

**1,364 Essential Words for the  
Graduate Record Examination  
(G.R.E.)**

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# Introduction

*1,364 Essential Words for the Graduate Record Examination (G.R.E.)* represents an independent research project into the standardized testing industry's core aspects with one major portion devoted to the verbal ability sections of the G.R.E. or the test required for multiple graduate level programs upon completion, and certification, of undergraduate studies. All words researched, collected, and collated for ease of access with respect to the user, likely an undergraduate student or prospective graduate student. If constrained to a 5-point scale of measurement for the difficulty of the words included in this compendium, where 1 equates to very easy, 2 equates to easy, 3 equates to average, 4 equates to hard, and 5 equates to very hard, the range seems within 1.5- 3.5 (maybe) on the scale of difficulty with a handful or two of 4-point words. Within these restrictions and provisions, this set of words should provide the basic foundation for the inclusion of the proper, or basic, study materials for the vocabulary sections of standardized tests with some (possible) transferability to common tests such as the verbal sections in intelligence tests such as the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (W.A.I.S.) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (S.A.T.). Bear in mind, in the midst of this independent initiative, something came to the fore, quite glaringly. Standardized tests remain of utility, and not in other ways. Too much to delve into the subject to give the appropriate coverage to the more than a century of research and debate into the topic of intelligence research. However, the nature of the tests seems of partial utility to discover generality of academic talents, temperaments, abilities, and skills. In this particular case, one's verbal fluency based on raw vocabulary. Insofar as this cautionary, and positive and hopeful, note leaves one in the mood form further motivation, best wishes with this volume as a supplementary compendium in preparation for standardized tests.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen

## A

1. Ablution – act of cleansing
2. Abrogate – to abolish or invalidate by authority
3. Absolutism - a form of government in which all power is invested in a single authority
4. Abstruse – difficult to comprehend
5. Accost – to approach or speak to someone
6. Adage – old saying or proverb
7. Adduce – to cite as an example as a means of proof
8. Ad hoc – for the present purposes only
9. Ad hominem – appealing to prejudice or passions; attacking one’s adversary rather than their argument
10. Ad infinitum – forever; without limit
11. Adjudicate – to study and settle a dispute
12. Admonition – mild reproof
13. Ad nauseum – to a disgusting or ridiculous degree
14. Adobe – relating to sun-dried brick of clay or straw
15. Adumbrate – to sketch in a shadowy way; foreshadow
16. Advent – coming or arrival
17. Adventitious – added from without
18. Aegis – protection; sponsorship; shield
19. Aerie – nook or nest built high in the air
20. Affable – pleasant to speak to; approachable
21. Affectation – artificial behavior to impress others
22. Afflatus – creative impulse

23. A fortiori – for a still stronger reason
24. Agrarian – relating to the land and its cultivation
25. Albedo – the proportion of incident radiation reflected by a surface
26. Alexandrine – a line of iambic hexameter. The final line of a Spenserian stanza in an alexandrine
27. Algorithm – mechanical problem-solving procedure
28. Alias – assumed name
29. Alliteration – the use of a repeated consonant or sound, usually at the beginning of a series of words
30. Allusion – a reference to someone or something, usually literary
31. Alluvial – relating to alluvium; that is, sediment that is deposited by a flowing river
32. Altercation – noisy dispute
33. Ambit – sphere or scope
34. Amity – friendship
35. Amphitheatre – arena theater with rising tiers around a central open space
36. Anachronistic – containing an error in the date of an event
37. Anathema – a solemn or ecclesiastical (religious) curse; accursed or thoroughly loathed person or thing
38. Ancillary – accessory; subordinate
39. Animadvert – to comment critically
40. Animus – ill-will
41. Anomie – alienation and purposelessness as a result of a lack of values or ideals
42. Antagonist – the main character opposing the protagonist, usually the villain
43. Antebellum – before or existing before the war, esp. American civil war
44. Antepenultimate – third from last

