

MARIN COUNTY

SPELLING BEE PROGRAM

Elementary
Spelling Word List
(Including Level I and Level II Words)



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MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Building the Future... One Student at a Time

LEVEL I

abate	to make less in amount, degree, force <i>"The weatherman said that the storm would abate."</i>
abhor	to shrink from in fear; disgust or hatred; detest <i>"I abhor baiting my fishhook with worms."</i>
abode	a place where one lives or stays; home; residence <i>"He remained in his abode."</i>
absurd	so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous <i>"It was absurd to say the baby could reach the counter."</i>
active	lively, busy, agile <i>"Last night I babysat for a very active two-year old."</i>
advise	to give advice or an opinion to; counsel <i>"The lawyer will advise her client."</i>
against	in opposition to <i>"The student council voted against school uniforms."</i>
almond	the edible, nutlike kernel of the small, dry peachlike fruit of a tree <i>"Modesto is known as an almond growing region."</i>
amaze	to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder <i>"The musician's talent will amaze the audience."</i>
antics	odd and funny; ludicrous; pranks, capers <i>"The antics of the little monkey made him seem almost human."</i>
appoint	to name or select officially for an office, position <i>"We will appoint a chairman."</i>
argue	to dispute or quarrel. <i>"My friend and I often argue over trivial details."</i>
arrange	to put in the correct, proper, or suitable order <i>"The librarian will arrange the books."</i>
ascend	to go upward <i>"My ears always pop when planes ascend."</i>
aspirin	a white crystalline drug used as a pain and fever remedy <i>"The doctor prescribed aspirin and bed rest for my cold."</i>
ballad	a romantic or sentimental song with the same melody for each stanza <i>"The singer sang a beautiful ballad."</i>

ballot	a ticket or paper by which a vote is registered; act or method of voting <i>“The class president was elected by a written ballot.”</i>
balsa	a tropical American tree that yields an extremely light and buoyant wood used for airplane models, rafts <i>“The balsa provides wood for models.”</i>
bankrupt	a person legally declared unable to pay his debts <i>“The store’s owner was bankrupt and had to go out of business.”</i>
banter	to tease or make fun of in a playful, good-natured way <i>“The children banter with each other.”</i>
barley	a cereal grass; grain used in making soups, malts and as feed for animals <i>“My mother added barley to the soup to thicken it.”</i>
barren	not bringing useful results, unproductive; unprofitable <i>“The barren field was eroding.”</i>
barter	to trade for goods or services without using money <i>“The market offered to barter groceries for custodial work.”</i>
basin	a washbowl or sink <i>“Rinse your contact lenses over a basin with the drain closed.”</i>
believe	to take as true; to have confidence in the promise of another <i>“I believe in my religion.”</i>
benefit	promotion of welfare or prosperity <i>“This project will benefit all mankind.”</i>
boggle	to confuse or overwhelm <i>“Her idea would boggle your mind.”</i>
brief	condensed; short; outline of an argument <i>“Her synopsis of the story was very brief.”</i>
burglar	a person who commits burglary <i>“The burglar was brought to trial.”</i>
business	a commercial or industrial enterprise <i>“Starting a new business requires money and dedication.”</i>
caboose	the trainmen’s car on a freight train, usually at the rear <i>“The caboose was the last car.”</i>
caldron	a large kettle or boiler <i>“The stew simmered in the caldron.”</i>

career	one's progress through life or in a particular vocation <i>"She chose her career carefully."</i>
casserole	earthenware or glass baking dish, or food cooked in one <i>"Please bring a vegetable casserole to the pot luck."</i>
category	one of the divisions used in a system of classification <i>"This chemistry book should be placed in the science category."</i>
character	a person in a novel, story or play <i>"The author created a very believable character in this novel."</i>
chocolate	a food prepared from ground cacao beans. <i>"For dessert we are serving chocolate cake."</i>
chorus	music written for group singing <i>"The group joined together for the chorus."</i>
collar	the part of a garment that encircles the neck; band or chain or leather for the neck of a dog, cat or other pet <i>"Laddie wore a jeweled collar."</i>
compel	to enforce or constrain, as to do something <i>"The new laws compel judges to issue the maximum sentence."</i>
computer	a programmable electronic device that performs operations on data at high speed <i>"Knowing how to use a computer can help you get a better job."</i>
convert	to change from one form to another <i>"We learned how to convert fractions to decimals."</i>
convoy	a protecting escort, as for ships or troops; a group traveling together <i>"Destroyers will convoy the troopships."</i>
copra	the source of coconut meat or coconut oil <i>"Hawaii produces a great amount of copra."</i>
corral	an enclosure for holding or capturing horses or other livestock; pen; to confine; roundup <i>"The wild horses were penned in the corral on the ranch."</i>
corrupt	spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound <i>"The corrupt official accepted a bribe."</i>
creeper	a person or animal that moves along close to the ground; lowest gear in a truck; one-piece garment for a baby; vine with tendrils <i>"The small bird was a creeper searching for insects."</i>

crick	a painful muscle spasm or cramp in the neck or back, etc. <i>"Watching the tennis match gave her a crick in the neck."</i>
crimson	deep red color <i>"The sky, at sunset, became beautifully crimson."</i>
crisis	a turning point in the course of anything; decisive or crucial time, stage of event <i>"His fever reached its crisis at three in the morning."</i>
custom	usual practice of behaving; habit; duties or taxes imposed by a government on imported or exported goods <i>"Having parties at Halloween was the custom of the neighborhood."</i>
dampen	to make moist; to deaden, depress or lessen <i>"She was asked to dampen the clothes so they could be ironed later."</i>
dapper	small and neat; trim; active and smart <i>"He looked dapper in the new suit from his tailor."</i>
data	things known or assumed; facts or figures for information <i>"The computer analyst fed the data into the machine."</i>
deafen	overwhelm with noise <i>"The volume of the loudspeaker will deafen the audience."</i>
debark	to unload from or leave a ship or aircraft <i>"We will proceed to debark the material as soon as the plane stops."</i>
decipher	decode <i>"I could not decipher the doctor's handwriting."</i>
defect	lack of something for completeness; deficiency; forsake one's cause and join the opposition <i>"It was on sale because of a defect in the pattern."</i>
deflect	to turn or make bend to one side; swerve <i>"They used their shields to deflect the arrows."</i>
deft	skillful in a quick, sure and easy way; dexterous <i>"With deft fingers, she continued knitting the sweater."</i>
depress	to press down; push or pull down; lower <i>"If you depress this button, water comes out."</i>
depth	distance from the top downward; deepness; intensity, as of colors <i>"They dropped a stone in the well to try to determine its depth."</i>

desist	to cease; stop; abstain from action <i>“The librarian urged them to desist their discussion so others could study and concentrate.”</i>
dessert	usually the sweet course of a dinner; pie; cake, puddings, etc. <i>“Lemon pie is my favorite dessert.”</i>
destroy	to tear down; demolish; to break up; ruin; crush <i>“The demolition crew will destroy the whole building.”</i>
detract	to take something desirable away from <i>“Frowning will detract from the beauty of her face.”</i>
devoid	completely without; empty or destitute <i>“Crippled badly from the accident, he was devoid of any way to resume his former occupation.”</i>
dictionary	wordbook, lexicon <i>“If you can’t spell the beginning of a word, it is hard to look it up in a dictionary.”</i>
direct	consisting of the exact words of the writer or speaker; to show the way to <i>“It was a direct quotation by the speaker.”</i>
discard	to throw away, abandon; get rid of as having no value <i>“They planned to discard the unwanted clothing.”</i>
discipline	training that develops self-control or character <i>“In obedience classes, pet owners learn to discipline their pets consistently.”</i>
dismal	causing gloom; depressing; bleak; dreary <i>“It was a dark and dismal day.”</i>
disrupt	to break up; rend asunder; to disturb or interrupt <i>“Bringing up the subject will disrupt the orderliness of this meeting.”</i>
distinct	clearly perceived or marked off; plain, well-defined; individual <i>“The medal he received showed a distinct and special honor.”</i>
distract	to draw the mind away in another direction; divert <i>“In order to take it from the child, we had to distract his attention by allowing him to pet the cat.”</i>
distress	to cause sorrow or misery; pain; suffering <i>“Arthritic pain causes distress in her stiff knee when she walks.”</i>

dither	to be nervously excited or confused <i>"Before the curtain rose, she was all in a dither."</i>
dogged	not giving in readily; persistent; stubborn <i>"He showed a dogged resistance to all arguments."</i>
dormant	sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive <i>"Some plants and animals are dormant during the cold weather."</i>
dosage	the system to be followed in taking doses, as of medicine <i>"He forgot to take his dosage of cough medicine."</i>
doting	foolishly fond; excessively <i>"Sometimes a doting parent can cause problems for the child."</i>
dowdy	not neat or stylish in dress or appearance; shabby <i>"Many of the candidates appeared dowdy."</i>
downy	soft and fluffy, like down <i>"The child petted the downy chick."</i>
draggy	slow moving; lethargic; dull; boring <i>"Some of us are draggy, especially in the early morning."</i>
dreadful	inspiring dread; terrible or awesome <i>"The volcano's eruption was dreadful."</i>
drizzle	a fine, mistlike rain <i>"The drizzle was just enough to make the sidewalks slippery."</i>
dual	of two; having or composed of two parts or kinds; double <i>"He had a dual personality, sometimes very kind, sometimes very aloof and severe."</i>
dusky	lacking light; dim; shadowy <i>"In the dusky room, he could only identify outlines."</i>
eclipse	the partial or total obscuring of the sun when the moon comes between it and the earth; or of the moon when the earth's shadow is cast upon it. <i>"We studied the lunar eclipse in class."</i>
edict	an official proclamation or public order made by authority or decree <i>"The edict issued by the King had to be obeyed by all."</i>
efface	to rub out, as from a surface; erase; wipe out; obliterate <i>"They tried to efface the memory."</i>
elude	to avoid or escape from by quickness, cunning, evade <i>"We will try to elude the traffic congestion."</i>

