



| <b>Word</b>  | <b>Definition</b>   |
|--------------|---|
| abate        | v. to diminish in intensity<br>v. to cause to diminish in intensity                                   |
| aberrant     | adj. diverging from the standard type   |
| abjure       | v. to reject or renounce  |
| abscond      | v. to leave secretly, evading detection   |
| abstain      | v. to voluntarily refrain from doing something  |
| acumen       | n. keen judgment and perception   |
| admonish     | v. scold or to advise firmly  |
| adulterate   | v. to contaminate or make impure by introducing inferior elements                                     |
| advocate     | v. to recommend, support, or advise<br>n. one who advocates   |
| aesthetic    | adj. concerned with the nature of beauty and art  |
| affectation  | n. fake or artificial behavior, often meant to impress or conceal the truth                           |
| aggrandize   | v. enlarge or increase, esp. wealth, power, reputation  |
| alacrity     | n. promptness and eagerness   |
| alleviate    | v. to relieve a problem or ease a burden  |
| amalgamate   | v. to combine to or mix together  |
| ambiguous    | adj. unclear<br>adj. open to multiple interpretations   |
| ambivalent   | adj. having mixed or contradictory feelings about someone or something                                |
| ameliorate   | v. to improve or mitigate a situation   |
| amenable     | adj. easily convinced or persuaded  |
| anachronism  | n. something old-fashioned<br>n. something appearing in a time period where it does not belong        |
| analogous    | n. comparable<br>n. appropriate for analogy   |
| anoint       | v. to choose for a particular office or position<br>v. to use oil on a person in a religious ceremony |
| anomaly      | n. an exception or unusual case   |
| antipathy    | n. strong dislike or hatred   |
| antithetical | adj. contrary to the very nature of   |
| apathy       | n. state of total disinterest or unenthusiasm   |
| appease      | v. to placate<br>v. to satisfy (an appetite, a need)  |
| arbitrary    | adj. seemingly chosen or designated without reason or purpose   |
| arcane       | adj. secret or known only to a select group   |



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| archaic      | adj. old-fashioned<br>adj. no longer in the common usage   |
| arduous      | adj. difficult, taxing, requiring considerable effort  |
| articulate   | adj. exhibiting considerable communication skills, well-spoken   |
| artless      | adj. without artifice<br>adj. natural, untrained   |
| ascetic      | adj. austere or self-denying   |
| assuage      | v. to provide relief from an unpleasant feeling<br>v. to satisfy a need or appetite  |
| astonishment | n. total surprise, shock   |
| audacious    | adj. very bold or presumptuous   |
| austere      | adj. severe, unadorned   |
| avarice      | n. greed   |
| aver         | v. to assert or allege   |
| banal        | adj. boring, cliché  |
| belie        | v. give a false impression (intentional or unintentional) in word, appearance, or deed   |
| benign       | adj. gentle, harmless  |
| biased       | adj. prejudiced, displaying partiality<br>bolster<br>v. to shore up or support<br>bombastic<br>adj. overblown, theatrical  |
| brazen       | adj. bold or open to the point of shocking<br>adj. shameless   |
| bucolic      | adj. pastoral, rustic, countrified<br>burgeon<br>v. flourish, bloom, expand or increase quickly<br>cacophony<br>n. loud and chaotic noise  |
| calumny      | n. lie or slander  |
| candid       | adj. honest, open  |
| canon        | n. accepted rules and tenets of a discipline<br>n. sacred works/scripture; in this sense it is also used to refer to notable literary and artistic works of a culture or discipline                      |
| capacity     | n. the capability to perform a particular action or fulfill a given function<br>n. the total amount a container can hold<br>n. a particular position or role (i.e. "she served in an advisory capacity") |
| capricious   | adj. mercurial, unpredictable, whimsical<br>castigate<br>v. to scold or berate strongly<br>catalyst<br>n. something that speeds up a process or causes action  |



