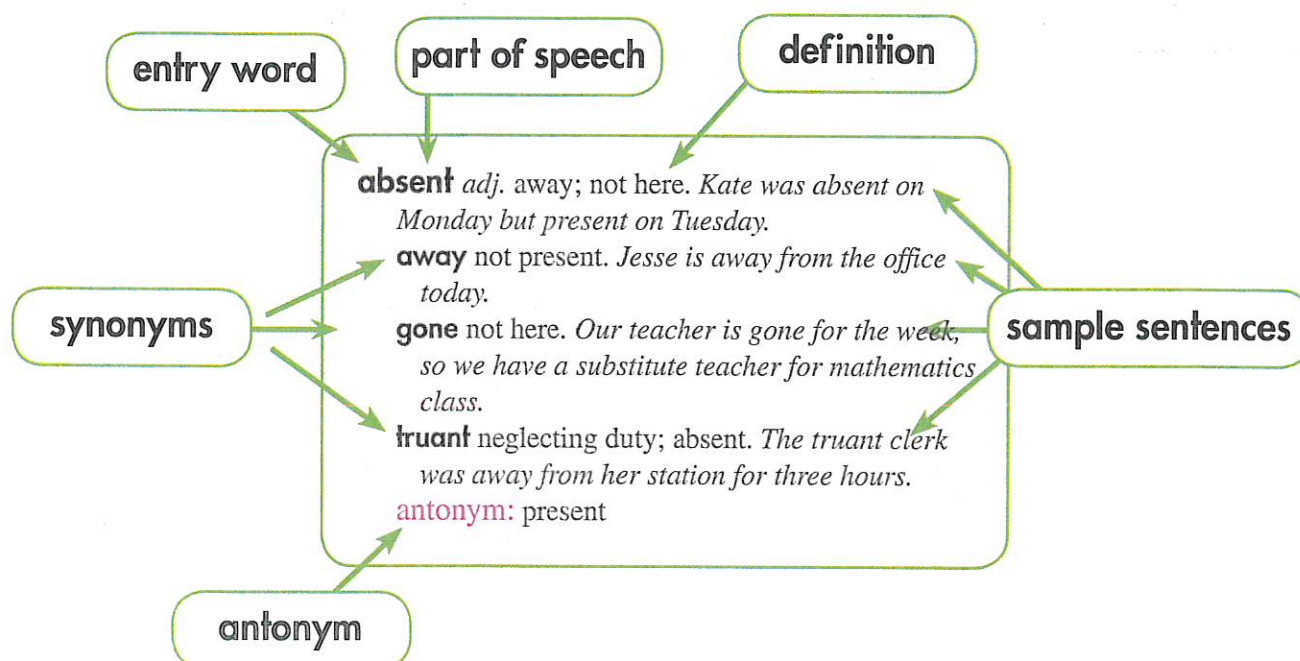


Using the 4th Grade Thesaurus

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.





- absent** *adj.* away; not here. *Kate was absent on Monday but present on Tuesday.*
- away** not present. *Jesse is away from the office today.*
- gone** not here. *Our teacher is gone for the week, so we have a substitute teacher for mathematics class.*
- truant** neglecting duty; absent. *The truant clerk was away from her station for three hours.*
- antonym:** present
- accurate** *adj.* correct; without mistakes. *The witness's testimony was accurate and consistent with the evidence.*
- definite** clear or exact. *The flight attendant gave a definite time for the flight's departure from the airport.*
- exact** precise; correct. *She noted the exact location of the accident.*
- factual** concerned with facts; truthful. *Horace gave a factual account of the game's ending.*
- precise** correct; exact. *Because the kit had precise directions, we could build the birdhouse easily.*
- unerring** without mistakes. *Because of her unerring performance, she was sure to win the gold medal.*
- antonyms:** incorrect, wrong
- accuse** *v.* to blame for wrongdoing. *The police did accuse him of speeding and reckless driving.*
- blame** to hold responsible for. *No one would blame you for mistaking one twin for the other.*
- censure** to criticize. *For not having the proper data in his research report, the decision was made to censure him.*
- criticize** to find fault with. *Do not criticize him until you know all the facts.*
- reproach** to blame. *Be a person of good character so no one can reproach you.*
- achieve** *v.* to reach; accomplish. *If you wish to achieve success, you must work hard.*
- accomplish** to succeed in completing. *We will accomplish the task in record time.*
- attain** to arrive at; gain. *She will attain her goal through hard work.*
- antonym:** fail

- 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. *Felipe 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.*
- admit** *v.* to acknowledge; confess. *The mayor did admit that she had not been aware of the problem.*
- acknowledge** to admit to be true. *The accountant must acknowledge that the mistake on the books was her fault.*
- concede** to admit as true. *The actor had to concede that he had not learned his lines on time.*
- confess** to own up; admit. *Sami confessed that the floor was flooded because he had left the water running in the sink.*
- reveal** to make known. *The investigation might reveal that the mistake was due to computer error.*
- adorable** *adj.* lovable; charming. *The stuffed animals were cuddly and adorable.*
- attractive** pleasing. *My brother and his wife are an attractive couple.*
- captivating** charming; fascinating. *The story is a captivating tale of two best friends.*
- charming** delightful; adorable. *The children in the play were totally charming.*
- cute** good-looking and lovable. *That baby is so cute and sweet!*
- darling** dear and attractive. *Your new puppy is just darling.*
- advance** *v.* to go forward. *Please advance to the front of the line.*
- forge ahead** to move forward. *She needed to forge ahead to win the race by just a few steps.*
- proceed** to move forward. *The cars continued to proceed slowly through the dangerous intersection.*

progress to go ahead. *The work on the new bridge continued to progress on schedule.*

promote to advance; move upward. *I was promoted to seventh grade.*

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. *Mara 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. *Nikki 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. *Chen 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.*

aged adj. old; having lived long. *The aged man was having difficulty walking.*

ancient very old; of great age. *The Colosseum is one of Rome's ancient ruins.*

elderly old. *In this program, elderly men and women spend time teaching the young children in the day-care center.*

antonym: young

amateur n. a person who participates in activities for fun, not money. *Even an amateur can become skillful with regular practice.*

hobbyist amateur. *The hobbyist compared his paintings to those displayed by the professionals.*

nonprofessional not professional; amateur. *In this tournament, a nonprofessional played with the golf pros.*

amaze v. to surprise or astonish. *The acrobat's ability to do high jumps really did amaze us.*

astound to surprise greatly; astonish. *The cost of the project continues to astound us.*

dazzle to astonish; overwhelm with beauty. *The splendor of the mansion will dazzle the tourists.*

fascinate to strongly attract or charm. *Tonight's featured news stories fascinate me.*

stun to overwhelm; shock; surprise. *The damage caused by the storm has to stun even the weather bureau.*

antisocial adj. avoiding the company of others. *It is a mistake to assume that a shy person is deliberately antisocial.*

hostile unfriendly; not sociable. *He gave me such a hostile look that I knew he did not want to be disturbed.*

unfriendly not friendly; hostile. *The unfriendly dog frightened me.*

unsociable not friendly; antisocial. *The child's parents scolded her for displaying unsociable behavior at the restaurant.*

appreciate v. 1. to see the value of something. *The recital made us appreciate my brother's hours of piano practice.* 2. to be thankful for. *I appreciate your help.*

be grateful to be thankful. *Sandra should be grateful for the opportunity to visit Paris.*

prize to highly value. *The actor seems to prize his privacy.*

value to think highly of. *I truly value my right to vote.*

approve v. 1. to give official consent to. *The board needs to approve the plans for the new gym.* 2. to have a good opinion of. *Do you approve of his choice of colors?*

accept to consent to. *The park manager must accept the bid for repairing the tennis courts.*

commend to praise; approve. *My instructor stopped to commend me for my performance in the play.*

endorse to support; approve. *The political party will endorse the president's reelection campaign.*

ratify to confirm; approve. *Both houses of Congress must ratify the law.*

aptitude *n.* a talent or ability for learning. *She has an aptitude for languages; she speaks French, German, and Italian.*

ability capability; power to do. *The runner had the ability to run the marathon in record time.*

capability ability to learn to do. *He has the capability to learn how to operate the new computer system.*

faculty ability; power to do something. *Her faculty to understand difficult ideas is admired by the entire staff.*

flair talent. *The artist had a flair for combining color and light in his paintings.*

sense power to perceive. *The reporter had the good sense not to pursue that line of questioning.*

talent natural ability. *Because of her talent, Donna was a soloist in the school's chorus.*

assign *v.* 1. to give out; distribute. *Our teacher does assign us homework every evening.* 2. to appoint to a position. *The teacher will assign him to be hall monitor this month.*

appoint to name for an office; select. *They decided to appoint Henry chairperson of the special events committee.*

commission to appoint; give authority to. *The committee voted to commission this artist to paint the president's portrait.*

consign to give out; deliver. *Which airfreight company did you consign the shipment to?*

delegate to appoint or send. *We decided to delegate Mitch to represent us at the meeting.*

name to appoint; choose. *The president of the company will name Carole vice president of marketing.*

associate *v.* to think of as related. *Most people associate tears with sadness, but many people cry when they are happy.*

connect to link; think of in relation to. *Many people connect seeing a robin for the first time with the beginning of spring.*

correlate to relate to another. *Did you correlate your choice of classes with your career goals?*



baffle *v.* to puzzle; bewilder. *The riddles will baffle the students.*

bewilder to puzzle; confuse completely. *All the aisles of shelves in the library bewilder Trisha and remind her of a maze.*

confound to puzzle; confuse. *The lack of detail in the instructions did confound me.*

confuse to bewilder. *Driving on diagonal streets can confuse my sense of direction.*

perplex to bewilder; confuse; puzzle. *The results of the student's experiment did perplex the professor.*

puzzle to perplex; baffle. *Tom's solution to that math problem did puzzle me.*

balance *v.* to make both sides equal; to weigh or measure in or as in a balance. *The clown tried to balance a chair on his head.*

equalize to make even; balance. *Tara attempted to equalize her study time and the time for swimming practice.*

offset to balance or set off. *The trip to Mexico offset the long hours of work needed to complete the project.*

barely *adv.* hardly; scarcely. *We could barely see the cars because of the fog.*

hardly only just; barely. *The teacher had hardly any time to prepare the students for the contest.*

only just barely; hardly. *He had only just begun to sing when the sound system broke down.*

scarcely barely; not quite. *Scarcely anyone was in the theater when I arrived for the second show.*

beyond *prep.* in a place farther away than; past. *The grocery store is just beyond the park.*

after behind. *Turn left after the second light.*

past farther on than. *If you go past the school, you have driven too far and you should turn around.*

browse *v.* 1. to look at in a leisurely way; skim through. *Sam began to browse through the magazines in the dentist's office.* 2. to feed on leaves. *Giraffes browse on tall trees.*

graze to feed on grass or trees. *After we milked the cows, we sent them out to the field to graze.*