embark	to board a ship, airplane; to begin a journey, an enterprise <i>"We embark on our journey to Europe at 7:00 p.m."</i>
emblem	a visible symbol of a thing, class of people; a sign <i>"The cross is an emblem of Christianity."</i>
emboss	to cover or decorate with designs; to carve, raise or print a design so it is above the surface; embellish; ornament <i>"She asked her sister to emboss the new chair."</i>
emerge	to develop or evolve as something new, improved <i>"A new town will emerge after construction."</i>
employ	to engage services or labor for pay <i>"The new business is seeking to employ fifty qualified workers."</i>
encamp	to set up a campsite; to put in a camp <i>"The meadow along the river looked like a good site to encamp."</i>
enchant	to charm; bewitch; set a spell on as by magic; delight <i>"Her acting will enchant all who see the play."</i>
endorse	to give approval to; support; sanction <i>"The community will endorse the candidate."</i>
endow	provide with money, talent, quality or property, etc. <i>"In her will, she will endow the hospital with a permanent income."</i>
engorge	to devour greedily <i>"The hungry man seemed to engorge his meal."</i>
engross	to occupy one's whole attention <i>"This book will thoroughly engross him."</i>
engulf	to swallow up; overwhelm <i>"The raging river will engulf the house."</i>
enough	sufficient <i>"Do you have enough clothes for your trip?"</i>
enrich	to give greater value, importance, effectiveness, etc., to <i>"The new class will enrich the curriculum."</i>
error	mistake <i>"Be careful that you don't make an error in spelling this word."</i>
erupt	burst forth or out; to break out in a rash <i>"Lava will erupt from the volcano."</i>

ethnic	designating any, or of any, of the basic groups or divisions of mankind, having the same customs, characteristics, history or language <i>"His ethnic background was Italian."</i>
excel	to be better or greater than; superior to <i>"Tests showed he would excel in Social Studies."</i>
facet	any of a number of sides or aspects, as of a personality <i>"They had never seen the generous facet of his personality."</i>
facile	not hard to do or achieve <i>"After years of practice, her violin playing appeared facile."</i>
faithful	having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility <i>"My dog is a very faithful companion."</i>
famine	any acute shortage <i>"The people were suffering from the famine."</i>
feather	the lightweight body covering of birds <i>"Use the feather duster to clean these figurines."</i>
February	the second month of the year <i>"Valentine's Day is February 14th."</i>
feeble	without force or effectiveness <i>"Their feeble attempt was not successful."</i>
fiction	anything made up or imagined, as a statement or story <i>"The librarian directed us to the fiction section."</i>
flaming	burning with fire; blazing; intensely emotional <i>"We watched the fire flaming and casting sparks high in the air."</i>
flimsy	thin and easily broken or damaged; poorly made and fragile <i>"The door was flimsy and could not be locked."</i>
fluent	moving or flowing smoothly; able to write or speak easily, expressively <i>"The teacher was fluent in three languages."</i>
fracas	noisy fight or loud quarrel; brawl <i>"They were having a fracas in the hall."</i>
furnish	supply, provide or equip; to put furniture into a room <i>"They decided to furnish the den with modern pieces."</i>
gallant	stately; imposing <i>"The gallant ship cruised into the harbor."</i>

gamut	the entire range or extent, as of emotions <i>"The actress demonstrated the gamut of emotions."</i>
garble	to confuse or mix up unintentionally <i>"Although she had studied the poem, she started to garble it when it was her turn to recite."</i>
genius	remarkable intellectual aptitude <i>"Only a genius can join Mensa, the high IQ society."</i>
giraffe	large, cud-chewing animal with a very long neck <i>"Seeing the giraffe made our trip to the zoo more enjoyable."</i>
glisten	to shine or sparkle with reflected light, as a wet or polished surface <i>"The new car did glisten in the sunlight."</i>
glossy	having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish <i>"The glossy cat was sleeping in the window."</i>
goulash	a beef stew with onion, paprika and caraway seeds. <i>"My Hungarian grandmother's favorite dish was goulash."</i>
govern	to exercise authority over; rule, administer; direct or control <i>"The officials will govern in an orderly manner."</i>
grammar	the system of word structures and word arrangements of a given language at a given time <i>"In order to speak the language, an understanding of grammar is helpful."</i>
granite	a very hard, crystalline, plutonic rock, gray to pink in color, consisting of feldspar, quartz, and smaller amounts of other minerals <i>"The polished granite shone in the sunlight."</i>
graze	to feed on (growing grass, herbage, a pasture, etc.) <i>"The cattle will graze on the slopes all winter."</i>
gritty	of, like, or containing sand; brave; plucky <i>"Water from the creek left a gritty substance in the bottom of the cup."</i>
gruel	thin, easily digested broth made of meal with water or milk <i>"The hot, tasty gruel did not hurt her sore throat as she swallowed."</i>
heckle	to annoy or harass by interrupting with questions or taunts <i>"The audience began to heckle the speaker."</i>
hinge	a joint or device on which a door, gate, lid, etc., swings <i>"The hinge needed oiling."</i>

hobble	to walk lamely or awkwardly; limp <i>"The horse tried to hobble to the corral."</i>
honest	frank and open <i>"The store owner had an honest face."</i>
honor	to respect greatly; regard highly; esteem <i>"The family met to honor the visiting grandparents."</i>
hopeless	impossible to solve, deal with, teach, etc. <i>"After working on the problem for ten hours, it appeared hopeless."</i>
hostile	having or showing ill will; unfriendly; antagonistic <i>"The lion appeared hostile as the hunter approached."</i>
hunger	discomfort or pain caused by lack of food <i>"My hunger pangs kept me from concentrating on the test."</i>
idler	person who does no work; wastes time; lazy person <i>"No one ever saw him doing things, so they thought him an idler."</i>
ignite	to set fire to; cause to burn <i>"They will ignite the trees with a torch."</i>
ignore	to disregard deliberately; pay no attention to; refuse to consider <i>"The driver appeared to ignore the road signs."</i>
impede	to bar or hinder the progress of; obstruct or delay <i>"Some members tried to impede the program."</i>
impish	mischievous <i>"The child gave him an impish grin and then ran down the street."</i>
impose	to force on another or others without right or invitation; obtrude <i>"Although she did not receive an invitation, she tried to impose on the family."</i>
incite	to set in motion, to urge to action; stir up, rouse <i>"The news of the riot may incite others to act."</i>
induct	to lead in; install, as in office; initiate; enroll in the services <i>"The chairman used a candlelight ceremony to induct new members."</i>
inert	having few or no active properties <i>"The inert gas is not considered to be a danger."</i>
inkling	a vague idea or notion; suspicion <i>"She had an inkling that the biggest present was for her."</i>

innate	existing naturally rather than acquired; possessed at birth, inherent <i>"He has an innate talent for math."</i>
inset	to insert into something else; a map set inside the border of a larger one; a piece of material sewed into a garment <i>"The inset shows the downtown section of the city."</i>
inspire	to fill with high or reverent emotion; stimulate to creativity or action <i>"The concert did inspire him to be a musician."</i>
jabber	fast, incoherent, nonsensical talk; gibberish <i>"No one could understand the jabber of the twins."</i>
jacket	a short coat <i>"This blue jacket would look nice with your new skirt."</i>
jagged	having sharp projecting points; notched or ragged <i>"The jagged edge scratched the smooth surface of the table."</i>
jargon	incoherent speech; gibberish; specialized vocabulary and idioms of those in their own line of work <i>"She recognized the jargon of classmates taking computer classes."</i>
jetsam	that part of the cargo thrown overboard to lighten the ship in danger; discardings <i>"Some of the jetsam they threw overboard might be sorely missed later."</i>
jitney	formerly old slang for five cents, a nickel; small car or bus which travels a regular route and charges a low fare for passengers to ride <i>"The driver of the jitney now charges passengers a dollar."</i>
jostle	to bump or push, as in a crowd; elbow or shove roughly <i>"As the number increased, the crowd began to jostle the players."</i>
journal	a brief account of daily events <i>"We kept a journal of our vacation."</i>
kapok	fiber used for stuffing mattresses, sleeping bags, pillows, etc. <i>"After such a long time of use, the kapok had to be replaced."</i>
kettle	a metal container for boiling or cooking <i>"I'll boil some water in the kettle for your tea."</i>
kindling	bits of dry wood or other easily-lighted material for starting a fire <i>"The campers gathered kindling for the fire."</i>
kosher	loosely, prepared according to traditional Jewish recipes <i>"The kosher pickles were very tasty."</i>

