

## GRE word groups

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**alienate** estrange ; cause someone previously friendly to become unfriendly or indifferent by unpopular or distasteful actions ; transfer ownership to another; make hostile: separate

**estrangle** to alienate

**lacerate** mangle; tear

**rend** split; tear apart

**sunder** separate; part

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**gossamer** sheer; like cobwebs

**imponderable** weightless

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**confine** (imprison) n. a boundary or bounded region; border; limit / [Old Poet.] confinement/[Obs.] a place of confinement v. to keep within limits; restrict [to confine a talk to ten minutes]/to keep shut up, as in prison, in bed because of illness, indoors, etc. SYN. limit

**constraint** compulsion; repression of feelings

**custody** (imprisonment) a guarding or keeping safe; care; protection; guardianship

**detain** to keep in custody; confine / to keep from going on; hold back / [Obs.] to withhold

**detention** detaining or being detained; specif., a) a keeping in custody; confinement b) an enforced delay/a form of punishment in which a student is required to stay after school

**duress** forcible restraint, especially unlawfully

**fetter** shackle

**incarcerate** to imprison; jail / to shut up; confine

**manacle** fetter or chain for the hands or feet / fetter with manacles ; restrain / handcuff

**obligatory** binding; required

**quarantine** isolation of person or ship to prevent spread of infection

**restraint** controlling force

**seclusion** a secluding or being secluded, retirement, isolation; isolation; solitude

**sequester** retire from public life; segregate; seclude

**shackle** chain; fetter

**stringent** strict, severe, that must be obeyed ; tight, difficult to operate because of scarcity of money; binding; rigid

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**arrogance** the state or manner of having too great pride in oneself / haughtiness;

**arrogant** unduly or excessively proud, as of wealth, station, learning, etc

**bloated** swollen or puffed as with water or air

**brazen** insolent

**bumptious** self-assertive

**cavalier** gallant n. an armed horseman; knight / a gallant or courteous gentleman, esp. one serving as a lady's escort/ [C-] a partisan of Charles I of England in his struggles with Parliament (1641-1649); Royalist: opposed to Roundhead adj. [C-] a) of the Cavaliers b) associated with the court of Charles I of England [Cavalier poets]/a) free and easy; gay b) casual or indifferent toward matters of some importance c) haughty; arrogant; supercilious

**conceit** whimsical idea; extravagant metaphor

**contumely** scornful insolence; insult

**disdain** contempt ; scorn / look on with contempt ; think it dishonorable to do something ; be too proud; treat with scorn or contempt

**domineer** rule over tyrannically

**elated** in high spirits ; proud / overjoyed;

**haughtiness** pride; arrogance

**hubris** arrogance; excessive self-conceit

**imperious** commanding ; haughty ; arrogant ; urgent / domineering

**imperiousness** lordliness; domineering manner; arrogance

**impertinent** insolent

**impudent** adj. 1 orig., immodest; shameless 2 shamelessly bold or disrespectful; saucy; insolent SYN. impertinent

**insolent** haughty and contemptuous

**lofty** very high

**mincing** affectedly dainty

**overweening** presumptuous; arrogant

**peremptory** not to be disobeyed or questioned ; dogmatic ; insisting upon obedience ; imperious; demanding and leaving no choice

**pert** impertinent; forward

**pontificate** to officiate as a pontiff, to speak or act in a pompous or dogmatic way

**presumption** arrogance; effrontery

**presumptuous** arrogant; taking liberties

**pretentious** claiming great merit or importance / ostentatious; ambitious

**smug** (spruce) adj. orig., neat, spruce, trim, etc. / narrowly contented with one's own accomplishments, beliefs, morality, etc.; self-satisfied to an annoying degree; complacent

**stilted** bombastic; inflated

**supercilious** contemptuous; haughty

**thrasonical** bragging, boastful

**vain** (of, about) adj. having no real value or significance; worthless, empty, idle, hollow, etc. [vain pomp] / without force or effect; futile, fruitless, unprofitable, unavailing, etc. [a vain endeavor] / having or showing an excessively high regard for one's self, looks, possessions, ability, etc.; indulging in or resulting from personal vanity; conceited / [Archaic] lacking in sense; foolish

**vainglorious** boastful; excessively conceited

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**apprehend** arrest a criminal; dread; perceive

**apprehensive** fearful about something that might happen ; quick to understand ; perceptive; fearful; discerning

**hypochondriac** one who suffers from morbid anxiety / person unduly worried about his health; worrier without cause about illness

**misgivings** doubts

**perturb** disturb ; make afraid or anxious; disturb greatly

**qualm** a fit of nausea

**qualms** misgivings

**solicitous** anxious or concerned about someone's welfare, etc ; eager to help or serve someone; worried; concerned

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**appall** fill with fear or terror ; dismay ; shock deeply

**craven** cowardly

**dastard** coward

**daunt** intimidate

**diffident** not having much belief in one's own abilities ; lacking in self-confidence ; shy

**dismay** to make afraid or discouraged at the prospect of trouble or danger; fill with apprehension or alarm; daunt n. a loss of courage or confidence at the prospect of trouble or danger; consternation

SYN. Dismay suggests fear or, esp. in modern usage, discouragement at the prospect of some difficulty or problem which one does not quite know how to resolve [dismayed at his lack of understanding]; appall suggests terror or (now more commonly) dismay at a shocking but apparently unalterable situation [an appalling death rate]; horrify suggests horror or loathing (or, in a weakened sense, irritation) at that which shocks or offends one [horrified at the suggestion]; daunt implies a becoming disheartened in the performance of an act that requires some courage [never daunted by adversity]

**intimidate**

**milquetoast** a timid, shrinking, apologetic person

**poltroon** coward

**pusillanimous** cowardly; fainthearted

**recreant** coward; betrayer of faith

**terrify**

**timorous** fearful; demonstrating fear

**weak sister (slang)** one who is cowardly, unreliable, etc.

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**drone** idle person; male bee / talk dully; buzz or murmur like a bee

**indolence** laziness

**indolent** habitually inactive or idle

**schmo, schmoe (slang)** fool

**slack**

**sloth** laziness; slow-moving tree dwelling mammal

**sloven**

**sluggard** lazy person

**sluggish** inactive ; slow-moving / lazy; lethargic; not easily aroused by activity; slow to respond

**supine** (indolent) lying on back

**torpor** (torpidity) lethargy; sluggishness; dormancy

**truant** One who is absent, evader

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**affected** artificial: pretended

**aggrandize** make someone or a nation greater in power, wealth, rank, etc. ; exaggerate; increase or intensify

**blowhard** a very boastful and talkative person [syn: braggart, boaster, line-shooter, vaunter]

**bluff** (Poker) To deter (an opponent) from taking the risk of betting on his hand of cards, as the bluffer does by betting heavily on his own hand although it may be of less value. [U. S.] 2. To frighten or deter from accomplishing a purpose by making a show of confidence in one's strength or resources; as, he bluffed me off. [Colloq.] n. 1. A high, steep bank, as by a river or the sea, or beside a ravine or plain; a cliff with a broad face. Beach, bluff, and wave, adieu. --Whittier. 2. An act of bluffing; an expression of self-confidence for the purpose of intimidation; braggadocio; as, that is only bluff, or a bluff. 3. A game at cards; poker. [U.S.] --Bartlett

**bombastic** pompous; using inflated language

**braggadocio** boasting

**braggart** boaster

**bravado** swagger; assumed air of defiance

**charlatan** quack; pretender to knowledge

**consequential** pompous; self-important

**distend** expand; swell out

**effusive** expressing excessive emotion in an unrestrained manner ; pouring out ; overflowing / pouring forth; gushing

**enhance** advance; improve; to make greater, better

**fanfare** call by bugles or trumpets

**flaunt** display ostentatiously

**fustian** pompous; bombastic

**gasconade** bluster; boastfulness

**grandiloquent** pompous; bombastic; using high-sounding language

**grandiose** imposing; impressive

**hyperbole** exaggerated statement made for effect and not intended to be taken literally; exaggeration; overstatement

**inflate** take action to increase the amount of money in circulation so that prices rise ; fill a tire , balloon, etc. with air or gas ; make proud or elated