scan to glance at; skim. *Looking for store coupons, Rosa needed to scan the ads in the newspaper.*
thumb through to browse; look casually. *Jackie will thumb through the mystery books in the library to find one that interests her.*



cancel *v.* to do away with; to call off. *The official had to cancel the game because of rain.*
neutralize to make neutral; to stop something from taking effect. *The antidote will neutralize the effect of the poison.*
repeal to take back; do away with. *Congress will repeal the unpopular tax law during the current session.*
revoke to withdraw; cancel. *The city can revoke a building permit if building codes are violated.*
capable *adj.* having the skill to; able to. *She is capable of fixing almost any machine.*
able having skill; capable. *Norm is able to swim thirty laps at a time.*
competent able; qualified. *Rose is a competent news reporter who always checks the facts of a story.*
proficient skilled; expert. *Kathryn is a proficient reader and speller.*
qualified competent. *Marietta was one of the qualified job applicants.*
carefully *adv.* with care; cautiously or thoroughly. *Peter dusted the tiny figurines carefully.*
cautiously very carefully; not taking any chances. *Victor cautiously approached the intersection where the accident had occurred.*
conscientiously careful to do the right thing. *Anita conscientiously attended each lecture in the series.*
gingerly very cautiously. *Anton gingerly picked up the pieces of broken glass.*
painstakingly very carefully; scrupulously. *Tina painstakingly fitted together all the pieces of the 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle.*
thoroughly very carefully, completing an entire task. *The vet thoroughly examined the injured bird.*
cautious *adj.* careful; keeping away from danger. *The bus driver was cautious in the storm.*

careful showing care; watchful. *Carole was very careful while driving on the icy roads.*
discreet very careful in what is said or done; wisely cautious. *She gave a discreet response to the impolite question.*
unadventurous unwilling to take risks. *John is so unadventurous that he would not even think of going on the hiking trip through the park.*
wary on guard; cautious. *You should be wary when walking on unlit streets alone at night.*
antonym: careless

central *adj.* main; leading; chief. *What is the central idea that the author wants us to understand?*
cardinal foremost; chief. *The cardinal rule for getting along with your friends is to respect them.*
chief most important; main. *Corn is the chief crop raised by farmers in our state.*
main foremost; most important. *Who was the main character in the story?*
pivotal very important; central. *The president addressed the pivotal issues in his State of the Union Address.*
principal most important; main. *Name the principal rivers in the United States.*
certainly *adv.* definitely; surely. *Certainly your grades will improve if you study hard.*
absolutely certainly; without a doubt. *The star absolutely will attend the New York premiere of the movie.*
definitely certainly; surely. *Without glasses, he definitely could not see the third line of the eye chart.*
positively surely; absolutely. *This is positively the best restaurant in town.*
undoubtedly without doubt; certainly. *Undoubtedly the game will be delayed because of rain.*
classify *v.* to sort; arrange according to category or class. *Librarians do not classify fairy tales with other fiction.*
categorize to put into a category; classify. *For the lab test, we had to categorize items as PLANTS, ANIMALS, or MINERALS.*
grade to sort; place in classes. *We need to grade the peaches according to size.*
sort to arrange by class; put in order. *Ray will sort the sales figures by product.*

cleanse v. to make clean; remove dirt from. *Always cleanse a cut or scrape before bandaging it.*

clean to get rid of dirt; to make clean. *Be sure to clean behind your ears.*

rinse to wash lightly. *The dentist told me to rinse my mouth out with salt water.*

scour to make clean by rubbing; cleanse. *I will scour the tub until it shines.*

scrub to rub hard; wash by rubbing. *We needed to scrub and wax the floors.*

sponge to wipe clean. *Dad can sponge the dirt from Anna's scraped knee.*

wash to clean with soap and water. *We will wash our hands and faces before we sit down to eat.*

wipe to clean by rubbing. *Please wipe your feet before coming in the house.*

complain v. 1. to find fault. *Don't complain about a problem unless you're willing to help remedy it.*

2. to report something bad. *The neighbors called the police to complain about the noisy motorcycle.*

accuse to place blame on. *The sales representative tried to accuse the mail service of delaying my order.*

grumble to find fault; complain. *Jesse always seems to grumble about having too much homework to do.*

protest to object to; complain strongly. *The coach decided to protest the referee's decision.*

rail to complain bitterly. *The lawyer would rail against the injustice her client had experienced.*

conceit n. an exaggerated opinion of one's worth; vanity. *Conceit is an unattractive quality.*

egotism too much concern with oneself; conceit. *His egotism led him to believe he could never be wrong.*

self-esteem thinking well of oneself. *The success of her plan bolstered her self-esteem.*

vainglory extreme pride; vanity. *The vainglory of the senator was one reason he was not reelected.*

vanity too much pride; conceit. *The actor's vanity was greater than his talent.*

conclude v. to end; finish. *She concluded her speech and sat down.*

close to come together; to bring to an end. *The president closed his speech with a request for help from all the people.*

complete to make thorough; to get done. *Cheryl can complete her report before the deadline.*

end to stop; finish. *The story could end with the hero solving the mystery.*

finish to bring to an end; complete. *After I finish the book, I will lend it to my sister.*

terminate to put an end to. *When one partner left the company it was necessary to terminate the agreement.*

conduct v. to guide; lead. *The student will conduct the visitor through the new building.*

direct to manage; guide. *Matty tried to direct the actors in the movie.*

guide to show the way; lead. *The park ranger will guide us through the cave.*

lead to show the way; guide. *You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink.*

manage to guide; direct. *She continued to manage the account so well that its profits increased by fifty percent.*

usher to take to; escort. *The restaurant owner was pleased to usher us to our seats.*

confirm v. to make certain or sure. *The experiment will hopefully confirm her theory.*

authenticate to show to be valid; verify. *The scientific testing will authenticate the estimated age of the fossil.*

certify to confirm as true; guarantee. *This document does certify completion of the course.*

establish to prove; confirm. *The witness did establish the defendant's alibi.*

prove to show to be true or right. *The lawyer claimed she could prove her client's innocence.*

verify to confirm; prove the truth of. *Can scientific evidence be used to verify your conclusion?*

antonyms: contradict, disprove

connect v. 1. to join; link. *Before you turn on the water, connect the hose to the faucet.* 2. to join two ideas, events, etc., in the mind. *I connect clowns with the circus.*

bind to tie together; fasten. *We will bind the newspapers with twine before taking them to the recycling center.*

join to come together; connect. *Karen will join her friends at the theater.*

link to unite; connect. *The pieces of the puzzle link together perfectly.*

relate to connect ideas, events, or things. *The increased attendance at home games is related to the team's long winning streak.*

unite to join together; combine. *The railroad does unite the two parts of the country.*

constant *adj.* never changing or stopping; happening again and again. *The constant beat of the rain put us to sleep.*

continual never stopping; over and over again. *The continual interruptions made it difficult for him to complete his work.*

persistent going on; continuing. *After most of my cold symptoms were gone, I still had a persistent cough.*

steady changing little; continuous. *The sun is finally shining after three days of steady rain.*

convert *v.* to change into another form, substance, or condition. *Jim's dad plans to convert their basement into a playroom.*

change make different; replace. *We need to convert our dollars into pesos when we arrive in Mexico.*

transform change in appearance; alter. *He could transform his car into a robot.*

translate put into another language; change from one form to another. *She will translate the Spanish words into English for us.*

courage *n.* the quality of facing danger or a difficult task without giving in to fear. *It takes courage to admit your mistakes.*

bravery fearlessness. *The police officer won an award for bravery after saving the child from the fire.*

fortitude courage; firmness of convictions. *She has the fortitude to fight for what she believes is right.*

valor bravery; strength. *The valor of the colonists helped them win the American Revolution.*

cruel *adj.* wanting to make others suffer or causing them pain. *The cruel children threw stones at the birds.*

brutal extremely cruel. *The enemies waged a brutal battle against one another.*

insensitive slow to notice; uncaring. *The insensitive remark hurt her feelings.*

unkind harsh; cruel. *Children are sometimes unkind to one another.*

customary *adj.* based on custom; usual; routine. *A tuna sandwich and an apple are my customary lunch.*

everyday usual; not exciting. *This book details the everyday as well as the unusual events of the author's days living in the wilderness.*

habitual done by habit; regular. *We took our habitual evening walk along the beach.*

routine using routine; ordinary. *During one of our routine practices, the coach announced who would be the starting players in Saturday's game.*

traditional customary; handed down by tradition. *Turkey and cranberry sauce are two of the traditional foods for the Thanksgiving meal.*

usual common; ordinary; customary. *Although Lynne left for work at the usual time, she arrived fifteen minutes earlier than she expected.*



delicate *adj.* 1. light and pleasing to the senses. *This is a delicate perfume.* 2. carefully and expertly done; requiring careful workmanship. *Those are delicate repairs.* 3. fragile; easily broken or hurt. *Be careful with that delicate vase.*

dainty delicate in beauty; delicate in tastes. *The dainty spring flowers complemented the room's old-fashioned decor.*

exquisite very lovely; delicate. *This painting displayed by the museum is an exquisite example of impressionistic art.*

fine not coarse; delicate. *This fine cloth can be sewn into a beautiful summer suit.*

fragile easily broken; frail. *Because the package was marked fragile, I opened it very carefully.*

frail not very strong; easily broken. *My mother does not let anyone sit in the antique armchair because it is so frail.*

mild soft or lightly pleasing to the senses. *The mild aroma of the sauce made my mouth water.*

delightful *adj.* greatly pleasing; causing joy or delight. *We saw a delightful movie last night that made us remember our days as small children.*

charming *delightful; very pleasing.* *The child's retelling of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" was charming.*

cheery *pleasant; cheerful.* *Sally sent me a cheery note when I was sick.*

enjoyable *pleasant; able to be enjoyed.* *We had an enjoyable time at the fair.*

lovely *beautiful; pleasant.* *It was a lovely evening at the concert.*

pleasurable *agreeable; pleasant.* *The cruise was a pleasurable way to spend a week.*

detain *v.* 1. to delay; hold back. *Heavy fog managed to detain their flight for two hours.* 2. to keep in custody. *They decided to detain the suspect for questioning.*

confine *to restrict; limit.* *At the meeting, we were asked to confine our comments to the topic being discussed.*

constrain *to restrain; confine.* *The restrictions placed on her project continued to constrain Natalie.*

delay *to put off; hinder.* *Because of switching problems, it was necessary to delay the train for an hour.*

hold up *to stop; detain.* *I knew the weather would hold up our departure.*

postpone *to put off; delay.* *We decided to postpone the concert until a later date.*

retard *to delay; hinder.* *The lack of funds will retard the progress of the campaign.*

develop *v.* 1. to grow; come into being. *The bud will develop into a blossom.* 2. to build up; put to use. *Reading helps develop your mind.*

expand *to enlarge; make or grow larger.* *The class in geography will expand the students' knowledge of international relations.*

extend *to stretch; increase.* *Can you extend your answer to include the reasons for the American Revolution?*

grow *to become bigger; develop.* *Francesco is growing so quickly that he needs new shoes every three months.*