ladle	to dip out and pour as with a ladle <i>"The cook will ladle the soup for each customer."</i>
lament	an outward expression of sorrow; lamentation; wail <i>"A long lament was heard in the garden."</i>
lawyer	an attorney <i>"You should consult your lawyer before signing this contract."</i>
lecture	an informative talk given before an audience, class, etc., and usually prepared beforehand <i>"The history lecture was very interesting."</i>
lettuce	any of a genus of plants grown for its edible green leaves <i>"I'll begin washing the lettuce for the salad."</i>
license	a document, printed tag, permit, etc., indicating that such permission had been granted <i>"The officer asked to see the man's license."</i>
lightning	a flash of light in the sky caused by the discharge of atmospheric electricity from one cloud to another or between a cloud and the earth <i>"The lightning flashed in the sky."</i>
limb	an arm, leg, or wing <i>"He was very lucky; only one limb was broken in the accident."</i>
lining	to cause to or to bring to a straight row or conformity; in alignment <i>"The astronomer was lining up his telescope to look at the stars."</i>
linkage	a linking or being linked <i>"The investigator studied the linkage between the clues."</i>
listless	having no interest in what is going on about one, as a result of illness, weariness, dejection, etc., spiritless; languid <i>"The listless dog lay on the floor by the fire."</i>
lonely	alone, solitary <i>"I was very lonely when I first moved to town."</i>
loose	not confined or restrained; free; unbound <i>"The sails were loose in the breeze."</i>
lucid	clearheaded; rational <i>"The lucid thinker explained the axiom."</i>
macaroon	a cookie made chiefly of egg whites, sugar and coconut or almond paste <i>"I'll bring some macaroon cookies for the bake sale."</i>

machinery	the working parts of a machine or instrument <i>"The workers had the day off when the machinery broke down."</i>
mackerel	a fish, commonly used in cat food. <i>"Canned mackerel is my cat's favorite food."</i>
magnet	a piece of iron or steel that attracts metal <i>"We use a magnet on our refrigerator to hold our shopping list."</i>
margarine	a food product usually made from vegetable oils and skim milk <i>"Would you like margarine or butter on your toast?"</i>
medley	a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works <i>"The chorus performed the medley very well."</i>
method	a way of doing anything <i>"What method did you use to arrive at your answer?"</i>
milling	circular or random motion of or as a herd or crowd <i>"The ducks were milling around the bread crumbs."</i>
mimic	imitative; inclined to copy; to ape; make believe; mock <i>"The actor could mimic many of his fellow artists."</i>
murmur	a low indistinct sound <i>"Sitting on the patio, I could hear the murmur of the wind in the trees."</i>
narrate	to tell in writing or speech <i>"The teacher began to narrate the story."</i>
nectar	any very delicious drink; sweetish liquid in flowers gathered by bees to make honey <i>"The icy cold lemonade was like nectar."</i>
nightmare	a frightening or oppressing dream <i>"I had a really scary nightmare last night."</i>
ninth	the ordinal number 9th <i>"In many districts ninth grade is the first year of high school."</i>
nomad	member of a tribe of people having no permanent home; wanderer <i>"Like a nomad, he roamed all over the world."</i>
notice	a written or printed sign giving some public information, warning or rule <i>"The public meeting notice was posted all over town."</i>
nubby	covered with small nubs, or lumps; having a rough, knotted surface <i>"The nubby fabric was rough to touch."</i>

oblong	longer than broad; elongated, specif., (a) rectangular and longer in one direction than in the other, esp. longer horizontally, (b) elliptical <i>"They wondered what was in the oblong box."</i>
obstacle	something that stands in the way or opposes <i>"Scaling the wall was the final challenge of the obstacle course."</i>
occur	to take place; happen <i>"The celebration will occur next week."</i>
offense	the condition of being offended, esp. of feeling hurt, resentful, or angry; umbrage <i>"His friend took offense from the joke."</i>
optic	of the eyes; sense of sight <i>"The optic nerve was not damaged."</i>
orchid	the flower of a tropical plant <i>"As we stepped off the plane in Hawaii, we were given an orchid lei."</i>
ostrich	a large, swift-running bird of Africa and the Near East, the largest and most powerful of living birds: it has a long neck, very long legs with two toes on each foot, and small, useless wings; the white tail and wing feathers of the male are used in millinery and as trimming <i>"The white ostrich feather adorned her new hat."</i>
owing	due; unpaid; because of <i>"The balance owing was ten dollars."</i>
ozone	an unstable, pale-blue gas, with a penetrating odor; it is an allotropic form of oxygen <i>"The ozone layer is very important for man's survival."</i>
package	a wrapped or boxed thing or group of things <i>"I hope the package will arrive in the mail today."</i>
pamphlet	a short publication with no cover <i>"Please send me your pamphlet about summer camp."</i>
parallel	extending in the same direction and same distance apart <i>"Center Avenue runs parallel to Maple Street."</i>
partner	a person who takes part in some activity in common with another or others <i>"His partner kept the books, and he did the purchasing."</i>
passage	permission, right, or a chance to pass <i>"The hunters received passage through the field."</i>

passive	offering no opposition or resistance; submissive; yielding; patient <i>"The passive cat was carried to the veterinarian's office."</i>
pastime	something that helps time pass enjoyably <i>"Cooking and making pastry is my favorite pastime."</i>
pasture	to graze or feed on (grass, etc.) <i>"The cattle will pasture in the meadow."</i>
pattern	a regular, mainly unvarying way of acting or doing <i>"The psychologist will study the animal's behavior pattern."</i>
people	human beings <i>"A large group of people gathered to watch the parade."</i>
perturb	to cause to be alarmed, agitated, or upset; disturb or trouble greatly <i>"The loudspeaker may perturb the musician in the adjoining room."</i>
pesky	annoying; disagreeable; troublesome <i>"We all swatted at the pesky mosquitoes."</i>
pigment	coloring matter, usually insoluble powder, mixed with oil or water, etc., to make paints; coloring matter in the cells, tissues of plants, animals <i>"Pigment in some plants is increased when they grow in full sun."</i>
pilgrim	person who wanders; traveler to shrine or holy place; any member of the English Puritans who founded Plymouth colony in 1620 <i>"Priscilla was the bride of a pilgrim."</i>
plunder	to rob or despoil by force, esp. in warfare <i>"The military will plunder the village after the battle."</i>
polar	opposite in character, nature, direction, etc. <i>"The twins were polar in their taste in music."</i>
poncho	a cloak like a blanket with a hole in the middle for the head <i>"The warm poncho is valuable in winter weather."</i>
portion	share; part of <i>"They were willing to give up a portion of their food."</i>
portly	large and heavy in a dignified, stately way; stout; corpulent <i>"He bought his clothing in the section for portly men."</i>
possess	to have as an attribute, quality, faculty, etc. <i>"The man is known to possess wisdom."</i>
posture	the position or carriage of the body in standing or sitting; bearing <i>"Good posture is important for good health."</i>

powder	any dry substance in the form of very fine, dustlike particles, produced by crushing, grinding, etc. <i>"Without rain, the soil became a powder."</i>
prepare	to make ready, usually for a specific purpose <i>"How are you going to prepare for the spelling competition?"</i>
prior	preceding in time; earlier; previous <i>"References from a prior employer were needed."</i>
proceed	to advance or go on; to move along or to be carried on; come forth <i>"After answering this question, please proceed to the next."</i>
prompt	quick to act or do; ready; punctual; done, spoken, without delay <i>"A good example will help to prompt him to turn in his homework."</i>
prosper	succeed; thrive; grow vigorously; wealth; good fortune <i>"Having found the right soil conditions, his crop began to prosper."</i>
prying	improperly curious or inquisitive <i>"Someone was prying into her personal affairs."</i>
raccoon	a small carnivore of North America, usually nocturnal <i>"A raccoon raided our campsite while we were asleep."</i>
rally	to summon or bring together for a common purpose; assist; support a cause <i>"He was sent to rally the retreating troops."</i>
rampant	growing luxuriantly; flourishing <i>"The roses were rampant in the garden."</i>
ransom	consideration paid for the release of a captured person <i>"The kidnapper demanded \$500,000 in ransom for the child."</i>
raspberry	small round fleshy red or black berry <i>"These raspberry preserves won a blue ribbon at the county fair."</i>
rating	a placement in a certain rank or class <i>"The program received the top rating."</i>
razor	sharp-edged cutting instrument for shaving or cutting off hair <i>"No one was allowed to use his razor."</i>
react	to act in return or reciprocally <i>"The director did not expect the actress to react that way."</i>
receive	to take into one's hand or possession <i>"I hope I receive a portable CD player for my birthday."</i>

