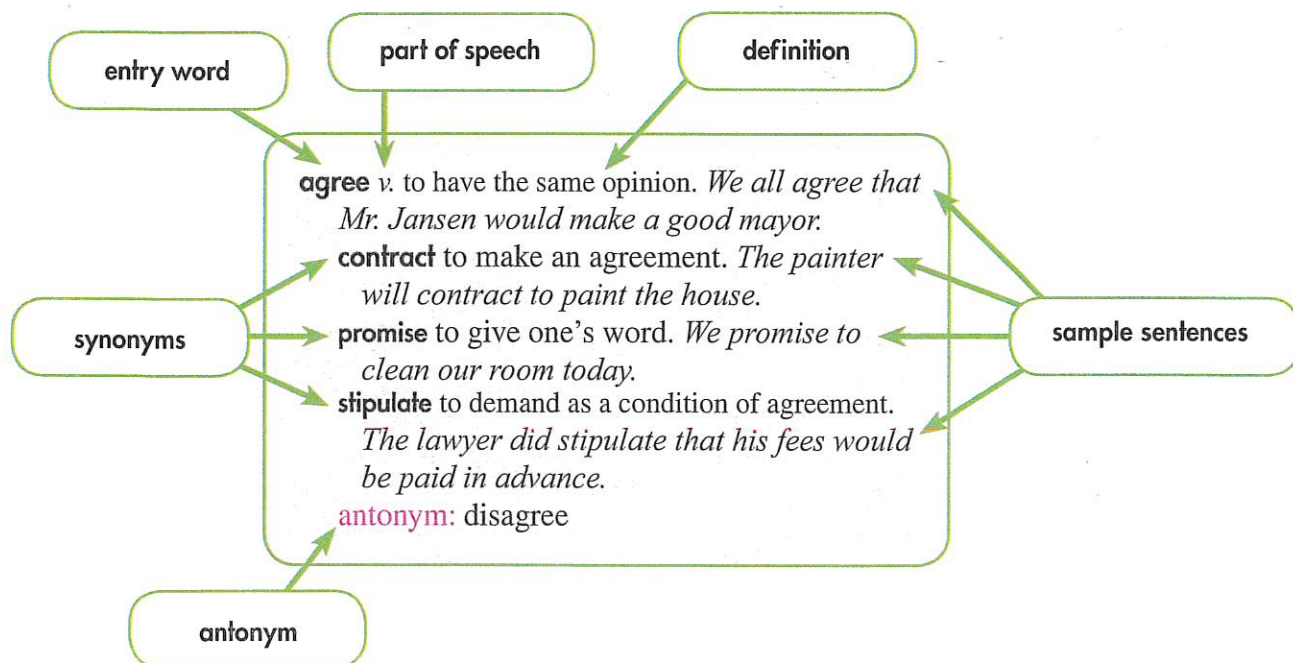


The **Writing Thesaurus** provides synonyms—words that mean the same or nearly the same—and antonyms—words that mean the opposite—for your spelling words. Use this sample to identify the various parts of each thesaurus entry.

- **Entry words** are listed in alphabetical order and are printed in boldface type.
- The abbreviation for the **part of speech** of each entry word follows the boldface entry word.
- The **definition** of the entry word matches the definition of the word in your **Spelling Dictionary**. A **sample sentence** shows the correct use of the word in context.
- Each **synonym** for the entry word is listed under the entry word. Again, a sample sentence shows the correct use of the synonym in context.
- Where appropriate, **antonyms** for the entry word are listed at the end of the entry.





accompany v. 1. to go along with; join in company. I was asked to accompany my friends to the zoo.
2. to supplement; add to. 3. to coexist or occur with.

attend to go with. A sore throat often will attend a cold.

escort to go with. Secret Service agents escort the President to public events.

join to come into the company of. Amanda will join us at the party later.

antonyms: desert, abandon

accomplish v. 1. to succeed in doing; bring to pass. 2. to reach the end of; complete. I always accomplish what I set out to do.

achieve to carry out; do. You have to work hard to achieve your goals.

complete to finish. Please complete the test and hand in your papers.

finish to complete. Ted must finish washing the dishes before he begins his homework.

fulfill to carry out; finish. Terry will fulfill her part of the task before we finish ours.

succeed to do well. Will she succeed in running a mile in three minutes?

antonyms: foil, thwart, frustrate

accustomed adj. 1. usual; characteristic; normal. Alicia worked with her accustomed thoroughness. 2. in the habit of. Jack had become accustomed to sleeping late on weekend mornings.

characteristic distinctive. Bob has a characteristic laugh.

common usual. Political upheaval is common in that region.

customary usual. The Bensons sat at their customary table.

familiar common. The old town looked strangely familiar to him.

habitual done by habit. Dawn is a habitual nail biter.

usual customary. It is usual for the baby to take a nap at two o'clock.

antonyms: unaccustomed, unusual, unfamiliar, uncommon

actual adj. 1. existing in fact or reality. 2. current. 3. based on fact. The book was said to be an actual account of a spy's secret missions.

certain sure. I am certain that it will rain today; I read all the reports.

definite sure. She was quite definite about her decision to take the job.

genuine real. The expression of happiness on his face was genuine.

real genuine. He was astounded to discover that the rock contained real gold.

tangible real; able to be touched. Rumors and hearsay are not tangible evidence.

true real. Knowing when to keep a secret is a true test of friendship.

antonyms: unreal, untrue, fake

adapt v. to adjust to a specified use or situation. The cat was able to adapt quickly to its new surroundings.

accommodate to make suitable to a particular situation. She learned to accommodate herself to the variable weather.

adjust to change to fit. The seat belts adjust automatically to fit each passenger.

fit to adjust. Ask the tailor at the store to fit your suit before you take it home.

modify to change somewhat. George will modify the sailboat to make it lighter and faster.

suit to make fit. A judge will decide how to suit the punishment to the crime.

admiration n. a feeling of pleasure, wonder, and approval. He sat looking at the painting, lost in admiration.

awe wonder and fear. The view from the edge of the Grand Canyon filled them with awe.

delight joy; pleasure. His delight at seeing me made me feel good.

esteem regard; good opinion. He was held in high esteem by his colleagues.

pleasure delight; joy. The puppy made the children squeal with pleasure.

regard esteem. She was worried that the professor's low regard of her work would affect her class standing.

wonder feeling of amazement. She gazed in wonder at the lights of the city spread out below her.

antonyms: disgust, hatred

admire v. 1. to regard with pleasure, wonder, and approval. 2. to have a high opinion of; esteem or respect. I admire his ability to remain calm and competent in all situations. See **respect**.

admission n. 1.a. the act of admitting or allowing to enter. 1.b. the state of being allowed to enter. 2. the right to enter; access. 3. the price required or paid for entering; entrance fee. 4. a voluntary acknowledgment that something is true. His admission of the error helped to resolve the conflict.

access right to enter or use. *Despite their protests, the reporters were denied immediate access to the scene of the crime.*

admittance right or permission to enter. *The pass allowed us admittance backstage after the show.*

entrance permission to enter. *Entrance is restricted to club members.*

antonyms: rejection, exclusion

advantageous *adj.* affording benefit or gain; useful. *Investing money in those stocks was an advantageous move.*

beneficial helpful; favorable. *Proper diet and exercise are beneficial to a person's health.*

profitable having real value. *Terry worked hard to make her pet-sitting service a profitable venture.*

rewarding satisfying. *Working as a volunteer at the hospital is a rewarding activity for Denise.*

worthwhile having merit or value. *Bob contributed to the wildlife group because it seemed like a worthwhile cause.*

antonyms: harmful, unfavorable, injurious, ruinous, destructive

advise *v.* 1. to offer advice to; counsel. 2. to recommend; suggest. 3. to inform; notify. *Howard always waits until the last minute to advise a person of a decision. See notify.*

admonish to advise; warn. *The flight attendant had to admonish the passenger to fasten his seat belt.*

consult to talk over. *Doris will consult with her doctor about possible treatments.*

counsel to give advice to. *Her job is to counsel students on career choices.*

inform to tell. *Janice must inform me that she is no longer a member of the committee.*

notify to let know. *The bank will notify me if my account is overdrawn.*

recommend to advise. *She would often recommend that we invest our money in stocks.*

suggest to propose. *I suggest that we buy a house now while interest rates are low.*

agreeable *adj.* 1. to one's liking; pleasing; pleasant. 2. ready to consent or submit. *If you want to go downtown, I'm agreeable.*

pleasant pleasing. *We had a pleasant day at the zoo.*

pleasing pleasant. *Tom has a very pleasing personality; he gets along with everyone.*

willing consenting. *Julio is always willing to play with the baby.*

antonyms: disagreeable, unpleasant, unwilling, reluctant

ambitious *adj.* 1. full of, characterized by, or motivated by ambition. *The ambitious man would stop at nothing to gain fortune and power.* 2. greatly desirous; eager. 3. showing or requiring much effort.

aspiring desiring strongly. *She is an aspiring actress.*

desirous desiring; eager. *He is desirous of making your acquaintance.*

eager desiring strongly. *Melinda was eager to learn to play the guitar.*

enterprising bold; daring to take risks. *Building a treehouse was an enterprising project for the two boys.*

antonyms: apathetic, humble, modest

apparent *adj.* 1. readily seen; open to view; visible. 2. readily understood or perceived; plain or obvious. 3. appearing as such but not necessarily so. *His ability to speak Spanish was an apparent advantage in getting the job.*

clear easily seen. *From the third floor there is a clear view of the lake.*

conspicuous easily seen. *The footprint by the back door was a conspicuous clue.*

evident clear; plain. *It was evident to all but Cindy that the party was over.*

obvious easily seen; clear. *I cannot believe that Tim could make such an obvious mistake.*

open exposed; not secret. *The argument had not yet turned into open warfare.*

plain easily perceived. *It was plain that there would be no picnic because of the rain.*

antonyms: concealed, obscure, mysterious

appetite *n.* 1. a desire for food or drink. 2. a physical desire. 3. a strong wish or urge. *All of his life, Thomas Jefferson displayed an appetite for learning.*

craving strong desire; longing. *Thanksgiving dinner satisfies my craving for turkey and cranberries for an entire year.*

desire strong wish; craving. *After seeing the toys in the window, the children were filled with desire.*

hunger desire for food; craving. *Hunger made him dream of steak and potatoes.*

longing desire. *Her longing to see the child overcame her fear of being seen.*

urge force or impulse. *Quentin resisted the urge to run away from the barking dog.*

appliance *n.* a device or instrument, especially one operated by electricity and designed for household use. *The refrigerator is a major household appliance.*

apparatus tool for a particular use. *He hung hammers, saws, and other carpentry apparatus on the walls of his garage.*

device something made for a particular use. *That round piece of flexible plastic is a clever device for opening jars.*

instrument mechanical device; tool. *A surgeon uses many special instruments to perform an operation.*

tool instrument used in doing work. *A wrench is a mechanic's tool, while a pen is a writer's tool.*

assemble *v.* 1. to bring or gather together into a group or whole. 2. to fit or join together the parts of. *It took me three hours to assemble the computer desk.*

build to put together; construct. *Ken and his friends are trying to build a treehouse.*