45. Anterior – preceding, previous
46. Anthology – collection of literary works
47. Anthropogenic – caused by humans
48. Anthropomorphism – the assigning of human attributes to nonhumans. It differs from personification in that it is an intrinsic premise and an ongoing pattern applied to a nonhuman character throughout a literary work
49. Antipodes – any two places on opposite sides of the earth
50. Aperture – an opening or hole
51. Aphasia – loss of the ability to comprehend language
52. Aphelion – point in a planet’s orbit furthest from the sun
53. Aplomb – self-confident assurance
54. Apologia – a formal defense or justification
55. Apoplexy – sudden impairment of neurological function; a fit of extreme anger
56. Apostrophe – a speech addressed to someone not present, or to an abstraction
57. Apotheosis – glorification; glorified ideal
58. Apperception – conscious perception with full awareness; the process of understanding by which newly observed qualities of an object are related to past experience
59. A priori – from a general law to a particular instance; valid independently of observation; formed or conceived beforehand
60. Apt – precisely suitable
61. Arable – suitable for cultivation
62. Arcana – secrets; mysteries
63. Archipelago – large group of islands
64. Ardent – passionate; enthusiastic; fervent
65. Arraign – to call to court to answer an indictment

66. Arrogate – to claim or seize without justification
67. Artifice – stratagem; trickery; ingenious or artful device
68. Askance - scornfully
69. Aspirant – person who aspires to honors; high position, etc
70. Assail – to attack
71. Assay – to subject to a chemical analysis to determine the strength and quality of its components; to examine by trial or experiment
72. Assent – to express agreement
73. Asseverate – to aver, allege, assert
74. Assuage – to make less harsh, severe
75. Astral – exalted, elevated in position; relating to the stars
76. Au courant – up-to-date; informed on current affairs
77. Augur – to predict, esp. from omens
78. Augury – prophecy; prediction of events
79. August – dignified, awe-inspiring, majestic, venerable
80. Auspices – protection; support; patronage
81. Auspicious – promising
82. Auxiliary – avatar
83. Aviary – enclosure for birds

## B

84. Baleful – harmful
85. Balk – to refuse, shirk; prevent
86. Bane – something causing death or destruction
87. Bastion – fortification

88. Bay – to bark, especially in a deep, prolonged way
89. Bedevil – plague; annoy; spoil
90. Beguile – to deceive; mislead; to charm or delight
91. Belabor to insist repeatedly; harp on
92. Beleaguer – to harass
93. Belie – to misrepresent
94. Bellicosity – condition of being warlike or aggressive
95. Bellow – to roar, shout
96. Bemuse – to confuse
97. Benighted –unenlightened
98. Bequeath – to hand down
99. Bête noir – something especially dreaded or hated
100. Betoken – to indicate, signify
101. Bevy – group
102. Bicameral – composed of two legislative branches
103. Bildungsroman – a German term meaning a “novel of education”.
104. Bilk – to cheat, defraud
105. Billet – board and lodging for troops
106. Bivouac – a temporary encampment
107. Bleak – cheerless; unlikely to be favorable
108. Blight – affliction
109. Blithe – joyful; cheerful; carefree
110. Bohemian – unconventional in an artistic way
111. Bonhomie – atmosphere of good cheer
112. Boon – blessing

113. Brahmanism Hinduism, the religious beliefs and practices of ancient india as reflected in the vedas
114. Brahmin – a member of a cultural and social elite
115. Brigand – outlaw
116. Bromide – a commonplace remark; a platitude
117. Brusque – abrupt in manner
118. Buffet – to strike, hit
119. Buffoon – clown
120. Bulwark – something serving as a defense
121. Bursar - treasurer
122. Bustle – commotion

## C

123. Cabal – small group of people united secretly to promote their interests
124. Cachet – superior status; prestige
125. Cadge – to beg or get by begging
126. Caesura – the pause that breaks a line of English verse. Also, any particularly deep pause in a line of verse
127. Cajole – to flatter; coax; persuade
128. Callow – immature
129. Camaraderie – good will and rapport among friends
130. Canonical – following or in agreement with accepted, traditional standards
131. Canonize – to declare a person a saint; raise to highest honors
132. Capacious – large, roomy
133. Carom – to strike and rebound