**inflated** enlarged with air or gas; exaggerated

**magniloquent** boastful; pompous

**mountebank** charlatan; boastful pretender

**orotund** having a round, resonant quality; inflated speech

**ostentatious** done for unnecessary display ; liking to attract notice; showy; pretentious

**panache** flair, flamboyance

**panegyric** formal speech or writing praising a person or event ; high or hyperbolic praise, laudation; formal praise

**peacock exhibit oneself vainly**

**pomposity** self-important behavior; action like a stuffed shirt

**pretentious** claiming great merit or importance / ostentatious; ambitious

**rhetoric** art of effective communication; insincere language

**rhetorical** pertaining to effective communication; insincere in language

**stilted** bombastic; inflated

**strut** pompous walk / supporting bar

**stuffed shirt**

**tumid** swollen; pompous; bombastic

**turgid** swollen; distended

**vaporer a braggart**

**vaunt**

**vaunted** boasted; bragged; highly publicized

**vaunter**

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**affinity** a close relationship ; likeness ; strong liking or attraction; kinship

**apt**

**bent** determined; natural talent or inclination adj. 1 made curved or crooked; not straight 2 strongly inclined or determined: with on [bent on going] 3 set in a course; bound [westward bent] 4 [Slang] a) dishonest; crooked b) eccentric; odd n. 1 an inclination; tendency 2 a natural leaning or tendency; propensity [a bent for music, a criminal bent] 3 a framework transverse to the length of a structure, for supporting lateral as well as vertical loads

**disposition** n. 1a putting in order or being put in order; arrangement [the disposition of the troops] 2management or settlement of affairs 3a selling or giving away, as of property 4a getting rid of something [the disposition of wastes] 5the power or authority to arrange, settle, or manage; control 6an inclination or tendency [a disposition to quarrel] 7one's customary frame of mind; one's nature or temperament adj. SYN. disposition refers to the normal or prevailing aspect of one's nature [a genial disposition]; temperament refers to the balance of traits that are manifested in one's behavior or thinking [an artistic temperament]; temper refers to one's basic emotional nature, esp. as regards relative quickness to anger [a hot temper, an even temper]; character is applied to the sum of moral qualities associated with a distinctive individual [a weak character] and, unqualified, suggests moral strength, self-discipline, etc. [a man of character]; personality is applied to the sum of physical, mental, and emotional qualities that distinguish one as a person [a negative personality] and, unqualified, suggests attractiveness or charm [a girl with personality]

**endearment** fond statement

**gusto** enjoyment; enthusiasm



**inclination**

**incline** slope; slant

**leaning**

**partial**

**partiality** inclination; bias

**penchant** strong inclination; liking

**predilection** special liking ; mental preference; partiality; preference

**predisposition**

**proclivity** a natural or habitual tendency, or inclination especially toward something discreditable / natural tendency

**proneness**

**propensity** a natural inclination or tendency

**tendency**

**tendentious** having an aim; designed to further a cause

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**ablution** the act of washing one's body or a part of it as a religious ceremony

**chaste** pure, free from obscenity

**disinfection**

**expurgate** take out from a book what is considered to be improper or object on able parts / clean; remove offensive parts of a book

**hygiene**

**immaculate** pure ; faultless ; without a spot or stain ; perfectly clean ; right in every detail / spotless

**impeccable** faultless ; incapable of doing wrong

**lave** wash

**pristine** characteristic of earlier times; primitive; unspoiled

**purge** clean by removing impurities; to clear of charges

**purify**

**sanitation**

**sterilization**

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**bark** howl. Whine. Growl. Snarl.

**chaff** worthless products of an endeavor

**epidermis**

**hull**

**husk**

**membrane**

**peel**

**pod**

**rind**

**scale**

**shuck**

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**coda** concluding section of a musical or literary composition

**culminate** 1to reach its highest or lowest altitude: said of a celestial body 2to reach its highest point or climax; result (in) vt. to bring to its climax; cap

**epilogue** peroration, prologue ; last part of a literary work; short speech at conclusion of dramatic work

**finale** conclusion

**interminable** endless ; unable to be ended ; tedious because too long

**prorogue** dismiss parliament; end officially

**terminate** bring to an end ; come to an end / to bring to an end

**truncate** cut the top off

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**dawdle** be slow, waste time / loiter;

**dissipate** squander

**extravagant**

**fritter** waste

**improvident** not looking to future needs ; wasteful / thriftless

**lavish** liberal; wasteful

**loiter** hang around; linger

**muddle** muddled state, confusion of ideas / bring into a state of confusion and disorder / confuse; mix up

**niggle** spend too much time on minor points; carp

**prodigal** wasteful ; too free in giving or spending ; abundant; wasteful; reckless with money

**prodigality**

**profligacy** shameless viciousness

**profligate** shamelessly immoral ; reckless, extravagant; dissipated; wasteful; licentious

**profuse** very plentiful or abundant ; lavish or extravagant ; giving generously

**profusion** lavish expenditure; overabundant condition

**spendthrift**

**squander** waste

**thriftless**

**unthrifty**

**waster**

**wastrel** profligate

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**agitation** excitement of the mind or feelings, anxiety ; discussion or debate for the purpose of bringing about a change ; social or political unrest or trouble / strong feeling; excitement

**altercation** quarrel or noisy argument; wordy quarrel

**bicker** quarrel; to quarrel vi. 1 to have a petty quarrel; squabble 2 to move with quick, rippling noises [a bickering brook] 3 to flicker, twinkle, etc. n. 1 a petty quarrel 2 a rippling or pattering sound

**brabble** (with) vi.[Archaic] to quarrel noisily over trifles n. quarrelsome chatter

**contend** struggle ; be in rivalry or competition ; argue ; assert / compete; assert earnestly

**contentious** quarrelsome

**contest** dispute

**controvert** dispute about ; deny, oppose / oppose with arguments; contradict

**disputatious** argumentative; fond of argument

**dispute** vi. 1to argue; debate 2to quarrel vt. 1to argue or debate (a question); discuss pro and con 2to question the truth of; doubt 3to oppose in any way; resist 4to fight for; contest [to dispute every foot of ground] n. 1a disputing; argument; debate 2a quarrel 3[Obs.] a fight SYN. discuss, argument beyond dispute 1not open to dispute or question; settled 2indisputably in dispute still being argued about; not settled

**haggle** argue or dispute especially the price of something or the terms of a bargain / argue about prices

**incontrovertible** that cannot be disputed / indisputable

**moot** debatable

**polemic** controversy; argument in support of point of view

**polemical**

**problematic** perplexing; unsettled; questionable

**spat** n.[Rare] a slap/a quick, slapping sound/[Colloq.] a brief, petty quarrel or dispute vi.1 [Rare] to slap/to strike with a quick, slapping sound/[Colloq.] to engage in a spat, or quarrel vt.[Rare] to slap SYN. quarrel

**squabble** to quarrel noisily over a small matter; wrangle n.a noisy, petty quarrel or dispute; wrangle SYN. quarrel2

**tiff** n. a slight fit of anger or bad humor; huff; pet/ a slight quarrel; spat vi. to be in or have a tiff

**wrangle** such an argument / take part in a noisy or angry argument / quarrel; obtain through arguing; herd cattle

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**acidulous** slightly sour: sharp: caustic Slightly sour; sub-acid; sourish; as, an acidulous tincture. --E. Burke. Acidulous mineral waters, such as contain carbonic anhydride.

**bilious** suffering from indigestion; irritable

**churl** 1. A rustic; a countryman or laborer. ``A peasant or churl." --Spenser. Your rank is all reversed; let men of cloth Bow to the stalwart churls in overalls. --Emerson. 2. A rough, surly, ill-bred man; a boor. A churl's courtesy rarely comes, but either for gain or falsehood. --Sir P. Sidney. 3. A selfish miser; an illiberal person; a niggard. Like to some rich churl hoarding up his pelf. --Drayton

**crabbed** sour; peevish adj. peevish; morose; ill-tempered; cross / hard to understand because intricate or complicated / hard to read or make out because cramped or irregular [crabbed handwriting]

**cumbersome** burdensome ; heavy and awkward to carry / hard to manage

**fastidious** difficult to please; squeamish

**finicky** too particular; fussy

**fractious** irritable, peevish, bad-tempered / unruly

**intractable** unruly or stubborn ; not easily controlled or dealt with; unruly; refractory

**malcontent** a person who is not contented / discontented and inclined to rebel / person dissatisfied with existing state of affairs

**martinet** strict disciplinarian

**meticulous** excessively careful

**morose** ill-humored; sullen

**mutinous** unruly; rebellious

**overnice** adj. too nice; too fastidious, precise, etc.

**petulant** touchy; peevish

**recalcitrant** obstinately stubborn

**refractory** resisting control, discipline, etc. wilful ; not yielding to treatment ; hard to melt, fuse or work; stubborn; unmanageable

**restive** unmanageable; fretting under control adj. refusing to go forward; balky, as a horse / hard to control; unruly; refractory / nervous or impatient under pressure or restraint; restless; unsettled SYN. contrary

**shrew** scolding woman

**squeamish** adj. having a digestive system that is easily upset; easily nauseated; queasy / easily shocked or offended; prudish / excessively fastidious; oversensitive SYN. dainty

