.

**828. redoubtable a. (adj.) formidable; b. (adj.) commanding respect**

a.) The attacking force was so **redoubtable**, the defending troops cowered silently.

b.) The **redoubtable** commander entered the barracks and everyone stood at attention.

**829. refract (v.) to distort, change**

The light was **refracted** as it passed through the prism, breaking into a full spectrum.

**830. refurbish (v.) to restore, clean up**

For Mother's Day, we decided to **refurbish** her favorite rocking chair.

**831. refute (v.) to prove wrong**

Martin was set to **refute** every argument, but heard nothing with which he disagreed.

**832. regurgitate a. (v.) to vomit ; b. (v.) to throw back exactly**

a.) Sticking his fingers down his throat, Morris was trying to force himself to **regurgitate**.

b.) After studying his science chapters all night, Willie just **regurgitated** the information.

**833. relegate a. (v.) to assign to the proper place; b. (v.) to assign to an inferior place**

a.) The experts from the Bureau were quickly **relegated** to the evidence room.

b.) After her last debacle, Miriam was **relegated** to the laundry room to help wash and iron uniforms.

834. **relish (v.) to enjoy**

Seeing the chocolate covered Strawberries that he relished so, Bob almost cried.

835. **remedial (adj.) intended to repair gaps in students' basic knowledge**

Because he scored so low on his assessment, Nolan was placed in a remedial class.

836. **remiss (adj.) negligent, failing to take care**

"It would be remiss of me not to mention our visitors," said Headmaster Belford.

837. **renovate a. (v.) restore, return to original state; b. (v.) to enlarge and beautify**

a.) The guest house was renovated so his mother could use it during her stay.

b.) After she renovated the library, she was able to store more books, and even host formal gatherings.

838. **renown (n.) honor, acclaim**

Einstein gained even greater renown when the A-Bomb actually worked as forecasted.

839. **renunciation (n.) a rejection**

Maximillian's renunciation of his own government left many to wonder about his true allegiance.

840. **repentant (adj.) penitent, sorry**

Not being repentant in the least, George simply threatened to slap her again.

841. **replete (adj.) full, abundant**

The student's final paper was replete with spelling errors, punctuation errors, and confusing phrases.

842. **repose (v.) to rest, lie down**

The weary traveler stopped in the shade and reposed himself on the ground, leaning against an apple tree.

843. **reprehensible (adj.) deserving rebuke**

The child molester's reprehensible conduct was found by the jury to be worthy of a life sentence.

**844. reprieve (n.) a temporary delay of punishment**

The governor granted a reprieve to the convict, citing an incident that happened during his incarceration.

**845. reproach (v.) to scold, disapprove**

The teacher was reproached by her principal for showing improper movies to her class.

**846. reprobate (adj.) evil, unprincipled**

The reprobate murderer sat in his cell, thinking of revenge against his self-assigned enemies.

**847. reprove (v.) to scold, rebuke**

The Bible reproves every evil act that men do, warning them to stop before it's too late.

**848. repudiate (v.) to reject, refuse to accept**

The career criminal made a plea to the judge; but, it was repudiated with the words that touted justice and in the name of community safety.

**849. repulse a. (v.) to disgust; b. (v.) to push back**

a.) I found her suggestion utterly repulsive, and I scolded her for thinking such a thing.

b.) The wall of water was slowly but surely repulsed by the shifting winds.

**850. reputable (adj.) of good reputation**

Only reputable individuals are considered for the jury pool.

**851. requisition (n.) a demand for goods, usually made by an authority**

The requisition came in on time; however, several items were listed as back-ordered.

**852. rescind (v.) to take back, repeal**

After second thought, the principal decided to rescind her permission to have a school-wide party.

**853. reservoir a. (n.) reserves, large supply; b. (n.) a body of stored water**

a.) There's a reservoir of office supplies yet unopened in the secretaries' vault.

b.) Hoover Dam creates one of the largest reservoirs of fresh water in the world.

854. **resilient (adj.) able to recover from misfortune; able to withstand adversity**

The resilient young player healed quickly and returned to his team in no time.