different *adj.* not alike. *Summer is different from winter.*

dissimilar *unlike.* *Our answers were so dissimilar that they could not be compared.*

diverse *not alike; varied.* *The candidates had diverse opinions on the issue.*

unlike *not the same; different.* *Although they are twins, they are very much unlike each other.*

varied *having variety or choice.* *The menu offered quite varied selections.*

antonyms: same, similar

difficult *adj.* hard; not easy to do or understand. *Learning to play chess is difficult.*

arduous *hard to do; using much energy.* *After her arduous workout, the gymnast wanted to do nothing but rest.*

hard *difficult; troublesome.* *At first, I had a hard time understanding what the toddler was trying to tell me.*

rigorous *harsh; difficult.* *Only after rigorous practice did I master the steps of the dance routine.*

tough *hard.* *Ed had a tough time trying to explain why he had not completed the project on time.*

antonym: easy

dirty *adj.* not clean; containing dirt. *Put all the dirty clothes into the washing machine.*

filthy *very dirty; foul.* *After playing in the mud, Johnny and Matthew were filthy from head to toe.*

foul *very dirty; smelly.* *The pollution released by the factory made the air foul.*

impure *unclean; adulterated.* *The addition of the incorrect chemical made the solution impure.*

antonym: clean

disguise *v.* 1. to change one's real appearance so that one will not be recognized. *In the play, the thief did disguise himself as a detective.* 2. to hide; mask; cover up. *He tried to disguise his anger by smiling.*

camouflage *to conceal; disguise.* *Chameleons camouflage themselves by changing their color.*

mask *to cover or hide.* *Al needed to mask his disappointment by cheerfully congratulating the winner.*

masquerade *to disguise; falsely pretend.* *To get the information he wanted, the private detective had to masquerade as a bartender.*

dispute *v.* to argue; debate; have a different opinion about. *Our class did dispute about the best date for the picnic.*

argue to discuss with someone who disagrees. *Abby would argue that her bedtime was much too early and that she should be allowed to stay up at least one hour longer.*

contend to argue. *Congress will contend that balancing the budget should be one of the country's highest priorities.*

contest to fight or dispute. *The defeated candidate did not contest the election returns, although the results were very close.*

debate to argue about; discuss pros and cons. *The city council will debate the need for additional taxes to pay for road repairs.*

disagree to quarrel; dispute. *If they disagree about who will be first, the friends will settle the argument by drawing lots.*

quarrel to argue; dispute. *I cannot quarrel with your account of the traffic accident.*

donate *v.* to give or contribute to a fund or cause. *The class decided to donate the money from the bake sale to the animal shelter.*

bestow to give as a gift. *France chose to bestow the Statue of Liberty on the United States for its centennial.*

confer to bestow. *The president will confer the Medal of Honor on three soldiers during the ceremony.*

contribute to give money or help. *Volunteers will contribute their time to the cleanup effort, since the storm left the city in a shambles.*

give to hand over. *We will give the clothes we collected for the poor to the local charity.*

grant to give what is asked. *The parent-teacher group voted to grant money to the school to build a new chemistry lab.*



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 effect of the sound 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. *She 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 the 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 our conversation was a better understanding between us.*

antonym: cause

effort *n.* 1. the use of one's strength or power; exertion. *Riding a bicycle uphill requires effort.* 2. an attempt; a try. *Make an effort to finish by three o'clock.*

attempt an effort or try. *The track star broke the record on his second attempt at the long jump.*

endeavor a strong attempt; effort. *The reporter's endeavor to gain an interview with the visiting official paid off when she agreed to speak with him.*

exertion effort. *The sheer exertion needed to complete the task on time was almost overwhelming.*

labor effort in doing. *The success of the summit made our labor to prepare for it worthwhile.*

error *n.* a mistake. *I was happy because my spelling test did not have one error.*

blunder a foolish mistake. *Forgetting my mother's birthday was a real blunder.*

fault an error; a mistake. *A missing answer was the only fault I could find on my test paper.*

inaccuracy mistake. *It was an inaccuracy in the computer input that caused the program to fail.*

mistake error. *I corrected the mistake on my paper before I handed it in to the teacher.*

especially *adv.* mainly; in particular; unusually. *My brother likes all sports, but he especially enjoys soccer.*

notably in a notable manner; especially. *Karen is a good student in most subjects, but most notably in history and math.*

particularly especially; in particular. *The storm hit the eastern section of the city particularly hard.*

principally mainly. *Yvonne was the person principally responsible for the success of the school's fund-raising efforts.*

exactly *adv.* precisely; without any change. *Do exactly as the teacher says.*

accurately without errors. *The reporter accurately described the events leading to the tragedy.*

correctly without mistakes. *Andrew correctly named all the state capitals.*

definitely clearly; exactly. *It is definitely important to understand all the directions.*

literally precisely; actually. *Lynne followed the instructions for building the desk literally step by step.*

precisely exactly; in a precise manner. *What precisely is the total cost of the car when taxes are included?*

examine *v.* to look at closely to find out the condition of; inspect. *Examine the apples before you buy them.*

analyze to examine carefully. *The manager decided to analyze the reports to identify the trends in sales activity.*

audit to examine and check. *The state examiner will audit the bank's accounts once every two years.*

check to compare and examine. *The teacher will check the students' answers against the answer key.*

inspect to carefully examine. *Edna tried to examine the coat for flaws in the material.*

test to try out; examine. *The doctor used the chart to test my eyesight.*

excellence *n.* something in which a person surpasses others. *The school offered an award for excellence in spelling.*

merit something that deserves high praise; value. *The volunteer was honored for the merit of her work at our local children's hospital.*

quality excellence; merit. *The skill of the carpenter is reflected in the quality of the cabinet.*

superiority high in quality. *The superiority of this product makes it the best-selling stereo on the market.*

excitement *n.* an excited condition; the state of being stirred up. *The entrance of the tigers created great excitement among the circus crowd.*

ecstasy condition of great joy or delight. *The ecstasy of the occasion was evident on everyone's face.*

frenzy very great excitement. *The fans were in a frenzy when the home team won the World Series.*

thrill an exciting feeling. *I will always remember the thrill of my first summer vacation at the beach.*

exhibit *v.* to display; reveal publicly. *He decided to exhibit his paintings at the fair.*

display to put on view; show; exhibit. *The students will display their projects at the school's science fair.*

expose to show openly; make known; display. *The company's new product was first exposed to the public on national television.*

feature to draw special attention to. *The trade show will feature the latest technology.*

present to bring before the public. *The museum will present the works of the most noted realists.*

experience *n.* what one learns from doing things. *I gained business experience from my paper route.*

background past experience or knowledge. *My strong background in history helps me better understand today's political issues and events.*

knowledge what one knows and understands. *The new group had very limited knowledge of the music business.*

practice the condition of being skilled through repeated exercise. *The coach pointed out that sloppy practice doesn't make perfect.*

training practical education; experience. *Dan's training as a crime reporter helped him identify clues that could be used to solve the mystery.*

express *v.* to tell; make known. *Think for a moment before you try to express your idea.*

communicate to give information through writing or speaking, etc. *Her speech will communicate her viewpoint eloquently.*

convey to communicate. *Let me convey my best wishes for the success of your new business venture.*

delineate to describe in words. *Jeff will delineate the company's profit plan in his presentation to the board.*

phrase to express in a particular way. *Be sure to phrase your question so that only a "Yes" or "No" answer is needed.*

state to tell; say. *The mayor did clearly state his position on the property tax increase the council was proposing.*

verbalize to express in words. *I am going to verbalize my ideas to see if you think they will work.*



fabulous *adj.* amazing; wonderful. *It was a fabulous party.*

marvelous splendid; extraordinary. *We had a marvelous time at the annual charity ball sponsored by our organization.*

sensational outstanding; spectacular. *Both actors gave sensational performances on stage.*

spectacular marvelous; sensational. *The game ended with Sara's spectacular diving catch of the fly ball.*

splendid wonderful; excellent. *The restaurant offers a splendid choice of seafood as well as pasta dishes.*

striking very noticeable; fabulous. *Her striking rendition of the show's theme song brought the audience to its feet.*

wonderful causing wonder; remarkable. *We had a wonderful time vacationing in the Hawaiian Islands.*

fearless *adj.* not afraid; brave. *The fearless kitten confronted the big dog.*

bold without fear; daring. *Malcolm made a bold effort to outrun the older boys on the team.*

brave showing courage. *Jessie put on a brave smile as she entered the dentist's office for her appointment.*

courageous brave; fearless. *Saving the child was a courageous act by the firefighter, who received an award for his bravery.*

daring fearless; bold. *The daring high divers perform their spectacular acts every day.*

gallant brave; noble. *The gallant efforts of the volunteers helped protect the homes from being flooded.*

antonyms: afraid, frightened

feeble *adj.* without much strength; weak. *Newborn animals are often feeble.*

faint dizzy; weak. *Evelyn felt faint as she stood to give her speech in the school auditorium.*

flimsy slight; frail. *Anton gave a flimsy excuse for being late for his class.*

frail weak; feeble. *Although she appeared frail, Maxine was quite strong for her size.*

infirm lacking strength; feeble. *The patient was too infirm to walk without help.*

fierce *adj.* 1. savage; wild. *The fierce lion growled and paced inside the cage.* 2. violent. *The fierce wind blew down the trees.*

ferocious savage; very cruel. *The ferocious animal bared its teeth as it growled.*

furious violent; very fierce. *The furious storm tore roofs off houses and uprooted trees.*

raging violent. *The raging winds blew down power lines and tree branches.*

savage cruel; fierce. *The savage fight ended with both wild dogs bleeding and limping away.*

flexible *adj.* capable of being bent. *The clay figures were flexible and could be formed into any shape.*

pliable easily bent. *Because the vines were pliable, we could easily shape them into a wreath.*

pliant easily bent; flexible. *The sculptor heated the steel to make it pliant for forming the pieces of an enormous mobile.*

supple bending easily; flexible. *The supple dancer leaped and twirled throughout the ballet performance.*

former *adj.* coming earlier in time or before in position. *The former owner of this house painted the walls blue.*

earlier before; previous. *The author's earlier novel was better written than this one.*

previous earlier; coming before. *I did not see this exhibit on my previous visit to the museum.*

prior earlier than; before. *The coach gave a stirring speech prior to the start of the game.*

fortunate *adj.* lucky. *You were fortunate to find the lost bracelet.*

happy lucky; fortunate. *It was a happy coincidence that my friend and I were in the same class.*

lucky having good luck. *We were lucky to get tickets for the playoff games from Pat's mother.*

furious *adj.* very angry. *I was furious with myself for forgetting my homework.*

angry feeling or showing anger. *Her angry tone of voice let me know she was not pleased.*

irate very angry. *The long delay made me irate because I knew I would miss my connecting flight.*

wrathful very angry. *With a wrathful roar, the tiger leaped to protect her cubs.*



garbage *n.* spoiled food or waste matter that is thrown away. *We put our garbage in cans in the alley.*