**touchy** sensitive; irascible; sensitive; irritable

**unruly** not easily controlled ; disorderly / disobedient; lawless

**untoward** unfortunate; annoying

**vixen** female fox; ill-tempered woman

**wanton** unruly; unchaste; excessive

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**besmear**

**besmirch** soil; defile vt. 1 to make dirty; soil 2 to bring dishonor to; sully

**blotch** n. 1 a discolored patch or blemish on the skin 2 any large blot or stain  
vt. to cover or mark with blotches

**blur**

**brindled** tawny or grayish with streaks or spots

**dappled** spotted

**defile** make something dirty ; destroy the purity of; pollute; profane

**disheveled** untidy

**filthy**

**fleck** spot

**frowzy** slovenly; unkempt; dirty

**immaculate** pure ; faultless ; without a spot or stain ; perfectly clean ; right in every detail / spotless

**mottled** spotted

**piebald** mottled; spotted

**pied** variegated; multicolored

**slovenly** of or like a sloven / untidy; careless in work habits

**smear**

**sordid** filthy; base; vile

**squalid** dirty; neglected; poor

**squalor**

**tainted** contaminated; corrupt

**unkempt** untidy ; uncombed / disheveled; with uncared for appearance

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**abash** embarrass, to destroy the self-confidence, poise, or self-possession of; disconcert; make ashamed or embarrassed

**addle** rotten; muddled; crazy 1. Liquid filth; mire. [Obs.] 2. Lees; dregs. [Prov. Eng.] --Wright. a. Having lost the power of development, and become rotten, as eggs; putrid. Hence: Unfruitful or confused, as brains; muddled. --Dryden.

**agitation** excitement of the mind or feelings, anxiety ; discussion or debate for the purpose of bringing about a change ; social or political unrest or trouble / strong feeling; excitement

**anarchy** absence of government or control ; disorder ; confusion; absence of governing body; state of disorder

**baffle** frustrate; perplex; to confuse

**bedlam** (St. Mary of Bethlehem (madhouse) madhouse; [Archaic] any insane asylum ;any place or condition of noise and confusion

**confound** vt. 1to mix up or lump together indiscriminately; confuse 2to make feel confused; bewilder 3to damn: used as a mild oath 4[Archaic] to defeat or destroy 5[Archaic] to abash

**consternation** surprise and fear ; dismay

**deranged** insane

**disarray** a disorderly or untidy state

**discombobulate** to upset the composure of; disconcert

**embroil** throw into confusion; involve in strife; entangle

**fluctuate** move up and down

**fluster** confuse

**fuddle**

**imperturbable** not capable of being excited ; calm / placid

**maelstrom** whirlpool

**muddle** muddled state, confusion of ideas / bring into a state of confusion and disorder / confuse; mix up



**obfuscate** darken or obscure the mind ; bewilder; confuse; muddle

**oscillate** vibrate pendulum like; waver

**pandemonium** wild and noisy disorder / wild tumult

**perplex**

**perturb** disturb ; make afraid or anxious; disturb greatly

**perturbation** agitation

**ruffled**

**trepidation** fear; trembling agitation

**turmoil** confusion; strife

**vacillation** fluctuation; wavering

**welter** wallow / turmoil; bewildering jumble

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**accede** agree ; take up a position ; succeed ; become a member of an organization

**accolade** bestowed of a knighthood by a tap on the shoulder with the flat of a sword ; praise ; approval; award of merit

**accord** the state of being in agreement or harmony; be in agreement or harmony ; give, grant to agree; to be in harmony; to grant or bestow

**acquiesce** to assent tacitly ;submit or comply silently or without protest ; assent; agree passively

**assent** agreement / agree to something / accept

**compact**

**concur** agree, be in harmony ; happen at the same time ; work together

**concurrent** happening at the same time

**conformity** harmony; agreement

**congruence** correspondence of parts; harmonious relationship

**congruous** corresponding to what is right, proper, or reasonable; fitting; suitable; appropriate

**consort** associate with

**converge** come towards each other and meet at a point / come together

**seconder**

**stand-by**

**unanimity** complete agreement or unity

**uniformity** sameness; consistency; monotony

**unison** concord or agreement / unity of pitch; complete accord

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**articulate** say words or speak distinctly ; connect by joints / in which the separate sounds and words are clear ; able to put thoughts and feelings into clear speech; effective; distinct

**babble** chatter idly

**drone** idle person; male bee / talk dully; buzz or murmur like a bee

**eloquent**

**enunciate** speak distinctly

**glib** fluent; spoken easily but with little thought ; fluent

**mumble**

**murmur**

**mutter**

**prattle** babble

**stammer**

**stuttering**

**verbiage** unnecessary words for the expression of an idea, etc. / pompous array of words

**voluble** loquacious ; able to talk very quickly and easily ; fluent ; rotating / glib

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**austere** strict; stern

**brevity** shortness of statements, human life and other nonmaterial things; conciseness

**concise** brief ; giving much information in few words; brief and compact

**curt** adj. orig., short or shortened / brief, esp. to the point of rudeness; terse or brusque [a curt reply] SYN. blunt

**epigrammatic** of the epigram or full of epigrams / having the nature of an epigram; terse, witty, etc. Also

**laconic** brief and to the point

**pithy** concise; meaty

**proverb**

**reticent** not saying all that is known or felt ; in the habit of saving little; reserved; uncommunicative, inclined to silence

**sententious** dull and moralizing ; having an air of wisdom ; in the habit of saying or writing things in a short and witty manner; terse; concise; aphoristic

**succinct** terse ; expressed briefly and clearly; brief; terse; compact

**taciturn** habitually silent; talking little

**terse** concise; abrupt; pithy

**vignette** picture; short literary sketch

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**amicable** done in friendly way ; peaceful

**amity** friendship

**bonhomie** good nature; pleasant, affable manner; amiability

**convivial** gay ; cheerful ; fond of chatting, merry-making, drinking, etc. ; of a feast or an official dinner; festive; gay; characterized by joviality

**debonair** friendly; aiming to please

**jaunty** stylish; perky; carefree

**jocund** merry

**jovial** good-natured; merry

**resilient** bouncing or springing back into shape, position, etc. after being stretched, bent or compressed ; buoyant in disposition / elastic; having the power of springing back

**sanguine** hopeful ; optimistic ; having a red complexion; cheerful; hopeful

**spruce** neat and trim

**suavity** urbanity; polish

**vivacious** lively, high-spirited, animated; gay

**winsome** attractive ; pleasing, bright / agreeable; gracious; engaging

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**belie** give a wrong or untrue idea of ; fail to justify or be equal to what is hoped for or promised; contradict; give a false impression

**contravene** go against a law, a custom, etc. ; attack a statement, a principle, etc. / contradict; infringe on

**discordant** not in agreement ; not harmonious ; harsh / inharmonious; conflicting

**discrepancy** difference ; absence of agreement; lack of consistency; difference

**disparity** inequality ; difference / condition of inequality

**dissent** disagreement in opinion / have a different opinion from ; refuse to assent to ; refuse to accept the religious doctrine of the Church of England

**dissident** person who disagrees ; dissenter / disagreeing

**dissonant**

**divergent** get farther apart from a point, or from each other as they progress  
/ differing; deviating

**friction** clash in opinion; rubbing against

**incompatible**

**implacable** that cannot be appeased ; relentless / incapable of being pacified

**incoherence** lack of relevance; lack of intelligibility

**incoherent** not logically coordinated, as to parts, elements, or details

**incongruity** lack of harmony; absurdity

**incongruous** , not fitting; absurd

**inconsistency**

**irreconcilable** incompatible; not able to be resolved

**oxymoron** A rhetorical figure in which incongruous or contradictory terms are combined, as in *a deafening silence* and *a mournful optimist*

**paradox** statement that seems to say something opposite to common sense or the truth, but which may contain a truth; statement that looks false but is actually correct

**rent**

**repugnance** loathing

**schism** division; split

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**anesthetic** substance that removes sensation with or without loss of consciousness