855. **resolute (adj.) firm, determined**

Jim was totally resolute in his decision not to allow extended vacations, even under the pressure of old friendships and rain checks.

856. **resolve a. (v.) to find a solution; b. (v.) to firmly decide**

a.) A mediator was called in to resolve the conflict that had lasted for months.

b.) My friend's sickness tested my resolve to never surrender to impatience and disloyalty.

857. **respite (n.) a break, rest**

The pause in the storm offered a brief but desperately needed respite.

858. **resplendent (adj.) shiny, glowing**

The polished marble was exquisite and resplendent under the yellow lights.

859. **restitution (n.) restoration to the rightful owner**

The police ensured that the theft victims received full restitution of their possessions.

860. **restive (adj.) resistant, stubborn, impatient**

The youngsters became very restive, as the speaker went on and on, taking up their play time.

861. **retract (v.) withdraw**

The newspaper decided to retract its entire statement about one of the candidates when a portion of it proved to be false.

862. **revel (v.) to enjoy intensely**

The plan was to pass the final, catch a flight, land safely, then revel till early dawn.

863. **revere (v.) to esteem, show deference, venerate**

The boys had been taught to revere the name of the founder of their school, removing their hats at the mention of his name.

864. **revoke (v.) to take back**

After the food fight in the cafeteria, the headmaster decided to revoke all off-campus privileges.

865. **rhapsodize (v.) to engage in excessive enthusiasm**

My mother often rhapsodizes in her oldies-but-goodies songfest every weekend.

866. **ribald (adj.) coarsely, crudely humorous**

Ribald humor is not allowed to be expressed in the presence of minors or the elderly.

867. **rife (adv.) abundant**

Rife with excuses, the teenagers came completely unprepared for their final exam.

868. **ruminare (v.) to contemplate, reflect**

While ruminating on the day's activities, it occurred to me that not everyone was present.

869. **ruse (n.) a trick**

Clint and Junior used a clever ruse to outwit the grizzly man and his little brother.

## **S --**

870. **saccharine (adj.) sickeningly sweet**

The saccharine manner of kiss-ups is enough to make anyone want to barf.

871. **sacrosanct (adj.) holy, something that should not be criticized**

There is no doubt, in American culture the Bible is the most sacrosanct of all volumes.

872. **sagacity (n.) shrewdness, soundness of perspective**

With the sagacity of Holmes himself, the junior detective read the clues and solved the crime.

873. **salient (adj.) significant, conspicuous**

The most **salient** topic broached by any speaker was the topic of early childhood learning.

874. **salutation (n.) a greeting**

Joseph's salutation was so warm and heart-felt; we knew instantly that we were really welcomed there.

875. **salve (n.) a soothing balm**

As the nurse rubbed the salve in to the wound, the burning stopped immediately.

876. **sanctimonious (adj.) giving a hypocritical appearance of piety**

Sanctimonious preachers cause so many to disbelieve the genuine message of God.

877. **sanguine (adj.) optimistic, cheery**

Though I'm not sanguine about the possibility of overnight guests, the thought is not altogether repulsive.

878. **satiate (v.) to satisfy excessively**

Larry became satiated with sugars after eating a full dozen of cream-filled donuts.

879. **scathing (adj.) sharp, critical, hurtful**

The reporter gave a scathing rundown of every wicked thing the mob boss had done.

880. **scintillating (adj.) sparkling**

The country singer's scintillating rhinestone costume blinded everybody in the front row.

881. **scrupulous (adj.) painstaking, careful in conduct or manner**

Because Karen was so scrupulous, she refused to take the thousand dollars that she found and turned in the police that they in turn returned to her.

882. **scurrilous (adj.) vulgar, coarse**

The scurrilous language of the truck drivers greatly offended the young waitress.

883. **sedentary (adj.) sitting, settled**

The sedentary job that I took three months ago has caused me to gain fifteen pounds.

884. **semaphore (n.) a visual signal**

The deaf and hard of hearing tend to communicate with clearly visible semaphores.