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| caustic       | adj. corrosive<br>adj. bitterly sarcastic  |
| censure       | v. to express intense condemnation   |
| chauvinist    | n. someone who believes prejudicially that their own group is the superior one                           |
| chicanery     | n. trickery or deception   |
| chronological | adj. ordered by time   |
| coalesce      | v. to come together, esp. from disparate parts   |
| cogent        | adj. clearly laid out and persuasive   |
| commensurate  | adj. in accordance with, proportional  |
| compelling    | adj. captivating<br>adj. very persuasive   |
| comprehensive | adj. complete and thorough   |
| condone       | v. to approve or allow   |
| confound      | v. to confuse or astonish  |
| connoisseur   | n. an expert in a particular subject matter area, usually relating to the fine arts or cultural pursuits |
| consequential | adj. as a result of<br>adj. significant or memorable   |
| construe      | v. to interpret  |
| consumption   | n. utilization (esp. of a resource)  |
| contend       | v. assert or claim<br>v. grapple with  |
| contentious   | adj. controversial<br>adj. involving conflict  |
| contrite      | adj. remorseful  |
| convoluted    | adj. roundabout, not straightforward   |
| copious       | adj. plentiful or abundant   |
| cosmopolitan  | adj. of or relating to a city or urban area<br>adj. sophisticated  |
| covet         | v. to desire something that does not belong to you   |
| craft         | n. cunning<br>n. skill   |
| craven        | adj. cowardly to the point of being shameful   |
| credence      | n. belief or trust   |
| credulous     | adj. gullible, naïve   |
| decorum       | n. appropriate behavior or good manners  |
| deference     | n. respect or polite submission  |
| deflect       | v. divert or cause to ricochet   |



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| deftness      | adj. skill, acumen<br>adj. manual dexterity   |
| delineate     | v. to describe very accurately<br>v. to clearly demarcate a boundary<br>v. to render an outline |
| demur         | v. to object or raise concerns  |
| denigrate     | v. say negative things about, particularly in a defamatory way                                  |
| deride        | v. to mock or ridicule  |
| derivative    | adj. imitates another work in a way that is unoriginal or uninspiring                           |
| desiccate     | v. to dry out completely<br>v. to suck out the vitality and passion                             |
| desultory     | adj. halfhearted<br>adj. inconsistent or random   |
| detachment    | n. objectivity or aloofness   |
| determinant   | n. a strong factor in an outcome  |
| diatribe      | n. a rant or angry speech denouncing someone or something                                       |
| didactic      | adj. educational or with an instructive purpose; often includes an element of moralizing        |
| diffident     | adj. shy, timid, or reserved due to a lack of confidence  |
| dilettante    | n. someone with an amateur, nonserious interest in something                                    |
| dirge         | n. funeral or mourning lament<br>n. any sad, slow song  |
| disabuse      | v. to dispel someone's illusions or false impressions about something                           |
| discern       | v. to perceive  |
| discrepancy   | n. inconsistency  |
| disinterested | adj. objective, unbiased<br>adj. not invested in the outcome                                    |
| disparage     | v. to belittle  |
| disparate     | adj. dissimilar to such a degree that comparison is not possible                                |
| dispassionate | adj. impartial or cool  |
| disregard     | v. to ignore or pay no attention to   |
| dissemble     | v. to mislead or conceal the truth, esp. with respect to one's motives                          |
| disseminate   | v. to spread widely (esp. information)  |
| dissonance    | n. a clash between two elements that don't blend well   |
| diverge       | v. to split apart, esp. a road or path  |
| dogma         | n. the official beliefs or tenets of particular sect or group                                   |
| dupe          | v. to deceive or fool   |



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| ebullient   | adj. cheerful, enthusiastic, excited   |
| eccentric   | adj. quirky or unusual   |
| eclectic    | adj. composed of a variety of styles, themes, motifs, etc.   |
| efficacy    | n. effectiveness   |
| elegy       | n. sad poem or song, often in remembrance of someone deceased  |
| elicit      | v. to provoke a response   |
| eloquence   | adj. persuasive and articulate speech  |
| eminent     | adj. well-known, respected, distinguished  |
| empirical   | adj. based on evidence   |
| emulate     | v. to imitate or attempt to equal in accomplishment  |
| enervate    | v. to exhaust or drain of energy   |
| engender    | v. to cause or give rise to  |
| enhance     | v. intensify, increase, augment  |
| entitlement | n. belief that one deserves things one has not earned<br>n. the rights one is afforded under the law |
| ephemeral   | adj. short-lived or transient  |
| equable     | adj. even-tempered<br>adj. not given to much change or variation                                     |
| equivocate  | v. to use ambiguous language in order to mislead or deceive  |
| erroneous   | adj. incorrect   |
| erudite     | adj. learned   |
| eschew      | v. avoid or abstain from   |
| esoteric    | adj. obscure, arcane   |
| estimable   | adj. deserving respect, esteem, and admiration   |
| eulogy      | n. memorial speech for one who has passed, normally given at a funeral                               |
| exacerbate  | v. to make worse   |
| exacting    | adj. challenging, demanding, grueling  |
| exculpate   | v. to exonerate or vindicate   |
| exigent     | adj. urgent or pressing  |
| exonerate   | v. to clear of charges of wrongdoing   |
| expatiate   | v. to elaborate on something in great detail   |
| explicate   | v. to explain in detail  |
| exposition  | n. a thorough explanation<br>n. a public show or fair  |
| extraneous  | adj. irrelevant or superfluous   |
| extrapolate | v. to estimate or conjecture about the future based on presently available information or facts      |
| facetious   | adj. glib or flippant  |