**callous** hardened; unfeeling

**impassive** showing no sign of feeling ; unmoved / without feeling; not affected by pain

**insensate** without feeling

**insensible** unconscious; unresponsive

**opiate** sleep producer; deadener of pain

**soporific** sleep producer

**stolid** (dull) dull; impassive

**stupefaction** a stupefying or being stupefied / stunned amazement or utter bewilderment

**stupor** almost unconscious condition caused by shock, drugs, alcohol, etc.; state of apathy; daze; lack of awareness

**torpid** dormant; dull; lethargic

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**hefty**

**ponderous** weighty; unwieldy

**preponderous**

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**atrophy**

**attenuate** make thin or slender ; weaken

**callous** hardened; unfeeling

**debilitate** make weak; weaken; enfeeble

**debility**

**decrepitude**

**devitalize**

**drowsiness**

**effeminacy**

**enervate** deprive of strength, force, vigor, etc. ; weaken physically, mentally, or morally / weakened

**enfeeble**

**flabby**

**flaccid** flabby

**flagging** weak; drooping

**impassive** showing no sign of feeling ; unmoved / without feeling; not affected by pain

**impotent** weak; ineffective

**indolent** habitually inactive or idle

**inertia** state of being inert or indisposed to move

**inertness**

**insensate** without feeling

**insensible** unconscious; unresponsive

**lackadaisical** affectedly languid

**laggard** slow; sluggish

**languid** weary; sluggish; listless

**languor**

**lassitude**

**lax** careless

**lethargy** a condition of abnormal drowsiness or torpor ; a great lack of energy ; being uninterested

**listless** too tired to show interest or do anything; lacking in spirit or energy

**loaf**

**loiter** hang around; linger

**loll** vi. 1to lean or lounge about in a relaxed or lazy manner 2to hang in a relaxed manner; droop [the dog's tongue lolled out] vt. to let droop or hang loosely n. [Archaic] the act of lolling

**phlegmatic** calm; not easily disturbed

**remiss** careless of duty / negligent

**sap**

**senility** old age; feeble-mindedness of old age

**sloth** laziness; slow-moving tree dwelling mammal

**sluggard** lazy person

**sluggish** inactive ; slow-moving / lazy; lethargic; not easily aroused by activity; slow to respond

**somnolent** sleepy ; almost asleep ; causing sleep / half asleep

**stolid** (dull) dull; impassive

**stupor** almost unconscious condition caused by shock, drugs, alcohol, etc.; state of apathy; daze; lack of awareness

**supine** (indolent) lying on back

**torpid** dormant; dull; lethargic

**torpor** (torpidity) lethargy; sluggishness; dormancy

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**foolhardy** rash

**temerarious** rash

**temerity** boldness; rashness

**venturesome** bold

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**anhydrous** withered

**arid** dry; barren

**barren**

**colander** utensil with perforated bottom used for straining



**deluge** great flood ; heavy fall of rain ; anything coming in a heavy rush / flood ; come down on; flood; rush

**deplete** empty until little or none remains ; use up ; exhaust; reduce; exhaust

**desiccant**

**desiccate** dry up

**drain**

**drench**

**drought**

**exsiccate**

**hydrate**

**immerse**

**inundate** flood ; cover with water by over-flowing ; deluge; overflow; flood

**macerate**

**parch**

**saturate** soak

**scorch**

**sear**

**soak** soaked; dull, as if from drink

**steep** soak

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**asinine** stupid

**buffoon** a clown

**bungler**

**dolt** stupid person

**dupe** n. a person easily tricked or fooled vt. to deceive by trickery; fool or cheat SYN. cheat

**farcical**

**fatuity**

**fatuous** foolish; inane

**folly** 1 a lack of understanding, sense, or rational conduct; foolishness 2 any foolish action or belief 3 any foolish and useless but expensive undertaking 4 a) [Obs.] wickedness or evil; also, lewdness b) action that ends or can end in disaster See also follies

**imbecile**

**impolitic** not wise

**imprudent** lacking caution; injudicious

**inane** silly; senseless

**inept** not suitable to the purpose ; wrong in a foolish and awkward way; unsuited; absurd; incompetent

**jester**

**lout** clumsy person

**ludicrous** laughable; trifling

**mooncalf**

**oaf** stupid, awkward person

**obtuse** blunt; stupid

**pantaloon**

**puerility**

**sap head**

**schlemiel**

**schmo, schmoe**

**simp** (simpleton)

**simpleton**

**soft head**

**softy, softie**

**stick-in-the-mud**

**stultify** cause to appear foolish or inconsistent

**stupe**

**stupor** almost unconscious condition caused by shock, drugs, alcohol, etc.; state of apathy; daze; lack of awareness

**tomfool**

**vacuous** empty; inane

**vapid** insipid; inane

**witless** foolish; idiotic

**zany** n. 1a clown or buffoon; specif., a former stock character in comedies who clownishly aped the principal actors 2a silly or foolish person; simpleton adj. of or characteristic of a zany; specif., a) comical in an extravagantly ludicrous or slapstick manner b) foolish or crazy

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**acumen** mental keenness; keen insight; shrewdness

**apprehensive** fearful about something that might happen ; quick to understand ; perceptive; fearful; discerning

**clairvoyant** having the power of seeing things not seen by other persons ; unusually keen / fortuneteller / having foresight

**discerning** mentally quick and observant; having insight

**epiphany** any appearance or bodily manifestation of a deity

**erudite** having or showing a wide knowledge gained from reading ; learned; learned; scholarly

**erudition** high degree of knowledge and learning

**judicious** showing or having good sense; wise; determined by sound judgment

**perspicacious** quick to judge and understand / having insight; penetrating; astute

**sagacious** keen; shrewd; having insight

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**contumacious** resisting authority ; obstinate and disobedient

**defiance** the act of defying; open, bold resistance to authority or opposition / a challenge

**insubordinate** disobedient ; rebellious

**insurgent** a person engaged in resurgent activity / rebellious ; rising in revolt ; in revolt against the leadership of a political party

**insurrection** rebellion; uprising

**malcontent** a person who is not contented / discontented and inclined to rebel / person dissatisfied with existing state of affairs

**mutineer** mutiny

**mutinous** unruly; rebellious

**rebel** n. one who engages in armed resistance against the established government of one's country / a person who resists any authority or controls / [often R-] name for a Confederate soldier in the Civil War adj. rebellious / of rebels vi. to be a rebel against the established government of one's country / to resist any authority or controls [to rebel against one's parents] / to feel or show strong aversion; be repelled [his mind rebels at the thought]

**recalcitrant** obstinately stubborn

**restive** unmanageable; fretting under control adj. refusing to go forward; balky, as a horse / hard to control; unruly; refractory / nervous or impatient under pressure or restraint; restless; unsettled SYN. contrary

**sedition** tumult, allegiance; resistance to authority; insubordination

**seditionary**

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**avert** turn away, turn aside ; avoid ; prevent; prevent; turn away

**balk** n. 1 a ridge of unplowed land between furrows 2 a roughly hewn piece of timber 3 a beam used in construction 4 something that obstructs or thwarts; check, hindrance, disappointment, etc. 5 [Obs.] a blunder; error 6 Baseball an illegal motion by the pitcher, such as an uncompleted motion to throw to a base, while one foot is on the rubber: it entitles each base runner to advance one base 7 Billiards any of the outer spaces between the cushions and the balk line vt. 1 orig., to make balks in (land) 2 to obstruct or thwart; foil 3 [Archaic] to miss or let slip by 4 Baseball to force (a base runner to score from third base) by committing a balk vi. 1 to stop and obstinately refuse to move or act 2 to hesitate or recoil (at) 3 to make a balk in baseball SYN. frustrate

**circumvent** prevent a plan from being carried out, frustrate; outwit; baffle

**defer**

**deterrent** something that discourages; hindrance

**encumber** get in the way of ; be a burden to ; choke up

**forestall** upset somebody or his plans by doing something unexpectedly early ; buy up ; do something first and so prevent another from doing it; prevent by taking action in advance

**hamper** obstruct

**hindrance** block; obstacle

**impede** hinder; block

**impediment** a thing which hinders ; an obstacle ; a defect in speech / hindrance; stumbling- block

**inhibit** hinder, restrain ; forbid / prohibit;

**obstructionist**

**pester** vt. to annoy constantly or repeatedly with petty irritations; bother; vex/[Obs.] to overcrowd; cram

**preclude** prevent ; make impossible in advance; make impossible; eliminate

**procrastinate** delay action ; keep on putting off / postpone;

**retard**

**seditionary**

**slacken** slow up; loosen

**stonewalled**

**stymie** present an obstacle; stump

**temporize** delay making a decision, giving an answer, stating one's purpose etc. ; act so as to gain time; avoid committing oneself; gain time

**thwart** baffle; frustrate

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**apostate** one who abandons his faith / one who abandons his religious faith or political beliefs

**convert**

**neophyte** person who has newly been converted to some belief or religion ; beginner; recent convert; beginner

**perfidious** faithless ; treacherous / basely false

**perfidy** violation of a trust

**proselyte** a person who has been converted from one religion to another, or from one belief, sect, party, etc. to another to try to convert (a person), esp. to one's religion / to persuade to do or join something, esp. by offering an inducement