collect to gather together. *The children banded together to collect cans of food for the homeless.*

congregate to come together in a group. *The ducks tend to congregate under the willow by the pond.*

construct to put together; build. *My father and my brother construct houses for a living.*

convene to gather together. *The Fifth Cell Wall Congress was to convene in Edinburgh, Scotland, last August.*

gather to bring together. *I tried to gather all the library books into one pile.*

antonyms: disperse, disassemble

assess *v.* to evaluate; appraise. *He must assess the situation before he decides what to do.*

appraise to consider the value or importance of. *The judges will appraise each contestant's cooking skills.*

calculate to estimate. *Joy wanted to calculate how many days it would take her to finish the book.*

estimate to judge; form an opinion about. *The foreman estimated that he would need four workers to unload the truck in an hour.*

evaluate to find out the value or importance of. *The scientist planned to evaluate the impact of pollution on the marshlands.*

gauge to judge; estimate. *Sam could not gauge the distance between his house and mine without measuring.*

attain *v.* to gain, reach, or accomplish by mental or physical effort. *She worked hard to attain her goal of becoming a doctor.*

accomplish to carry out; finish. *Anna can accomplish the task with great ease.*

achieve to complete successfully. *Hard work will help you achieve your goals.*

acquire to get; obtain. *Marcia must acquire a new swimsuit while she is in Florida.*

obtain to gain or acquire. *How did Shirley obtain her new bicycle?*

reach to arrive at, get to. *I could not reach a decision based on the information.*

secure to obtain; get. *He tried to secure the position by meeting with the boss after working hours.*

antonyms: fail, lose

attempt *n.* 1. an effort or try. 2. an attack; assault. *He feared there would be an attempt on his life.*

effort good try. *She made an effort to finish the marathon.*

endeavor serious effort. *He approaches every endeavor with determination.*

enterprise bold project. *Designing and selling clothes is a risky enterprise.*

try test; attempt. *I promised my mother I would give cooking a try.*

attentive *adj.* 1. paying attention; observant.

2. mindful of the well-being of others; considerate. *Julio was very attentive to his great-aunt.*

alert watchful. *It is hard to stay alert when you are tired.*

considerate thoughtful of people. *Carrying Mrs. Johnson's bags was a considerate thing for Erin to do.*

mindful heedful; careful. *Be mindful of the traffic when you cross the street.*

observant watchful. *It is important for a police officer to be observant.*

thoughtful thinking of others; considerate. *Sending a sympathy card was a thoughtful gesture.*

watchful observant; careful. *The watchful dog kept guard in the backyard.*

B

basis *n.* 1. a supporting element; foundation. 2. the chief component of something. 3. the essential principle. Trust is the basis of a good partnership or any relationship.

foundation base. *They poured the concrete for the foundation of the new building yesterday.*

groundwork foundation. *The notes I took at the library provided the groundwork for my science report.*

boundaries *n.* something that indicates borders or limits. *The boundaries of the farm were marked by fieldstone walls.*

borders lines separating countries, states, or other areas. *We crossed the borders of ten different countries during our vacation trip in Europe.*

frontiers borders. *Sol likes to explore new frontiers.*

limits bounds. *The streets were narrow and crowded within the limits of the city.*

bravado *n.* a pretense of courage; false bravery. *The lizard's hissing and charging are really just a show of bravado.*

bluster loud talk with empty threats. *The man's bluster did not worry the police officer; she knew it did not mean anything.*

boasting overpraise of one's talents or possessions. *The two boys tried to outdo each other with their boasting of their strength and prowess.*

bombast grand, pompous language. *There were some good ideas hidden under the bombast in his speech.*

bragging boasting. *After much bragging about his town, the mayor went on to criticize the neighboring city.*

heroics melodramatic words or actions used only for effect. *Such heroics were out of place in a sensible debate.*

swaggering noisy boasting. *Susie thought that his swaggering was annoying.*

antonyms: modesty, humility

briefly *adv.* 1. in a short time. 2. to a short length or extent. *She spoke briefly before announcing the guest of honor. See presently.*

concisely in a few meaningful words. *They asked him to give his opinion of the situation as concisely as possible.*

shortly in a short time; in a few words. *He promised to speak with me shortly.*

succinctly concisely. *She is known for being able to state complex problems succinctly.*

antonyms: gradually, slowly, deliberately



canyon *n.* a narrow chasm with steep cliff walls, formed by running water; gorge. *The awestruck hikers looked cautiously into the mile-deep canyon.*

dell small valley with trees. *We enjoyed hiking in the dell.*

glen small, narrow valley. *In Scotland, a lake is a loch and a valley is a glen.*

gorge narrow valley between mountains. *After the rainstorm, the water rushed through the gorge.*

gully small ravine; deep ditch. *In the fall the gully was filled with leaves, branches, and other debris.*

ravine deep, narrow valley made by running water. *Do not walk in a ravine if it looks as if it might rain.*

vale valley. *In poems, a valley is often called a vale.*

valley low land between mountains. *The village was nestled in the valley between Casper Mountain and Black Mountain.*

caption *n.* a title, short explanation, or description accompanying an illustration or photograph. *The caption under the photograph identified the location as Paris, France.*

heading word or words at the beginning of a page, chapter, etc. *Read the headings to get an idea of what the chapter is about.*

title name of a picture, book, poem, etc. *The title of the book was We Struck It Rich: The California Gold Rush of 1848.*

chronic *adj.* 1. of long duration; continuing; constant.

2. prolonged; lingering, as certain diseases.

3. subject to a disease or habit for a long time.

Jay's grandmother has chronic arthritis.

confirmed habitual. *Don had often declared that he was a confirmed cat hater.*

constant never stopping. *The constant noise kept me awake all night.*

continual without stopping. *The continual dripping of the faucet annoyed Eric.*

habitual done by habit. *Habitual shoppers should avoid the new mall.*

inveterate habitual. *Mrs. Perkins has a reputation as an inveterate busybody.*

perpetual never stopping. *The children were a perpetual source of joy to their grandparents.*

unending without end. *The stream of complaining customers seemed unending.*

antonyms: fleeting, temporary

chronicle *n.* a chronological record of historical events. *Much of our historical knowledge comes from chronicles that were kept by people of ancient times.*

account detailed statement. *The newspaper account of the fire included the names of the ten victims.*

annals history. *The association's annals are kept by the librarian.*

history account of events. *Can you tell us the history of this campaign?*

memoir record written from personal knowledge. *The teacher wrote a memoir of her days in a one-room schoolhouse.*

record written account. *Let the record show that the witness refuses to answer my questions.*

story account of an event or events. *The story of the shipwreck was the lead on the evening news.*

colleague *n.* a fellow member of a profession, staff, or academic faculty; associate. *He and a colleague at the university worked on the experiment together.*

accomplice person who helps another in a wrong act. *Terry's brother was her accomplice in the kitchen mess last night.*

ally helper; partner. *My sister has always been my ally.*

associate partner; companion. *Darryl and I were associates at the same law firm for three years.*

companion comrade; a person who shares in another's activities. *Cheryl and Alan are often dinner companions when he is in town.*

comrade partner; coworker. *He wanted to be with his comrades for the rally.*

confederate ally; partner. *The police knew that the thief had a confederate in the job.*

coworker person who works with another. *Her coworkers at the office gave her a surprise birthday party.*

partner person who invests with others in a company or business. *When Jane wanted to open a restaurant, she asked Henry to be her partner.*

combine *v.* 1. to bring into a state of unity.
2. to join (two or more substances) to make a single substance; mix. *If you combine blue paint with red paint, you will get purple paint.*

blend to mix. *Chris is careful to blend the milk and the eggs by adding the milk a little at a time.*

join to put together. *At camp we all were asked to join hands and sing songs around the fire.*

mix to put together as one. *The directions said to mix 1 cup of water, 1 cup of oil, and 1 teaspoon of ground mustard.*

unite to join together. *The thirteen colonies had to unite to fight the British.*

antonyms: divide, separate, split

comfort *v.* 1. to soothe in time of grief or fear; console. *The teacher tried to comfort the crying child.* 2. to ease physically; relieve.

console to ease; relieve. *It is hard to console someone who has lost a relative.*

relieve to reduce; ease. *A heating pad can relieve sore muscles.*

soothe to calm; quiet. *The singing and laughing helped soothe the campers' fears.*

antonyms: irritate, annoy, aggravate, embarrass, upset, burden, hamper

commence *v.* 1. to begin; start. *The debate will commence promptly at seven o'clock.* 2. to come into existence; have a beginning.

begin to start. *Open your test booklets and begin working on item one.*

inaugurate to begin officially or formally. *The completion of the transcontinental railroad served to inaugurate the era of the railroads in America.*

initiate to begin. *Carl was the one who tried to initiate reduced-price passes for senior citizens and students.*

originate to begin; come into being. *The idea for the play did originate in a writing class.*

start to begin. *Remember to always start with the first problem.*

antonyms: end, finish, terminate

commend *v.* 1. to represent as worthy, qualified, or desirable; recommend. 2. to express approval of; praise. *The coach always tries to commend the efforts of the entire team.*

applaud to praise; approve. *Jessie wanted to applaud her brother's decision to go to college.*

extol to praise. *He should extol the virtues of hard work.*

laud to praise. *The mayor was happy to laud the citizen's rescue of the drowning child.*

praise to express approval of. *My mother and father praise my desire to learn to paint.*

recommend to speak of favorably. *I recommend that you take the scenic route rather than the interstate highway.*

antonyms: blame, censure

commentary *n.* 1. a series of explanations or interpretations. 2. something that explains or illustrates. *The reporter delivered his commentary on the White House press conference.*

editorial newspaper or magazine article expressing the editor's or publisher's opinion on a topic. *The editorial in today's paper spoke out against corruption.*

essay written composition presenting the author's views. *The teacher asked us to write an essay on our role in the democratic process.*

review report offering a critical evaluation of a work. *In my book review, I discussed both the merits and flaws of the author's first-person narrative.*

companies *n.* 1. groups; gatherings. 2. business enterprises; firms. *Many companies have offices in several major cities.*

associations groups of people joined together. *Over the years Ava has belonged to many different associations.*

bands numbers of persons or animals joined together. *Long ago this region was home to many bands of outlaws.*

bodies groups of persons or things. *Congress is the largest of all our government bodies.*

businesses commercial enterprises. *Most of the businesses on Main Street have been there for thirty years.*

corporations groups of people with charters to operate businesses as separate legal entities. *Big corporations often have lobbyists who work for their interests in Washington, D.C.*

firms two or more people in business together. *Jeff has worked for three law firms since he finished law school.*

groups numbers of persons or things joined together. *Groups of children were working on different projects.*

parties groups of people joined together. *The restaurant is too small to seat parties of six or more people.*

partnerships two or more people who agree to contribute to and profit from a business. *He did not want to form any partnerships because he liked to work on his own.*

compel *v.* to force, drive, or constrain. *My parents try to compel me to explain my actions.*

coerce to force. *Ali tried to coerce the group into choosing him as the leader.*

commit to pledge. *Alicia and Joan always commit themselves to new programs of diet and exercise.*

constrain to force. *Dorothy had to constrain the dog from chasing the little rabbit.*

demand to request firmly. *I demand to see the manager of the store!*

drive to force. *The desire for success seemed to drive him to work harder than everyone else.*

force to make happen by force. *The company tried to force the man to resign his position.*

impel to force. *The approaching test date might impel Cathy to study harder.*

insist to stand firm on some issue. *The teacher often insists that the students work in groups.*

motivate to impel; move to act. *The teacher could motivate her students to read by scheduling additional reading periods.*

oblige to force. *The school will oblige its students to wear uniforms.*

antonym: coax

compete *v.* to strive or contend with another or others, as for profit or a prize; *vie.* *Twenty people signed up to compete in the relay race.*

contend to fight; *vie.* *The first five racers will contend in the first heat.*

contest to fight for; challenge. *The determined Central High team tried to contest the results of every single race today.*

dispute to fight; contest. *An underdog team from Monroe High seemed to dispute every heat.*

oppose to fight; struggle. *The coach from Jefferson will hotly oppose the decision to limit the number of entrants.*

rival to compete with. *The cheering squads must rival each other in screaming, shouting, and singing.*

vie to compete. *Earl Williamson and Guillermo Martinez will once again vie for first-place points in every race.*

antonym: support

complicate *v.* 1. to make or become complex, intricate, or perplexing. *David's arrival right after Hugh's seemed to complicate things even more.* 2. to twist or become twisted together.