redeem	to get back; recover, as by paying a fee <i>“The renter wants to redeem his deposit.”</i>
refuge	a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat <i>“The deer sought a refuge from the hunters.”</i>
relent	to soften in temper; become less severe, stern, stubborn <i>“Perhaps he will relent and allow you to go if you promise to return early.”</i>
remnant	what is left over; remainder; residue <i>“The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a remnant.”</i>
render	to give, hand over, submit, as for approval; to give in return <i>“When you finish shopping, the clerk will render a bill for payment.”</i>
rescue	to free or save from danger, imprisonment, evil, etc. <i>“He was a hero because the rescue had been a success.”</i>
retain	to keep in mind <i>“After studying the words for six weeks, we should retain most of them.”</i>
retrieve	to get and bring back <i>“That dog certainly loves to retrieve the ball.”</i>
revenge	to inflict damage, injury, or punishment in return for an injury, insult, etc. <i>“The leaders plotted revenge for the bombing.”</i>
riddle	any puzzling, perplexing, or apparently inexplicable person or thing, as a difficult problem or enigmatic saying: enigma <i>“Rita recited the riddle, and Roger responded.”</i>
romaine	a variety of lettuce <i>“Caesar salad recipes usually call for romaine lettuce.”</i>
roommate	one of two or more persons sharing a room <i>“Luckily, my roommate at camp didn’t snore.”</i>
ruin	the remains of a fallen building, city, etc., or something destroyed, devastated, decayed, etc. <i>“The explorer discovered the ruin deep within the jungle.”</i>
rumor	definite talk not based on knowledge; hearsay; gossip <i>“We have heard a rumor that there will be no test tomorrow.”</i>
rustle	to make or cause to make an irregular succession of soft sounds <i>“The leaves rustle in the wind.”</i>

safety	freedom from danger; security <i>“Safety precautions are very important both at home and at school.”</i>
scarlet	very bright red with a slightly orange tone <i>“The scarlet car captured everyone’s attention.”</i>
scissors	a cutting instrument with handles and a pair of blades <i>“Using sewing scissors for cutting paper makes them dull.”</i>
scribble	illegible or careless handwriting; scrawl <i>“The doctor’s scribble was hard to read.”</i>
scurry	to run hastily; scamper <i>“The rabbits will scurry through the woods.”</i>
secure	free from fear, care, doubt, or anxiety; not worried, troubled, or apprehensive <i>“Within the fort, the cavalry felt secure.”</i>
sentry	sentinel, esp. any of the military guard posted to warn of danger <i>“The sentry would not open the gate to anyone without identification.”</i>
session	a school term or period of study <i>“The fall session of school was about to end.”</i>
shaky	not firm; weak, unsteady; trembling, not dependable; questionable <i>“After the earthquake, the walls were shaky.”</i>
shepherd	a person who herds and takes care of sheep <i>“The shepherd guarded the flock during the night.”</i>
signal	a sign or event fixed or understood as the occasion for prearranged combined action <i>“The bugle will signal the attack.”</i>
skeptic	person who habitually doubts, questions or suspends judgment on generally accepted matters <i>“He was such a skeptic that he was known as ‘Doubting Thomas’.”</i>
skirmish	a brief encounter between small groups, usually an incident of a battle <i>“The skirmish was quickly forgotten after the peace treaty was signed.”</i>
slacken	to become less active, intense, brisk <i>“The runners began to slacken their pace.”</i>
smoky	emitting smoke, especially in large quantities <i>“A smoky fire doesn’t provide much warmth.”</i>
suet	the hard fat about the kidneys and loins of beef and mutton <i>“I asked the butcher to prepare the suet I need for the plum pudding.”</i>

surround	to enclose on all sides; encircle <i>“For safety reasons we needed to surround our pool with a fence.”</i>
tactics	any method used to gain an end; esp., skillful methods or procedure <i>“Although successful, his tactics were questioned.”</i>
tarnish	to dull or discolor the surface of a metal object; to spoil, mar or debase a memory; lose luster from oxidation <i>“Silver needs to be polished often or it will tarnish.”</i>
tariff	duty or tax placed by a government on imports and some exports; any list or scale of prices, charges etc. <i>“We felt the tariff was too high.”</i>
technology	applied science <i>“The rate of technology seems to increase every day.”</i>
terrific	extraordinary; astounding <i>“We saw a terrific movie last night.”</i>
threshold	a doorsill, a beginning point <i>“The guest paused at the threshold, stunned by the beauty of the room.”</i>
traffic	the movement or number of automobiles along a street <i>“There is a lot more traffic on the freeway these days.”</i>
tribute	something given, done, or said, as a gift, testimonial, etc., to show gratitude, respect, honor, or praise <i>“Their success was a tribute to his leadership.”</i>
upheaval	the action or instance of lifting up from beneath, especially the earth’s crust <i>“Ancient volcanoes caused a great deal of upheaval in this area.”</i>
uproar	loud, confused noise; din <i>“The uproar was very difficult to quiet.”</i>
useful	that can be used to advantage; helpful <i>“The fork is a useful implement.”</i>
utensil	an instrument or container used in a household <i>“A ladle is the proper utensil to use for serving soup.”</i>
vaccine	any preparation of killed microorganisms, living weakened organisms, etc., introduced into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease by causing the formation of antibodies <i>“The polio vaccine was a tremendous advance in medicine.”</i>

veteran	a former member of the armed forces <i>“Only one World War I veteran attended the ceremony this year.”</i>
vigil	watchful staying awake; a watch kept for a period of time <i>“While others slept, he kept his lonely vigil.”</i>
villain	an evil person; scoundrel <i>“In a melodrama the audience boos whenever the villain appears.”</i>
volume	the quantity, strength, or loudness of sound <i>“The volume of the music was deafening.”</i>
warbler	a bird which sings in trills, runs or quavers; songster <i>“Though we could not see him, we heard the melodious song of the warbler.”</i>
warmth	state of giving off moderate degree of heat; moderate, mild heat <i>“We could feel the warmth of the sun on our faces.”</i>
whistle	to make a clear, shrill cry; said of some birds and animals <i>“We heard the birds whistle in the trees.”</i>
whittle	to reduce, destroy, or get rid of gradually, as if by whittling away with a knife <i>“We hope to whittle down the cost of the project.”</i>
whoosh	to make a quick, hissing or rushing sound of something moving swiftly through the air <i>“At takeoff, the rocket will whoosh by the airport.”</i>
width	distance from side to side; breadth <i>“We have to measure the width of the shelf to make sure it will fit the space.”</i>
wiring	the action of a person or thing that wires <i>“The electrician did the wiring very quickly.”</i>
worsted	a smooth compact yarn from long wool fibers, or the fabric made from the yarn <i>“These worsted wool trousers will last a long time.”</i>
wrapper	that in which something is wrapped; covering; cover <i>“The gum wrapper was a shiny silver.”</i>
yawn	an act of yawning or opening wide <i>“The movie was boring, and the audience began to yawn.”</i>
yearling	an animal one year old or in its second year <i>“The rancher brought the yearling into the barn.”</i>

LEVEL II

abdicate	to give up formally (a high office, authority, throne, etc.) <i>"The king plans to abdicate his throne."</i>
abdominal	lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, on or for the abdomen <i>"The abdominal bandage seemed too tight."</i>
aberrant	abnormal or deviant <i>"Her rude, aberrant behavior was quite a shock."</i>
abrogate	to cancel or repeal by authority <i>"Congress must abrogate the new tax law."</i>
acetylene	a colorless, poisonous, highly flammable gaseous hydrocarbon <i>"This most brilliant of the illuminating gases is acetylene."</i>
acrimonious	stinging, caustic <i>"Those acrimonious remarks will make you unpopular."</i>
acquittal	discharge of duty; being set free by the court <i>"From lack of evidence submitted, the judge decreed an acquittal."</i>
adolescence	the time of life between puberty and maturity; youth <i>"During adolescence, one is often uncertain."</i>
aesthetic	sensitive to art and beauty <i>"In order to help develop their children's aesthetic tastes, many family trips to art galleries were planned."</i>
affinity	close relationship <i>"Fish have an affinity with water."</i>
agglomeration	a jumbled heap, mass, etc. <i>"The agglomeration of articles for the rummage sale was staggering."</i>
aghast	feeling great horror or dismay <i>"Upon seeing the tornado's destruction, he was aghast."</i>
aluminum	most abundant metal element in the Earth's crust <i>"Don't put aluminum foil in the microwave."</i>
ambiguous	not clear <i>"The treaty is very ambiguous."</i>
anachronism	anything that is or seems to be out of its proper time in history <i>"A black and white television is an anachronism today."</i>