**proselytize** convert to a religion or belief

**rattlesnake**

**recreant** coward; betrayer of faith

**renegade** person who changes his religious beliefs ; person who deserts his political party ; traitor / deserter; apostate

**tergiversation** evasion; fickleness

**traitor**

## treacherousness

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**caprice** whim

**capricious** fickle; incalculable

**conceit** whimsical idea; extravagant metaphor

**cranky** adj. in poor condition; apt to operate poorly / irritable; cross / queer; eccentric / [Rare] full of turns; crooked / Naut. liable to lurch or capsize; unsteady SYN. irritable

**crotchety** eccentric; whimsical

**faltering** falter vi. to move uncertainly or unsteadily; totter; stumble / to stumble in speech; speak haltingly; stammer / to act hesitantly; show uncertainty; waver; flinch [to falter under enemy fire] / to lose strength, certainty, etc.; weaken [the economy faltered] vt. to say hesitantly or timidly n. a faltering / a faltering sound

**fanciful** whimsical; visionary

**fantastic** unreal; grotesque; whimsical

**fickle** often changing ; not constant; changeable; faithless

**flux** flowing; series of changes

**frivolous** (silly) adj. of little value or importance; trifling; trivial / not properly serious or sensible; silly and light-minded; giddy [a frivolous remark, a frivolous youth]

**intersperse**

**mercurial** fickle; changing

**metamorphose**

**monotony** sameness leading to boredom

**moodiness** fits of depression or gloom

**mutable** liable to change ; likely to change / changing in form; fickle

**protean** versatile; able to take on many shapes

**quicksilver**

**quirk** startling twist; caprice

**skittish** lively; frisky

**tantrum** fit of petulance; caprice

**transition** a passing from one condition, period, form, stage, activity, place, etc. to another / going from one state of action to another

**transmute** change the shape, nature or substance of / convert to something different

**vacillation** fluctuation; wavering

**vagary** caprice; whim

**vagrant**

**vicissitude** change, especially in somebody's fortunes; change of fortune

**volatile** evaporating rapidly; lighthearted; mercurial

**wanton** unruly; unchaste; excessive

**waver** vi. to swing or sway to and fro; flutter / to show doubt or indecision; find it hard, or be unable, to decide; vacillate / to become unsteady; begin to give way; falter / to tremble; quaver: said of the voice, etc. / to vary in brightness; flicker: said of light / to fluctuate / to totter n. the act of wavering, trembling, vacillating, etc.

**whimsical** capricious; fanciful; quaint

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**nemesis** revenging agent

**reprisal** injury or revenge done in return for an injury, especially by one country to another in a war; retaliation

**requite** repay; revenge

**retaliate** repay in kind usually for bad treatment

**vendetta** feud; private warfare



**vengeance** n. the return of an injury for an injury, in punishment or retribution; avenging of an injury or offense; revenge / the desire to make such a return

**vindicate** prove the justice, truth, validity, etc. of; clear of charges

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**abjure** renounce upon oath

**abnegate** to renounce (a right or privilege); 1. to refuse or deny oneself (some rights, conveniences) ;reject 2. to relinquish ; give up

**abnegation** repudiation; self-sacrifice

**contravene** go against a law, a custom, etc. ; attack a statement, a principle, etc. / contradict; infringe on

**controvert** dispute about ; deny, oppose / oppose with arguments; contradict

**demur** delay; object

**desist** cease ; stop ; give up

**disavow** deny belief, approval or knowledge ; refuse

**disavowal** denial; disclaiming

**discard**

**disclaim** give up ; reject ; deny; disown; renounce claim to

**discredit** loss of credit or reputation / refuse to believe or have confidence in / defame; destroy confidence in; disbelieve

**disprove**

**dissent** disagreement in opinion / have a different opinion from ; refuse to assent to ; refuse to accept the religious doctrine of the Church of England

**flout** reject; mock

**gainsay** deny

**negate**

**negation** denial

**override**

**protest**

**rebuff** snub; beat back

**rebut** to contradict

**renege** deny; go back on

**renounce** consent formally to give up a claim, right, possession, etc. ; refuse to acknowledge ; disown; abandon; discontinue; disown; repudiate

**repel** vt. to drive or force back; hold or ward off [to repel an attack]/to refuse to accept, agree to, or submit to; reject [to repel advances]/ to refuse to accept (a person); spurn [to repel a suitor]/ a) to cause distaste or dislike in; disgust [the odor repelled him] b) to cause (insects, etc.) to react by staying away/ a) to be resistant to, or present an opposing force to [a coating that repels moisture] b) to fail to mix with or adhere to [water repels oil] vi. to drive off, or offer an opposing force to, something / to cause distaste, dislike, or aversion

**repudiate** disown ; say that one will have nothing more to do with ; refuse to accept or acknowledge ; refuse to pay an obligation or dept; disown; disavow

**revoke**

**withhold**

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**apparent**

**elucidate** explain ; make clear ; throw light on a problem, or difficulty / enlighten; to make understandable

**evince** show that one has a feeling, quality, etc.; show clearly

**explicit** clearly stated and leaving nothing implied ; outspoken ; saying what is meant without reservation or disguise; definite; open

**incontrovertible** that cannot be disputed / indisputable

**indisputable** that cannot be disputed ; unquestionable / too certain to be disputed

**indubitable** that cannot be doubted; unquestionable

**limpid** clear

**lucid** clear ; lucent; bright; easily understood

**manifest** understandable; clear

**noncommittal** not committing oneself to a definite course or to either side in a dispute, etc. / neutral; unfledged; undecided

**overt** open to view

**palpable** that can be felt or touched ; clear to the mind; tangible; easily perceptible

**patent** open for the public to read; obvious

**pellucid** transparent; limpid; easy to understand

**perspicuous** plainly expressed

**tangible** that can be perceived by touch ; clear and definite ; real; able to be touched; real; palpable

**transparent** allowing light to pass through ; about which there can be no mistake or doubt / permitting light to pass through freely; easily detected

**unequivocal** clear, having one only possible meaning / plain; obvious

**unerringly** plain; obvious

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**dim**

**filmy**

**hazy** slightly obscure; not clear; vague

**murky**

**nebulous** cloudy; hazy

**opaque** dark; not transparent

**opaqueness**

**sooty**

**turbid** muddy; having the sediment disturbed

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**abusive** using insults and curses ; of wrong use / coarsely insulting;  
physically harmful

**admonish** blame or scold gently ; warn ; give advice to someone; warn:  
reprove

**affront** an open insult / insult someone openly and on purpose ; meet death  
face to face

**anathema** formal declaration of the church, excommunicating somebody or  
condemning something as evil; solemn curse

**anathematize** curse

**animadvert**

**arraign** charge in court; indict

**aspersion** the act of sprinkle water ; slander; slanderous remark

**assail** assault

**averse** unwilling ; opposed / reluctant

**berate** scold sharply / scold strongly vt. to scold or rebuke severely

**billingsgate** vituperation; abusive language

**blasphemous** profane; impious

**bluster** n. 1. Fitful noise and violence, as of a storm; violent winds;  
boisterousness. To the winds they set Their corners, when with bluster to  
confound Sea, air, and shore. --Milton. 2. Noisy and violent or threatening  
talk; noisy and boastful language. Syn: Noise; boisterousness; tumult;  
turbulence; confusion; boasting; swaggering; bullying.

**calumniate** slander

**calumny** malicious misrepresentation; slander

**castigation** punishment; severe criticism

**censorious** critical

**censure** blame; criticize

**chastise** punish

**chide** scold

**contemn** regard with contempt; disregard

**contempt** scorn; disdain

**contumely** scornful insolence; insult

**culpable** blameworthy, deserving punishment; deserving blame

**decry** disparage

**defamation** harm that is given to one's reputation ; slander / harming a person's reputation

**defame** to slander

**denigrate** blacken

**denounce** condemn; criticize

**deprecate** feel and express disapproval of; disapprove regretfully

**deprecatory** disapproving

**derogatory** tending to damage or take away from one's credit, etc. ; insulting; expressing a low opinion

**despise** scorn

**detest**

**detraction** slandering; aspersion

**diatribe** bitter scolding; invective

**disapprobation** disapproval; condemnation

**disapproval**

**disdain** contempt ; scorn / look on with contempt ; think it dishonorable to do something ; be too proud; treat with scorn or contempt