confound to confuse; perplex. *Sylvia will confound you with her mastery of the game.*

confuse to mix up; bewilder. *The babble of different languages at the airport could confuse a tourist.*

perplex to puzzle; confuse. *The structure of a car's engine does perplex me.*

concentrate *v.* 1. to direct or draw toward a common center; focus. 2. to converge toward or meet in a common center. 3. to direct one's thoughts or attention. *I concentrate on going through all the problems on the test at least once.*

converge to come together to a central point. *On a warm summer day, a crowd might converge on the city park.*

focus to concentrate. *He must focus his attention on the speaker.*

antonyms: dissipate, disperse

- confer** *v.* 1. to bestow (an honor, for example). *The president will confer a medal on the hero.* 2. to hold a conference; consult together.
- advise** to counsel. *It is good to advise the rafters to wear their life jackets at all times.*
- bestow** to give. *The mayor will bestow the keys to the city on the visiting head of state.*
- consult** to talk over. *The patient decided to consult with his doctor about the available treatments for his condition.*
- converse** to talk. *Ed and Matt converse regularly about current events.*
- deliberate** to talk over. *The jury members could deliberate their verdict for more than a week.*
- discuss** to talk over. *The study group might discuss the topics they can investigate together as their semester project.*
- donate** to contribute. *Millions of people donate money to the Red Cross for the emergency relief fund.*
- give** to present. *The book promises to give the true story behind the political campaign last November.*
- grant** to give formally. *The Spanish king would grant large tracts of land to his nobles.*
- talk** to discuss. *Dan and Tom met to talk about where they would like to go on vacation.*
- conscientious** *adj.* thorough and painstaking; careful. *Rhonda is known at the office as a conscientious worker.* See **deliberate**.
- careful** thorough; exact. *She was careful to draw the pattern to the correct size.*
- meticulous** very careful about details. *Joanie keeps meticulous records of her weekly expenses.*
- painstaking** exacting. *It was painstaking work to glue the vase together.*
- scrupulous** very careful. *My father was scrupulous in his planning of the garden.*
- thorough** very careful. *He did a thorough job of assembling the model.*
- antonyms:** negligent, careless
- considerable** *adj.* 1. large in amount, extent, or degree. *It is of considerable importance that you listen to him.* 2. worthy of consideration; important; significant. See **substantial**.
- consistent** *adj.* in agreement; compatible. *His speech was consistent with his earlier remarks on pollution.*
- compatible** agreeing. *The two people seemed quite compatible.*
- constant** not changing. *His constant loyalty is one of his redeeming qualities.*

- faithful** accurate. *She wanted to produce a replica that was faithful to the original.*
- harmonious** agreeing. *We felt very comfortable among such harmonious people.*
- suitable** fitting; proper. *A dress would be suitable for the occasion.*
- unwavering** steady; constant. *Dogs are known for their unwavering devotion to their owners.*
- antonym:** inconsistent

- copies** *n.* 1. imitations or reproductions of something original; duplicates. 2. specimens or examples of printed text or pictures. *At least twenty copies of the lithograph were sold at the art gallery.*
- carbons** copies made with carbon paper. *The files were filled with carbons of letters the manager had sent to the salespeople.*
- duplicates** exact copies. *You should always keep duplicates of business letters.*
- facsimiles** exact copies. *The autographs of the presidents were very good facsimiles of the originals.*
- imitations** likenesses. *Even the art experts found it hard to tell the real paintings and the imitations apart.*
- replicas** copies. *Charlie likes to build replicas of old sailing vessels.*
- reproductions** copies. *The company makes reproductions of eighteenth-century American furniture.*
- transcripts** copies. *To apply for the job, I had to send transcripts of my high school and college records.*
- antonym:** originals
- copy** *v.* 1. to make a copy of. 2. to follow as a model or pattern; imitate. *It is wrong to copy from someone else's paper.*
- duplicate** to make a copy of. *Can you duplicate this material by tomorrow?*
- reproduce** to make a copy of. *This machine can reproduce a letter in two seconds.*
- correction** *n.* 1. the act or instance of correcting. *I had to make a correction in my paper.* 2. something offered or substituted for a mistake or fault.
- alteration** a change. *An author can make an alteration in the manuscript.*
- amendment** a change for improvement. *At his request, she made an amendment in the article.*
- improvement** a change for the better. *Everyone agreed that the new title was an improvement over the old one.*

revision a change; alteration. *Kay got annoyed when the publishers asked for dozens of revisions in the copy.*

courtesy *n.* 1. polite behavior; gracious manner or manners. *My mother always insisted that we treat others with courtesy.* 2. a polite gesture or remark.

civility polite behavior. *Civility is essential if you have a job in which you deal directly with customers.*

consideration thoughtfulness for others. *She showed consideration for her elderly neighbor by carrying his grocery bags up the stairs.*

manners polite ways of behaving. *Good manners require that you write a "Thank-you" note after you receive a gift.*

politeness good manners; polite behavior. *He is known for his charm and politeness.*

thoughtfulness consideration. *Kim's thoughtfulness made a difficult time a little easier for the children.*

antonyms: rudeness, incivility, thoughtlessness



defect *n.* 1. the lack of something necessary or desirable for completion or perfection; deficiency. 2. an imperfection; fault. *A defect in the wiring caused the fan to overheat and short out.*

blemish flaw. *The water spot was the only blemish on the table's polished surface.*

deficiency lack of something necessary or desirable. *Scurvy is caused by a deficiency of vitamin C in the diet.*

failing fault; weakness. *One of my failings is an inability to speak in public.*

fault flaw that spoils perfection. *A fault in the plaster caused the wall to collapse.*

imperfection fault. *The imperfection in the china cup was so tiny that it could not be seen without a magnifying glass.*

shortcoming fault; flaw. *Great-aunt Sarah is quick to point out one's shortcomings while ignoring one's virtues.*

deliberate *adj.* 1. done or said on purpose; intentional. 2. careful and thorough in deciding or determining. *He weighed all the factors before making a deliberate choice. See conscientious.*

careful done with thought and effort. *Arlene wants to do a careful job of restoring the water-damaged painting.*

cautious very careful. *She is cautious about the toys she gives to the baby.*

intentional done on purpose. *The insult was intentional; he knew what he was saying.*

methodical done according to a plan. *Dale approached each task in a methodical way.*

premeditated planned beforehand. *The attorney contended that the crime was premeditated.*

purposeful having an aim or intent. *She moved forward with a purposeful air.*

thorough very careful. *He was very thorough in cleaning up after the flood.*

antonyms: unintentional, haphazard, careless

deliver *v.* to take to the intended recipient. *Dan delivers groceries after school.*

convey to take from one place to another. *Airplanes convey mail across the country.*

transfer to move from one place to another. *Trucks are generally used to transfer goods from one city to another.*

deluxe *adj.* particularly elegant and luxurious; sumptuous. *Ted chose the deluxe sedan over the standard one.*

comfortable giving comfort. *The down coat is soft, warm, and comfortable.*

luxurious very comfortable and beautiful. *The Waldorf-Astoria is a luxurious hotel.*

rich elegant; expensive. *Velvet and satin are rich materials.*

sumptuous magnificent; rich. *The cruise ship provides five sumptuous meals every day.*

antonyms: uncomfortable, poor

demonstration *n.* 1. the act of making evident or proving. 2. conclusive evidence; proof. 3. an illustration or explanation, as of a theory or product, by practical application. *Dave made extra money by giving demonstrations of vacuum cleaners.* 4. a public display of group opinion, as by a rally or march.

display showing; exhibit. *In the display, the jewelry was arranged by color.*

exhibition display; public show. *There are art exhibitions every summer weekend in the village square.*

presentation offering; exhibition. *One critic had seen at least fifteen different presentations of that play.*

descend *v.* 1. to move from a higher to a lower place. 2. to come down from a source; derive. *Paul is descended from an old New England family.*

drop to let fall; cause to fall. *I tried not to drop the glass pitcher on the kitchen floor.*

fall to drop down. *Every autumn the leaves fall from the trees.*

diagram

plunge to jump down. *The swimmer took a running start and plunged into the pool.*

sink to fall slowly. *The ship began to sink after it hit an iceberg.*

antonyms: ascend, rise, soar, climb

diagram *n.* 1. a plan, sketch, drawing, or outline designed to demonstrate or explain how something works or to clarify the relationship between the parts of a whole. *He drew a diagram of his idea for a new lamp on the back of a paper napkin.* 2. a chart or graph.

chart information in lists, pictures, tables, or diagrams. *The chart in the science book shows the life cycle of a wood tick.*

depiction drawing; painting; description. *His depiction of a Canada goose was very lifelike and natural.*

figure picture; drawing; illustration. *Figure A shows the parts of an internal combustion engine.*

graph diagram showing the relationship between two quantities. *You can draw a graph showing the increase in the company's profits over the last ten years.*

illustration picture, diagram, or map used to explain or decorate. *The illustration on page 42 shows one of Georgia O'Keeffe's flower paintings.*

representation likeness; picture. *Alicia was upset because she felt that the representation of her face was unflattering.*

disappointment *n.* the act, condition, or feeling of not satisfying a hope, desire, or expectation. *Andy felt a pang of disappointment when he realized that the bicycle he wanted to buy was gone.*

chagrin feeling of humiliation. *Much to her chagrin, Connie could not remember the words to the song.*

frustration feeling caused by being thwarted. *The baby howled in frustration when he could not reach the toy.*

antonyms: satisfaction, fulfillment

disastrous *adj.* causing widespread destruction and distress. *Hurricane Hugo's sweep across the mainland had disastrous results for thousands of people.*

calamitous causing misery. *The region had been hit by a series of calamitous fires.*

destructive causing ruin. *The recent earthquake in California was not as destructive as the one in 1906.*

dreadful terrible. *The state of the city after the typhoon was dreadful.*

dynamic

ruinous bringing ruin. *The stock market crash was ruinous to his career.*

antonyms: beneficial, useful

dismiss *v.* 1. to discharge, as from employment. 2. to direct or allow to leave. *The general will dismiss the troops.* 3. to discontinue consideration of; drop.

discard to throw away. *Paul had to discard his old track shoes.*

discharge to let go. *The doctor said he would discharge the patient in two weeks.*

reject to throw out as useless. *You can't reject all the bananas because a few have brown spots.*

release to let go. *Dana will release the trout into the river.*

distract *v.* to cause to turn away from the original focus of attention or interest; divert. *The television can distract her from her studies.*

divert to turn aside. *The interruption will divert their attention from his red face.*

fluster to confuse. *Don't fluster Mrs. Connors by singing off-key.*

upset to disturb. *Please don't upset the children by mentioning the lost puppy.*

antonyms: concentrate, attend

drastic *adj.* 1. taking effect violently or rapidly.