debris ruins; rubbish. *The stadium was filled with debris left by the fans.*

refuse waste; rubbish. *Keep the park clean by throwing your refuse in one of the trash containers.*

rubbish trash; waste. *It is illegal to burn rubbish in most communities.*

trash rubbish. *The students filled three bags with the trash picked up from the baseball field.*

waste refuse; unused materials. *It would be wrong to let so much food go to waste.*

glorious *adj.* beautiful; brilliant. *This is a glorious day.*

brilliant splendid; magnificent. *The actor's brilliant performance as Hamlet was given rave reviews in the newspaper.*

magnificent splendid; grand. *The magnificent work of the artist was displayed in the art museum.*

splendid glorious; brilliant. *We had a splendid time on the cruise through the canal.*

grief *n.* great sorrow or sadness. *Everyone felt grief when the great leader became ill.*

mourning expression of grief. *The flags were flown at half-mast in mourning for the victims of the disaster.*

sadness sorrow. *I was filled with sadness as I waved good-bye to my friend who was moving to a city on the west coast.*

sorrow sadness; grief. *She felt sorrow that her injury would cause her to give up the sport she loved so well.*

woe great grief; distress. *The young boy's woe over his lost puppy was replaced by his joy when the puppy was found.*



horrible *adj.* 1. causing horror; shocking; dreadful. *Jim let out a horrible scream.* 2. very unpleasant. *The old blender makes a horrible grating noise.*

awful terrible; very bad. *I went to the dentist so that he could look at the tooth that was causing the awful pain.*

frightful dreadful; terrible. *The monster rising out of the marsh was a frightful sight for the hunters.*

ghastly shocking; horrible. *The critic did not recommend the movie because it was filled with ghastly violence.*

grim frightful; horrible. *The storm was a grim reminder of our helplessness against nature's power.*

horrid terrible; very unpleasant. *The warm spring weather was a welcome relief from the horrid cold of last winter.*

shocking painfully surprising; horrible. *The damage caused by the forest fire was shocking even to firefighters who had battled other forest fires.*



ideal *adj.* perfect; exactly as one would wish. *A warm day and a clear sky are ideal conditions for a picnic.*

absolute free from imperfection; pure. *The quality of the diamond was absolute.*

perfect without defect; unspoiled. *The park's fall foliage made a perfect backdrop for the movie's opening and closing scenes.*

sublime grand; noble. *Her sublime contribution to American literature will long be remembered.*

superior best; high in quality. *The weather conditions were superior for the Mackinac sailing race.*

ignore *v.* to pay no attention to; to refuse to notice. *Anita tried to ignore their silly remarks.*

disdain to look down on; scorn. *The typist would disdain the use of a typewriter when a computer could be used.*

disregard to pay no attention to; neglect. *Fred was luckily not hurt when he decided to disregard the safety procedures.*

scorn look down upon; reject. *Traitors are scorned for betraying their countries.*

shrug off disregard. *Carrie tried to shrug off the pain and continued to run in the race.*

immediate *adj.* happening right away; without delay. *The immediate effect of the medicine was that it stopped his coughing.*

instantaneous coming at once; immediate. *The officer's response to the call for emergency assistance was instantaneous.*

quick sudden; swift. *When the bell rang, the students made a quick dash for the door.*

importance *n.* significance; value. *Never underestimate the importance of correct spelling.*

consequence importance. *Do you understand the consequence of this event to our history?*

gravity seriousness; importance. *The gravity of the situation was not lost on her.*

significance consequence; importance. *The significance of building the new factory is the creation of four hundred new jobs.*

value importance; worth. *The report had little value for the marketing department.*

impress *v.* to affect strongly or favorably. *Her fluent French did impress all of us.*

affect to stir the feelings. *The story of the young boy who saved his mother will affect you greatly.*

awe to fill with wonder. *The splendor of the painting always seems to awe the museum visitors.*

touch to affect with feeling. *Her quiet support always manages to touch me.*

insult *v.* to treat with rudeness; to hurt feelings on purpose. *It is not polite to insult someone.*

affront to offend; insult. *The dignitary was affronted by what he thought were inappropriate comments by the press.*

flout to treat with contempt. *Jim was suspended for three games for flouting team rules.*

offend to hurt the feelings of; unpleasantly affect. *The comedian's crude remarks managed to offend most of the audience.*

slur to insult; slight. *The rumors will slur the reputation of the governor.*

intrude *v.* to interrupt; to break in without being asked. *It's not polite to intrude on a private conversation.*

encroach to intrude; trespass. *The ranchers claimed that the farmers chose to encroach on their grazing lands.*

interfere to get in the way of. *The unexpected meeting will interfere with my plans for the day.*

interrupt to break into. *Because constant phone calls interrupt my work, I will be late in submitting my report.*

irregular *adj.* not conforming to the usual rule or practice; different. *The coin was valuable because of its irregular markings.*

abnormal different from the ordinary; unusual. *Temperatures in the fifties are abnormal for this time of year.*

atypical not typical; irregular. *This is atypical behavior for a two-year-old.*

erratic irregular; uncertain. *The erratic schedule made it difficult for us to make plans ahead of time.*

fitful irregular; stopping and starting. *The class's attention during the lecture was fitful at best.*

uneven not uniform or regular. *The uneven performance of the leading tenor disappointed the theatergoers.*

antonyms: regular, normal, typical



jealous *adj.* worried about losing someone's affection to another person; resentful of another person's good fortune. *The toddler is jealous of the attention his new brother is getting.*

envious showing or feeling envy. *My sister is envious of my musical talent.*

grudging jealous. *He gave a grudging acknowledgment of my success in his field.*



knowledge *n.* everything that one knows or understands about something. *Her knowledge of baseball statistics is impressive.*

comprehension power or act of understanding. *The detective had total comprehension of the facts of the case.*

insight understanding and wisdom. *Her insight into the problem helped us immensely.*

understanding knowledge; comprehension. *Jake's understanding of math has helped him in science class.*

wisdom knowledge; judgment. *Wisdom was an important trait that contributed to his success as a ruler.*



labor *n.* physical work. *Moving these stones is hard labor.*

chore a difficult or disagreeable thing to do. *It is a real chore to clean out the barn.*

drudgery hard or disagreeable work. *The drudgery of working in the factory left the workers tired and bored.*

toil hard work. *The toil of years as a sales representative paid off when he was made a supervisor.*

work effort in doing something. *Some people say hard work is its own reward.*

legal *adj.* permitted by law. *A left turn at this corner is not legal.*

authorized granted permission; approved. *The biography was an authorized account of the president's days in the White House.*

lawful according to the law. *The lawful removal of the hazardous materials was monitored by state investigators.*

legitimate allowed by law. *She had a legitimate claim to the company's assets.*

limit *n.* the greatest amount permitted. *The speed limit on this street is thirty miles an hour.*

boundary limiting line; border; limit. *The Mississippi River forms the boundary between Illinois and Missouri.*

bounds boundaries; limits. *He kept his fears for her safety in bounds as he watched her perform the stunt.*

confines limits; boundaries. *He felt safe within the confines of his home.*

extent size, amount, or length. *What is the extent of your knowledge of the political process?*

location *n.* a place; position. *This quiet field is a good location for our campsite.*

place space or location. *We should set up our business in a place near the train station.*

position place; location. *The radio dispatcher asked the officer to describe her present position.*

site position or place. *This is the site of an ancient burial ground.*

spot a place. *What a lovely spot for a flower garden!*

lonesome *adj.* lonely; sad from being alone. *My little sister kept my puppy from being lonesome while I was at school.*

desolate forlorn. *The elderly woman felt desolate from the lack of company.*

forlorn miserable from being left alone. *The forlorn puppy brightened when the family returned from a day at the museum.*

lonely longing for company; lonesome. *You might be lonely when you first move to a new town.*



manner *n.* way; fashion. *The students left the bus in a quiet and orderly manner.*

fashion the way a thing is done; manner. *That conductor leads the orchestra in a fashion that inspires great performances.*

form way of doing something; method. *The judges rated the skater's form high but thought her routine was ordinary.*

mode manner; method. *His mode of operation was disliked by most employees.*

way manner of doing something. *She had a pleasant way of making everyone feel comfortable.*

material *n.* the parts or substances from which a thing is made. *The material for the roof was delivered before the workers arrived.*

element simple substance. *A question on the science test asked what element or elements are used to make steel.*

matter what things are made up of; material. *Water is a liquid matter that becomes solid when it freezes.*

substance material; matter. *Hydrogen is a substance that helps form water.*

meadow *n.* a field in which grass or hay grows naturally. *The cows grazed in the meadow.*

grassland land with grass often used as pasture. *The pampas are grasslands located in South America.*

lea grassy field; meadow. *The sheep graze on the lea during the day.*

pasture grassy field used for grazing. *In the evening, I help lead the cows home from the pasture.*

prairie large level or rolling grasslands. *The settlers left Pennsylvania to farm the Illinois prairie.*

melody *n.* a series of musical tones making up a tune. *He whistled the melody of a popular song.*

music arrangement of musical sounds. *I know the music for that song, but I cannot remember the words.*

tune piece of music; melody. *What is the name of that lively tune the band just finished playing?*

merchant *n.* a person who buys and sells goods.

The three fabric stores in this area are owned by the same merchant.

dealer a person who buys and sells for a living.

The car dealer was offering rebates on all new cars and selling all used cars at reduced prices.

retailer a retail merchant or dealer. *The retailer promised to deliver the new appliances to my home before the end of the week.*

trader a person who buys and sells. *My older brother is a trader on the stock exchange.*

method *n.* a system; a way of doing something.