**disparage** say that someone or something is of small value or importance ; speak ill of; belittle

**epithet** an expression which give a good description, eg. Sophocles, the wise one / descriptive word or phrase

**excoriate** flay; abrade

**execrable** deserving hate ; abominable ; very bad

**execrate** curse; express abhorrence for

**expletive** interjection; profane oath

**flak** n. the fire of antiaircraft guns / [Colloq.] strong, clamorous criticism, opposition, etc.

**flay** strip off skin; plunder

**flout** reject; mock

**fulminate** thunder; explode

**fulmination**

**gainsay** deny

**gibe** mock

**hireling** one who serves for hire (usually contemptuously)

**hurl** (pitch) vt. to throw or fling with force or violence / to cast down; overthrow / to utter vehemently [to hurl insults] vi. to throw or fling something / to move with force or violence; rush

**hypercritical** too demanding, finding too much to criticize / excessively exacting

**ignominy** 1 loss of one's reputation; shame and dishonor; infamy 2 disgraceful, shameful, or contemptible quality, behavior, or act

**imprecate** curse; pray that evil will befall

**imprecation** a curse

**impugn** attack by argument or criticism, express doubt about a statement, act, quality, etc.; doubt; challenge; gainsay

**imputation** charge; reproach

**incriminate** accuse of a crime ; say that someone is guilty of wrongdoing

**indignity** offensive or insulting treatment

**invective** abuse language ; curses ; violent expressions

**inveigh** denounce; utter censure or invective

**libel** defamation

**libelous** defamatory; injurious to the good name of a person

**malediction** curse ; prayer to God that someone or something may be destroyed, hurt, etc

**malign** speak evil of; defame; to slander

**maul**

**mock**

**mortify** cause someone to be ashamed, humiliated, or hurt in his feelings ; discipline bodily passions or overcome bodily desires; humiliate; punish the flesh

**mudslinger**

**nauseate**

**objurgate** scold; rebuke severely

**obloquy** bad words spoken of a person or thing ; ill repute ; disgrace / slander; disgrace; infamy

**opprobrium** the disgrace or infamy attached to conduct viewed as grossly shameful ; scorn ; reproach / vilification

**pan**

**peace monger**

**pejorative** having a deteriorating or depreciating effect on the meaning of a word

**pelf** stolen property; money or wealth in a contemptuous sense

**rail** scold; rant

**rate**

**rebuke**

**recrimination** accusation made in return for one already made ; countercharge; countercharges

**remonstrate** say or plead in protest, objection, complaints, etc.

**reprehend**

**reprehensible** deserving to be blamed; deserving blame

**reprimand**

**reproach** blame; censure

**reprobate** person hardened in sin, devoid of a sense of decency

**reprobation** severe disapproval

**reprove** find fault with ; say sharp words to; censure; rebuke

**revile** swear at, abuse; slander; vilify

**scathe**

**slander** defamation; utterance o false and malicious statements

**slater**

**slight**

**slur**

**smear**

**sneer**

**sordid** filthy; base; vile



**spurn** reject; scorn

**stigmatize** describe somebody scornfully; brand; mark as wicked

**stricture** critical comments; severe and adverse criticism

**tirade** extended scolding; denunciation

**traduce** say untrue or malicious things about ; slander / expose to slander

**umbrage** resentment; anger; sense of injury or insult

**upbraid** scold; reproach

**vilifier**

**vilify** slander

**vituperate**

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**abscond** go away suddenly and hide / depart secretly and hide

**abstruse** deep in meaning ; difficult to understand; obscure: profound:  
difficult to understand; recondite

**arcane** secret; mysterious

**cache**

**clandestine** secret

**conclave** private meeting

**covert** secret; hidden; implied

**crabbed** sour; peevish adj. peevish; morose; ill-tempered; cross / hard to  
understand because intricate or complicated / hard to read or make out  
because cramped or irregular [crabbed handwriting]

**cryptic** mysterious; hidden; secret

**enigmatic** obscure; puzzling

**esoteric** known only to the chosen few

**furtive** stealthy

**incognito** concealed under a disguised identity ; with an assumed name / with one's name, identity, etc. concealed / with identity concealed; using an assumed name

**inconspicuous**

**intricate** complicated ; difficult to follow or understand

**lurk**

**obscure** dark; vague; unclear; darken; make unclear

**occult** hidden ; secret ; mysterious ; supernatural ; magical; mysterious; secret; supernatural

**privy** secret; hidden; not public

**profound** deep; not superficial; complete

**recondite** abstruse; profound; secret

**riddle**

**skulk** move furtively and secretly

**subterranean**

**surreptitious** done, got made, etc. in a secret, stealthy way, clandestine

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**affected** artificial: pretended

**apocryphal** relating to the apocryphal ; not genuine; not genuine; sham

**artifice** deception; trickery

**astute** wise; shrewd

**beguile** cheat ; amuse / delude;

**belie** give a wrong or untrue idea of ; fail to justify or be equal to what is hoped for or promised; contradict; give a false impression

**bilk** vt. 1 to balk or thwart 2 to cheat or swindle; defraud 3 to get away without paying (a debt, etc.) 4 to manage to get away from; elude [to bilk the police] n. 1 a bilking or being bilked; hoax 2 a person who cheats; swindler

**bogus** counterfeit; not authentic

**cajole** coax; wheedle

**calumny** malicious misrepresentation; slander

**charlatan** quack; pretender to knowledge

**chicanery** trickery

**circumlocution** roundabout way of speaking ; roundabout expression; indirect or roundabout expression

**cog** tooth projecting from a wheel

**concoct** prepare by mixing together ; invent a story, and excuse, a plot, etc.; prepare by combining; make up in concert

**contrived** forced; artificial; not spontaneous

**cozen** cheat; hoodwink; swindle

**delude** deceive ; mislead

**delusion** false belief; hallucination

**delusive** deceptive; raising vain hopes

**devious** going astray; erratic

**disingenuous** insincere ; not straightforward / not naive; sophisticated

**dissemble** hide one's feeling, intentions, etc. ; disguise; pretend

**dissimulate** hide one's feelings, intentions, etc. by pretense ; pretend / conceal by feigning

**dupe** n. a person easily tricked or fooled vt. to deceive by trickery; fool or cheat SYN. cheat

**duplicit**

**elusive** evasive; baffling; hard to grasp

**equivocate** use vague expressions / lie; mislead; attempt to conceal the truth

**fabricate** build; lie

**factitious** artificial; sham

**fallacious** 1 containing a fallacy; erroneous [fallacious reasoning] 2 a) misleading or deceptive b) causing disappointment; delusive

**feint** trick; shift; sham blow

**finesse** delicate skill

**forswear** perjure oneself ; give up doing or using something

**fraudulent** cheating; deceitful

**furtive** stealthy

**gerrymander** change voting district lines in order to favor a political party

**gimmick**

**gouge** tear out

**guile** deceit; duplicity

**guise** appearance; costume

**hoax** trick; practical joke; a trick

**hoodwink** deceive; delude

**hypocritical** pretending to be virtuous; deceiving

**illusive** deceiving

**illusory** deceptive; not real

**imposture** assuming a false identity; masquerade

**improbity** dishonesty

**insidious** treacherous; stealthy; sly

**inveigle** lead astray; wheedle

**legerdemain** sleight of hand

**mendacious** lying; false

**mendacity**

**molten** in a melted and therefore very hot state ; made of metal that has been melted and cast

**nonentity** thing that does not really exist or that exists only in the imagination ; unimportant person / nonexistence; person of no importance

**perfidious** faithless ; treacherous / basely false

**perjury** the act of making a false statement after taking an oath to tell the truth ; willful false statement; false testimony while under oath

**pharisaical** pertaining to the Pharisees; self-righteous; hypocritical

**ploy**

**pretentious** claiming great merit or importance / ostentatious; ambitious

**pretext** a false reason or motive put forth to hide the real one / excuse

**prevaricate** make untrue or partly untrue statements, try to evade telling the whole truth / lie

**quack** charlatan; impostor

**quibble** evasion of the main point of an argument, attempt to escape giving an honest answer, by using a secondary or doubtful meaning of a word or phrase / use quibbles ; argue about small points of differences / equivocate; play on words