885. **seminal (adj.) original, important, creating a field**

The dawning of the age of serious quartz research is seminal; for, it has heretofore only been postulated.

886. **sensual (adj.) involving sensory gratification, usually related to sex**

For many people, taking a warm mud bath is a sensual experience.

887. **sensuous (adj.) involving sensory gratification**

For Bobby and Jean, holding hands turned out to be more of a sensual experience than either of them had thought.

888. **serendipity (n.) luck, finding good things without looking for them**

Saturday was truly the day of serendipity; for, I found a large diamond ring in the sand at the beach and a twenty dollar billon my way home.

889. **serene (adj.) calm, untroubled**

The late night beach is one of the most serene places on the planet, especially when the seas are calm.

890. **servile (adj.) subservient**

Because humble people have servile natures, they make incredibly faithful servants.

891. **sinuous (adj.) lithe, serpentine**

With the sinuous movements of her entire body, the nimble dancer moved like a quiet twisting stream flowing to the ocean.

892. **sobriety (n.) sedate, calm**

Failing his at-the-scene sobriety test, poor Nicholas spent yet another night in jail.

893. **solicitous (adj.) concerned, attentive**

The ailing patient really needed the solicitous attention he got from all the nurses on duty.

894. **solipsistic (adj.) believing that oneself is all that exists**

The solipsistic attitude of some of the super rich causes them to ignore the plight of the poor, and sometimes to even blame the poor for their condition at birth.

895. **soluble (adj.) able to dissolve**

Salt is a very soluble substance, disappearing in water with just the slightest agitation.

896. **solvent a. (n.) substances that dissolve other substances ; b. (adj.) able to pay debts**

a.) The scientist knew once she added the solvent, the reaction would spontaneously occur.

b.) After a sales breakthrough, the shop owner became solvent enough to catch up on all of his debts.

897. **somnolent (adj.) sleepy, drowsy**

Long tests, hot days, and somnolent students seldom make for happy teachers.

898. **sophomoric (adj.) immature, uninformed**

The freshmen thought the pledging requisites were sophomoric, and therefore chose not to pledge.

899. **sovereign (adj.) having absolute authority in a certain realm**

Caesar of Rome was an absolute sovereign, ordering men to their deaths as he saw fit.

900. **speculative (adj.) not based in fact**

Gladly, Theresa was convinced to go at least part way with that speculative venture; thus, today, she is part way rich.

901. **spurious (adj.) false but designed to seem plausible**

The researcher's evidence was contrived and spurious, seeming to solve genuine problems, but failing during the different-laboratory re-testing stage.

902. **stagnate (v.) to become or remain inactive, not develop, not flow**

With no room to flow, the once pure waters stagnated and became a hatchery for mosquitoes and biting flies.

903. **staid (adj.) sedate, serious, self-restrained**

The staid manner of the new boss infused the heretofore footloose and fancy free company with a dose of seriousness that it sorely needed.

904. **stingy (adj.) not generous, not inclined to spend or give**

The stingy man would only pay the teenager fifty cents for cutting his two-acre lawn.

905. **stoic (adj.) unaffected by passion or feeling**

The best judges around tend to be stoic in their manner and in the ultimate decisions that they render.

906. **stolid (adj.) expressing little sensibility, unemotional**

The convicted men stood there, stolid and resigned to his fate.

907. **strenuous (adj.) requiring tremendous energy or stamina**

Seemingly, weight lifters must do strenuous exercises every time they work out.

908. **strident (adj.) harsh, loud**

My fourth hour teacher is the most strident person in the world, yelling at and accusing her students constantly.

909. **stupefy (v.) to astonish, make insensible**

Ronica's incredible talents tend to stupefy all who see her, rendering them speechless.

910. **subjugate (v.) to bring under control, subdue**

The conquering general had no desire to kill the inhabitants of his new realm; he wanted more than anything else to subjugate them and use them as a labor force.

911. **sublime (adj.) lofty, grand, exalted**

The show went from the sublime to the ridiculous when the incredible singer gave way to a not-so-incredible boys' rap band.