134. Carte blanche – unrestricted power
135. Casanova – a man who is amorously attentive to women
136. Castigate – to punish, chastise, criticize
137. Casuistry – false or excessively subtle reasoning
138. Catharsis – cleansing, purification
139. Catholic – universal, comprehensive
140. Caulk – to make watertight
141. Cause celebre – any controversy that attracts great public attention
142. Cavalcade – a procession
143. Cavalier – carefree; happy; showing offhand; with lordly disdain
144. Caveat – a warning; a qualification or explanation
145. Cavil – to raise trivial objections
146. Cavort – to frolic
147. Celerity – speed, alacrity
148. Censorious – severely critical
149. Censure – to criticize severely
150. Cerebral – intellectually sophisticated
151. Chagrin – shame, embarrassment
152. Chary – wary, cautious
153. Chaste – not having experienced sexual intercourse; morally pure in thought and  
conduct
154. Chattel – piece of personal property
155. Cheeky – lacking prudence or discretion
156. Cherubic – sweet, innocent, resembling an angel
157. Chimerical – fantastic; highly imaginative

158. Choleric – short-tempered
159. Cipher – non-entity; worthless person or thing
160. Circumlocution – indirect way of saying something
161. Clemency – leniency
162. Clamber – to climb by crawling
163. Cogitate – to think carefully; ponder
164. Cognate – related, similar
165. Cognate – word related to one in another language
166. Cognomen – a surname; a nickname
167. Colloquy – dialogue, conversation
168. Collude – to make a secret meeting for deceitful purposes
169. Collusion – secret agreement between two or more parties for a fraudulent or illegal purpose
170. Commiseration – expression of pity
171. Commune – to be very sensitive and receptive to something
172. Complacent – self-satisfied
173. Complaisant – overly polite; willing to please; obliging
174. Complicity – partnership in wrongdoing
175. Conciliatory – overcoming distrust or hostility
176. Condescend – to bestow courtesy with a superior air
177. Conflagration – big fire
178. Confluence – meeting place, meeting of two streams
179. Conjure – to evoke a spirit; bring to mind
180. Connivance – act of conspiring or scheming
181. Connote – to suggest or imply in addition to literal meaning

182. Consanguinity – relationship by blood or by a common ancestor; close connection
183. Consign – to entrust; commit irrevocably
184. Consolidate – to combine form into one system
185. Consonance – something consistent with; in agreement with something else
186. Consonant – consistent with, in agreement with
187. Consortium – an association formed by joint venture
188. Constituency – body of voters of the residents of a district represented by a elected official
189. Constituent – part; citizen, voter
190. Consummate – accomplished, complete
191. Consummate – to complete, fulfill
192. Contrivance – something invented or fabricated
193. Contumacious – disobedient; rebellious
194. Convalesce – to return to health after illness; recuperate
195. Convoke – to call together
196. Cordial - warm and sincere
197. Corporal - relating to the body
198. Corporeal - concerned with the body; tangible, material
199. Corpulence – condition of being excessively fat
200. Corpus – a large collection of writings on a specific subject or of a specific kind
201. Corrugated – wrinkled; ridged
202. Cosmopolitan – sophisticated, free of local prejudices
203. Cosset – to pamper
204. Coterie – small group of persons with a similar interest
205. Coterminous – having common boundaries; contiguous; coextensive in scope or time

206. Countenance – facial expression
207. Countenance – to favor, support
208. Countermand – to annul, cancel
209. Countervailing – counteracting
210. Coup- a brilliantly executed stratagem; coup d’etat
211. Coup de grace – a finishing blow; a decisive strike
212. Coup d’etat – the sudden overthrow of a government by a group of people in positions of authority
213. Coven – group of witches
214. Covert – hidden, secret
215. Coy – shy, flirtatious
216. Crass – crude, unrefined
217. Creole –a mother tongue formed from the contact of two languages through an earlier pidgin stage; a person of mixed European and black descent; a white descendent of of French settlers in some parts of the southern United States.
218. Crescendo – gradual increase in vlume or sound
219. Cryptic – puzzling
220. Culpable – guilty
221. Curator – caretaker of an exhibition
222. Curmudgeon – cranky person
223. Cursory – done with little attention to detail
224. Curt – abrupt
225. Cynosure – object of common interest; guide