**ruse** trick; stratagem

**serpentine** twisting and curving like snake; winding; twisting

**shammer**

**shark**

**sharp** swindler

**short-changer**

**shrewd** clever; astute

**skinner**

**skullduggery** dishonest behavior

**sleight** dexterity

**specious** seeming right or true, but not really so; seemingly reasonable but incorrect

**spurious** false; counterfeit

**stratagem** deceptive scheme

**studied**

**subterfuge** pretense; evasion

**subtlety** nicety; cunning; guile; delicacy

**surreptitious** done, got made, etc. in a secret, stealthy way, clandestine

**swindle**

**tortuous** full of twists and bends ; not straight forward, devious; winding; full of curves

**twister**

**vulpine** of or like a fox ; crafty

**wangle** wiggle out; fake

**welsher**

**wheedle** cajole; coax; deceive by flattery

**wily** cunning; artful

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**botch** 1. A swelling on the skin; a large ulcerous affection; a boil; an eruptive disease. [Obs. or Dial.] Botches and blains must all his flesh emboss. -- Milton. 2. A patch put on, or a part of a garment patched or mended in a clumsy manner. 3. Work done in a bungling manner; a clumsy performance; a piece of work, or a place in work, marred in the doing, or not properly

finished; a bungle. To leave no rubs nor botches in the work. --Shak. an embarrassing mistake [syn: blunder, blooper, bungle, foul-up, fuckup, flub, boner, boo-boo, misdoing] v : make a mess of, destroy or ruin [syn: fumble, botch up, muff, blow, flub, screw up, ball up, blunder, spoil, muck up, bungle, fluff, bollix, bollix up, bollocks, bollocks up, bobble, mishandle, louse up, foul up, mess up, fuck up]

**bungle** spoil by clumsy behavior

**dismal** adj. 1causing gloom or misery; depressing 2dark and gloomy; bleak; dreary 3depressed; miserable

**doggerel** poor verse

**fumble** vt. 1 to search (for a thing) by feeling about awkwardly with the hands; grope clumsily 2 to handle (a thing) clumsily or unskillfully; bungle 3 to lose one's grasp on (a football, etc.) while trying to catch or hold it 4 to make (one's way) clumsily or by groping n. 1 the act or fact of fumbling 2 a football, etc. that has been fumbled

**gauche** clumsy; boorish; impolite; clumsy; awkward

**inept** not suitable to the purpose ; wrong in a foolish and awkward way; unsuited; absurd; incompetent

**maladroit** not adroit ; clumsy ; tactless / bungling

**parody** writing intended to amuse by imitating the style of writing used by someone else ; weak imitation / make a parody of; humorous imitation; travesty

**uncouth** rough, awkward, not cultured / outlandish; clumsy; boorish; rude in one's behavior

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**ballast** heavy substance used to add stability or weight

**barge** houseboat

**careen** lurch; sway from side to side

**caulk**

**figurehead**

**galley**

**hold**

**lurch**

**porthole**

**skiff**

**tugboat**

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**armor clad**

**arsenal** n 1: all the weapons and equipment that a country has [syn: armory, armoury] 2: a military structure where arms and ammunition and other military equipment are stored and training is given in the use of arms [syn: armory, armoury] 3: a place where arms are manufactured [syn

**bulwark** earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends

**cavalier** gallant n. an armed horseman; knight / a gallant or courteous gentleman, esp. one serving as a lady's escort/ [C-] a partisan of Charles I of England in his struggles with Parliament (1641-1649); Royalist: opposed to Roundhead adj. [C-] a) of the Cavaliers b) associated with the court of Charles I of England [Cavalier poets]/a) free and easy; gay b) casual or indifferent toward matters of some importance c) haughty; arrogant; supercilious

**cavalry**

**chivalrous** the knights or the Middle Ages ; honorable ; courteous / courteous; faithful; brave

**chivalry**

**dagger**

**drawbridge**

**gauntlet** leather glove

**moat**

**motto**

**quiver**



**rampart** defensive mound of earth

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**cantankerous** ill humored; irritable/bad-tempered; quarrelsome

**choleric** hot-tempered/orig., bilious/ having or showing a quick temper or irascible nature SYN. irritable

**crabbed** sour; peevish adj. peevish; morose; ill-tempered; cross / hard to understand because intricate or complicated / hard to read or make out because cramped or irregular [crabbed handwriting]

**cranky** adj. in poor condition; apt to operate poorly / irritable; cross / queer; eccentric/ [Rare] full of turns; crooked/ Naut. liable to lurch or capsize; unsteady SYN. irritable

**cross** (irritable) (with); adj. lying or passing across or through; transverse; crossing or crossed [cross street, cross ventilation] going counter; contrary; opposed [at cross purposes] ill-tempered; cranky; irritable involving reciprocal actions, etc. of mixed variety or breed; hybrid; crossbred [Archaic] causing harm; unfavorable

**exasperate** vt. to irritate or annoy very much; make angry; vex [Archaic] to intensify (a feeling, disease, etc.); aggravate SYN. irritate

**fractious** irritable, peevish, bad-tempered / unruly

**fretful** adj. tending to fret; irritable and discontented; peevish

**grate** vt. to grind into shreds or particles by rubbing or scraping/to rub against (an object) with a harsh, scraping sound/to grind (the teeth) together with a rasping sound/to irritate; annoy; fret vi. to grind or rub with a harsh scraping or rasping sound/to make a harsh or rasping sound/to have an irritating or annoying effect

**irascible** irritable; easily angered

**nag** vt.to annoy by continual scolding, faultfinding, complaining, urging, etc./to keep troubling, worrying, etc. [nagged by a thought] vi.to urge, scold, find fault, etc. constantly/to cause continual discomfort, pain, etc. [a nagging toothache] n.a person, esp. a woman, who nags

**nettle** any of a genus (*Urtica*) of annual and perennial weeds of the nettle family with stinging hairs/any of various other stinging or spiny plants adj.designating a family (*Urticaceae*, order *Urticales*) of chiefly tropical,

dicotyledonous plants usually covered with stinging hairs, including the ramie  
vt.to sting with or as with nettles/to irritate; annoy; vex

**peevish** (cross) adj.hard to please; irritable; fretful; cross/ showing ill humor or impatience, as a glance or remark

**pester** vt.to annoy constantly or repeatedly with petty irritations; bother; vex/[Obs.] to overcrowd; cram

**petulant** touchy; peevish

**querulous** fretful; whining adj.inclined to find fault; complaining / full of complaint; peevish

**splenetic** spiteful; irritable; peevish

**touchy** sensitive; irascible; sensitive; irritable

**vex** annoy; distress vt. to give trouble to, esp. in a petty or nagging way; disturb, annoy, irritate, etc./to distress, afflict, or plague [vexed with rheumatism]/to keep bringing up, going over, or returning to (a matter difficult to solve)/[Obs.] to shake or toss about SYN. annoy

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**dearth** scarcity

**deficiency**

**devoid** completely without ; lacking

**iota** very small quantity

**meager** scanty; inadequate

**modicum** limited quantity

**myopia**

**nip**

**paucity** scarcity

**pinch** to press between one's fingers or another object

**scant** meager

**scanty** meager; insufficient

**scarcity**

**scintilla** shred; least bit

**soupcon** suggestion; hint; taste

**whit** smallest speck

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**clapper** 1. One who makes knickknacks, toys, etc. --Mortimer. 2. One of two or more pieces of bone or wood held loosely between the fingers, and struck together by moving the hand; -- called also clapper. --Halliwell.

**diffuse** adj. 1 spread out or dispersed; not concentrated 2 using more words than are needed; long-winded; wordy vt., vi. 1 to pour, spread out, or disperse in every direction; spread or scatter widely 2 Physics to mix by diffusion, as gases, liquids, etc. SYN. wordy

**discomfit** frustrate the plans or expectations of ; make someone uneasy or confused; put to rout; defeat; disconcert

**garrulity** talkativeness

**garrulous** loquacious; wordy

**glib** fluent; spoken easily but with little thought ; fluent

**loquacious** talkative, fond of talking

**magpie** news monger

**prate** speak foolishly; boast idly

**prolix** verbose; drawn out

**prolixity**

**raconteur** story-teller

**rattlebrain**

**rattler**

**redundant** superfluous; superfluous; excessively wordy; repetitious

**screed** long, tiresome harangue

**verbiage** unnecessary words for the expression of an idea, etc. / pompous array of words

**verbose** wordy

**voluble** loquacious ; able to talk very quickly and easily ; fluent ; rotating / glib

**wordy**

**yenta**

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**cogitate** think over

**consider** to think deliberately about

**contemplate**

**deliberate** consider; ponder

**meditation** reflection; thought

**mull**

**muse** ponder

**ponder**

**pore**

**ruminate** chew the cud; ponder

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**adjunct** something added to another thing, but not essential ; a person connected with another as a helper or subordinate associate / added or connected in a secondary or subordinate way ; temporarily employed; something attached to but holding an inferior position

**bivouac** temporary encampment

**bout** a going and coming back again, as across a field in plowing; turn 2 a struggle; contest or match [a championship bout] 3 a period of time taken up by some activity, illness, etc.; spell [a bout of the flu, a bout of shopping]

**brink** the edge of a high place

**capricious** fickle; incalculable

**cursory** quick ; hurried ; done without attention to details; casual; hastily done

**ephemeral** living for a very short time ; transitory; short-lived; fleeting

**evanescent** tending to fade from sight ; soon going from the memory ; ephemeral; fleeting; vanishing

**fleeting**

**flit** fly; dart lightly; pass swiftly by

**improvise** make verse, music, etc. without preparation or plan ; provide something roughly for an immediate need; compose on the spur of the moment