2. quite severe or radical in nature; extreme. *The boss took drastic steps to curb excessive spending.*

extreme more than usual. *I thought the decision to ban all imports of fruit from that country was extreme.*

radical extreme. *Giving up his job as a stockbroker and going to work as a laborer represented a radical change for Bob.*

ruthless cruel. *The ruthless dictator imposed heavy taxes on the people.*

severe strict; harsh. *The company placed severe restrictions on access to the computer.*

stringent severe; strict. *Vanessa protested the more stringent curfew rules.*

antonyms: relaxed, indulgent, lenient

dynamic *adj.* characterized by vigor and energy; forceful. *Jackson has a dynamic personality.*

active energetic; busy. *Clara took an active role in establishing the social center.*

energetic active; vigorous. *She did the housework in her usual energetic fashion.*

forceful strong; vigorous. *His forceful manner can be overwhelming at times.*

intense vigorous; extreme. *December is a time of intense activity for merchants.*

vigorous active; forceful. *Even at ninety-one, George was the most vigorous dancer in the group.*

antonyms: languid, passive, sluggish



education *n.* 1. the knowledge or skill obtained or developed by a learning process. 2. the field of study that is concerned with teaching and learning. *Jesse plans to major in education in college and become a first-grade teacher.*

instruction lessons; teaching; education. *Ed had to have forty hours of classroom instruction and eighty hours of flight time before he could get his pilot's license.*

learning knowledge. *Thomas Jefferson was a man of wide and varied learning.*

schooling instruction; education. *Formal schooling may end when you leave school, but education is a lifelong process.*

training practical instruction. *Josie completed her nurse's training at a hospital in her hometown.*

tuition teaching; instruction. *The quality of the tuition at the state university is very high.*

antonyms: illiteracy, ignorance

effect *n.* 1. something brought about by a cause or agent; result. 2. the way in which something acts upon or influences an object. 3. something that produces a specific impression or supports a general design or intention. *The sound effects in the movie really made you think you were on a safari in Africa.*

consequence result; effect. *He did not want to face the consequences of his rudeness.*

force power to influence or control. *He delivered the opening address at the political convention with force and passion.*

intent meaning; significance. *She was puzzled by the intent of the question.*

meaning intent; significance. *I had to read the card three times before I finally grasped its meaning.*

outcome result; consequence. *The reporters waited outside the courtroom to hear the outcome of the trial.*

power influence; right. *The courts have the power to award custody of a child to either parent in a divorce case.*

result something that is caused. *The result of the fight was a bloody nose.*

antonym: cause

elegant *adj.* 1. characterized by or exhibiting either (a) refinement and grace in movement, appearance, or manners, or (b) tasteful richness in form, decoration, or presentation. *Ann gave an elegant dinner for the visiting politician and his entourage.* 2. excellent.

graceful pleasing in movement, form, or proportion. *Angela is a graceful ballet dancer.*

stylish fashionable. *Henry's new apartment was modern and very stylish.*

antonyms: crude, ugly, tasteless

eliminate *v.* 1. to get rid of; remove. 2.a. to leave out or omit from consideration; reject. 2.b. to remove from consideration by defeating, as in a contest. *His opponent tried to eliminate Tony in the first heat.*

exclude to leave out. *The tougher requirements will exclude any student who has not had a recent physical.*

expel to drive out. *Blowing air into the tube will expel the liquid trapped inside.*

omit to leave out. *The list of cast members did mistakenly omit Anna's name.*

reject to refuse; throw out. *Levon decided to reject the possibility that he might not be chosen for the school play.*

remove to get rid of. *A careful inspection will remove all suspicion from the employee.*

antonyms: include, accept

embarrass *v.* 1. to cause to feel self-conscious or ill at ease; disconcert. *She turned bright red at his question when he meant to embarrass her.*

2.a. to beset with difficulties. 2.b. to hinder; impede. 3. to complicate.

annoy to disturb; trouble. *Don't annoy your classmates, please.*

confuse to mix up; bewilder. *Driving on the left side of the road in England did confuse me.*

trouble to disturb. *Jim's reckless behavior does trouble his sister.*

vex to trouble; annoy. *Sean did not mean to vex the professor with his questions.*

antonyms: comfort, console

encourage *v.* 1. to inspire with hope, courage, or confidence; hearten. 2. to give support to; foster. 3. to stimulate. *My mother always encourages me to do the best I can in everything I try.*

promote to contribute to; further. *Proper food, adequate sleep, and moderate exercise will promote good health.*

support to favor; lend strength. *Alice supports Ben's decision to try out for the soccer team.*

endurance

urge to push forward. *Jamie urged me to run for class president.*

antonyms: discourage, daunt, depress, intimidate, dissuade, prevent, obstruct

endurance *n.* the act, quality, or power of withstanding hardship or stress. *Pioneers must have great endurance to begin new lives in forbidding places.*

perseverance determination to achieve a purpose. *Dana won a scholarship with hard work and perseverance.*

persistence refusal to give up. *Alex has the persistence of a bull terrier.*

stamina strength to endure. *Athletes need physical stamina to last through a game.*

tenacity stubbornness. *Owen finished the marathon on tenacity alone.*

antonyms: weakness, cowardice

examination *n.* the act of inspecting, observing, or analyzing, or the state of being inspected, observed, or analyzed. *After careful examination of the store, the police officer concluded that two people were involved in the robbery.*

inquiry search for information. *Shortly after beginning the inquiry, the police arrested two possible suspects in the Riverside district.*

inspection careful examination. *A close inspection revealed that the robbers had worn gloves.*

investigation detailed search or examination. *Several detectives were assigned to the robbery investigation.*

scrutiny close study or examination. *All store employees were kept under close scrutiny after a series of robberies.*

exclusive *adj.* not divided or shared with others. *The club was very exclusive; members had to be voted in by other members.*

single for only one. *That victory was the single most important event in her life so far.*

sole for only one person or group. *The grant gave him the sole right to mine the land for all ores.*

antonyms: general, common

excuse *v.* 1.a. to apologize for. 1.b. to seek to remove the blame from. 2.a. to grant pardon to; forgive. *The manager was able to excuse the worker's tardiness the first time.* 2.b. to make allowances for; overlook. See **forgive**.

exhibition *n.* a display for the public, as of art objects, industrial achievements, or agricultural products. *The exhibition at the museum featured paintings by Monet.* See **demonstration**.

far-fetched

expertise *n.* 1. expert advice or opinion.

2. specialized knowledge or skill. *We need his expertise in furniture restoration.*

knowledge familiarity with a subject. *Her knowledge of horticulture helped make her garden a showplace.*

skill expertness. *It takes skill to be able to paint a portrait.*

specialty special profession, trade, field, etc. *Dwayne's specialty is sixteenth-century English poetry.*

technique special method or system. *Jennie's technique for separating eggs is different from mine.*



facsimile *n.* an exact copy or reproduction, as of a document. *The letter was a good facsimile of the original.* See **copies**.

faculty *n.* 1. a special ability or skill. *Jimmy has an amazing faculty for remembering names and faces.* 2. a body of teachers as distinguished from their students.

ability skill at doing something. *She has a remarkable ability to juggle five tasks at once.*

aptitude talent; ability. *My mother thinks I have an aptitude for music because I can hum tunes after I hear them once.*

capacity ability. *That teacher encourages her students' capacity for hard work.*

competence ability. *I have always envied my brother's competence in math.*

knack special skill. *Mia has a knack for making friends easily.*

skill ability to do something. *It takes skill to wrap a present the way she does.*

talent special ability. *Juan has a talent for training horses.*

antonyms: inability, incapacity, ineptness, weakness, incompetence

far-fetched *adj.* strained or improbable. *The idea the stone could be turned into gold was a little far-fetched.*

bizarre odd or fantastic. *Elly's costume was a bizarre combination of Little Red Riding Hood and a rock star.*

curious odd or strange. *You can sometimes find very curious things at a garage sale.*

strange odd or unusual. *Animals will often exhibit strange behavior before an earthquake occurs.*

unusual rare. *It is unusual for Mr. Simon to be seen without a tie.*

antonyms: typical, normal, everyday, ordinary, average, natural

fatigue *n.* 1. physical or mental weariness resulting from exertion. *Fatigue made it difficult for her to concentrate on the test.* 2. tiring effort or activity; labor.

exhaustion extreme fatigue. *Many of the runners had to drop out of the marathon because of exhaustion.*

lassitude weariness. *The disease is characterized by weight loss and lassitude.*

tiredness weariness. *Monica's tiredness finally wore off after many relaxing days at the cottage.*

weariness tiredness. *Weariness and hunger eventually drove the children into the house.*

antonyms: energy, vigor, enthusiasm

ferocious *adj.* 1. extremely savage; fierce. 2. marked by unrelenting intensity; extreme. *On Friday the Northeast was crippled by a ferocious blizzard.*

cruel causing pain. *It is cruel to laugh at someone in pain.*

fierce savage; wild. *The fierce bear was protecting her cubs.*

savage fierce; cruel. *A mistreated dog can become savage.*

violent forceful; severe. *The battle was brief but violent.*

wild savage. *It was rumored that a wild man lived in the mountain forest.*

antonyms: tame, calm, mild

fluent *adj.* 1. having facility in the use of language. *Melanie is fluent in three languages.* 2.a. flowing effortlessly; polished. 2.b. flowing smoothly; graceful.

flowing moving smoothly. *Her flowing poetry is much admired by the students in her classes.*

glib speaking too smoothly. *Abby offered a glib reason for her tardiness.*

polished smooth; refined. *After weeks of practice, his speaking style had become easier and more polished.*

smooth even; polished. *The experienced politician made a smooth transition from the difficult issue to a safer one.*

voluble talkative. *He is known as a voluble speaker who can easily talk for an hour.*

antonyms: terse, silent, curt

forgive *v.* to excuse for a fault or offense; pardon. *I hope Cathy will forgive me for forgetting her birthday.*

absolve to declare free from blame. *The council might absolve him of any connection with the embezzlement.*

acquit to declare not guilty. *The jury can acquit the defendant.*

excuse to pardon; forgive. *If you will excuse me, I have to leave to make a telephone call.*

pardon to make allowance for. *Grandmother will certainly pardon your behavior if you apologize to her.*

antonyms: blame, condemn, censure



gracious *adj.* 1. characterized by kindness and warm courtesy. *The gracious hostess made sure that her guests enjoyed the dinner.* 2. characterized by charm and beauty; graceful. 3. characterized by elegance and good taste. See **elegant**.

benevolent kind; charitable. *It was a benevolent gesture to give money to the children's home.*

benign kind; gracious. *Her benign face encouraged people to trust her.*

charming pleasing; attractive. *They thought the small boys were charming.*

courteous thoughtful; polite. *The courteous girl gave her seat on the bus to the blind man.*

graceful pleasing. *She rejected the invitation in a graceful manner.*

kind friendly; gentle. *He was kind to the new child in the class.*

antonyms: ungracious, unkind, discourteous, impolite, rude

guarantee *v.* 1. to assume responsibility for the debt, default, or miscarriage of. 2. to assume responsibility for the quality or execution of. 3. to give a guarantee for. *The moving company guaranteed that the furniture would be delivered Friday.*

ensure to make sure or certain. *Elena knew her grades and test scores would ensure her a place at the university.*

pledge to give one's word; promise. *Dan and Tom each pledge to give up smoking for a month.*

promise to give one's word; pledge. *His parents promise to take him to a baseball game for his birthday.*

secure to make sure or certain. *The team members did everything they could to secure a victory.*

warrant to promise. *The building contractor warrants that construction of all his buildings will last for fifty years.*



hesitate *v.* 1.a. to be slow to act, speak, or decide.