912. **submissive (adj.) easily yielding to authority**

Submissive men tend to become henpecked husbands, giving the rest of the gender bearers a bad reputation.

**913. succinct (adj.) marked by compact precision**

The mayor's succinct speech was a bit hard to hear; for she spoke of tax increases and layoffs.

**914. superfluous (adj.) exceeding what is necessary**

After everyone has gotten their agreed-upon portion, everything else can be considered superfluous and given to those in need.

**915. surfeit (n.) an overabundant supply or indulgence**

Having a surfeit of nutritious food makes it obligatory to feed the starving children.

**916. surmise (v.) to infer with little evidence**

After hearing Harold's not-so-convincing reasons for being absent, and glancing at his overall work record, I was able to surmise that his absences were indeed habitual.

**917. surreptitious (adj.) stealthy**

The thief crept surreptitiously toward the back door, intending on slipping in while others were preoccupied with pleasures.

**918. surrogate (n.) one acting in place of another**

Brenda, a surrogate, carried the child to term for its biological mother, Lucy.

**919. swarthy (adj.) of dark color or complexion**

A swarthy gentlemen stood up and gestured toward a photo of an African gentleman, and said, "For my father's sake, I'll not resign; but, some things must change."

**920. sycophant (n.) one who flatters for self-gain**

Most in-the-know bosses recognize sycophants a mile away, and give them cursory attention at best.

**T --**

**921. tacit (adj.) expressed without words**

Without a word ever being spoken, Wade tacitly communed with LeBron, and tossed the perfect lob for a monster slam dunk.

**922. taciturn (adj.) not inclined to talk; peevish**

The taciturn youngster just sat, gazing into nothingness, obviously disturbed by something.

**923. tangential (adj.) incidental, peripheral, divergent**

Trying to avoid the direct answers that would expose him, the clever defendant became ever more tangential in his responses.

**924. tantamount (adj.) equivalent in value or significance**

Leaving work without permission is tantamount to quitting; for, you can never return.

**925. tedious (adj.) dull, boring**

Licking and stamping envelopes for five hours is the most tedious job I can imagine.

**926. temerity (n.) audacity, recklessness**

The soldier's temerity was lauded by his comrades, but it was chided by his superiors.

**927. temperance (n.) moderation in action or thought**

Those who meditate tend to develop great temperance, remaining calm in the most distressing of circumstances.

**928. tenable (adj.) able to be defended or maintained**

I'm seeking a relationship that can be tenable even over great distances.

**929. tenuous (adj.) having little substance or strength**

My employment is tenuous at best; being late is something I better avoid at all costs.

**930. terrestrial (adj.) relating to the land**

Because hippopotami are only semi-terrestrial, they must be semi-aquatic also.

**931. timorous (adj.) timid, fearful**

Marcus, being the timorous lad that he is, imagined himself asking Linda out, but never found the boldness to actually do it.

**932. tirade (n.) a long speech marked by harsh or biting language**

Listening to the boss's **tirade** about tardiness, every wise employee started to report an hour early every day.

933. **toady (n.) one who flatters in the hope of gaining favors**

Being a **toady** is the easiest way in the world to become hated by all.

934. **tome (n.) a large book**

Bookworms are literally at home in a **tome**.

935. **torpid (adj.) lethargic, dormant, lacking motion**

The **torpid** kid just sat on his soft sofa and ate chips and watched television all day.

936. **torrid (adj.) giving off intense heat, passionate**

No one will be able to maintain such a **torrid** pace for 26 miles!

937. **tortuous (adj.) winding**

The **tortuous** streets help to keep the speeders under 50 mph, which is a good thing.

938. **tractable (adj.) easily controlled**

Small children are extremely **tractable** when the proper motivation is used.

939. **tranquil (adj.) calm**

The lazy river scene was especially **tranquil**; even the currents seemed to take it easy and coast.

940. **transgress (v.) to violate, go over a limit**

"Sinners are those who **transgress** God's laws of righteousness!" proclaimed the fiery preacher.

941. **transient (adj.) passing through briefly; moving in and out of existence**

The spirit of youth doesn't have to pass like youth itself; for, the spirit is not **transient**.