Broiling is one method of preparing fish.

means the way something is done or brought about. *By what means do you plan to follow up on this account to ensure that we keep the customer happy?*

procedure way of doing something; method. *The doctor said that the ultrasound test is a simple procedure that would take very little time to complete.*

routine regular method. *She begins her morning routine by jogging two miles and then showering before she prepares breakfast.*

system way of getting things done; method. *Classifying plants by size is one system of rating them for pricing.*

tactics procedures; methods. *The parachutist changed her tactics when she realized that she could not open the chute by pulling the rip cord.*

minute *adj.* tiny; very small. *Minute bits of dust floated through the ray of sunlight.*

diminutive very small; minute. *She is so diminutive that she has trouble buying clothes.*

little small; not large. *I could not coax the baby into eating even a little bit of the vegetables.*

minuscule very small; minute. *You can see even the most minuscule cells through this microscope.*

tiny very small; wee. *The baby's fingers are so tiny!*

mischief *n.* harmless and merry teasing or pranks. *My kitten is full of mischief.*

antics odd acts; pranks. *The antics of the clowns amused the audience.*

caper prank; trick. *The teacher did not find our little caper in the classroom funny.*

prank playful mischief; trick. *I fell for their prank when I screamed at the sight of the plastic mouse.*

trick prank; mischief. *Every April Fool's Day Frank pulls the same trick on us and we always act as if we are fooled.*

misfortune *n.* bad luck. *It was his misfortune to lose his wallet.*

calamity great misfortune. *Many people were affected by the calamity caused by the flood.*

disaster great misfortune; events causing suffering. *The city set up temporary shelters for those who lost their homes in the hurricane disaster.*

ill fortune bad luck. *It was my ill fortune to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.*

misadventure unfortunate accident; bad luck. *Our trip started out with a misadventure when we had a flat tire just a mile from home.*

mishap unlucky accident. *Because of some mishap, we lost our electricity for three hours.*

tragedy great misfortune; terrible event. *The strain of reporting the tragedy was visible on the face of the news reporter.*

moderate *adj.* within reasonable limits; not extreme. *The price of the dress was moderate.*

gentle not harsh; moderate. *The beginners' slope has a gentle incline that new skiers can handle.*

mild not severe; temperate; moderate. *We were pleased that there was only a mild wind blowing across the lake.*

reasonable fair; inexpensive. *The rents for apartments in this city are reasonable.*

temperate moderate; using self-control. *She gave a temperate response to the rude question.*

momentary *adj.* brief; lasting a short time. *There was a momentary lull in the storm.*

brief lasting only a short time. *By a chance meeting, I had a brief visit with an old friend.*

instantaneous happening in an instant. *My reaction to the cold water in the pool was instantaneous.*

short not long. *She will be leaving for the airport in a short time.*



natural *adj.* 1. produced by nature; not artificial. *Wood is a natural substance.* 2. having a particular character by nature. *Eileen had a natural love of art.*

crude in a natural or raw state. *Thousands of barrels of crude oil are refined here every day.*

inbred instinctive; natural. *She has an inbred sense of humor that helps her handle almost any situation.*

instinctive not learned; natural. *Animals have an instinctive desire to take care of their young.*

native born into; natural. *Deer seem to have a native ability to sense danger.*

raw in a natural state. *Wood is one of the raw materials we use in our industry.*

unspoiled in a natural state. *The national forests have an unspoiled beauty that everyone can appreciate.*

necessary *adj.* needed; required. *A balanced diet is necessary for proper nutrition.*

basic fundamental. *Keyboarding is a basic skill for secretaries.*

essential needed; required. *Flour and spices are essential ingredients for this recipe.*

integral necessary; essential. *American history is an integral part of the school curriculum.*

key very important; essential. *This is a key concept for students to understand before completing their assignments.*

requisite necessary; required. *The student submitted the requisite records for enrolling in school.*

vital necessary; essential; very important. *The pollution of our environment is a vital concern for all the nations of the world.*

nervous *adj.* excited; not calm. *The kitten grew nervous when everyone crowded around.*

anxious uneasy; worried. *Eloise was anxious about trying out for the varsity volleyball team.*

excitable easily aroused; nervous. *The excitable dog has to be taught to obey commands under all circumstances.*

high-strung nervous; excitable. *The trainer led the high-strung horse back to its stall after the race.*

jumpy easily excited; uneasy. *Dave was jumpy as he waited to learn if his application was accepted.*

overwrought excited; nervous. *The young child was overwrought with fear when the thunder began.*

restless uneasy. *The restless reporters paced the floor as they waited for the news conference to begin.*

tense keyed up; strained. *The student driver was tense about taking the driving test.*

uneasy restless; nervous. *The five-year-old child was uneasy about spending the night away from home for the first time.*

neutral *adj.* not favoring either side. *During two wars, Switzerland remained a neutral nation.*

detached not influenced by others; impartial. *The detached decision of the umpire did not favor the home team.*

fair-minded unprejudiced; just. *The attorney asked the jury to be fair-minded and to consider only the facts when making their decision.*

impartial fair; showing no favor to one side or another. *Judges of Olympic events should remain impartial and rate the athletes on their performances alone.*

objective without bias; impersonal. *Reporters try to present an objective view of a story.*

unbiased not prejudiced; fair. *The committee gave an unbiased assessment of the effectiveness of the city services.*

notable *adj.* 1. worthy of notice. *Writing a book is a notable accomplishment.* 2. prominent; distinguished. *He is a notable physicist.*

distinguished famous; very important. *The distinguished stage actor had never appeared in a movie.*

eminent famous; distinguished. *The eminent poet won the Nobel Prize for literature.*

famous well-known; noted. *That famous athlete endorses only products she actually uses.*

great remarkable; famous. *Abraham Lincoln was a great United States president.*

outstanding well-known; remarkable. *Dr. Salk's polio vaccine was an outstanding contribution to medicine.*

prominent well-known; important; distinguished. *The prominent attorney had lost only one case during her career.*

remarkable worthy of notice. *The remarkable story of the little girl's rescue was featured in all the newspapers.*

renowned famous. *The chef is renowned for his exquisite dishes.*

striking very noticeable. *She bears a striking resemblance to her mother.*

notice *v.* to pay attention to; take notice of; see. *Will Joan notice Barbara's new dress right away?*

detect to find out; discover. *I did not detect any differences in the way the machine was operating.*

distinguish to see or hear clearly. *Were you able to distinguish the last few notes in that song?*

observe to see and note. *I happened to observe the accident from my window and called the police.*

perceive to observe; be aware of. *He did not perceive the car pulling up beside him.*

sight to see. *The bird-watcher tried to sight the eagle soaring through the sky as it circled its aerie.*

view to see; look at. *Through the kitchen window we could view the children playing.*

numb *adj.* without sensation or movement. *If you don't wear warm gloves, your fingers may become numb from the cold.*

dull not felt sharply; vague. *I had a dull ache in my shoulder from carrying the heavy grocery bags.*

insensitive not sensitive; numb. *My brother seems to be insensitive to both heat and cold.*

nutritious *adj.* providing nourishment. *Apples are a nutritious snack.*

healthful good for one's health. *For a healthful diet, eat foods from each of the major food groups.*

nourishing promoting growth. *What I need now is a nourishing meal and some rest.*

wholesome good for one's health. *Be sure to eat a wholesome breakfast to start your day out right.*



object *v.* to make objection; to protest. *They started to object that it was too cold to play outside.*

demur to show disapproval; object. *The idea of selling the club's building made the president demur.*

disapprove to show or express dislike. *My parents disapprove of violent movies.*

oppose to be against. *The mayor was opposed to the bill the city council passed.*

protest to make objections. *The students wanted to protest the cancellation of the field trip.*

take exception to to object. *The teacher takes exception to our chewing gum in class.*

object *n.* a thing that can be seen or touched. *The little shop had many objects made of china.*

article a particular thing; item. *She unfortunately left an article of clothing in the locker room.*

item separate thing or article. *What item did you buy at the supermarket?*

novelty small and unusual object. *My sister bought a novelty as a vacation souvenir.*

thing an object or substance. *Because I like my room to be neat, I always put each thing away after using it.*

obtain *v.* to get. *How did he obtain a ticket to the play?*

acquire to get as one's own; obtain. *Kim studied to acquire the knowledge needed to be a competent mathematician.*

gain to come to have; get. *I gain on-the-job experience when I work in the governor's office.*

get to come to have; obtain. *Please get the encyclopedia from the shelf for me.*

procure to get by effort; obtain. *The organization was able to procure funds for their project from the state.*

secure to get; obtain. *Will it be possible to secure tickets for tonight's concert?*

obvious *adj.* easy to see or figure out; clear; plain. *It is obvious that the movie is popular, since the theater is so crowded.*

apparent plain to see or understand. *It is apparent to me that you do not want to go out to dinner.*

conspicuous easily seen. *What do people mean when they say that someone was conspicuous in his or her absence?*

evident easy to see or understand; clear. *That he was a talented musician was evident as soon as he started to play.*

manifest apparent to the mind or eye. *The perfection of the diamond was manifest to the curator.*

plain easy to understand; clear. *Her directions for finding her house were plain to me.*

occasion *n.* 1. a particular happening or event. *Her birthday was a special occasion.* 2. an opportunity; a good chance. *I hope you find an occasion to call us while you are traveling.*

affair any happening. *The governor's ball was a wonderful affair that I will long remember.*

chance favorable time; opportunity. *I didn't have a chance before now to thank you for your generous contribution to our organization.*

circumstance event; occasion. *It was an unfortunate circumstance that made me miss my flight.*

episode a single happening. *Winning the award was a memorable episode in the actress's life.*

event an important happening. *The wedding was the biggest event of the year for the family.*

occurrence event; happening. *The solar eclipse was such an unusual occurrence that I did not want to miss it.*

opportunity a good chance; occasion. *We have the opportunity to travel to Europe this summer.*

offer *v.* 1. to say that one is willing. *We did offer to help Mr. Elliot start his car.* 2. to present as a suggestion. *The president will offer a plan for peace.*

bid to offer to pay. *We expected to have to bid at least \$1,000 to obtain the antique vase.*

extend to offer; grant. *The government can extend emergency aid to the flood victims.*

give to offer; present. *The professor gave a lecture titled "Earth's Tomorrow."*

grant to give; confer. *In that tale, a fish can grant three wishes.*

present to offer formally; give. *The Medal of Honor was presented to the courageous soldier in a special ceremony.*



propose to put forward; suggest. *I propose that we delay the meeting until all the information we need is available.*

suggest to propose; offer. *I suggest that the group meet at my house this week.*

tender to offer formally. *She can tender her resignation to be effective in two weeks' time.*

opponent *n.* a person or group that competes against another. *Our school's opponent for the game is Deerfield School.*

competitor person or group who competes; rival. *That company is a business competitor of our company.*

enemy person or group that hates or tries to harm another; rival. *The soldier never really knew who the enemy was.*

foe enemy; rival. *I didn't know if Margaret was a friend or a foe.*

opposition any opponent. *The senator takes pride in being in "the loyal opposition."*

rival person who tries to get the same thing as another; competitor. *Angela and Ted are friends even though they are business rivals.*

ordinary *adj.* 1. usual; normal. *The ordinary time it takes to drive downtown is twenty minutes.* 2. not special; average. *Her outfit made her look quite ordinary.*

average usual; ordinary. *The book gave an account of an average day in a small coastal village.*

common ordinary; usual. *Her common response when we ask to stay up late is "No."*

customary according to custom; usual. *Ed did not take his customary route to work this morning.*

general common to many; not special. *The general store offers a variety of goods from fresh fruit to sewing needles.*

habitual done by habit; regular. *Jean is a habitual reader who especially enjoys mystery novels.*

normal usual; regular. *It is my normal practice to read in bed before I go to sleep.*

regular fixed by custom; normal; usual. *Because it was a holiday, we were allowed to stay up past our regular bedtime.*

usual common; ordinary. *Fruit and cheese are my usual afternoon snack.*

partial *adj.* 1. not complete. *We saw a partial eclipse of the moon.* 2. inclined to favor one side. *An umpire should never be partial when he makes a decision.*

abridged shortened; incomplete. *I read the abridged version of the novel.*

biased favoring one side; prejudiced. *Some players thought the referee made biased decisions that affected the game's outcome.*

disposed inclined; partial. *She is more disposed to like traditional furnishings than contemporary ones.*