1.b. to pause in uncertainty; waiver. 2. to be reluctant. *He seemed to hesitate to ask for help.*

delay to postpone; stop for a while. *Snow will delay the flight to Chicago for five hours.*

falter to waver; hesitate. *Despite the long years of training, Carmen's resolution to become a doctor never faltered.*

fluctuate to vary; waver. *Prices on the stock market fluctuate with every little rumor.*

pause to stop for a while. *Debbie paused in her speech and looked straight at the audience for a moment.*

vacillate to move one way and then another. *During the campaign the politician seemed to vacillate on the major issues.*

waver to be uncertain or undecided. *Jane and I waver between voting "No" and voting "Yes" on the referendum.*

antonyms: resolve, determine, decide, continue

hindrance *n.* 1. the act or condition of being hampered or obstructed. 2. one that hinders; impediment. *Her younger sister was a hindrance to our secret meeting.*

hitch obstacle. *The dinner party proceeded without a hitch.*

impediment obstacle. *They refused to allow any impediment to block their marriage.*

obstacle something in the way. *She overcame every obstacle on her way to recovery from the operation.*

obstruction something in the way. *Receiving permission is not an obstruction to our plan to go fishing.*

antonyms: help, aid, support

honesty *n.* 1. the quality or condition of being honest; integrity. 2. truthfulness; sincerity. *Mr. Parker is known for his honesty in dealing with his customers.*

candor frankness in giving views or opinions. *Jason made his statement with more candor than his mother was comfortable with.*

frankness openness in giving thoughts. *Tanya said with great frankness that she did not like the new outfits.*

integrity honesty; sincerity; uprightness. *Integrity is an important quality in a politician or anyone else in public life.*

sincerity honesty; freedom from deceit. *Thank-you notes should be written with as much sincerity as possible.*

truthfulness honesty, sincerity. *The story of George Washington and the cherry tree tells about the value of truthfulness.*

antonyms: dishonesty, insincerity

hustle *v.* 1. to jostle or shove roughly. 2. informal. to move hurriedly or urgently. 3. informal. to urge forward; hurry along. *Streams of shoppers tried to hustle through the department store aisles.*

bustle to hurry busily. *People often bustle about in preparation for a party.*

hasten to speed; hurry. *The extra hours in the library certainly can hasten the completion of my report.*

hurry to move too quickly. *We must hurry or we will miss the bus!*

scramble to move hurriedly. *People had to scramble to get places in line.*

scurry to hurry. *The children had to scurry to put their toys away before dinner.*

scuttle to run; scurry. *We watched the crab scuttle across the sand and into the grass.*



idle *adj.* 1.a. not in use. 1.b. without a job; unemployed. 2. lazy; shiftless. *Susan likes to stay really busy; she is rarely idle.*

indolent not liking to work. *He led an indolent life, always expecting others to do the work.*

lazy not active. *Tom was too lazy to mow the lawn.*

sluggish moving slowly. *The river was sluggish on the warm summer day.*

antonyms: active, busy, energetic, industrious

immediately *adv.* without delay. *When the call came, she left immediately.*

directly at once. *Be sure to come home directly after the game.*

instantly at once. *He knew instantly that he had come to visit at a bad time.*

immense *adj.* 1. extremely large; huge. 2. immeasurably vast; boundless. *The universe is so immense that its size is impossible for us to comprehend.*

extensive large; far-reaching. *He was promised extensive powers in the new government in return for his contribution.*

great large; big. *A great mountain range stretched for many miles.*

huge large; very big. *The national debt is a huge amount of money.*

vast great; immense. *Millions of years ago, vast oceans covered much of what is now land.*

antonyms: small, tiny, minute

impartial *adj.* not partial or biased; unprejudiced. *My mother was impartial in dealing with my brother and me.*

fair just; honest. *Amy got more than her fair share of the apple.*

just right; fair. *Making us each pay half the cost was a just decision.*

unbiased fair; not prejudiced. *There is no such thing as an unbiased opinion.*

unprejudiced without prejudice; fair. *It is important for a judge to be unprejudiced.*

improve *v.* to advance to a better state or quality; make better. *Dan knows that he needs to improve his reading skills.*

progress to develop; move ahead. *A baby will progress from crawling to walking.*

reform to make better. *Dorothea Dix worked to reform the prison system in the nineteenth century.*

antonyms: ruin, deteriorate, decline, regress

incredible *adj.* too implausible to be believed; unbelievable. *The book told the incredible story of a man who survived for forty-five days in the desert. See remarkable.*

indicate *v.* 1. to demonstrate or point out. *He drew a line on the map to indicate a route.* 2. to state or express briefly.

demonstrate to show or prove. *Can you demonstrate the accuracy of your pitching?*

signify to mean or denote. *What does this dotted line on the map signify?*

insist *v.* to be firm in a demand or course; refuse to yield. *Cesar tried to insist that he was not the one who left the windows open. See compel.*

inspect *v.* to examine carefully and critically, especially for flaws. *I need to inspect the new car thoroughly.*

examine to look at carefully. *The collector needed to examine the stamp with a magnifying glass.*

investigate to examine; search. *The insurance company tried to investigate the cause of the fire.*

scrutinize to examine carefully. *It made me uncomfortable to have so many people scrutinize my work.*

instantly *adv.* at once; immediately. *Casey instantly realized that she had said the wrong thing. See immediately.*

interrupt *v.* 1. to break the continuity or uniformity of. 2. to hinder or stop by breaking in upon. *Please do not interrupt me when I am talking on the telephone.*

cease to stop. *The laughter will cease the minute the lights go out.*

discontinue to put a stop to; give up. *They found it necessary to discontinue that line of clothing.*

intrude to force in. *Why does Amy intrude on people's private conversations?*

suspend to stop for a while. *It was necessary for workers to suspend traffic on the bridge while they cleared the wreckage from the accident.*

antonym: continue



jostle *v.* 1. to come in contact or collide. 2. to make one's way by pushing or elbowing. *We tried to jostle through the crowd in the stadium.* 3. to vie for an advantage or position.

collide to crash together. *We saw the two cars collide at the busy intersection.*

crowd to push; shove. *Excited fans will crowd past the guards onto the field.*

elbow to move through by pushing. *The running back elbowed his way through the defensive line to make a touchdown.*

push to move forward forcefully. *He needed to push his way to the front of the line.*

shove to push roughly. *The big boy might shove the little children out of his way.*



knoll *n.* a small rounded hill or mound; hillock. *The house was built on the top of the knoll.*

dune mound of sand. *The children chased each other up and down the dune.*

hill raised portion of earth. *The old car had a hard time making it up the hill.*

hillock little hill. *He was completely winded, even though he had only climbed a hillock.*

mound small hill. *The pitcher returned to the mound for the final inning.*

L

league *n.* 1. an association of states, organizations, or individuals for common action; alliance.
2. an association of sports teams or clubs that compete chiefly among themselves. 3. a class of competition. Harry is a good golfer, but he is not in the same league as the professionals.

alliance a joining together of people, groups, or nations for some purpose. *In World War II the United States was part of an alliance with western European nations against Germany and Italy.*

association group of people joined together for some purpose. *The bankers' association offers scholarships for qualified students.*

coalition alliance for a special purpose. *The different political parties in the country formed a coalition because no one party commanded a majority of the votes.*

compact agreement. *The compact between the two nations ended the twenty-year war.*

confederation a joining together in an alliance. *The confederation of the colonies was necessary to ensure their protection against larger nations.*

covenant agreement between people or groups. *The temperance groups urged people to sign covenants to stop drinking.*

organization group of people united for a purpose. *Kathleen belongs to several social organizations in her neighborhood.*

union group united for a special purpose. *The environmental groups proposed a union to combine their forces.*

likable *adj.* pleasing; attractive. *She is one of the most likable girls in school.*

agreeable pleasing. *His agreeable manners make him a popular guest at parties.*

attractive inspiring liking; pleasing. *He made me a very attractive job offer.*

congenial agreeable. *The visit was more congenial than she thought it would be.*

pleasing pleasant. *Tad has a pleasing personality; everyone likes him.*

popular liked by many people. *Angela was voted the most popular girl in her class.*

antonyms: unpopular, disliked, disagreeable, obnoxious

M

magnificent *adj.* 1. splendid in appearance; grand.

The king lived in a magnificent palace.

2. outstanding of its kind; superlative.

brilliant splendid. *He was dazzled by the brilliant gleam of the jewels.*

excellent superior; better than others. *He was awarded a grant for his excellent work in biochemistry.*

exquisite lovely. *The flower arrangements on the tables were exquisite.*

gorgeous splendid. *The shop was filled with gorgeous dresses.*

grand beautiful in appearance; high in quality. *Dora felt very shy when she saw the grand surroundings.*

imposing impressive due to size or appearance. *At six feet, six inches and 280 pounds, the governor was an imposing figure.*

impressive able to have an effect on the mind and feelings. *The world-renowned doctor delivered an impressive speech.*

outstanding important; beyond others. *She was offered several scholarships because of her outstanding student academic record.*

splendid grand. *Cinderella was invited to a splendid ball at the palace.*

superb grand; first-rate. *The production of the play was really superb.*

superior excellent; better than others. *Eddie makes a superior apple pie.*

superlative above others; supreme. *The Book of Kells is a superlative example of illuminated manuscript.*

antonyms: poor, sordid, squalid, ugly, dull, plain, insignificant, common, inferior

magnify *v.* 1. to make greater in size; to enlarge.

2. to cause to appear greater or seem more important; exaggerate. 3. to increase the apparent size of, especially by means of a lens. *The scientist used the microscope to magnify the bacterium.*

amplify to enlarge; expand. *The city editor told the reporter to amplify the important points in his story on the mayoral campaign.*

augment to make larger in size or number. *She will augment her education classes by taking two for no credit.*

enlarge to make larger in size. *They tried to enlarge the photograph to make it easier to see the faces of the criminals.*

exaggerate to make something more than it is.