anathema	a thing or person greatly detested <i>"Censorship is anathema to Americans."</i>
anonymous	no name known or acknowledged; name withheld <i>"The poem read was written by an anonymous poet."</i>
antiquated	no longer used or useful; obsolete <i>"The old cabin contained some antiquated relics of the olden days."</i>
antithesis	the direct opposite <i>"Love is the antithesis of hate."</i>
apocryphal	spurious; counterfeit <i>"The apocryphal memories of the countess cannot be admitted as evidence."</i>
apostle	the first advocate of a view point or reform <i>"The student body president was an apostle for year-round school."</i>
apparition	a strange figure appearing suddenly and thought to be a ghost <i>"After hearing the spooky story, the children thought they saw an apparition."</i>
appropriate	to take for one's own, often without right <i>"I wish my roommate would not appropriate my clothes."</i>
aqueduct	large pipe made for bringing water from a distant source <i>"The aqueduct provided the farmers with the much needed water for crops."</i>
archetype	the perfect example of a type or group <i>"Mickey Mouse is the archetype for cartoon characters."</i>
ascension	the act of ascending <i>"We watched the balloon's ascension into the clouds."</i>
asceticism	religious doctrine where self-denial is practiced to reach a higher spiritual state <i>"Trappist monks practice asceticism."</i>
assuage	sooth, ease <i>"Saying 'I'm sorry' is a way to assuage your guilt."</i>
atrophy	a wasting away of body tissue, organ, or the failure of an organ or part to grow or develop, as because of insufficient nutrition <i>"Without proper nutrition, the muscles will atrophy."</i>
awkward	not graceful, clumsy <i>"My walk was very awkward right after my cast was removed."</i>

baccalaureate	an address or sermon delivered to a graduating class at commencement <i>"The graduating seniors and their families will attend the baccalaureate."</i>
bailiwick	one's particular area of authority, activity, interest <i>"The coach's bailiwick is tennis."</i>
balustrade	a railing <i>"The balustrade around the porch was made of cedar."</i>
barrage	a heavy, prolonged attack of words, blows <i>"Suddenly the speaker was under a barrage of questions."</i>
battalion	a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle; any large group joined in some activity <i>"He had command of a battalion during World War II."</i>
biennial	happening every two years <i>"The reunion is held on a biennial basis."</i>
bilingual	of or in two languages; capable of using two languages with equal skill <i>"He was offered the position because he was bilingual in English and Spanish."</i>
bizarre	marked by extreme contrasts and incongruities of color, design, or style <i>"Her purple and orange hair was bizarre."</i>
boisterous	loud, rowdy <i>"The security officer had to quiet the boisterous group."</i>
boulevard	a broad often landscaped thoroughfare <i>"Sometimes using the boulevard is faster than taking the freeway."</i>
broccoli	green vegetable high in vitamins <i>"The consumption of broccoli has increased in recent years."</i>
buoyancy	the tendency of a body to float in a fluid <i>"Filling the raft with more air will increase its buoyancy."</i>
calligraphy	beautiful handwriting; penmanship <i>"Calligraphy is an art – a talent to be thankful for."</i>
camaraderie	loyalty and warm, friendly feeling among comrades <i>"Within the Girl Scout troop, there was great camaraderie."</i>
camouflage	disguise or concealment of this kind <i>"The tanks' camouflage prevented enemy planes from seeing them."</i>
capitulation	statement of the main parts of a subject; conditional surrender <i>"Their leader decided that capitulation was best."</i>

carcinogen	cancer causing <i>"Scientists seem to discover a new carcinogen every day."</i>
carburetor	a device in which air is mixed with gasoline spray to make an explosive mixture in an internal combustion engine <i>"The carburetor in the truck had to be replaced."</i>
carnivorous	meat-eating <i>"The lion is a carnivorous animal."</i>
cataclysm	any great upheaval that causes sudden and violent changes <i>"The weakened government could not withstand another cataclysm."</i>
catastrophe	calamity <i>"The Northridge Earthquake was a catastrophe."</i>
centrifugal	radiating or departing from the center <i>"The road was banked to counteract the centrifugal force."</i>
chamois	a soft leather made from the hide of a chamois, deer or sheep <i>"The gloves were made of chamois leather."</i>
chandelier	lighting fixture hanging from a ceiling, with branches for candles or bulbs <i>"The chandelier swayed, and we hurried out from under it."</i>
chaotic	completely confused or disordered condition <i>"The era of the Hundred Years' War was very chaotic."</i>
charlatan	fake <i>"The phony scientist was a charlatan."</i>
chimerical	imaginary <i>"Her fears are as chimerical as the hallucinations of insanity."</i>
chivalry	the noble qualities a medieval knight was supposed to have; courage, honor and readiness to help the weak, and to protect women <i>"We loved his chivalry, seemingly borrowed from the knights of old."</i>
chromosome	one of the DNA containing bodies in a cell nucleus <i>"This particular gene is found at the end of chromosome 23."</i>
cinematographer	a motion-picture cameraman <i>"Cecil B. DeMille was a great cinematographer."</i>
circumference	a line that goes around or encloses a circle <i>"When drawing a snowman, the head usually has a smaller circumference than the body."</i>

clairvoyance	keen perception or insight <i>"His clairvoyance with a crystal ball was amazing."</i>
clique	a small, exclusive group of people <i>"She refused to join the clique of students."</i>
coercive	of coercion or tending to coerce <i>"During the American Revolution, the colonists fought against the coercive government of Great Britain."</i>
colleague	associate in office <i>"His colleague is going to attend the same workshop."</i>
colloquial	conversational <i>"The politician's colloquial language endeared him to small town voters."</i>
commingle	to mingle together; intermix, blend <i>"The separate tribes began to commingle through marriage."</i>
compassionate	feeling or showing compassion <i>"The compassionate nurse listened to the patient's tale."</i>
condolence	expression of sympathy with another in grief <i>"A note of condolence is appropriate at time of death."</i>
conjecture	an inference, theory, or prediction based on guesswork; guess <i>"After hearing the facts, she knew that her conjecture was wrong."</i>
connoisseur	a person who has expert knowledge and keen discrimination in some field, especially in the fine arts or in matters of taste <i>"His discerning taste buds made him a connoisseur of good wine."</i>
consensus	an opinion held by all or most <i>"The consensus of party professionals was sought."</i>
contemptuous	full of contempt; scornful; disdainful <i>"The speaker was very contemptuous of the hecklers."</i>
convoluted	extremely involved; intricate <i>"The convoluted plot was difficult to understand."</i>
correspondence	a communication by exchange of letters <i>"Please file this correspondence alphabetically."</i>
counterfeit	to imitate or copy, especially with intent to deceive <i>"There is a way to check if a bill is counterfeit."</i>
critique	the act or art of criticizing; criticism <i>"The director did not like the critique of his movie."</i>

croissant	a crescent roll <i>"A hot, buttery croissant was enjoyed by each one attending the festive brunch."</i>
crucifixion	a crucifying or being crucified <i>"The punishment of crucifixion was practiced in ancient times."</i>
debacle	an overwhelming defeat or rout <i>"His resignation from power caused the greatest debacle in the history of his country."</i>
decelerate	to reduce speed; slow down <i>"The driver began to decelerate as he rounded the bend."</i>
deciduous	shedding leaves annually <i>"The fall colors on the deciduous trees are beautiful."</i>
delicatessen	a shop where sandwich items meats and cheeses are sold <i>"Let's stop at the delicatessen to pick up things for our picnic."</i>
depressant	lowering the rate of muscular or nervous activity; to sadden or lower <i>"The medicine was given as a depressant."</i>
derrick	large apparatus for lifting and moving heavy objects; tall tapering framework over an oil well <i>"The workmen used a derrick to take the piano up to the 7th floor."</i>
designate	to point or mark out; specify; appoint <i>"I will designate one of my friends to chair this committee."</i>
dexterity	skill in using one's mind; cleverness <i>"Her mental dexterity was amazing."</i>
dialysis	the separation of crystalloids from colloids as the elimination of impurities from the blood during kidney failure <i>"One of our child movie stars has to be hospitalized for dialysis."</i>
dichotomy	division into two (contrasting) halves, pairs of sets <i>"Reconciling the dichotomy between public and private interests is a difficult job."</i>
differentiate	distinguish between <i>"The shopper tried to differentiate between the two sweaters."</i>
dilapidated	broken down; shabby and neglected <i>"We bought a dilapidated house and tried to repair it."</i>
dilemma	predicament; a situation in which one must choose between alternatives <i>"His dilemma was in having to decide on which color paint to use."</i>

disguise	to change the manner or appearance of in order to prevent recognition <i>"I will need a mask to disguise myself for the Halloween Party."</i>
disproportionate	not in proportion <i>"The harsh punishment was disproportionate to the infraction."</i>
disseminate	to scatter seed; to sow widely; spread abroad <i>"When the dandelion becomes that feathery little puffball, the breezes cause it to disseminate."</i>
dissertation	a formal and lengthy discourse or treatise on some subject <i>"The student completed her dissertation for the degree of doctor."</i>
divination	a successful guess; clever conjecture <i>"Her divination of the winner was accurate."</i>
ebullient	overflowing with enthusiasm, high spirits <i>"After winning the game, the fans were ebullient."</i>
ecclesiastical	of the church <i>"His writings were based on ecclesiastical discipline."</i>
echelon	any of the levels of responsibility or importance in an organization <i>"She worked in the echelon where major decisions were made."</i>
eczema	an inflammatory, itching disease of the skin <i>"A victim of eczema, she could not wear makeup on her face."</i>
effectuate	to bring about; cause to happen; effect <i>"The team members are trying to effectuate change in spring training rules."</i>
egalitarian	advocating, or characterized by the belief that all men should have equal political, social and economic rights <i>"The country's government was egalitarian."</i>
ellipsis	the omission of a word or words necessary for complete grammatical construction but understood in the context <i>"Add ellipsis where I have indicated on the rough draft of the legal pleading."</i>
embarrass	to cause to feel self-conscious, ill at ease <i>"He did not want to embarrass himself in front of his friends."</i>
emulate	to try to equal or surpass; to rival successfully <i>"The baby birds strutted back and forth trying to emulate the actions of their parents."</i>