incomplete lacking some part; unfinished. *The directions I was given were incomplete, so I had a difficult time finding the office.*

one-sided partial; biased. *That driver gave a one-sided account of the accident.*

unfinished not complete. *The road work was still unfinished after six months.*

partner *n.* a person who shares something or joins with another. *The boys were partners on the camping trip.*

associate companion; partner. *Lena is an associate in our firm.*

colleague coworker; associate. *Let me introduce my colleague who will work with you on your project.*

companion someone who goes along with. *Marta is my traveling companion.*

co-owner business partner; associate. *Jason is the co-owner of this restaurant.*

passage *n.* 1. a way used for passing. *The passage led to the back staircase.* 2. part of a writing or a speech. *The passage about whales includes much interesting information.*

aisle long, narrow passage. *Both parents walked the bride down the aisle.*

alley narrow back street; path. *She drove down the alley carefully to avoid the trash cans kept there.*

approach way of reaching a place. *The sidewalk was the only approach to the front of the house.*

entryway a passage for entering. *The building's entryway is a long narrow hall that leads to a set of elevators.*

excerpt passage from a book. *We read an excerpt from one of Scott O'Dell's award-winning books.*

hall passage; entryway. *That hall will lead you to the kitchen and dining room.*

path a passageway for walking or riding. *We rode our bikes on the bicycle path in the park.*

selection portion of a text. *We read a selection about growing up on a farm in Iowa.*

text a short passage; written words. *The speaker memorized the text of his speech before delivering it.*

vestibule passage or hall for entering; entry. *We left our coats on the coatrack in the vestibule.*

pause *v.* to stop for a short time. *He will pause to get a glass of water.*

break off to stop suddenly. *She had to break off the telephone conversation to check the oven.*

cease to put an end to; stop. *The interruptions made the speaker cease his presentation.*

discontinue to put an end to. *After the snow, they had to discontinue train service until the tracks could be cleared.*

halt to stop for a time. *A power outage will halt the use of all electrical equipment.*

rest to pause. *She had to rest for a moment before continuing to read to the class.*

stop to interrupt briefly. *Can you stop at the store on your way home from work to pick up a few items?*

performance *n.* the way in which someone or something functions. *Your performance on the test was very good.*

administration the managing of a business. *The administration of a law firm depends on the caseload.*

execution a carrying out or doing. *The execution of the day's work was her highest priority.*

implementation a carrying out. *The policy's implementation was easier than we thought it would be.*

permit *v.* to let; allow; give consent to. *Please permit me to read your magazine.*

allow to permit; let. *My dentist didn't allow me to eat corn on the cob because of my braces.*

authorize to give formal approval. *Did you authorize him to sign company checks?*

license to permit by law. *They will license me to sell real estate in this community.*

sanction to authorize; allow. *Congress can sanction the investigation of one of its members.*

tolerate to allow or permit. *The librarian does not tolerate any noise in the reading room.*

pitiful *adj.* causing emotions of sorrow and compassion. *The injured dog was a pitiful sight.*

miserable poor; pitiful. *The tenement was a miserable place to live.*

sad causing sorrow. *The devastation caused by the forest fire was a sad sight to see.*

sorry wretched; poor. *Due to the sorry condition of the flooded fields, the farmer had to delay planting indefinitely.*

wretched miserable. *For the poor to be living in such wretched housing is a disgrace.*

population *n.* the number of people living in a country, state, town, or other area. *The town's population has greatly increased in the past five years.*

inhabitants persons or animals that live in a place. *The town's inhabitants gathered for the annual spring festival.*

people body of citizens. *The people supported new taxes for education.*

populace the common people. *The tornado warnings were broadcast to the populace by the civil defense.*

public the people in general. *The news conference informed the public of the congressional ruling.*

pose *v.* 1. to hold an expression or position. *The parents and children need to pose for a family portrait.* 2. to present; put forward. *May I pose a question?*

model to pose for an artist or photographer. *He was hired to model clothing for ads in local magazines.*

offer to suggest; propose. *Can you offer a suggestion to help us meet our goals?*

propose to put forward an intention or plan. *One committee member will propose sponsoring a fund-raising event.*

stand to take or keep a certain position. *Early photography required people to stand motionless for a long time.*

position *n.* place; location. *The navigator marked the ship's position on a chart.*

locality a particular place and/or the area around it. *That restaurant is in the locality of City Center Plaza.*

location position or place. *That building is in a bad location because it is not near public transportation.*

site position or place. *Our city had hoped to be the site of the next world's fair.*

situation site; location. *The situation of the castle offered protection from rebel subjects.*

positive *adj.* confident; certain; without doubt. *Gus is positive that his team will win.*

assured sure; certain; bold. *Her assured manner led me to believe that she knew the best way to get there.*

confident having confidence; sure. *Ellen is confident that she answered all the test questions correctly.*

convinced believing; sure; positive. *Convinced that he was better than the competition, Dan felt he would win the race.*

secure sure; certain. *Because of her expertise, Janet knew a promotion to vice president was secure.*

sure free from doubt; certain. *We checked the stock to be sure all the materials we needed were available.*

possibly *adv.* perhaps; maybe. *Possibly we'll finish by noon.*

conceivably imaginably. *The flight could conceivably arrive on time despite the delay in its departure.*

maybe possibly. *Maybe we can meet for lunch sometime next week.*

perchance perhaps. *Call to see if we perchance can still buy concert tickets.*

perhaps maybe. *Since you must get up early, perhaps you should go to bed now.*

probably more likely than not. *We will probably have a history quiz tomorrow.*

practical *adj.* able to be done, used, or carried out. *Her practical solution solved the problem.*

applicable capable of being applied. *"Honesty is the best policy" is a rule that I have found to be applicable to most situations.*

down-to-earth practical; realistic. *Marty's down-to-earth advice helped me handle the situation easily.*

realistic practical. *Because the plan would have been expensive to carry out, it was not a realistic solution to the housing shortage in our community.*

useful helpful; practical. *Expanding the public transportation system would be a useful means of solving the rush-hour traffic problems.*

precious *adj.* having a high price; costing a great deal. *Diamonds are precious jewels.*

costly expensive; of great value. *That costly painting was the only addition the museum made to its collection this year.*

priceless extremely valuable. *The artifacts from the archaeological discovery are a priceless national treasure.*

valuable of worth; having value. *Alphonse's valuable coin collection is always kept in the bank's vault.*

present *adj.* of the time between past and future; current. *Are you busy at the present moment?*

contemporary of the present time; modern. *The class contrasted the works of contemporary poets with those of late nineteenth century poets.*

current of the present time. *Every morning in homeroom, we read the paper and discuss current events.*

modern of the present time. *We are remodeling our kitchen to give it a more modern look.*

up-to-date modern; extending to the present time. *Models in fashion magazines always wear the most up-to-date styles.*

present *n.* a gift. *The present was colorfully wrapped.*

alms money or gifts to help the poor. *Our club collects alms for the poor and distributes them to organizations throughout the county.*

donation gift; contribution. *The senator made a donation of his letters to the Library of Congress.*

gift a present or donation. *This is my Father's Day gift for my dad.*

legacy a gift by will of money or property. *The candlesticks are my grandmother's legacy to me.*

probable *adj.* likely to happen. *The dark clouds and lightning mean that rain is probable.*

impending likely to happen soon; about to happen. *The construction crew worked furiously to meet the impending deadline.*

liable likely. *Be sure to lock the gate, or the dog is liable to run away.*

likely probable. *The teacher asked what the likely results of the experiment would be.*

presumable probable; likely. *The presumable cause of the highway closings was the drifting snow.*

process *n.* 1. a system of operations in the production of something. *Describe the process of canning fresh fruit.* 2. a series of actions with an expected end. *Learning is a continual process.*

course line of action; way of doing. *What is your course of action for completing the project on time?*

mechanism means by which something is done. *The mechanism for winning the election was set into action after the primary.*

method system of getting things done. *The method used for the cleanup effort proved to be effective.*

procedure way of doing things. *The use of parliamentary procedure ensures that our meetings run smoothly.*

profit *v.* to benefit. *I can profit from your experience.*

benefit to receive good; profit. *The increased taxes will be used to benefit the schools and libraries in the state.*

gain to profit; get as an advantage. *What do you hope to gain by extending the store hours?*

reap to get as a return or reward. *If you exceed your sales quota, you will reap an increase in the percentage of your bonus.*

progress *n.* 1. a movement forward. *The train made steady progress.* 2. development; improvement. *Scientific progress has changed the way we think about the world.*

advance movement forward; progress. *This advance in scientific knowledge will help us solve today's problems.*

advancement improvement; promotion. *Each technological advancement has changed the way people live, work, and play in our country.*

development growth; process of developing.

Good nutrition is important to a child's physical development.

expansion process of expanding; growth. *The expansion of the railroads across the United States resulted in greater settlement of the West.*

growth process of growing; development. *The personal computer industry spurred the growth of many software-producing companies.*

headway motion forward; progress. *Our boat had been making headway in the race until the wind shifted.*

improvement better condition or situation. *His program of exercise and diet is responsible for the improvement in his health.*

promotion an advance in rank or importance. *Her promotion to office manager was a result of hard work and dedication.*

rise an advance in rank, power, etc. *He said that his rise to stardom did not happen overnight but resulted from many years of hard work.*



rapid *adj.* fast; quick. *The rapid current carried the canoe down the river.*

fast moving or acting quickly. *The runners kept up a fast pace throughout the race.*

fleet swiftly moving; rapid. *Being fleet of foot, the runner passed us easily.*

hasty in a hurry; quick. *Mom waved a hasty good-bye as she ran to catch the commuter train.*

quick fast and sudden. *The boss's quick reply to my request for vacation enabled me to make arrangements well in advance.*

speedy rapid; fast. *Our class sent a card to our teacher wishing her a speedy recovery from the flu.*

swift very fast. *The express train provides a swift commute into the city.*

antonym: slow

rational *adj.* based on reason; logical. *After thinking it over calmly, Jeff made a rational decision to quit the team.*

judicious *wise; sensible.* *Sherman made a judicious decision to remain in school and complete his degree.*

logical *of logic; reasonable.* *It is logical to think that studying hard will help you get good grades.*

reasonable *according to reason; sensible.* *She had a reasonable excuse for being late to school.*

sane *having or showing good sense.* *Slowing down is a sane reaction to driving in bad weather conditions.*

sensible *having or showing good sense or judgment.* *Her ideas for improving the customer service department seemed sensible.*

sound *rational; reasonable.* *My counselor gave me sound advice about which courses to take.*

rebel *v.* to resist or oppose authority. *The workers wanted to rebel against the unfair demands of their employer.*

defy *to set oneself openly against authority.* *My brother meant to defy my parents by staying out long after his curfew.*

mutiny *to rebel.* *The sailors tried to mutiny against the ship's captain.*

protest *to object strongly.* *We tried to protest the referee's decision without success.*

resist *to act against; oppose.* *Helen Keller at first did resist all efforts to help her learn to communicate.*

revolt *to fight against leadership.* *The people will revolt against their leaders and call for democracy.*