He did exaggerate when he said he traveled four thousand miles a week!

glorify to make something more wonderful than it is. *Sheila tends to glorify all dogs.*

increase to make larger in number or power.

The profits may increase twofold in the next two years.

overstate to exaggerate. *I think he overstated his ability to climb sheer rock walls.*

antonyms: diminish, decrease, shrink, downplay, understate

manage *v.* 1. to direct or administer (a business, for example). 2. to contrive or arrange. *He did manage to get an invitation to the exclusive party.*

administer to direct. *Both teachers were needed to administer the test this morning.*

arrange to plan. *How did you arrange to get two tickets on such short notice?*

conduct to direct. *They conduct all of their business by telephone.*

contrive to plot; scheme. *Elly contrived to get the seat next to the guest of honor.*

control to direct. *Shawn and Mike control the company's purchasing.*

devise to plot; scheme. *He must devise a way to make the fake jewels look like real ones.*

direct to guide; control. *The supervisor will direct the activities of the department.*

handle to direct. *Mr. Gomez will handle the introduction of a new computer system.*

plot to plan. *Chris had to plot how she would get into the hotel unseen.*

scheme to plot; plan. *They always scheme to get what they want without having to work for it.*

antonyms: mismanage, disarrange

menagerie *n.* 1. a collection of live wild animals on exhibition. 2. the enclosure in which wild animals are kept. *The roadside menagerie featured a coyote, a bear, a rattlesnake, and a prairie dog.*

circus traveling show of people and animals.

Al thought it would be exciting to be a clown in the circus.

collection group of things belonging together. *The zoo has an outstanding collection of primates.*

zoo place where animals are kept. *In zoos today vanishing species of animals are preserved.*

miniature *adj.* on a small or greatly reduced scale. *My mother collects miniature furniture for her dollhouse.*

diminutive very small. *The gymnast was diminutive next to the football player.*

minute very small. *Microorganisms are so minute that they can be seen only through a microscope or other magnifier.*

small little; not big. *A toy poodle is a small dog.*

tiny very small. *A Yorkshire terrier is a tiny dog.*

wee very small. *My grandfather likes to tell stories of the days when he was a wee lad in Ireland.*

mistake *n.* 1. an error or fault. 2. a misconception or misunderstanding. *I made a wrong turn by mistake.*

blunder foolish mistake. *I made a second blunder when I mispronounced her last name.*

error incorrect action. *I did not have time to correct the error I made on my math test.*

miscalculation wrong estimate. *Because of my miscalculation, we missed the airplane.*

mix-up *n.* state of confusion; muddle. *Connie's inability to remember names and faces caused many mix-ups.*

chaos great disorder and confusion. *The early morning thunderstorm caused chaos on the expressways.*

mess difficulty. *He is known for his ability to clean up other people's messes.*

mistake misunderstanding; error. *I made a lot of mistakes in my speech because I was nervous.*

problem difficulty; things to be worked out. *Despite problems with the car, the weather, and the hotels, we enjoyed our trip to New York.*

monotonous *adj.* 1. sounded or spoken in an unvarying tone. 2. repetitiously dull or lacking in variety. *The landscape was a monotonous brown.*

dull tiresome; boring. *It was hard to stay awake through the dull movie.*

humdrum dull. *He thought he had a humdrum existence as a grocer.*

tedious long; tiring. *Packing and unpacking boxes is a tedious chore.*

tiresome tiring; boring. *Long car trips are often tiresome.*

uniform not varying. *All the clothes were a uniform color.*

unvaried all alike. *She longed to escape the round of unvaried tasks.*

antonyms: interesting, amusing, diverting

motivate *v.* to provide with an incentive or motive; impel. *His mother used a special treat to motivate Tim to finish his assignment. See **compel**.*

impel to cause to act. *The approaching deadline will impel her to work late.*

mutual

incite to urge on. *He was accused of trying to incite a riot at the rally.*

induce to lead on; persuade. *They used an ad to induce him to try a new kind of shampoo.*

influence to use power to urge on. *He tried to influence the judge's decision in the trial.*

spur to urge on. *Opposition only served to spur the movement to greater efforts.*

stimulate to spur on. *Preschools are designed to help stimulate a child's development.*

mutual *adj.* 1. having the same relationship to the other. 2. directed and received in equal amount. 3. possessed in common. *Our mutual interests include baseball and fishing.*

common joint; held by all alike. *It is a common belief that colds can be caused by cold weather.*

interchangeable able to be exchanged. *The drill I gave Dad for his birthday has interchangeable bits.*

reciprocal on both sides. *The two countries have had a reciprocal trade agreement since 1855.*

antonyms: single, singular

N

noble *adj.* 1. superior in nature or character; exalted. 2. grand and stately in appearance; majestic.

Many western travelers have been inspired by the noble mountain peaks of the Rockies.

august majestic. *The judge seemed to her a wise and august personage.*

exalted raised high in power, honor, or rank. *The followers paid homage to their exalted leader.*

lofty grand. *He often expresses lofty sentiments in his poetry.*

majestic grand; stately. *She strolled into the room with a majestic air.*

stately dignified; grand. *England has many beautiful, stately mansions.*

sublime raised high in feeling, thought, or language. *Calvin was awestruck when he first saw the sublime coastal landscape.*

notify *v.* to give notice to; inform. *The lawyer had to notify his client that the trial was set to begin December 12. See **advise**.*

acquaint to let know. *She asked if someone could show her around and acquaint her with the building's layout.*

advise to inform. *Police officers are required to advise people of their rights.*

apprise to let know. *The tax accountant must apprise his clients of changes in the tax laws that would affect their returns.*

organization

inform to tell. *I intended to inform the clerk that her rude behavior would be reported to the manager at once.*

notion *n.* 1. a belief; opinion. 2. a fanciful impulse; whim. *I got this notion that I would learn to play the harmonica.*

concept notion; idea. *The football coach discussed the concept of fair play.*

idea belief; opinion. *I had a great idea for a costume for the party.*

theory opinion; idea. *David has a theory about the best way to train a dog.*

thought what one thinks. *The essay is supposed to reflect your thoughts on the school elections.*

O

occurrence *n.* 1. an act or instance of occurring or happening. 2. something that takes place; incident. *The accident at that intersection was the fifth such occurrence this year.*

affair happening. *His graduation party was a wild affair.*

appearance a coming into sight. *The appearance of too many white blood cells in the blood sample alarmed the doctor.*

circumstance event; fact. *Getting the first place in line was a fortunate circumstance.*

event happening. *The opening of the Berlin Wall was a major historical event.*

incident event; happening. *She dismissed the fall as a minor incident.*

omit *v.* to fail to include; leave out. *The newspaper inadvertently omitted the telephone number in our classified ad. See **eliminate**.*

organization *n.* 1. the state or manner of being put together into an orderly, functional, structured whole. *She worked a long time on the organization of the office.* 2. a number of persons or groups having specific responsibilities and united for a particular purpose. See **league**.

arrangement ordered parts. *The arrangement of the furniture was intended to make the room wheelchair-accessible.*

design arrangement of color and details. *The design on the tablecloth was burgundy and blue paisley.*

pattern arrangement; design. *The child used a pencil to connect the pattern of dots.*

plan design; scheme. *We made a plan for the vegetable garden.*

scheme coordinated things or parts. *I wanted the color scheme for the bedroom to be blue and white.*

structure arrangement of parts. *The plot provides the structure of the story.*

system parts forming a whole. *The lightning knocked out our telephone system.*

outrageous *adj.* 1. being an outrage; grossly offensive. 2. extravagant; immoderate; extreme. *Steven's behavior at the party was outrageous.*

disgraceful bringing shame. *The child's conduct at the day camp was simply disgraceful, according to the counselor.*

excessive too much. *The management took steps to curb the excessive amount of talking in the theater.*

extravagant going beyond reasonable limits. *The actress is given to making extravagant gestures and movements.*

shameful bringing disgrace. *Aunt Hetty thought it was shameful that Uncle Dick was seen playing billiards in town.*

shocking very offensive. *The official showed a shocking lack of concern for the victims of the fire.*

antonyms: modest, sober, sedate, moderate, reasonable

P

particular *adj.* 1. separate and distinct from others; specific. 2. worthy of note; exceptional. *That discovery was of particular importance because it advanced cancer research.*

distinct definite. *Candace got the distinct impression that Larry was avoiding her.*

extraordinary unusual. *The Voyager missions provided extraordinary pictures of Jupiter and Saturn.*

individual separate; particular. *Each artist expresses an individual vision in his or her work.*

noteworthy remarkable. *Abby's dedication to her job is noteworthy.*

special singular; exceptional. *Jack's special hen laid golden eggs.*

specific particular; definite. *I had no specific reason for wanting to go there.*

unusual uncommon; rare. *It is unusual to see a canary this far north.*

antonyms: general, common, ordinary

peculiar *adj.* 1. unusual or eccentric; odd.

The man muttered to himself and exhibited other peculiar behavior. 2.a. exclusive; unique. 2.b. belonging distinctively or primarily to one person, group, or kind.

bizarre odd. *Are you going to work in that bizarre outfit?*

eccentric odd. *Great-aunt Agatha liked to be thought of as eccentric; she said it meant she was interesting.*

odd strange. *What seems odd to one person may seem perfectly normal to another person.*

strange odd. *It seems strange to me that Allison left without saying good-bye.*

uncommon unusual. *A comet streaking through the sky is an uncommon sight.*

antonyms: usual, common, ordinary

picturesque *adj.* 1. of or suggesting a picture.

2. strikingly expressive or vivid. *Charles Dickens is noted for the picturesque language he used to describe Victorian London.*

colorful exciting; interesting. *Years at sea had made him a colorful character.*

graphic picture-like; vivid. *His graphic description made the picture really come alive for me.*

interesting attention-holding. *The baby found the mobile very interesting.*

scenic having beautiful scenery. *Vermont is crisscrossed by scenic highways.*

striking attention-getting. *The scenery along Highway 1 is particularly striking.*

vivid lively; interesting. *The vivid tale enthralled the children.*

antonyms: uninteresting, dull

prefer *v.* to choose as more desirable; like better. *Barbara Ann likes baths; I prefer showers.*

choose to take one thing over another. *Which candidate did the voters choose?*

elect to choose; select. *I elected to wait until tomorrow to do the laundry.*

favor to approve; prefer. *Clay seemed to favor the Cortland apples over the Red Delicious apples.*

pick to choose; select. *Why did you pick that particular puppy?*

select to choose. *After trying on ten sweaters, Joe selected the navy blue one.*

antonyms: exclude, dislike

premium *n.* an unusual or high value. *My parents always put a premium on honesty.*

bonus something given in addition to what is expected. *The workers were given a bonus of \$100.*

prize a reward won in competition. *Helen won first prize in the spelling bee.*

reward something given for special behavior or service. *Lee offered a \$10 reward for information on the missing cat.*

presently *adv.* in a short time; soon. *Presently Dwayne will leave for school. See briefly.*

shortly in a short time. *Mr. Anderson will see you shortly.*

soon in a short time. *My father said that dinner would be ready soon.*

antonym: later

prior *adj.* preceding in time or order. *She turned down my invitation, saying she had a prior commitment.*

earlier before this time. *My earlier proposal was rejected.*

first coming before all others. *Anita took her first trip to Spain last summer.*

preceding coming before. *The preceding television program was sponsored by a national foundation.*

previous coming before. *He had seen that man on a previous occasion.*

privilege *n.* a special advantage, immunity, permission, right, or benefit granted to or enjoyed by an individual, class, or caste. *Mark always considered it a privilege to work for the senator.*

advantage something favorable or beneficial. *His height was an advantage in playing basketball.*

benefit advantage. *One of the benefits of this job is the opportunity to travel.*

franchise privilege or right granted to a particular person or company. *He was given the franchise to sell plastic doilies in the Midwest.*

immunity exemption from something. *The witness was offered immunity from prosecution if she would testify.*

permission consent to do something. *I had to have my parents' permission to go on the field trip.*

prerogative special right or privilege. *It is a person's prerogative to make up his or her own mind.*

right something that is due to a person. *A democracy guarantees certain rights to all its citizens.*

pursue *v.* 1. to follow in an effort to overtake or capture; chase. *The police had to pursue the car thief to the state line.* 2. to strive to gain or accomplish. 3. to proceed along the course of; follow.