encapsulate	to put in concise form; condense <i>"We tried to encapsulate the week's news in five minutes."</i>
entomology	the study of insects <i>"My career in entomology began with a fascination about butterflies."</i>
ephemeral	lasting a very short time <i>"The sunset was ephemeral in its beauty."</i>
epitome	a short statement of the main points of a book, report, incident; abstract; summary; representative or typical of a class <i>"He was the epitome of jockeys everywhere – slim, wiry and brisk."</i>
equivocal	two or more meanings; purposely vague; misleading; ambiguous <i>"Her answer was equivocal, but we couldn't get a definite opinion."</i>
esoteric	beyond the understanding or knowledge of most people <i>"Few people attended the esoteric lecture on holography."</i>
etymology	The origin and development of a word, affix, phrase, etc. <i>"The origin and development of words is a branch of linguistics called etymology."</i>
eulogy	speech or writing in praise of a person, event or thing; commendation <i>"We listened with full hearts to the eulogy on President Kennedy."</i>
euphoria	a feeling of vigor, well-being, or high spirits <i>"The team had the euphoria that comes from winning."</i>
exacerbate	to exasperate; annoy; irritate; embitter <i>"He intended to exacerbate the already tense situation by making an exorbitant demand."</i>
exonerate	to relieve of a burden; unload; free from guilt; absolve <i>"This alibi would prove his innocence and exonerate him of the crime."</i>
expedient	useful for effecting a desired result <i>"It was expedient for him to alter the facts."</i>
expertise	the skill, knowledge, judgment of an expert <i>"She was known for her expertise in music."</i>
expletive	an oath or exclamation <i>"She shouted an expletive when the car would not start."</i>
expropriate	to deprive of ownership; dispossess <i>"The state will expropriate acreage for the new airport."</i>
facetious	joking, or trying to be jocular, esp. at an inappropriate time <i>"His mother could not tolerate his facetious remarks."</i>

Fahrenheit	a temperature scale <i>“Normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.”</i>
fastidious	not easy to please; very critical or discriminating <i>“With fastidious attention to detail, the musician practiced the piece again.”</i>
feasible	capable of being done or carried out; possible; practicable <i>“Chartering a bus seems the most feasible method of transportation.”</i>
felicitous	well-chosen; appropriate; apt; yielding great pleasure <i>“He was a felicitous choice for the new position.”</i>
ferocious	fierce; savage; violently cruel <i>“The lion has a ferocious growl.”</i>
fictitious	imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended; assumed for disguise <i>“Some novelists use a fictitious name under which they write.”</i>
filibuster	to obstruct the passage of a bill by making long speeches, introducing irrelevant issues, etc. <i>“The senator carried out his filibuster, ignoring remarks from the floor.”</i>
finagle	to cheat; to get something by trickery <i>“Students find many ways to finagle their way out of homework.”</i>
firmament	the sky, viewed poetically as a solid arch or vault <i>“The sun and the moon are both seen in the firmament at that time.”</i>
fissure	long, narrow, deep cleft or crack; dividing or breaking into parts <i>“The ice, breaking up, opened a wide fissure between the floes.”</i>
flabbergast	to make speechless with amazement; astonish <i>“Seeing a dog climb a tree may flabbergast you.”</i>
flourish	grow vigorously; thrive; prosper <i>“These plants will flourish if you give them proper water and fertilizer.”</i>
fluctuate	to move back and forth, up and down; to be continually changing <i>“Bank interest rates fluctuate from time to time.”</i>
forfeit	to lose, give up, or be deprived of <i>“You forfeit privileges by not registering.”</i>
fraudulent	deceitful; based on trickery; intentional deception <i>“The investigation proved the papers to be fraudulent.”</i>

fricassee	a dish of meat cut into pieces and stewed in a gravy <i>“Chicken fricassee tastes good on a cold evening.”</i>
galleon	large Spanish ship of the 15 th /16 th century <i>“The galleon had four decks at the stern.”</i>
gambol	to jump and skip about in play; frolic <i>“To gambol about the dance floor is to have a good time.”</i>
gauche	lacking social grace; tactless <i>“My companion’s gauche remarks to the staff were very embarrassing.”</i>
gazetteer	a geographical dictionary <i>“The gazetteer portion of this dictionary contains more than seven thousand place names.”</i>
geriatrics	branch of medicine dealing with the elderly <i>“As the population ages, geriatrics will become more lucrative.”</i>
gourmet	a connoisseur of fine food and drink <i>“A good gourmet restaurant covets a recommendation from a food critic.”</i>
grievance	circumstance thought to be unjust; resentment or complaint <i>“Many thought she had reason for her grievance.”</i>
guileless	candid, frank; open <i>“His guileless smile made instant friendships.”</i>
harangue	to deliver a long, scolding speech <i>“I hope the coach doesn’t harangue us for the lousy game we played.”</i>
harassment	worrying or annoying with repeated attacks <i>“Sexual harassment in the workplace will not be tolerated.”</i>
heartily	friendly, sincere, cordial way; with zest, enthusiasm <i>“He laughed heartily, thoroughly enjoying the play.”</i>
hegemony	leadership or dominance, especially that of one state or nation over others <i>“The Chinese say the Soviets are establishing military hegemony over the free world.”</i>
hemorrhage	heavy bleeding <i>“Jim had a bad hemorrhage in his arm after the auto accident.”</i>

hepatitis	an inflammation of the liver <i>“Exposure to the hepatitis virus prevents a person from donating blood.”</i>
herbivorous	feeding on plants <i>“Deer and sheep are herbivorous animals.”</i>
hospitable	friendly, kind and solicitous toward guests; favoring comfort of new arrivals; receptive or open to new ideas <i>“Southern people are said to be most hospitable even to strangers.”</i>
humanity	human; human characteristics or nature; mankind; people <i>“Humanity everywhere does not always have the same kindness or sympathy.”</i>
hybrid	anything of mixed origin, unlike parts <i>“Rock and roll is a hybrid of blues and jazz.”</i>
hygiene	science of health and its maintenance; sanitary practices; cleanness <i>“We are taught hygiene for the preservation of health and prevention of disease.”</i>
hyperbole	obvious and intentional exaggeration <i>“A clown uses hyperbole to make the stunts funnier.”</i>
hypochondriac	a person who has hypochondria <i>“The hypochondriac made his tenth visit to the hospital in ten days.”</i>
hypocrisy	a pretending to be what one is not, or to feel what one does not feel <i>“The senator showed his hypocrisy by saying he was for the bill and then voting against it.”</i>
ideology	the doctrines, opinions, or way of thinking of an individual class, etc. <i>“Democracy is the American ideology.”</i>
idiosyncrasy	personal peculiarity or mannerism <i>“It was her idiosyncrasy to wear earmuffs in warm weather.”</i>
ignominy	shame and dishonor <i>“What he did brought ignominy to his friends and family.”</i>
immunity	resistance to disease; protection against disease <i>“Having a childhood disease does not always develop an immunity to it.”</i>
impasse	deadlock <i>“Russia and the United States reached an impasse in their negotiations.”</i>

impecunious	having no money <i>"I am sorry to announce that the school board is in an impecunious situation as a result of Proposition 13."</i>
impertinent	not showing proper respect or manners <i>"The impertinent child must be taught some manners."</i>
imperturbable	that cannot be disconcerted, disturbed, or excited; impassive <i>"The imperturbable cat sat in the midst of the moving."</i>
implement	any article or device used or needed for a given activity; fulfill <i>"The hammer and the saw are needed by the carpenter to implement his job."</i>
inaugurate	to introduce into office with ceremonies <i>"Every four years we inaugurate a President."</i>
incongruous	lacking harmony or agreement <i>"Hiking boots were incongruous to the wet suit outfit."</i>
incorrigible	that cannot be corrected, improved, or reformed <i>"They held out little hope for the prisoner because he was incorrigible."</i>
incredulous	showing doubt or disbelief <i>"Their eyes were large with incredulous joy."</i>
indiscreet	lacking prudence; unwise; careless <i>"She was indiscreet in going shopping during school hours."</i>
indomitable	not easily discouraged <i>"Even after three unsuccessful attempts, the new skier was indomitable."</i>
inducement	motive; incentive; persuasion <i>"As an inducement for entering into the contract, she would receive a percentage of sales."</i>
inertia	a tendency to remain in a fixed condition without change <i>"The nation was declining due to inertia."</i>
infatuated	lacking sound judgment; foolish <i>"He was infatuated by the John Wayne movie and decided to become a cowboy."</i>
infirmity	feebleness; weakness; frailty or ailment; defect <i>We realized his infirmity kept him a captive of a wheelchair."</i>