## D

226. Dais – raised platform for guests of honor
227. Damp – to diminish the intensity or check the vibration of a sound
228. Debacle – a crushing defeat
229. Decadence- a process or period of deterioration or decline
230. Decathlon – athletic contest with ten events
231. Deciduous – falling off or shedding at a particular season or stage of growth
232. Decimate – to kill a large part of a group; destroy
233. Declivity – downward slope
234. Decorum – one of the neo-classical principles of dram. Decorum is the relation of style to content in the speech of dramatic characters.
235. Deduce – to draw a conclusion by reason
236. Deface – to mar the external appearance
237. De facto –in fact; actual; existing whether rightfully or not
238. Defamation – the act of slandering or injuring another’s reputation or character
239. Defamatory – slanderous, injurious to the reputation
240. Deification – the act of making or regarding as a god
241. Delegate – to give power to others
242. Delphic – relating to Delphi r the oracle of Apollo
243. Deluge – a great flood; something that overwhelms
244. Demarcation – establish limits; limit or boundary
245. Demotic – pertaining to people
246. Demur – to express doubt
247. Denotation – the most direct expression of a word
248. Denude –to make bare
249. Depose – to remove from a high position

250. Deprecate – to belittle, disparage
251. Depredation – damage or loss
252. De rigueur – required by custom or fashion
253. Descry- to catch sight of something
254. Despondent – feeling discouraged
255. Despot – tyrannical ruler
256. Despotism – absolute power
257. Destitute – very poor
258. Deus ex machina – any artificial method of solving a difficulty; an improbable element introduced in a story to resolve a situation
259. Dictum – authoritative statement
260. Diffuse – wordy; rambling, spread out
261. Dilapidated – ruined because of neglect
262. Diminution – lessening, reduction
263. Diminutive – small
264. Disbar – to expel from a legal profession
265. Discreet – having good sense and behavior
266. Discursive – wandering from topic to topic
267. Disheveled – untidy, unkempt
268. Disputations – argumentative, fond of arguing
269. Disquiet – absence of peace; anxiety
270. Dissemble – to pretend; disguise one's motives
271. Dissuade – to persuade someone to alter intentions
272. Diva – operatic singer; prima donna
273. Divisive – creating disunity

274. Doctrinaire – rightly devoted to theories
275. Digger – a derogatory term used to describe poorly written poetry of little or no literary value
276. Dour – sullen and gloomy
277. Dowager - An elderly woman of high social position
278. Doyen – a man who is a senior member of a group
279. Draconian – extremely severe
280. Dudgeon - a feeling of offense or resentment
281. Dulcet – pleasant sounding
282. Duplicious – dishonest, deceptive
283. Duress – threat of force or intimidation
284. Dyslexia – inability to associate letter symbols with sounds

## E

285. Ebullient – exhilarated, enthusiastic
286. Ecclesiastical – relating to a church
287. Ecumenical- universal; concerned with
288. Edict – a decree issued by an authority having the force of law; formal command
289. Edification – intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement
290. Edifice – building; elaborate conceptual structure
291. Efface – to erase
292. Effigy – likeness of a person
293. Effulgent - shining brightly
294. Effusion – liquid or other matter poured forth; an unrestrained outpouring of feeling
295. Effusive – expressing emotion freely

296. Egregious – obviously bad
297. Elysian – blissful, delightful
298. Emend - to correct
299. Émigré – person who has left a country a native country, esp. for political reasons
300. Eminence grise – a person who exercises power or influence without holding an official position
301. Encomium – a formal expression of praise
302. Endemic – inherent; belonging to an area
303. Enfant terrible – one whose unusual behavior or ideas disturbs others
304. Enjoin – to order, urge; officially forbid
305. Enmity – ill-will; hatred
306. Ennui – boredom; dissatisfaction and restlessness resulting from boredom or apathy
307. Ensconced – settled comfortably
308. Eon – indefinitely long period of time
309. Epicure - person with refined tastes
310. Epicurean – devoted to pleasure
311. Epidemic – a widespread disease
312. Epigram - short and witty saying
313. Epistemology- branch of philosophy that examines the nature of knowledge
314. Epithalamium – a work, esp. a poem, write to celebrate a wedding
315. Epithelial – relating to the epithelium, membranous tissue composed of one or more compact layer of cells that covers most internal and external surfaces of the body, including its' organs
316. Epithet – w word or phrase characterizing a person or thing
317. Epitome- representative of a group; ideal example