chase to go after; to catch. *Every morning the cat would chase the squirrel around the backyard.*

follow to pursue. *The bears follow the fish up the river and catch them near the dam.*

hunt to look for. *Cheryl likes to hunt through every store in town for the perfect gift for her mother.*

search to look for. *I will search the whole house until I find my black glove.*

seek to look for. *Let's play a game; you hide and I will seek you.*

stalk to pursue carefully. *We watched the fox quietly and patiently stalk the field mouse.*

trace to follow; trail. *Computer records can be used to trace missing people.*

track to follow; trail. *Lee was able to track Henry to the record store at the mall.*

antonyms: avoid, desert, escape, retreat



questionable *adj.* 1. open to doubt or challenge; problematic. *Joey's choice of outfit was questionable at best.* 2. not yet determined or specified; uncertain.

debatable not decided. *Whether we will go on vacation this year is debatable.*

doubtful open to question; uncertain. *I was doubtful about Serena's ability to sing at such a large gathering.*

dubious uncertain. *Charlie has a dubious future as an artist.*

uncertain doubtful. *She was uncertain about whether they had met before.*

antonyms: certain, sure, positive

quick-witted *adj.* mentally alert and sharp; keen. *Sally is quick-witted in a crisis; she always knows what to do.*

bright quick-witted; clever. *Joe had the bright idea of gluing the lamp back together again.*

clever smart; intelligent. *The clever baby can put the puzzle pieces together.*

intelligent quick to learn and understand. *Apes are intelligent animals.*

antonyms: stupid, dumb, slow, dim-witted



reasonable *adj.* 1. capable of reasoning; rational. 2. not excessive or extreme; fair. *That particular store has very reasonable prices.*

logical able to reason. *Abby always plans her projects in a logical, step-by-step fashion.*

moderate not extreme. *David has a moderate lifestyle and lives well within his means.*

rational able to reason; sensible. *Was it the act of a rational human being to eat four pepperoni pizzas?*

sane normal; rational. *Off the football field, he behaves like a sane person.*

sensible having good sense. *The only sensible course was to apologize and leave as quickly as possible.*

antonyms: unreasonable, illogical, irrational, intolerable, unsound

remarkable *adj.* 1. worthy of notice.

2. extraordinary; uncommon. *Mary has a remarkable facility for learning foreign languages.*

extraordinary very unusual. *Donald's grandmother lived to the extraordinary age of 106.*

incredible unbelievable. *It seems incredible to me that she could do such a thing.*

notable important. *The annual charity ball is a notable event of the season.*

rare unusual. *An eclipse of the moon is a rare occurrence.*

uncommon unusual. *Chester is an uncommon cat; he can open and close doors.*

unusual not usual. *It is unusual for Annie to stay at work past five o'clock.*

antonyms: common, usual, ordinary

replica *n.* 1. a copy or reproduction of a work of art, especially one made by the original artist. 2. a copy or reproduction. *He was noted for his replicas of well-known sculptures. See **copies**.*

requirement *n.* 1. something that is required; necessity. 2. something obligatory; prerequisite. *A requirement of the course is a paper on an aspect of American foreign policy.*

claim something demanded. *After the accident several people filed claims with the insurance company.*

demand something claimed. *Tony's schedule of sports and activities puts many demands on his time and energy.*

necessity something wanted. *Qualified accountants were a necessity for the company.*

requisite something needed. *Love and attention are requisites for babies.*

resign *v.* 1. to submit (oneself) passively; accept as inevitable. 2. to give up (a position), especially by formal notification; quit. *Mr. Mores decided to resign from his job as a salesman to go back to school.*

abandon to give up completely. *Sheila had to abandon the attempt to haul the box upstairs by herself.*

abdicate to give up; resign. *A king may abdicate his throne.*

cede to give up. *The farmer had to cede his land to the state for a highway.*

forego to give up; do without. *I must forego butter and sour cream on my baked potato.*

quit to give up. *Jay quit his after-school job to join the chess club.*

relinquish to give up; let go. *I reluctantly relinquished my request for the last piece of pie.*

renounce to give up; do without. *Cynthia had to renounce her claim on the grand prize.*

submit to yield. *The king occasionally submitted to the wishes of his wife.*

surrender to give up; yield. *The knight was able to force his opponent to surrender.*

yield to give up. *We yield the right-of-way at this intersection.*

resist *v.* 1. to strive or work against; oppose actively.

2. to remain firm against the action or effect of; withstand. 3. to keep from giving in to or enjoying. *I had to resist the temptation to yell back at the rude cabdriver.*

assail to attack. *She tried to assail the speaker's claim that no one wanted the pollution laws enforced to their full extent.*

attack to begin fighting. *The politician began to attack her opponent's position on income tax increases.*

oppose to fight against. *The student council will oppose the plan to limit access to the gym after school hours.*

rebuff to reject. *He tried to rebuff the notion that he had done anything improper.*

refrain to hold back. *Sue decided to refrain from telling George that he was right.*

withstand to hold out against. *We feared the house might not withstand the fierce wind.*

respect *v.* 1. to feel or show deferential regard for; esteem. *My family has always respected my need for privacy.* 2. to relate or refer to; concern.

admire to think highly of. *Cecil admired her ability to remember the minute details of every contract.*

esteem to think highly of. *I esteem her opinion; she is often right.*

honor to think highly of; respect. *The professor's students honored her in a special farewell dinner.*

revolve

revere to honor; respect. *Native American cultures revere the land and its resources.*

venerate to revere; respect. *They venerated their ancestors and their homeland.*

antonyms: dislike, hate, loathe, abhor, detest

revolve *v.* 1. to orbit a central point. *Earth revolves around the sun.* 2. to turn on an axis; rotate.

circle to move in a ring. *The dog spied the cat and began to circle the tree.*

orbit to move in a path around a heavenly body. *There are dozens of satellites that orbit Earth.*

roll to turn over and over. *The dog rolled the ball back to the child.*

rotate to move in a circle. *When you turn the handle, the wheels rotate.*

spin to turn around. *If you twist it just right, the top will spin for five minutes.*

turn to rotate. *Every time the mobile turned, the baby smiled and giggled.*

rustic *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, or typical of country life. *Built to look like a rustic barn, the house would have fit in better in the country.* 2. simple and unsophisticated.

country of the country. *Their country ways included being friendly to strangers and helpful to everyone.*

plain simple; uncomplicated. *The plain clapboard house could be clearly seen from miles away.*

rural in the country. *Many people prefer the quieter rural life.*

simple plain; natural. *They enjoyed the simple pleasures of farm life.*

unsophisticated simple; natural. *Some city people regard country life as unsophisticated.*

antonyms: urban, city, sophisticated

S

salary *n.* a fixed compensation for services, paid to a person on a regular basis. *Dave receives a 5 percent increase in salary every year.*

earnings money earned. *The government requires that you report your earnings.*

income money from work, investments, etc. *They could live very well on their combined incomes.*

pay money for work. *When she left the company to start her own, she had to take a cut in pay.*

wages money for work. *Angie receives the wages from her part-time job every Friday afternoon.*

souvenir *n.* something serving as a token of remembrance; memento. *Tess bought a picture made of seashells as a souvenir of her Florida trip.*

stationary

keepsake something kept in memory of the giver.

The gold flower charm was a keepsake from her friend Stacy.

memento reminder; remembrance. *The shelves in Dana's room are filled with mementos of her travels.*

remembrance souvenir; keepsake. *The portrait in the hall was a remembrance from her grandmother's house.*

reminder something to help one remember. *He kept the smooth stone as a reminder of the river trip.*

spacious *adj.* 1. providing or having much space or room; extensive. 2. vast in range or scope. *The huge windows offer a spacious view of the surrounding mountains.*

ample roomy; large. *The day-care center is ample enough for one hundred children.*

capacious roomy; large. *Troy needs a capacious storage place for his collection of model trains.*

extensive large. *He planned an extensive addition to the house.*

huge very big. *The living room in the new house is huge.*

vast immense. *The city covers a vast amount of land.*

antonyms: crowded, cramped, small

spectacular *adj.* of the nature of a spectacle; sensational. *The view from the top of the tower is spectacular. See magnificent.*

stampede *v.* 1. to move in a headlong rush. 2. to act on impulse. *The storm caused the cattle to stampede to the river.*

flee to run away. *Amy wanted to flee, but her feet felt too heavy to move.*

frighten to drive away by scaring. *The big dog will frighten the cats away.*

panic to lose control through fear. *I always panic when I am in a small space.*

scare to frighten away. *The forest fire began to scare away the campers.*

stationary *adj.* 1.a. not moving. 1.b. not capable of being moved; fixed. *A building is a stationary object.* 2. unchanging.

inactive not active. *The broken leg kept him inactive all summer.*

motionless not moving. *The cat sat motionless, watching the birds on the patio.*

antonyms: active, energetic

strict *adj.* 1. precise; exact. 2. complete; absolute. 3. kept within narrow and specific limits. *Judge Dawson is known for his strict application of the law.* 4. imposing an exacting discipline.