inimical	unfriendly; hostile <i>“The inimical participants at the rally prevented the audience from having fun.”</i>
inordinate	lacking restraint or moderation <i>“The press and public took an inordinate interest in everything he did.”</i>
insatiable	constantly wanting more; that cannot be satisfied or appeased <i>“After two banana splits, we knew he had an insatiable appetite.”</i>
inscrutable	that cannot be easily understood <i>“Charley Chan was often inscrutable.”</i>
insinuation	sly hint or suggestion <i>“Your insinuation of unfairness on my part is unjust.”</i>
intermittent	stopping and starting again at intervals; periodic <i>“Heavy traffic forced us into intermittent driving.”</i>
intravenous	in, or directly into, a vein or veins <i>“The doctor prescribed intravenous feeding for the patient.”</i>
inveigle	to lead on with deception <i>“The salesman intended to inveigle me into buying the car.”</i>
irascible	easily angered; quick-tempered <i>“The irascible old man is constantly picking fights.”</i>
irreparable	not reparable; that cannot be repaired, mended, remedied <i>“If the condors disappear, that will be an irreparable loss.”</i>
isthmus	a neck; a narrow passage; narrow strip of land, having water at each side and connecting two larger bodies of land <i>“The Isthmus of Panama connects Central America and South America.”</i>
jamboree	a large festive gathering <i>“They scheduled a jamboree in the town park for this weekend.”</i>
javelin	a slender metal-tipped shaft thrown for distance <i>“The next javelin thrower holds the Olympic record for this event.”</i>
judicious	having, applying, or showing sound judgment; wise and careful <i>“The judicious driver stopped at the crosswalk.”</i>
kayak	an Eskimo canoe, or one similar <i>“The ocean was too rough to go out in the kayak.”</i>
khaki	a light yellowish brown color <i>“The soldiers wore their khaki uniforms.”</i>

knowledge	understanding or skill gained by experience or learning <i>“Two weeks of tennis lessons increased my knowledge of the game.”</i>
lackadaisical	listless; languid <i>“Tom was lackadaisical in the hot, humid weather.”</i>
languid	sluggish <i>“She was a languid person, lacking force and quickness.”</i>
laryngitis	inflammation of the voice box <i>“I always get laryngitis at the end of a cold.”</i>
laureate	worthy of honor; distinguished; pre-eminent, especially among poets <i>“Rudyard Kipling was a poet laureate of England.”</i>
leisurely	without haste; deliberate; slow; unhurried <i>“He strolled leisurely along the boardwalk.”</i>
leniency	mildness; permissiveness <i>“The judge was known for his leniency with first time offenders.”</i>
leukemia	a cancerous disease of the tissues and often the blood <i>“The leukemia patient needed a bone marrow transplant.”</i>
lieutenant	an officer empowered to act for a higher official <i>“The lieutenant brought the message to the meeting.”</i>
luminous	giving off light; shining; bright <i>“The moon was luminous in the night.”</i>
maelstrom	a strong violent whirlpool; a great turmoil <i>“Their dog’s illness caused the family a maelstrom of emotions.”</i>
malfeasance	wrongful conduct, especially by a public official <i>“The mayor’s malfeasance resulted in a recall election.”</i>
malleable	capable of being changed, molded, trained, etc. <i>“Tin is a very malleable metal.”</i>
maneuver	any movement or procedure intended as a skillful or shrewd step toward some objective <i>“The large ship’s maneuver brought it closer to port.”</i>
masquerade	a party at which people wear masks and costumes <i>“What are you wearing to the masquerade ball?”</i>
mediocre	ordinary; commonplace <i>“Because the service was only mediocre, we left a small tip.”</i>

metamorphosis	change of form, shape, structure, or substance <i>“The metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly is one of nature’s miracles.”</i>
mimicry	the action, art or instance of imitating <i>“With your gift of mimicry, you should be in show business.”</i>
miniature	something much smaller than the usual size <i>“That is an impressive collection of miniature cars.”</i>
miscellaneous	consisting of many things of different sorts <i>“Most people have a drawer for all their miscellaneous things.”</i>
mischievous	conduct that is often playful but causes harm or annoyance <i>“My mischievous puppy chewed the corner off my favorite book.”</i>
mulligatawny	an East Indian soup of meat, etc., flavored with curry <i>“Mother had a very special recipe for mulligatawny.”</i>
munificence	very generous in giving; lavish <i>“The president thanked the donor for her munificence.”</i>
mystique	a set of beliefs and attitudes developing around an object <i>“The true mystique of jogging cannot be appreciated by non-runners.”</i>
nauseous	affected with or tending to cause stomach distress <i>“I felt nauseous after eating too much ice cream.”</i>
nautical	of the sea or navigation <i>“This fish restaurant has a nautical decor.”</i>
novelette	short fictional story <i>“The novelette was made into a movie script.”</i>
nuptial	of or relating to marriage or a wedding <i>“The nuptial ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m.”</i>
obsolescent	going out of use; becoming outmoded <i>“Phonograph records are becoming obsolescent.”</i>
occasion	fact or event making something possible; happening; occurrence <i>“A chance meeting was the occasion of the renewal of their friendship.”</i>
occurrence	happening; event; something that takes place <i>“The second occurrence of the conference will not be until next year.”</i>
oligarchy	a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few persons <i>“Political office was restricted to those who knew a member of the oligarchy.”</i>

omniscient	having infinite knowledge <i>“Goethe was omniscient in his era.”</i>
onomatopoeia	formation of a word by imitating the natural sound associated with the object or action involved <i>“He used onomatopoeia to create sounds in his poetry.”</i>
opaque	not letting light pass through; not transparent or translucent <i>“The window shade was opaque, emitting no light at all.”</i>
ophthalmologist	a physician specializing in diseases of the eye <i>“The ophthalmologist had to dilate the patient’s eyes.”</i>
orthodox	traditional; conservative in belief <i>“He was very orthodox in his beliefs and practices.”</i>
pachyderm	any of various thick-skinned, hoofed mammals <i>“The pachyderm house at the zoo is home for the elephants.”</i>
paraphernalia	personal belongings; articles used in a particular activity <i>“Bring along your fishing paraphernalia when we go camping next week.”</i>
parsimonious	miserly <i>“Scrooge was a parsimonious man.”</i>
pasteurize	partial sterilization of a fluid by exposure to heat <i>“The dairy will pasteurize the milk before bottling.”</i>
patriarch	the father and ruler of a family <i>“The family patriarch always sits at the head of the table.”</i>
perceptible	capable of being noticed <i>“The difference between the two brands of hot dogs is hardly perceptible.”</i>
perennial	lasting or active throughout the whole year <i>“To cut down on yardwork I planted mostly perennial plants.”</i>
pernicious	fatal; deadly <i>“The common cold is usually not a pernicious disease.”</i>
perpetuity	the state or quality of being perpetual <i>“Perpetuity is implied in the fundamental law of all national governments.”</i>
pharmaceutical	a medicinal material or product <i>“The pharmaceutical company introduced its newest drug.”</i>

phenomenal	highly remarkable <i>“Abraham Lincoln had a phenomenal memory.”</i>
phlegm	thick, stringy mucus discharged from the throat, as during a cold <i>“The mixture of honey and lemon helped to rid his throat of phlegm.”</i>
pirouette	a rapid whirling or turning on the toe or ball of the foot <i>“The ballerina performed the pirouette perfectly.”</i>
plagiarize	to take (ideas, writings, etc.) from (another) and pass them off as one’s own <i>“The teacher told the class not to plagiarize any work.”</i>
plausible	seemingly true; seemingly honest, trustworthy, etc. <i>“The story he gave us sounded plausible.”</i>
plebeian	vulgar, coarse, or common <i>“She has such a plebeian taste in home decorating.”</i>
plenary	for attendance by all members <i>“The plenary session of the association was called to order by the president.”</i>
pneumonia	a disease of the lungs characterized by inflammation and congestion <i>“Seniors, particularly, are advised to have flu shots to guard against pneumonia developing as a secondary infection.”</i>
poinsettia	Mexican and Central American plant with yellow flowers surrounded by tapering red leaves resembling petals <i>“The name of the poinsettia plant is often mispronounced.”</i>
posthumous	happening after one’s death <i>“The athlete’s posthumous induction into the Hall of Fame was very emotional.”</i>
precipitate	to cause to happen before expected <i>“The jolt may precipitate an explosion.”</i>
precursor	a person or thing that goes before <i>“Elvis was the precursor of rock and roll.”</i>
premiere	to exhibit (a play, movie, etc.) for the first time <i>“The audience was filled with anticipation while waiting for the premiere performance to commence.”</i>
prerogative	an exclusive right or privilege exercised by virtue of rank, office, etc. <i>“It is the prerogative of the senior class to sit in this section.”</i>