receive *v.* to get. *You should receive the letter in two days.*

acquire *to get as one's own.* *I will acquire the deed for the property from my parents.*

obtain *to come to have.* *If you are able to obtain the needed materials, please let me know as soon as possible.*

secure *to get; obtain.* *Because he lacked a credit record, he was unable to secure a car loan.*

take *to get; receive.* *Mom says I don't take criticism very well.*

recess *n.* a brief rest from work. *During the morning, we have a fifteen-minute recess.*

break a short interruption in work. *Michael reads the newspaper during his break.*

pause a brief stop or rest. *The noise of the passing train forced a pause in the debate.*

respite a time of relief and rest. *The cease-fire gave the people a respite from fear.*

spell a brief period of time. *Before starting a new project, Lorenzo relaxed for a spell by chatting with a coworker.*

refuse *v.* 1. to turn down; reject. *She might refuse my offer of help.* 2. to be unwilling; decline. *I refuse to let them bother me.*

decline to turn away from; refuse. *I hope you will not decline my luncheon invitation.*

disdain to scorn. *Wanting to be independent, the toddler would disdain all attempts to help him put on his boots.*

reject to refuse to take. *The managers voted to reject the proposal to expand the sales force.*

scorn to regard with contempt. *The officer chose to scorn the driver's efforts to avoid a ticket.*

spurn to reject with scorn. *The teen did spurn the requests for dates from younger schoolmates.*

regular *adj.* 1. usual; normal; ordinary. *Our regular practice on Sunday is to have dinner in the afternoon.* 2. frequent. *Joe is a regular customer.* 3. occurring at fixed intervals. *We make regular visits to the dentist.*

established set up on a firm or lasting basis. *We have an established Monday morning meeting to discuss the week's activities.*

habitual done by habit; steady. *She is a habitual customer of this restaurant.*

periodic occurring or appearing at regular intervals. *Make sure you take your car in for periodic oil changes.*

recurrent occurring again; repeated. *I have had a recurrent dream that I cannot explain.*

routine a fixed or regular method of doing things. *Brushing my teeth is part of my routine activity.*

unexceptional ordinary; commonplace. *The performance of the football team was unexceptional this year.*

uniform not varying; regular. *The uniform length of time between classes is five minutes.*

release *v.* to let loose; set free. *If you release the door, it will close by itself.*

discharge to release; let go; dismiss. *They will discharge him from the army after he serves his term of duty.*

excuse to free from duty; let off. *Because of parent-teacher conferences, they chose to excuse us from school an hour early.*

exempt to make free; release. *The IRS would not exempt the organization from income taxes.*

free to make free; set loose. *We tried to free the firefly we had caught.*

let go to release; free. *The hostages were let go by their captors.*

let loose to set free; release. *We let loose the injured bird once its wing had healed.*

relieve to take another's place. *I relieved the night-shift nurse from duty at 7 A.M.*

unleash to let go. *She liked to unleash the dog and let him run loose in the park.*

relief *n.* the removal or ease of worry, pain, etc. *Imagine my relief when I remembered the right answer!*

alleviation relief; lessened severity. *The program called for the alleviation of poverty in the United States.*

diversion a turning away; relief. *Tennis is a diversion that takes my mom's mind off her business worries.*

relaxation the relief from work or effort. *For relaxation after school, I take a short walk through the neighborhood.*

reprieve temporary relief. *The postponement of the test day gave us a welcome reprieve.*

respite a putting off; delay; reprieve; a time of relief. *The clearing gave us a respite from the week-long storms that had hit our area.*

rest freedom; relief. *After a period of rest, we were refreshed and ready to begin working on the project again.*

remain *v.* 1. to stay. *We want to remain at home because of the rain.* 2. to continue; to last without changing. *The weather remained warm until the last week of October.* 3. to be left. *All that remains of the old house is the foundation.*

be left to remain. *This chair will be left for the next tenant of the apartment.*

endure to keep up; last. *The pyramids have lasted for ages and are now being restored to make sure they will continue to endure.*

hover to stay in or near. *The small child began to hover near her mother as the guests arrived for the party.*

last to hold on; continue. *The flowers will last for at least a week if you water them.*

linger to stay on; remain. *My cough seemed to linger after the other cold symptoms were gone.*

loiter to linger idly. *The students like to loiter in the hall before the bell rings for the start of class.*

reside to live in a place for a long time. *My parents still reside in the same home as they did at my first birthday.*

responsible *adj.* 1. trustworthy; reliable. *A responsible student was chosen to collect the money for the field trip.* 2. required to answer for something. *Who is responsible for turning off the lights when we leave the room?*

accountable liable; responsible. *The clerk was held accountable for banking all receipts.*

dependable reliable; trustworthy. *Vanessa is a dependable babysitter.*

liable under obligation; responsible. *Customers are liable for any merchandise they break.*

reliable worthy of trust; dependable. *The reporter's information came from a reliable source in the government.*

unfailing never failing; always ready when needed. *The accountant paid unfailing attention to every detail of the account.*

result *n.* outcome; effect. *He was late to work as a result of a delay in traffic.*

aftermath a result or consequence. *We had a long cleanup effort in the aftermath of the storm.*

consequence a result; an effect. *Being in the play-offs was a consequence of winning our last three games.*

outgrowth a result; an effect. *Organizing the recycling club was a natural outgrowth of our interest in the environment.*

upshot conclusion; result. *The upshot of the meeting was that we would plan a new campaign strategy for the student elections.*



satisfaction *n.* a feeling of being satisfied or contented. *Dan gets satisfaction from doing his job well.*

contentment satisfaction; ease of mind. *Her contentment with the results of the flower show was obvious from her expression.*

fulfillment accomplishment or satisfaction. *I was able to find great fulfillment from my work in the Peace Corps.*

gratification something that satisfies or pleases. *The parents' gratification for all their hard work came in seeing their child graduate from college.*

pleasure something that pleases or gratifies. *It brought me great pleasure to see my photographs displayed in the school hall.*

scarcely *adv.* hardly; barely. *There are scarcely any people awake at five o'clock in the morning.*

faintly dim; not clear. *The deer on the side of the road was only faintly visible to those of us driving in the dusk.*

imperceptibly very slightly. *The flaws in the material were almost imperceptibly noticeable to us.*

slightly a little; scarcely. *I know that area of the city only slightly.*

scheme *n.* 1. a plan of action; a project. *We thought of a scheme for preventing graffiti.* 2. a secret plot. *The scheme to give my mother a surprise party failed when she discovered the birthday cake.*

conspiracy secret planning; plot. *The investigation proved the assassination attempt was not a conspiracy, but rather the action of one person.*

design scheme; plan. *The investor had designs on our company until we reorganized all our operations.*

intrigue crafty dealings; scheming. *The novel focused on the intrigue of international spying.*

maneuver skillful plan, movement, or scheme. *Through a series of financial maneuvers, the employees hoped to purchase the company.*

strategy skillful planning and management. *The coach reviewed the game strategy with us before the start of the second half.*

tactic procedure or method for gaining advantage. *Her game-winning tactic was to keep her opponent running from one end of the court to the other.*

secondary *adj.* not ranking first. *Her primary concern was content, and her secondary concern was style.*

inferior lower in rank, position, or importance. *On the police force, a rank of detective is inferior to the rank of captain.*

minor less important; of lower rank. *The amount of salary increase was a minor issue compared to the need for job security.*

subordinate having less importance; secondary. *My role in helping to prepare for the conference was only a subordinate one.*

subsidiary auxiliary; supplementary. *Workbooks are subsidiary components of the textbook program.*

seize *v.* to take hold of suddenly; grasp; grab. *He seized her hand and shook it eagerly.*

apprehend to seize; arrest. *They did not apprehend the jewel thief until the end of the movie.*

capture to take by force; seize. *The English managed to capture Quebec during the French and Indian War.*

catch to grasp or seize. *Try to catch the ball on the fly for an automatic out.*

clasp to hold firmly; grasp. *The child must clasp his mother's hand as they cross the street.*

grab to seize suddenly; snatch. *I had to grab my coat and run quickly so that I would not miss the bus.*

snatch to seize suddenly; grasp. *The thief tried to snatch the purse and run away before the young woman was even aware of what had happened.*

take to seize; catch; capture. *After a short battle, the enemy managed to take the fort.*

senseless *adj.* without meaning; pointless. *Watching that television program was a senseless waste of time.*

foolish unwise; silly. *It was a foolish mistake to leave my bicycle unlocked while I was inside the store.*

inane foolish; senseless. *The inane comment by the celebrity was overlooked by the reporters.*

meaningless without meaning; not making sense. *All of the preparations became meaningless when the conference was canceled.*

pointless without meaning or purpose. *It is pointless to try to reason with a two-year-old who demands to get his own way.*

silly without sense or reason. *Danielle's response to the question was silly because she didn't understand what was being asked.*

unsound not valid; not supported by evidence. *She gave some unsound advice that did not help us achieve our goal.*

antonyms: sensible, meaningful

shield *v.* to protect; guard. *This umbrella will shield you from the rain.*

defend to keep safe; protect. *The Americans were unable to defend New York City against the British in 1776.*

protect to defend; guard. *The dikes help protect the city from flooding.*

safeguard to keep safe; protect. *Every child should be given the vaccine to safeguard against polio.*

screen to protect or hide from. *The protective glasses screen the welder's eyes from the sparks.*

shelter to protect; shield. *The Underground Railroad tried to shelter slaves as they escaped to the North.*

siege *n.* the surrounding of a place for a long time in order to capture it. *The city was under siege for three weeks.*

assault a violent attack. *Wolfe led the British in their successful assault on Quebec.*

attack a use of force or weapons against a person or group. *The Civil War began with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter.*

blitz sudden, violent attack. *During World War II, Poland surrendered after the German blitz.*

bombardment a vigorous attack. *The troops could not maintain their position during the bombardment.*

incursion a sudden attack. *The Minutemen responded quickly to the news of the British incursion.*

invasion an entering by force of an enemy.

Napoleon's invasion of Russia was not successful.

onslaught a vigorous attack. *The defenders could not check the onslaught of invading soldiers.*

raid a sudden attack. *The pirates led raids against ships that were returning to Europe filled with gold.*

silence *n.* the absence of noise or sound; stillness.