942. **transmute (v.) to change or alter in form**

Metamorphosis is a **transmutation** from one form of a creature to another.

943. **travesty (n.) a grossly inferior imitation**

"That verdict was nothing short of a travesty of justice!" screamed the defense attorney.

944. **tremulous (adj.) fearful**

Seeing the creature that wasn't supposed to even exist made everyone tremulous and uncertain.

945. **trenchant (adj.) effective, articulate, clear-cut**

The how-to directions that came with my speed bike were not trenchant and proved very difficult to follow.

946. **trepidation (n.) fear, apprehension**

Nolan's trepidations surged when he saw that wall of water approaching the beach.

947. **trite (adj.) not original, overused**

Every knock-knock joke should be banned from use and considered trite by all serious comedians.

948. **truculent (adj.) ready to fight, cruel**

Boxing, more-so than most other sports, is a test of truculent prowess.

949. **truncate (v.) to shorten by cutting off**

Craig tried so hard to get his brother to truncate his long, boring speech, but to no avail.

950. **turgid (adj.) swollen, excessively embellished in style or language**

Some young writers attempt to be impressive by using turgid language where none is required.

951. **turpitude (n.) depravity, moral corruption**

There are certain cities in the world that cater to the turpitude that's rampant in our society.

## U --

952. **ubiquitous (adj.) existing everywhere, widespread**

Going through the fields, the brier bobs seemed ubiquitous, sticking us at every turn.

953. **umbrage (n.) resentment, offense**

Uncontrolled opinion offering can and will result in umbrage being taken at some point.

954. **uncanny (adj.) of supernatural character or origin**

It's uncanny how the skilled magicians can make things seem to float without using any apparatus.

955. **unctuous (adj.) smooth or greasy in texture, appearance, manner**

The slick politician struck all of the audience members as unctuous and underhanded.

956. **undulate (v.) to move in waves**

AS the waves picked up, that little skiff started to undulate like a bream cork.

957. **upbraid (v.) to criticize or scold severely**

The parents started to upbraid the mischievous teens for skipping school and going to the mall.

958. **usurp (v.) to seize by force, take possession of without right**

The young prince dreamed of usurping his father's position and sitting comfortably on his throne.

959. **utilitarian (adj.) relating to or aiming at usefulness**

We were told to buy only utilitarian items, nothing that was pretty but has no practical use.

960. **utopia (n.) an imaginary and remote place of perfection**

In the middle of the Amazonian Jungle, there's a legendary city called Utopia.

**V --**

961. **vacillate (v.) to fluctuate, hesitate**

When the stakes went up, some of the players lost their aggressiveness and started to vacillate.

962. **vacuous (adj.) lack of content or ideas, stupid**

After being asked several hard questions in a row, and missing them all, Cloe seemed vacuous to those watching.

963. **validate (v.) to confirm, support, corroborate**

The numbers were presented by Dr. Lewis, but they needed to be validated independently by someone else.

964. **vapid (adj.) lacking liveliness, dull**

The latest rendition of Star Battles is reported to be vapid, lacking any real intrigue.

965. **variegated (adj.) diversified, distinctly marked**

The variegated patterns on the python make it one of the most beautiful creatures in nature.

966. **vehemently (adv.) marked by intense force or emotion**

"I vehemently oppose any and all changes at this point!" shouted Mayor Todd.

967. **veneer (n.) a superficial or deceptively attractive appearance, façade**

Beneath that veneer of politeness and manners, beats a heart that is willing to kill.

968. **venerable (adj.) deserving of respect because of age or achievement**

The professor emeritus was a venerable scholar; everyone listened to his every word.

969. **venerate (v.) to regard with respect or to honor**

The children were taught to venerate their leader from the crib up.

970. **veracity (n.) truthfulness, accuracy**

Doubting the veracity of the victim's claim, the insurance adjuster interviewed the officer again who wrote up the incident.

971. **verbose (adj.) wordy, impaired by wordiness, loud**

One of the major afflictions of most politicians is the inclination to be verbose.