prevision	foresight or foreknowledge <i>"Facing the downpour, she was thankful for her prevision to bring an umbrella."</i>
prodigy	a person, thing or act so extraordinary as to inspire wonder <i>"Mozart was a child prodigy."</i>
profligate	extremely wasteful; recklessly extravagant <i>"The profligate spender was soon penniless."</i>
progeny	children, descendants, or offspring collectively <i>"The old man's progeny gathered at his home to celebrate."</i>
proliferate	to multiply rapidly <i>"As nuclear weapons proliferate, we are all concerned."</i>
propriety	conformity with what is proper or fitting <i>"An etiquette book gives rules of propriety."</i>
pterodactyl	an extinct flying reptile <i>"The rendition of the pterodactyl was my favorite part of the dinosaur exhibit."</i>
pulchritude	beauty; comeliness <i>"The damsel's pulchritude was apparent to everyone."</i>
quadratic	an algebraic term involving the square and no higher power of an unknown quantity <i>"Solve this quadratic equation for the value of x."</i>
query	to question <i>"Use the query command when you want to search a database for information."</i>
quixotic	extravagantly chivalrous or romantically idealistic <i>"Patrolling the streets with knights in white armor is the quixotic method of solving crime."</i>
raillery	light, good-natured ridicule or satire <i>"Sir Winston Churchill's raillery often provoked laughter."</i>
rapprochement	relationship, esp. a close one; agreement; harmony <i>"She and her sister enjoyed a friendly rapprochement."</i>
rascal	a rascal; rogue <i>"The rascal ran off with the money."</i>
receipt	written acknowledgement; to mark paid <i>"The receipt showed the invoice had been paid in full."</i>

reciprocal	done or felt equally by both sides <i>“They had a reciprocal feeling of admiration for each other.”</i>
reconciliation	the act of restoring friendly relations <i>“The treaty provided for a reconciliation between the two countries.”</i>
reconnaissance	an exploratory survey or examination <i>“The corporal led a special squad on a reconnaissance mission.”</i>
redolence	the quality or state of being redolent, fragrant, aromatic <i>“I liked the redolence of the pine boughs.”</i>
rejuvenate	to make seem fresh or new again <i>“A long vacation will rejuvenate him.”</i>
reminisce	to think, talk or write about remembered events or experiences <i>“We sat at the table to reminisce about our childhood experiences.”</i>
rendezvous	a planned meeting; a place for a planned meeting <i>“We will rendezvous at the Park and Ride, then go on together to the party.”</i>
repatriate	to send back or return to the country of birth, citizenship, or allegiance <i>“We hope they will repatriate our prisoners of war.”</i>
repertoire	the stock of special skills, devices, techniques of a particular person or particular field of endeavor <i>“The ball player’s repertoire was amazing.”</i>
repository	a box, chest, closet, or room in which things may be placed for safe keeping <i>“The jewels were missing from the repository.”</i>
reservoir	a place where water is stored in quantity <i>“During the drought the reservoir was dangerously low.”</i>
resilient	recovering strength, spirits, good humor, etc., quickly; buoyant <i>“The American people are very resilient; they bounce back no matter what happens.”</i>
resuscitate	to revive from apparent death or from unconsciousness. <i>“The paramedic’s attempts to resuscitate the crash victim were unsuccessful.”</i>
retaliate	to return like for like <i>“The government plans to retaliate for the terrorism.”</i>
retroactive	having application to or effect on things prior to its enactment <i>“The retroactive pay increase was appreciated by all of the workers.”</i>

reverie	a dreamy, fanciful, or visionary notion or daydream <i>"Her reverie was broken by his loud arrival."</i>
rhetoric	the art of speaking correctly <i>"I have to prepare a ten minute speech for my rhetoric class tomorrow."</i>
ricochet	a glancing rebound <i>"If you hit the ball here, it will ricochet off the table and land in the pocket."</i>
rigmarole	a foolishly involved, fussy, or time-wasting procedure <i>"Registration for school is full of rigmarole."</i>
rosette	ornament made of ribbons gathered in the shape of a rose <i>"He wore a rosette in the buttonhole of his lapel."</i>
sacrosanct	very sacred, holy, or inviolable <i>"The congregation felt the church was sacrosanct."</i>
sanguinary	bloodthirsty <i>"Some corsairs were very sanguinary."</i>
satchel	A small flat-bottomed bag, sometimes with a shoulder strap <i>"Before backpacks became popular, schoolchildren usually carried their books in a satchel."</i>
scallion	variety of onion; long stem and almost bulbless root <i>"We prefer the scallion rather than the large white or yellow onion."</i>
scheme	a systemic or organized design <i>"That's a very nice color scheme you have picked out."</i>
schism	a split or division in an organized group or society <i>"The selection of a new minister caused a schism in the church."</i>
scrimmage	in football, the play that follows the snap of the ball <i>"The tailback carried the ball twenty yards from the line of scrimmage."</i>
scrumptious	very pleasing, attractive esp. to the taste; delicious <i>"Not a crumb of the scrumptious cake was left."</i>
secede	to withdraw from an organization <i>"South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union."</i>
segue	to make a smooth transition, as from one topic to another <i>"The speaker was noted for an ability to segue between opening jokes and the serious topic at hand."</i>

seismologist	a scientist who studies earthquakes <i>"The seismologist confirmed that the earthquake was centered twenty miles offshore."</i>
seraglio	the palace of a Turkish sultan <i>"The crown jewels were located in the seraglio."</i>
serene	not disturbed or troubled <i>"The serene lake did not have a ripple on the surface."</i>
serviette	a table napkin <i>"A serviette depicting Christmas scenes was at everyone's place."</i>
siege	a continued attempt to gain possession of something <i>"During the Civil War, the siege of Vicksburg lasted 186 days."</i>
silhouette	an outline of a figure, garment, etc. <i>"Jean's face was a silhouette against the screen."</i>
sleuth	detective, or to act like a detective <i>"It took a real sleuth to determine the origin of that word."</i>
solemn	done or made seriously and thoughtfully <i>"The veterans hold a solemn ceremony on Memorial Day."</i>
solicitous	showing care, attention, or concern <i>"The parents were solicitous about the child's health."</i>
solstice	either of two points on the sun's ecliptic at which it is farthest north or south of the equator <i>"In the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice comes just before Christmas."</i>
somnolent	sleepy; drowsy <i>"The somnolent truck driver stopped for coffee."</i>
sophomoric	of, like, or characteristic of a sophomore or sophomores, often regarded as self-assured, opinionated, though immature <i>"The sophomoric antics of our government were exposed."</i>
spasmodic	having an involuntary contraction, temporarily or intermittently <i>"She had a spasmodic tic in her right eyelid."</i>
spectroscopy	the use of the spectroscope to study optics <i>"The study of optics is aided by spectroscopy."</i>
stanchion	an upright bar, post or support <i>"Be sure you tie the sail securely to the stanchion."</i>

statuary	sculpture, a collection of statues <i>"The statuary lining the rose garden beckoned the visitors."</i>
subterfuge	an expedient used to evade, escape or conceal <i>"The students pretended to be sick as a subterfuge to taking the test."</i>
succinct	clearly and briefly stated <i>"The commander's orders to his men were succinct."</i>
succumb	give away to; yield or submit <i>"We expected him to succumb to persuasion."</i>
superfluous	not needed, unnecessary, irrelevant <i>"I have cut down every superfluous expense."</i>
surreptitious	acting in a secret, stealthy way <i>"The conspirators held a surreptitious meeting."</i>
surveillance	supervision or inspection <i>"The police kept the prisoners under constant surveillance."</i>
svelte	slender, lithe <i>"You look very svelte in that new outfit."</i>
sympathize	to share or understand another's feelings; express pity <i>"They could sympathize with their neighbors who had been robbed."</i>
synthesis	the putting together of parts or elements so as to form a whole <i>"A good composition is the synthesis of many skills."</i>
tachometer	a device for indicating speed of rotation <i>"Some sports cars have a tachometer located next to the speedometer."</i>
taciturn	habitually unwilling to talk; reserved in speech <i>"The taciturn farmer watched as we fixed our car."</i>
therapeutic	serving to cure or heal; curative <i>"The therapeutic treatment hastened his recovery."</i>
thesaurus	a dictionary of synonyms <i>"This word processing program features an excellent thesaurus, making it easy for the user to find appropriate synonyms."</i>
tortoise	a land turtle <i>"In one of Aesop's fables the tortoise wins a race against the hare."</i>
treacherous	providing insecure footing or support <i>"It was a very treacherous climb along the rock cliffs."</i>

umbrage	resentment; offense <i>"I take umbrage at that outrageous remark."</i>
unconscionable	not being in accordance with what is right or just <i>"Such unconscionable behavior will result in expulsion from school."</i>
unscathed	not hurt, uninjured, unharmed <i>"She was unscathed by their criticism."</i>
utilitarian	of or having to do with utility; usefulness <i>"A garbage can is a very utilitarian gift."</i>
variegated	having patches, stripes or marks of different colors <i>"This variegated ivy would look nice on the trellis."</i>
vaudeville	light theater featuring variety acts <i>"Bob Hope started his career as a vaudeville actor."</i>
vertigo	a subjective sensation of dizziness in which an individual feels that he, or his surrounding, is whirling about sickeningly <i>"With too much stress, she suffered from vertigo."</i>
ventriloquist	someone whose voice can seemingly be made to come from another source <i>"The conversation between the ventriloquist and the wooden dummy delighted the audience."</i>
vignette	a short, delicate literary sketch <i>"The vignette was a great work by the promising author."</i>
xenophobia	fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything foreign or strange <i>"Xenophobia limits people from learning about others."</i>
xylophone	a musical percussion instrument <i>"The xylophone is an instrument in the percussion family."</i>
zealous	very eager; very enthusiastic <i>"The politician's zealous supporters campaigned vigorously."</i>