**makeshift**

**meteoric** swift; momentarily brilliant

**mirage** an image of a distant object, often upside down, seen as if it were near especially in the desert ; any illusion or hope that cannot be realized / unreal reflection; optical illusion

**palliation** act of making less severe or violent

**perquisite** any gain above stipulated salary

**provisional** tentative

**reprieve** postponement or remission of punishment, especially by death ; delay or respite / postpone or delay punishment ; give relief for a short time from danger, trouble, etc. / temporary stay

**secular** worldly; not pertaining to church matters; temporal

**sojourn** temporary stay

**stopgap**

**temporal** not lasting forever; limited by time; secular

**tentative** provisional; experimental

**transient** guest who is not a permanent resident in a hotel, boarding-house, etc. / lasting for a short time only ; ephemeral; fleeting; quickly passing away; staying for a short time

**transitoriness** impermanence

**waive** give up temporarily; yield

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**acquiescence** submission; compliance

**acquiescent** accepting passively

**amenable** readily managed; willing to be led

**biddable**

**complaisant** disposed to please ; polite ; compliant / trying to please; obliging

**compliance** readiness to yield; conformity in fulfilling requirements

**compliant** ready or disposed to comply / yielding

**conformity** harmony; agreement

**deference** the act of obeying the judgment or opinion of another ; great respect; courteous regard for another's wish

**docile** easily trained or controlled; obedient; easily managed

**ductile**

**insubordinate** disobedient ; rebellious

**lithe** flexible; supple

**malleable** capable of being shaped by pounding

**manageable**

**meek**

**obeisance** deep bow of respect or homage ; homage ; obedience, submission

**pliable** easily bent, shaped, or twisted ; easily influenced ; open to suggestion

**pliant**

**recalcitrant** obstinately stubborn

**resigned** unresisting; patiently submissive

**submissive**

**supple** flexible; pliant

**tractability**

**unruly** not easily controlled ; disorderly / disobedient; lawless

**yielding**

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**artless** without guile; open and honest

**artlessness** n. The quality of being artless, or void of art or guile; simplicity; sincerity the quality of innocent naiveté [syn: innocence, ingenuousness, naturalness] 2: ingenuousness by virtue of being free from artful deceit [ant: artfulness]

**cherubic** angelic; innocent-looking

**guileless** without deceit

**ingénue (Onjenoo)** an artless girl; an actress who plays such parts

**ingenuous** frank ; open ; innocent ; natural; naive; young; unsophisticated

**naïve (na-eev)**

**naiveté** quality of being unsophisticated

**unfeigned** genuine; real

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**disconsolate** unhappy at the loss of something ; without comfort or hope ; sad ; gloomy

**dolorous** sorrowful

**elegiac** like an elegy; mournful

**funereal** sad; solemn

**grievous** creating affliction

**lachrymose** producing tears

**lugubrious** mournful

**maudlin** effusively sentimental

**mawkish** sickening; insipid

**plangent** plaintive; resounding sadly

**rheumy** pertaining to a discharge from nose and eyes

**rueful** regretful; sorrowful; dejected

**snivel** run at the nose; snuffle; whine

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**affray** public brawl

**bedlam** St. Mary of Bethlehem(madhouse); [Archaic] any insane asylum ;any place or condition of noise and confusion

**blare**

**blatant** loudly offensive

**boisterous** violent; rough; noisy

**brouhaha** n 1: loud confused noise from many sources [syn: hubbub, uproar] 2: a confused disturbance far greater than its cause merits

**clamorous**

**clangor** loud, resounding noise

**commotion**

**deafening**



**din** continued loud noise

**ferment** agitation; commotion

**fluster** confuse

**fulminate** thunder; explode

**obstreperous** boisterous; noisy

**piercing**

**rambunctious**

**rattling**

**raucous** harsh and shrill

**scaremonger**

**sedition** tumult; resistance to authority; insubordination

**seethe** be disturbed; boil

**squeaker**

**stentorian** extremely loud

**strident** loud and harsh

**tumult** commotion; riot; noise

**tumultuous**

**turbulence** state of violent agitation

**turbulent** violent ; disorderly ; uncontrolled

**vociferous** noisy, yelling; clamorous

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**assiduous** working steadily, diligent ; eagerly attentive

**chary** cautiously watchful

**circumspect** cautious ; well-considered; prudent; cautious

**conscientious** scrupulous; careful; honest

**discreet** judicious

**discretion** carefulness ; prudence ; freedom of judgment, choice, or action / ability to adjust actions to circumstances

**gingerly** very carefully

**heed**

**judicious** showing or having good sense; wise; determined by sound judgment

**meticulous** excessively careful

**precise** exact

**precision**

**prim** very precise and formal; exceedingly proper

**providence**

**prudent** acting only after careful thought or planning ; careful; cautious; careful

**punctilious** laying stress on niceties of conduct or form; precise

**sagacious** keen; shrewd; having insight

**scrupulous** conscientious; extremely thorough

**scrutinize** examine closely and critically

**unobtrusive** not too obvious or easily noticeable ; discreet / inconspicuous; not blatant

**vigilance** watchfulness, keeping watch

**wary** cautious; very cautious

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**misanthrope** hater of mankind ; person who avoids society / one who hates mankind

**misogamy** hatred of marriage

**misogynist** hater of women

**misologist** a hater of knowledge and enlightenment

**Negrophobe** a person who strongly fears or dislikes black people

**xenophobe** hatred of strangers

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**affray** public brawl (remember, **defray** means pay )

**altercation** quarrel or noisy argument; wordy quarrel

**bicker** quarrel; to quarrel vi. 1 to have a petty quarrel; squabble 2 to move with quick, rippling noises [a bickering brook] 3 to flicker, twinkle, etc. n. 1 a petty quarrel 2 a rippling or pattering sound

**bout** n. 1 [Dial.] a going and coming back again, as across a field in plowing; turn 2 a struggle; contest or match [a championship bout] 3 a period of time taken up by some activity, illness, etc.; spell [a bout of the flu, a bout of shopping]

**duel**

**feud** a bitter, long-continued, and deadly quarrel, esp. between clans or families vi. to carry on a feud; quarrel n. land held from a feudal lord in return for service; fief

**fracas** brawl; melee

**fray** brawl

**spat** n.[Rare] a slap/a quick, slapping sound/[Colloq.] a brief, petty quarrel or dispute vi.1[Rare] to slap/to strike with a quick, slapping sound/[Colloq.] to engage in a spat, or quarrel vt.[Rare] to slap SYN. quarrel

**squabble** vi. to quarrel noisily over a small matter; wrangle n.a noisy, petty quarrel or dispute; wrangle SYN. quarrel2

**strife**

**vendetta** feud; private warfare

**wrangle** such an argument / take part in a noisy or angry argument / quarrel; obtain through arguing; herd cattle

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**adulation** flattery; admiration

**blandishment** flattery

**cajole** coax; wheedle

**court**

**creep**

**cringe** shrink back, as if in fear

**cringing**

**crouch**

**encomiastic** praising; eulogistic

**fawning** courting favor by cringing and flattering

**flattery**

**fulsome** disgustingly excessive

**grovel** crawl or creep on ground; remain prostrate

**incense** enrage; infuriate

**indomitable** unyielding ; that cannot be subdued or conquered / unconquerable

**ingratiate** bring oneself into favor, especially in order to gain an advantage ; flatter; become popular with

**inveigle** coax, cajole

**lackey** footman; toady

**obsequious** too eager to obey or advantage ; showing excessive respect from hope of reward or advantage; slavishly attentive; servile; sycophantic  
(Remember, **Obsequies** means funeral ceremony)

**parasite** animal or plant living on or in another and getting its food from it ; person supported by another and giving him nothing in return / animal or plant living on another; toady; sycophant

**sequacious** eager to follow; ductile

**servile** of or like a slave ; lacking in the spirit of independence ; obsequious; slavish; cringing

**snob**

**spaniel** a submissive, fawning, or cringing person

**subjection**

**subservient** useful as a means to a purpose ; giving ot much respect to / behaving like a slave; servile; obsequious

**succumb** give way to ; yield to temptation, flattery, etc. ; die; yield; give in; die

**sycophant** a servile flatterer, especially of those in authority or influence

**sycophantic** servilely flattering

**toady** flatter for favors

**truckle** curry favor; act in an obsequious way

**tuft hunter**

**unctuous** oily; bland; insincerely suave

**wheedle** cajole; coax; deceive by flattery

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