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| facilitate   | v. to make something easier or simpler  |
| fallacious   | adj. relying on a fallacy and thus incorrect/misinformed  |
| fastidious   | adj. meticulous<br>adj. invested in cleanliness   |
| fluctuate    | v. to shift without apparent pattern  |
| foment       | v. to foster unrest or discontent   |
| forestall    | v. to hold off or try to prevent fortuitous<br>adj. fortunate and lucky   |
| frugal       | adj. economical, thrifty  |
| gainsay      | v. deny or oppose   |
| galvanize    | v. to prod someone into action garrulous<br>adj. talkative  |
| gauche       | adj. socially inept, inappropriate, or awkward germane<br>adj. relevant to the matter at hand glib<br>adj. talking volubly, but carelessly or insincerely gregarious<br>adj. sociable, genial                 |
| guile        | n. craftiness and cunning   |
| hackneyed    | adj. cliché, trite, banal   |
| harangue     | n. diatribe or rant   |
| hedonism     | n. the pursuit of pleasure  |
| hierarchical | adj. arranged in rank order or hierarchy homogenous<br>adj. uniform, identical  |
| hyperbole    | n. obvious exaggeration for effect iconoclast<br>n. a person who attacks traditional religious and cultural institutions  |
| ideological  | adj. relating to a particular belief system or theory imminent<br>adj. about to happen  |
| immutable    | adj. unchangeable   |
| impair       | v. to hinder or weaken someone or something impediment<br>n. barrier, hindrance, or obstruction imperturbable<br>adj. remaining calm under any circumstance implacable<br>adj. unforgiving<br>adj. relentless |
| implicit     | adj. implied or insinuated without being directly stated imprudence<br>n. bad judgment  |
| impudent     | adj. disrespectful  |
| inadvertent  | adj. by accident or unintentional inchoate<br>adj. rudimentary, in the beginning stages inconclusive<br>adj. indeterminate or unresolved  |



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| indebted      | adj. owing money<br>adj. owing gratitude to someone or something                     |
| indefatigable | adj. cannot be made tired  |
| indolent      | adj. lazy<br>adj. idle   |
| infer         | v. to conclude from implicit evidence (as opposed to explicit facts)                 |
| ingenuous     | adj. naïve or innocent   |
| inimical      | adj. harmful or hostile  |
| innocuous     | adj. harmless  |
| inscrutable   | adj. enigmatic, incomprehensible   |
| insipid       | adj. bland, uninspired, inane  |
| insular       | adj. tight-knit and isolated; uninterested in matters outside one's immediate sphere |
| intensive     | adj. concentrated and in-depth   |
| intermediary  | n. a go-between  |
| intimate      | adj. close (as in a relationship)<br>adj. particularly private<br>v. to imply        |
| intractable   | adj. unmanageable<br>adj. stubborn or obstinate                                      |
| intransigent  | adj. uncompromising, obstinate   |
| intrepid      | adj. bold and adventurous  |
| inveterate    | adj. ingrained, habitual   |
| invulnerable  | adj. indestructible, impervious to harm  |
| irascible     | adj. irritable, testy, touchy  |
| irresolute    | adj. wishy-washy, hesitant   |
| laconic       | adj. taciturn, reserved, succinct  |
| laud          | v. to praise   |
| laudable      | adj. praiseworthy  |
| litigation    | n. legal proceedings   |
| loquacious    | adj. talkative   |
| lucid         | adj. clear and coherent  |
| luminous      | adj. full of light   |
| magnanimity   | n. generosity and nobility of spirit   |
| maladroit     | adj. clumsy, awkward, inept  |
| malign        | adj. evil or harmful<br>v. to speak negatively about someone or something            |
| malleable     | adj. pliant or pliable<br>adj. easily influenced                                     |