accurate correct; exact. *The clock kept very accurate time.*

exact correct; accurate. *She was careful to take the exact amount of medicine.*

inflexible rigid; unyielding. *She tends to be inflexible on matters of money.*

precise correct; accurate. *The floor plan was drawn using precise measurements.*

rigid not changing. *Mr. Porteous is very rigid in his views on punctuality.*

severe stern; harsh. *We have had five severe winters in a row.*

stern firm; hard. *His stern face indicated that we were in terrible trouble.*

stiff not easily bent. *The man felt stiff and uncomfortable around children.*

unyielding not giving way. *Doris has an unyielding desire to become a dancer.*

antonyms: inexact, inaccurate, imprecise, flexible, yielding, compliant

substantial *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, or having substance; material. 2. ample; sustaining. 3. considerable in importance, value, degree, amount, or extent. *He owes the IRS a substantial sum of money.*

actual existing; real. *As it turned out, the actual event was not as frightening as she had feared it would be.*

ample more than enough. *We have ample time to plan our next tour.*

considerable much; important. *I put a considerable amount of time and effort into my paper on children's literature.*

firm solid; hard. *Jeff stood firm against the pushing of the excited crowd.*

important having significance or value. *Getting a driver's license is an important event in a teenager's life.*

material physical. *The material world mattered to her more than the spiritual.*

real existing; actual. *The real reason they left is that they did not want to see him.*

significant important. *The visit was significant because it was the first time he had met his in-laws.*

sizable large. *Grandfather placed a sizable portion of turkey on my plate.*

solid firm; hard. *After the earthquake, the citizens could no longer depend on having solid ground under their feet.*

stable firm; steady. *Even with the extra weight on it, the platform remained stable.*

antonyms: insubstantial, immaterial, trivial, minor, insignificant, unstable, unsound, unimportant

sufficient *adj.* as much as is needed; enough; adequate. *The castaways had sufficient food to survive for several weeks on the island.*

adequate as much as is needed. *He was provided with adequate food and hotel accommodations.*

ample as much as is needed. *Five dollars is ample money for lunch.*

enough as much as is needed or wanted. *Does she have enough money with her to pay for the theater tickets?*

satisfactory adequate; good enough. *We agreed upon a satisfactory amount for a weekly allowance.*

antonyms: insufficient, inadequate

support *v.* 1. to bear the weight of, especially from below. 2. to hold in position so as to keep from falling, sinking, or slipping. *Denise struggled to support the ladder that Harold was climbing on.*

bear to hold up. *The roof could not bear the weight of that many men.*

sustain to hold up. *The bridge's towers help to sustain the weight of many vehicles.*

antonyms: drop, demolish, crush

surrender *v.* 1. to relinquish possession or control of to another because of demand or compulsion. 2. to give up in favor of another. 3. to give up or abandon. *After the opposing team got a fourth touchdown in the first quarter, we surrendered all hope of victory.* 4. to give oneself up, as to an enemy. See **resign**.

capitulate to surrender. *I will capitulate now only if you promise me a rematch next week.*

relinquish to give up. *Prince John was made to relinquish his claim to the crown.*

yield to give up. *He was forced to yield to the stronger wrestler.*

antonyms: win, defeat, conquer, vanquish, triumph, succeed

T

thieves *n.* people who steal. *The thieves left dozens of fingerprints in the house.*

bandits robbers or thieves, usually a group.

According to legend, Robin Hood and his men were bandits who lived in Sherwood Forest.

burglars people who enter buildings to steal.

Dead bolts and alarm systems can help deter burglars.

muggers people who attack and rob people.

Muggers will hesitate to attack several people traveling together.

pickpockets people who steal from people's pockets. *In Oliver Twist, Fagin was the leader of a gang of pickpockets.*

robbers people who take things by force. *The police caught the robbers when they tried to sell the stolen merchandise.*

thoroughly *adv.* 1. exhaustively, completely.

2. painstakingly, accurately. 3. satisfactorily, completely. *After reading every book she could find on koalas, Sue was thoroughly familiar with the animal.*

carefully in an exacting way. *Zia dug around the roots of the plant carefully before transplanting it.*

completely entirely. *Jack was completely exhausted after working sixteen hours at his computer.*

entirely completely. *Whether we go on or turn back is entirely up to you.*

totally wholly; entirely. *The village was totally destroyed by the volcanic eruption.*

thoughtfulness *n.* regard for others; consideration.

She showed her thoughtfulness by sending cards to her friends on all kinds of occasions. See courtesy.

tornado *n.* a rotating column of air usually accompanied by a funnel-shaped downward extension of a cumulonimbus cloud and having a vortex several hundred yards in diameter whirling destructively at speeds up to 300 miles per hour. *The tornado that hit our town last spring uprooted trees and overturned mobile homes.*

cyclone tornado. *In The Wizard of Oz, a cyclone picked up Dorothy's house and carried it to Oz.*

twister informal name for a tornado. *Ellen lives in a part of the country where twisters are very common.*

waterspout tornado occurring over a body of water. *The people on the boat stared in amazement at the huge waterspout twirling on the horizon.*

whirlwind windstorm in which the air whirls around violently. *The whirlwind picked up all the leaves and debris and pulled them up into the air.*

transmit *v.* to send from one person, thing, or place to another; convey. *It is easy to transmit a cold from one person to another.*

carry to take from one place to another. *She will carry the baby to the car.*

convey to carry from one place to another. *Trucks convey goods across the country.*

dispatch to send off for a reason. *The colonel will dispatch a messenger to carry important information to headquarters.*

forward to send on. *The post office will forward her letters to her new address.*

send to cause to go from one place to another. *If you misbehave once more, the principal may send you home.*

transfer to move from one place to another. *My mother got transferred every two years when I was growing up.*

transport to carry from one place to another. *Buses were used to transport the children to the summer camp.*



underestimate *v.* to make too low an estimate of the quantity, degree, or worth of. *Tom and Joe always underestimate the amount of time they need to spend studying for the math tests.*

belittle to make seem less. *I belittle my writing because it does not seem good enough to take seriously.*

depreciate to devalue; lessen. *An appliance begins to depreciate as soon as it leaves the store.*

underrate to put too low a value on. *I think the coaches underrate Ed's pitching ability.*

undervalue to put too low a value on. *People tend to undervalue the importance of fiber in their diet.*

unexpected *adj.* coming without warning; unforeseen. *The invitation to the grand ball was unexpected.*

abrupt sudden. *The conversation came to an abrupt halt when Joey mentioned that he had his pet snake with him.*

sudden happening without warning. *Anna was hit by a sudden gust of wind.*

surprising causing astonishment. *Why do you find it so surprising that I can play the piano without being able to read music?*

unanticipated not thought of beforehand. *Sharon is experiencing some unanticipated side effects from the chemotherapy.*

unforeseen not known beforehand. *The tremendous demand for tickets was unforeseen by the new theater owners.*

antonyms: expected, foreseen, anticipated, gradual

uninterested *adj.* 1. without an interest. *They were uninterested parties in the lawsuit.* 2. not paying attention.

inattentive paying no attention. *I must apologize for being inattentive during the council meeting.*

indifferent having no interest. *Jason loved the movie, but Jane was indifferent.*

unconcerned not interested. *He seemed unconcerned about his own safety.*

antonym: interested

unique *adj.* 1. being the only one of its kind; sole. 2. being without an equal or equivalent. *The study tour was a unique opportunity to see Russia.*

alone with nothing more. *Money alone cannot guarantee happiness.*

only sole. *Andy is an only child.*

peerless unequaled. *Dave's peerless performance on the court brought the spectators to their feet.*

singular only one. *The signing of the treaty was a singular event in the course of Western European history.*

sole one and only. *She was the sole support of her mother and her brothers.*

unequaled no equal. *The Great Barrier Reef is a place of unequaled beauty.*

antonyms: common, usual

unite *v.* 1. to bring together so as to form a whole. 2. to combine (people) in interest, attitude, or action. *The neighbors needed to unite to fight street crime.*

associate to connect. *I associate red hearts with Valentine's Day.*

blend to mix together completely. *Have you ever tried to blend oil and water?*

combine to join things together. *The teacher combines kindness with firmness in handling her class of preschoolers.*

compound to mix; combine. *The scientist tried to compound several elements in her most recent experiment.*

connect to join; link. *The diagram showed Part A connected to Part G.*

couple to join together. *Dad will couple the car and the trailer.*

fuse to blend. *The fire can fuse the coins into a single mass.*

incorporate to add or blend. *Remember to incorporate the new information in your weekly report.*

join to combine. *We should join forces with our neighbors to fight the zoning changes.*

link to join; connect. *He did not want his name linked with the plan.*

antonyms: separate, sever

urgent *adj.* 1. compelling immediate action; imperative. 2. conveying a sense of pressing importance. *The caller left an urgent message.*

immediate without delay. *The Red Cross can bring immediate aid to the victims of natural disasters.*

imperative necessary; urgent. *It is imperative that we find the missing key.*

insistent demanding attention. *The dog's insistent barking warned the family of uninvited guests.*

pressing needing immediate attention. *After the storm, our most pressing need was fresh batteries.*

antonyms: unimportant, insignificant, trivial

usually *adv.* 1. commonly or frequently encountered, experienced, observed, or used. 2. habitually or customarily; particularly. *The baby usually takes a nap every day at about two o'clock.*

commonly generally. *Children commonly start school at the age of five.*

frequently often. *I frequently use my lunch hour to run errands.*

generally most of the time. *Claudia is generally able to handle any kind of domestic problem.*

ordinarily generally. *Juan ordinarily attends computer classes on Saturday.*

regularly in a fixed manner; habitually. *Exercising regularly is an important part of a healthy lifestyle.*

antonyms: rarely, infrequently, seldom



vague *adj.* 1. not clearly expressed or outlined. The vague instructions made it hard to know how to put the kit together. 2. not thinking or expressing oneself clearly. *She was vague about her future plans.*

dim not distinct. *The lighting in the room was too dim for me to see her face clearly.*

indefinite not clear. *The precise date of the exam is indefinite.*

obscure not clear. *Tina found the meaning of the poem obscure.*

uncertain indefinite. *He sounded uncertain when Jan asked him what his plans for the summer were.*

unsure uncertain. *Leon is unsure of his future with the company.*

antonyms: clear, definite, specific

verify *v.* 1. to prove the truth of by the presentation of evidence or testimony; substantiate. 2. to determine or test the truth or accuracy of, as by comparison, investigation, or reference. *A good scientist will conduct numerous experiments to verify a hypothesis before publishing a new theory.*

prove to show to be right and true. *You will have to prove your theory.*

substantiate to establish by evidence. *The insurance agent had to see the damage to substantiate our claim.*

antonyms: disprove, refute, invalidate

versatile *adj.* 1. capable of doing many things competently. 2. having varied uses or serving many functions. *That versatile tool can be used as a hammer, a screwdriver, or a wrench.*

adroit having skill with the body or the mind. *No matter what the question, she was adroit in providing answers.*

all-around able to do many things. *Jean is a good all-around student; she handles all her subjects equally well.*

competent able. *She is a competent driver.*

dexterous having skill with the hands or the mind. *Maria is dexterous from years of playing the piano.*

diverse varied; different. *The people at the convention were a diverse group.*

diversified varied. *His diversified interests meant that he did not spend much time on any one activity.*

multifarious many, varied. *For multifarious reasons, she had to drop out of the play.*

skillful having skill. *He is a skillful electrician.*

sundry several; varied. *He finally finished the report after sundry excuses.*



well-known *adj.* widely known; familiar or famous. *J.P. Thatcher is well-known in literary circles.*

celebrated much talked about. *Joe was eager to get the autograph of the celebrated actress.*

famous noted; acclaimed. *Janice is famous for her apple pies.*

renowned famous. *The renowned pianist is playing a concert on Saturday night.*

antonyms: unknown, obscure, modest

witness *v.* 1. to be present at or have personal knowledge of. 2. to provide or serve as evidence of. 3. to testify to; bear witness. *Mrs. Garson witnessed the robbery that took place on First Street last Tuesday.*

notice to see or detect. *Kate noticed that the fish seemed to prefer the dried flakes.*

observe to see. *Matt could observe that the birds preferred the cracked corn.*