There was silence while the principal spoke.

hush a stopping of noise. *A sudden hush fell over the room when the president entered.*

peace a condition of quiet and order. *The peace of the afternoon was broken when the baby woke from her nap.*

quietness state of stillness; silence. *The quietness in the classroom surprised me.*

reserve a silent manner. *His reserve at parties made people think he was unfriendly.*

reticence tendency to be silent. *Calvin Coolidge was a president known for his reticence as well as for his dry wit.*

stillness absence of noise or movement; silence. *The stillness of the night was broken by the ambulance sirens.*

sullenness ill-humored silence. *His sullenness made me uncomfortable, so I left the room.*

antonyms: noise, clamor

similar *adj.* almost but not quite the same; alike but not identical. *The two girls wore similar clothes.*

alike like one another; similar. *Everyone says that my sister and I look alike.*

corresponding similar; alike. *General Grant and General Lee had corresponding roles in their armies.*

matching alike; similar. *The matching patterns complemented the room's decor.*

solemn *adj.* serious; earnest; grave. *He made a solemn promise.*

critical very important; serious. *She had to make a decision that would be critical to her future.*

sedate serious; calm. *His sedate behavior contrasted to my excitement.*

serious earnest; sincere. *He paid serious attention to the report so that he could review the findings with his superior.*

stationary *adj.* 1a. not moving. 1b. 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

stubborn *adj.* not easily persuaded; having one's own definite idea. *Lee was stubborn and refused to follow my suggestions.*

adamant not giving in readily; unyielding. *Our teacher is adamant about having us turn in all of our assignments on time.*

determined firm; resolute. *She is determined to become a professional skater.*

headstrong stubborn; obstinate; rashly determined. *The headstrong toddler refused to let anyone help her get dressed.*

obstinate not giving in; stubborn. *Theo gave obstinate support to the effort even after it was obvious it would fail.*

opinionated stubborn about one's opinions. *His opinionated comments left little doubt about where he stood on the issue.*

persistent not giving up even in a difficult situation. *Betty was persistent in her efforts even after she broke her ankle.*

tenacious stubborn; persistent. *The tenacious salesclerk did not want us to leave the store without making a purchase.*

willful wanting or taking one's own way; stubborn. *It seems the only word the willful two-year-old knows is "No."*

success *n.* a favorable result or outcome; achievement. *Hard work often brings success.*

accomplishment something done with skill, knowledge, or ability; achievement. *Her athletic accomplishments are evident from her many trophies and other awards.*

achievement thing achieved; feat. *She would not rest on the past achievements but continued to strive for excellence in her field.*

fortune prosperity; success. *Obtaining the contract was an unexpected fortune that will help us gain recognition.*

mastery victory; success. *His mastery over his disability is a remarkable achievement that can inspire us all.*

victory success in a contest. *The principal congratulated the team for its victory.*



talent *n.* special ability; natural skill. *She had a great talent for writing short stories.*

aptitude natural tendency; talent; ability.

Grandma Moses did not display her aptitude for painting until late in her life.

expertise expert skill. *The expertise of a whittler can be seen in the details of his or her carvings.*

flair natural talent. *Alexandra has a flair for giving successful parties.*

genius great natural ability. *Thomas Edison's genius was not evident when he was a boy.*

gift special talent. *Christina's voice was a gift that all opera fans could appreciate.*

knack special skill or talent. *She has a knack for making people feel comfortable.*

tease *v.* to bother or irritate by making jokes, asking questions, nudging, etc. *The sign at the zoo asked the visitors not to tease the animals.*

badger to keep on teasing. *My brother chose to badger me about my skating until I threatened to tickle him.*

bait to tease or harass. *She tried to bait me into falling for one of her practical jokes.*

banter to tease playfully. *They did banter entertainingly throughout the evening.*

harass to disturb or tease continually. *People get angry if you harass them, even if you do it in fun.*

pester to annoy; vex. *I don't like it when my younger sister tries to pester me to take her shopping.*

tedious *adj.* tiresome; boring. *The politician's speech became so tedious that a few listeners got up to leave.*

boring dull; uninteresting. *The new movie playing at the local theater is boring.*

drab monotonous; dull. *The drab surroundings of our neighborhood made me wish for just one day in a beautiful park.*

dull boring; uninteresting. *The dull plot did not hold our attention for long.*

insipid lacking interest or spirit. *The insipid comments of the reporter made me wonder why he was assigned to that story.*

monotonous wearying because of its sameness. *The story line of that program had become so monotonous that I stopped watching it.*

stale not fresh or interesting. *Every time I see him he tells me the same old stale jokes.*

uninspired dull; tiresome. *The performances were so uninspired that I fell asleep.*

wearisome tiresome; tedious. *The wearisome hours of practice make me wish for a vacation from ballet lessons.*

temporary *adj.* lasting for a brief time; not permanent. *While our teacher was ill, we had a temporary teacher.*

passing not lasting; fleeting. *He had had a passing interest in airplanes when he was young.*

short-lived lasting a short time. *The player was a short-lived substitute for the first-string quarterback.*

transitory passing soon or quickly. *Dizziness was a transitory feeling that I had after getting off the ride.*

tenant *n.* a person who pays rent for the use of a house, apartment, or other property. *In that tall apartment building there are several hundred tenants.*

boarder a person who pays for meals and rooms in another's house. *To help pay for their house, my parents always take in a boarder.*

lodger a person who lives in a rented room or house. *College students are lodgers in our house.*

occupant one who occupies or has possession of a place. *The occupant of the apartment is there only through December.*

renter one who rents a place to live. *The renter of this apartment pays extra for garage parking.*

roomer one who rents a room or rooms for lodging. *The college is always looking for homes for roomers.*

thoughtless *adj.* careless; inconsiderate. *It was thoughtless of you to invite only some of your friends.*

careless not thinking; done without thought. *A careless mistake lowered my final grade.*

heedless careless; thoughtless. *The driver of the car seemed to be heedless of the traffic laws.*

inattentive not attentive; negligent. *The inattentive student did not understand the lesson.*

tactless without tact or thought. *Her tactless comment hurt my feelings.*

unthinking thoughtless; careless. *I made an unthinking error on my spelling test that resulted in a lower grade than usual.*

trait *n.* a feature or characteristic. *We all inherit physical traits from our parents.*

attribute a quality or trait. *Blue eyes are an attribute of my family.*

property quality or power of something. *A property of copper is that it conducts electricity.*

quality nature, kind, or character. *The quality of this material is excellent.*

tremendous *adj.* extremely large; enormous. *A tremendous wave rocked the boat.*

colossal huge; gigantic. *The bridge was a colossal structure that spanned the river.*

enormous extremely large. *The package was not only enormous but also so heavy I could not carry it.*

gigantic giant; huge. *The circus featured gigantic elephants in the opening parade.*

huge very big; extremely large. *The earthquake left a huge crevice in the ground.*

immense very large; huge. *In the early 1800s an immense portion of our country was still unexplored.*

turbulent *adj.* disturbed or violently agitated. *The ocean became turbulent as the storm approached.*

boisterous violent; rough. *The boisterous crowd demanded free elections.*

chaotic extremely confused; disorganized. *The hurricane-damaged school was a chaotic mess.*

riotous boisterous; disorderly. *The riotous behavior of the citizens signaled the beginning of the revolution.*

stormy disturbed; violent. *The council meeting ended in a stormy argument over tax assessments.*

unruly hard to control; disorderly. *The unruly student was given two weeks in detention after school.*

violent acting or done with strong, rough force. *The violent storm raged for hours along the coast before it hit the mainland.*

wild violently excited; out of control. *The trapped animal lashed out in a wild frenzy as it tried to free itself from the hunter's net.*



ultimate *adj.* best; greatest. *Chess is the ultimate game of logic.*

extreme very great; very strong; the highest degree. *It was an extreme pleasure to meet the president of the United States.*

maximum largest; highest; greatest possible. *The maximum number of videos that will be distributed is 25,000.*

superior higher in quality; greater; better. *She has a superior command of the English language.*

supreme highest in rank or authority. *Eisenhower was the supreme commander of the allied forces in Europe during the latter half of World War II.*

undercover *adj.* done in secret. *They are conducting an undercover police investigation.*

clandestine secret; concealed. *Early labor unions held clandestine meetings to keep employers from finding out about them.*

covert kept secret; hidden. *The Senate investigated the covert actions of the CIA.*

secretive not frank or open. *She was secretive about the plans for the new company.*

stealthy done in a secret manner; sly. *The stealthy investigation revealed the officer's role in the bribery case.*

understand *v.* to know; comprehend. *Do you understand how a vacuum cleaner works?*

comprehend to understand. *It is difficult to comprehend the effects of the radiation.*

digest to think over for understanding. *I found it hard to digest his comments since I did not agree with them.*

discern to see clearly; perceive. *I found it difficult to discern the truth when so many viewpoints were presented.*

grasp to understand; comprehend. *He grasped the meaning of the event immediately.*

realize to understand completely. *I realized that success was dependent on hard work.*

uninterested *adj.* without an interest. *They seemed uninterested in my description of the exhibit at the museum.*

inattentive paying no attention. *I must apologize for being inattentive during the council meeting.*

indifferent having no attention. *Jason loved the movie, but Jane was indifferent.*

unconcerned not interested. *He seemed unconcerned about his own safety.*

antonym: interested

unpleasant *adj.* not pleasant; disagreeable. *The medicine had an unpleasant taste.*

disagreeable not to one's liking; unpleasant. *I find yard work to be a disagreeable task.*

distasteful unpleasant; offensive. *Her distasteful comments offended everyone in the room.*



various *adj.* of several different kinds; different. *I found shells of various sizes and shapes on the beach.*

distinct different in quality or kind. *The students had distinct abilities and talents.*

miscellaneous not all of one kind or nature. *I filed the memo with other miscellaneous information.*

mixed formed of different kinds. *She gave her mother a gift of mixed nuts.*

sundry several; various. *I selected a pen from the sundry items offered as party favors.*

varied of different kinds. *From the varied selection of recordings, I chose one featuring a jazz pianist.*

visible *adj.* able to be seen. *Because of the fog, the lights were no longer visible.*

apparent plain to see. *The location of the tower was apparent as soon as we entered the forest preserve.*

discernible capable of being seen. *The lights of the city were discernible as we approached the shore.*

distinct easily seen. *The outline of the building was distinct even at night.*

in sight visible. *The ship was in sight of people on the shore long before it docked at the pier.*

perceptible able to be seen; perceived. *The lines on the highway were barely perceptible because of the snow.*



weird *adj.* strange; odd. *The group of people going to the costume party was a weird sight.*

curious strange; unusual. *The two-story gabled house looked curious among all of the ranch homes.*

eerie fearful; weird. *I got an eerie feeling while walking through the empty building after working hours.*

peculiar strange; odd. *Just before the storm, the sky was a peculiar color of grayish orange.*

strange unusual; weird. *She had a strange look on her face when I entered the room.*

wonderful *adj.* excellent; remarkable; marvelous.

What a wonderful sunset we are having tonight!

fabulous wonderful; exciting. *We had a fabulous vacation when we took the train across Canada.*

spectacular wonderful; grand. *The Fourth of July fireworks display was spectacular last year.*

superb grand; excellent. *We had a superb view of the skiing trails from our chalet at the resort.*



yield *v.* to surrender; give up. *A traffic sign that says "Yield" warns drivers to surrender the right of way.*

give in to admit defeat; yield. *It was not easy for my boss to give in to my demand for fewer working hours.*

relinquish to give up; let go. *To avoid a family argument, I relinquished my claim to the property.*

submit surrender; yield. *Did Antoine submit to his parents' wishes, or did he apply to Temple University instead?*

surrender give up; yield. *The team refused to surrender their lead in the game.*