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| maverick     | n. an unorthodox person or rebel  |
| mendacity    | n. untruthfulness, dishonesty   |
| mercurial    | adj. easily changeable, fickle  |
| meticulous   | adj. paying close attention to detail   |
| misanthrope  | n. person who hates humanity  |
| mitigate     | v. to improve a painful, unpleasant, or negative situation  |
| modest       | adj. not boastful<br>adj. not overly showy  |
| mollify      | v. placate  |
| monotony     | n. boredom and repetition   |
| mundane      | adj. everyday, boring   |
| munificent   | adj. very generous  |
| naïve        | adj. inexperienced or gullible  |
| nascent      | adj. just beginning or in the early stages  |
| neglect      | v. to abandon or leave uncared-for  |
| nonplussed   | adj. confused and baffled   |
| notoriety    | n. fame for doing something negative or criminal  |
| nuance       | n. subtle shades of difference  |
| obdurate     | adj. stubborn, obstinate  |
| obscure      | adj. mysterious or not well-known<br>v. to cover something up or make it more difficult to perceive                     |
| obsequious   | adj. overly fawning and helpful in a way that is disingenuous   |
| obstinate    | adj. stubborn, uncompromising   |
| obviate      | v. to forestall the need for something<br>v. to prevent   |
| occlude      | v. to block or obstruct   |
| occult       | n. the mystical and supernatural  |
| offset       | v. to counterbalance or counteract  |
| olfactory    | adj. relating to smell or the sense of smell  |
| omniscience  | n. the quality or state of being all-knowing  |
| onerous      | adj. difficult or burdensome  |
| opaque       | adj. not see-through; blocking light  |
| opportunism  | n. the practice of taking advantage of opportunities as they arise<br>without particular concern for morality or ethics |
| opprobrium   | n. criticism or condemnation  |
| oscillate    | v. to swing back and forth between two points, poles, or positions  |
| ostentatious | adj. overly showy in a way that is gaudy or vulgar  |
| outstrip     | v. to overtake or outrun  |



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| overshadow   | v. to literally cast a shadow over<br>v. to appear more notable than   |
| painstaking  | adj. attentive to detail, meticulous   |
| partial      | adj. incomplete  |
| partisan     | n. a devoted supporter of a group, cause, or person  |
| patent       | adj. blatant, obvious  |
| paucity      | n. scarcity, poverty   |
| pedantic     | adj. overly concerned with irrelevant detail, fussy  |
| pedestrian   | adj. boring, monotonous, run-of-the-mill   |
| perfidy      | n. treachery or deceit   |
| perfunctory  | adj. done without much effort, care, or thought  |
| peripheral   | adj. on the edge or periphery; not centrally important   |
| permeate     | v. to pervade or penetrate throughout  |
| perseverance | n. persistence in the face of obstacles  |
| peruse       | v. to read something carefully and closely<br>v. to read something informally or quickly<br>(context is critical for this word!) |
| pervasive    | adj. found everywhere, widespread; often has a negative connotation  |
| phenomena    | n. things that happen  |
| phlegmatic   | adj. cool and unruffled  |
| pith         | n. the essential substance of something  |
| placate      | v. to calm, esp. an angry or upset person  |
| plastic      | adj. easily shaped or molded<br>adj. made of plastic   |
| platitude    | n. a trite or cliché statement   |
| plausible    | adj. believable, reasonable  |
| plethora     | n. a surplus or overabundance of something   |
| plummet      | v. to fall quickly and far   |
| polarize     | v. to cause a sharp division between two groups  |
| polemical    | adj. angry, hostile, harshly critical  |
| pragmatic    | adj. practical   |
| precarious   | adj. uncertain or unstable   |
| preceded     | adj. went before   |
| precipitate  | v. to cause<br>adj. hastily and not well-considered<br>n. particulate matter formed within a solution                            |
| precursor    | n. a forerunner  |
| prescient    | adj. knowing things before they happen, prophetic  |