972. **verdant (adj.) green in tint or color**

During late spring, the vales and glens of Westhighland are lush and verdant.

973. **vestige (n.) a mark or trace of something lost or vanished**

The annihilation was absolute, leaving not a vestige of that ancient civilization.

**974. vex (v.) to confuse or annoy**

About fifteen minutes after nightfall, the mosquitoes begin to vex every warm-blooded creature in the woods.

**975. vicarious (adj.) experiencing through another**

Readers have discovered that they can travel to exotic lands vicariously through the fascinating characters they read about.

**976. vicissitude (n.) event that occurs by chance and brings heart-ship or pain**

The vicissitude of the hike began to afflict him, especially when the trail wound uphill.

**977. vigilant (adj.) watchful, alert**

The vigilant watchman was on full alert, and saw the invaders as they stepped upon the king's shore.

**978. vilify (v.) to lower in importance, defame**

The article truly vilified the whole team, blaming all of them for the brutal post-game fight .

**979. vindicate (v.) to avenge; to free from allegation; to set free**

After new evidence was introduced, the accused man was found innocent of all charges, vindicated from any possibility of punishment.

**980. vindictive (adj.) vengeful**

When the vindictive felon was finally released from prison, he immediately sought to afflict those who'd put him there.

**981. virtuoso (n.) one who excels in an art; a highly skilled musical performer**

Maestro Bland is a true virtuoso, playing with unique skill every instrument in the orchestra.

**982. viscous (adj.) not free flowing, syrupy**

Once blood chills, it can become as viscous as maple syrup.

983. **vitriolic (adj.) having a caustic quality**

When angered, Thelma Lou would spew out vitriolic characterizations of everybody she knew.

984. **vituperate (v.) to berate**

The embarrassed coach began to vituperate his seniors for allowing themselves to be beaten by the girls' team.

985. **vivacious (adj.) lively, sprightly**

The vivacious cheerleaders shouted and bounced about during the whole game.

986. **vocation (n.) the work in which someone is employed, profession**

The vocation in life is teaching school; but, my passion is catching fish.

987. **vociferous (adj.) loud, boisterous**

The ring master was so vociferous that he didn't need his megaphone to be powered.

## **W --**

988. **wallow (v.) to roll oneself indolently; to become or remain helpless**

After wallowing in self-pity all weekend, Charles got up, washed his face, and marched out to meet life, planning to conquer whatever got in his way.

989. **wane (v.) to decrease in size, dwindle**

After not eating for three full days, Bert's strength began to wane.

990. **wanton (adj.) undisciplined, lewd, lustful**

Geraldine's wanton manner often made her minister cringe with distress.

991. **whimsical (adj.) fanciful, full of whims**

The whimsical little Annie liked to pretend that she was a beautiful princess, waiting to be rescued from the clutches of the black knight.

992. **wily (adj.) crafty, sly**

In nature, once an animal escapes an attacker's first assault, it becomes much more wily and cunning.

993. **winsome (adj.) charming, pleasing**

The winsome host charmed his guests with his wit, his smile, and his tacit glances.

994. **wistful (adj.) full of yearning; musingly sad**

As Charlotte thought back on her last summer of fun, she became wistful, and longed for one more hour of joy.

995. **wizened (adj.) dry, shrunken, wrinkled**

The wizened matriarch rose from her throne, and spoke with the raspy voice of years, saying, "My children, love each other always."

996. **wrath (n.) vengeful anger, punishment**

It will one day be a day of retribution when the wrath of the king is meted out upon all who speak his name in vain.

## Y --

997. **yoke (v.) to join, link**

The oxen were yoked together because the field was almost petrified from lack of rain.

## Z --

998. **zealous (adj.) fervent, filled with eagerness in pursuit of something**

The zealous young apprentice spent the night at his desk, trying to learn everything in a day.

999. **zenith (n.) the highest point, culminating point**

At the zenith of the physical maturity, Clark was able to lift a thousand pounds above his head.

1000. **zephyr (n.) a gentle breeze**

"If Zephyr favors us, we shall make port by nightfall," Captain Longfellow announced.