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| presumptuous  | adj. overly familiar; invades social boundaries   |
| prevail       | v. to succeed, esp. with respect to vanquishing an opponent<br>v. to convince or persuade   |
| prevaricate   | v. to evade or deceive without outright lying   |
| pristine      | adj. untouched, clean, pure   |
| probity       | n. integrity and honor  |
| prodigal      | n. a reckless spender   |
| prodigious    | adj. enormous, immense, gigantic  |
| profligate    | adj. extravagant and wasteful, esp. in an immoral way   |
| proliferate   | v. to multiply and spread rapidly   |
| propitiate    | v. to obtain special favor from someone, esp. a powerful person or deity, by performing a pleasing action<br>v. to appease someone who is angry |
| propriety     | n. appropriateness, manners, decorum  |
| prospective   | adj. potential or likely<br>adj. applicable to the future   |
| qualification | n. credential<br>n. a modifying statement   |
| quotidian     | adj. relating to the everyday or mundane  |
| rationalize   | v. to attempt to justify with reasons that are only superficially valid   |
| reconcile     | v. to bring into harmony<br>v. to repair a relationship   |
| recondite     | adj. arcane or obscure  |
| refute        | v. to rebut or disprove   |
| relentless    | adj. never stopping, constant   |
| relevant      | adj. relating to the topic or issue at hand   |
| reproach      | v. to scold or express criticism  |
| repudiate     | v. to renounce or disown  |
| rescind       | v. to take back or retract (an offer or statement)  |
| respectively  | adv. in the sequential order previously given   |
| reticent      | adj. hesitant to speak<br>adj. introverted or silent  |
| reverent      | adj. solemn and respectful  |
| rhetoric      | n. the art of effective communication (written or verbal)   |
| salubrious    | adj. health-promoting   |
| sanction      | v. to give official permission<br>v. to impose a penalty for a particular action<br>n. punishments imposed for breaking a regulation            |
| satiate       | v. to completely satisfy (with respect to hunger or appetite)   |



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| secular      | adj. of or relating to the world or worldly matters (as opposed to religious ones)           |
| sediment     | n. material that settles at the bottom of a body of water                                    |
| sedulous     | adj. dedicated and careful   |
| simultaneous | adj. occurring at the same moment  |
| solicitous   | adj. considerate, attentive  |
| soporific    | adj. makes sleepy  |
| sparse       | adj. scattered or scarce<br>adj. austere and unadorned                                       |
| specious     | adj. spurious; appearing true but actually false   |
| sporadic     | adj. occasional or scattered   |
| spurious     | adj. fake or false   |
| stolid       | adj. calm and dependable   |
| subjective   | adj. open to personal interpretation; not based in objective fact                            |
| substantiate | v. to corroborate or give evidence of something  |
| subversive   | adj. meant to undercut established institutions or norms                                     |
| sufficient   | adj. enough for a given purpose  |
| superbly     | adv. excellently   |
| supine       | adj. laying back with the face upward (opposite position to prone)                           |
| supplant     | v. to overtake or replace  |
| sycophant    | n. a fawning, insincere admirer  |
| synthesize   | v. to combine disparate parts into a coherent whole  |
| tacit        | adj. unspoken; implicit  |
| taciturn     | adj. reticent or reserved; tending towards silence   |
| temperance   | n. moderation and restraint, sometimes used to specifically describe abstinence from alcohol |
| tenuous      | adj. weak, flimsy, insubstantial   |
| timorous     | adj. meek or timid   |
| tirade       | n. an angry rant   |
| torpor       | n. tiredness, lethargy   |
| tortuous     | adj. winding or twisty<br>adj. complicated   |
| tractable    | adj. can be easily influenced or managed   |
| transient    | adj. passes quickly; short-lived   |
| ubiquitous   | adj. ever-present or universal   |
| unadorned    | adj. plain; unembellished  |
| undermine    | v. to weaken or compromise   |
| underscore   | v. to line underneath for emphasis<br>v. to emphasize  |



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| untenable | adj. weak or unsupportable, esp. with respect to an opinion or situation |
| vacillate | v. to shift between multiple options or opinions                         |
| venality  | n. the state of being capable of being bribed                            |
| venerate  | v. to give a high degree of respect; may border on worship               |
| veracity  | n. truth and factual accuracy  |
| verbose   | adj. long-winded; loquacious   |
| vexation  | n. state of being frustrated, irritated, or concerned.                   |
| volatile  | adj. easily changeable or extreme; unstable                              |
| whimsical | adj. fanciful or capricious  |
| zeal      | n. passion or fervor   |