318. Epochal – of a particular period in history, esp. one considered important
319. Eponym – person from whose name something is derived
320. Equine – relating to horses
321. Espirit de corps – team spirit
322. Essay – to make an attempt to subject to a test
323. Essentialism – the practice of regarding something (as a presumed human trait) as having innate existence or universal validity rather than being a social, ideological, or intellectual construct; a philosophical theory ascribing ultimate reality to essence embodied in a thing perceptible to the senses
324. Esteem – to value; respect
325. Ethereal – insubstantial, intangible; spiritual
326. Ethnologist – scientist who studies and compares human cultures
327. Ethos – beliefs or character of a group
328. Euphony – pleasant or harmonious sound
329. Euphuism – a word derived from Lyly’s ‘Euphues’ to characterize writing that is self-consciously laden with elaborate figures of speech
330. Evanescent – transitory, short-lived
331. Evince – to show plainly
332. Eviscerate – to disembowel; take away a vital part
333. Excoriate – to criticize strongly
334. Exegesis – critical interpretation or explanation
335. Exemplar – example worth imitating
336. Exhume – to remove from a grave
337. Exodus – departure of a large group of people
338. Exorbitant – greater than reasonable

- 339. Exorcise – to expel evil spirits; free from bad influences
- 340. Expatriate – someone existing outside of their land
- 341. Expeditious – done with speed and efficiency
- 342. Exponent – someone who champions or advocates
- 343. Expostulation – scolding; reproof
- 344. Expound – elaborate
- 345. Expunge – to cancel; remove
- 346. Expurgate – to censor
- 347. Extant – in existence; not lost
- 348. Extemporaneous – unrehearsed
- 349. Extenuating – mitigating, reducing in severity
- 350. Extol – to praise
- 351. Extort – to obtain something by threat
- 352. Exude – to give off
- 353. Exult – to rejoice

## F

- 354. Façade – the front of a building; face; superficial appearance
- 355. Facile – easy; superficial
- 356. Fait accompli – something done about which it is too late to argue
- 357. Fastidious – very fussy; concerned with detail
- 358. Fatalism – belief that events are determined by things beyond one's control
- 359. Faux pas – social blunder
- 360. Fawning – trying to please by flattering and behaving in a servile manner
- 361. Fealty – loyalty owed by a vassal to his feudal lord

362. Feckless – ineffective; irresponsible
363. Fecund – fertile, productive
364. Feign – to pretend
365. Felicitous – suitably expressed; appropriate; well-chosen
366. Fell – to cause to fall by striking
367. Fell – inhumanly cruel
368. Felony – a very serious crime
369. Feminine rhyme – lines rhymes by their final two syllables
370. Fey – having a magical or fairy-like quality
371. Fiasco – disaster
372. Fidelity – loyalty; exact correspondence
373. Fiefdom – estate of a feudal lord; something over which a dominant person or group has control
374. Filial – pertaining to a son or daughter
375. Filibuster – use of obstructive tactics to block passage of a law
376. Fitful – starting and stopping
377. Flaccid – lacking firmness; lacking energy
378. Flag – to grow tired, weak, or less enthusiastic
379. Flagrant – conspicuously wicked
380. Fledgling – beginner, novice
381. Flip – sarcastic, impertinent, as in flippant
382. Flippant – disrespectfully light-hearted
383. Flora – plants of a region or era
384. Flounder – to waver, falter, struggle
385. Flourish – to grow vigorously

- 386. Foible – minor weakness
- 387. Foolhardy – rash, heedless
- 388. Ford – to wade across the shallow part of a river or stream
- 389. Forlorn – dreary; unhappy; despairing
- 390. Forte – a person’s strong point
- 391. Fortuitous – accidental, occurring by chance
- 392. Foster - to provoke
- 393. Fracas – loud dispute
- 394. Frenetic – hectic, frantic
- 395. Fresco – a painting done on plaster
- 396. Frieze – ornamental band on a wall
- 397. Frivolous – lacking in seriousness; relatively unimportant
- 398. Funereal – mournful
- 399. Furtive – sneaky; stealthy

## G

- 400. Gaffe – social blunder
- 401. Galvanize – to rouse or stir
- 402. Gambit – a stratagem or ploy
- 403. Gamut – entire range
- 404. Gsrner – to gather and store
- 405. Gentry – people of standing; class of people just below nobility
- 406. Geomorphic – relating to the study of evolution and configuration of landforms
- 407. Geophysics – the physics of the earth and its environment

408. Georgic – not be confused with pastoral poetry, which idealizes life in the countryside, georgic poems with people laboring in the countryside, pushing plows, raising crops, etc.
409. Geriatric – related to the aged or the aging process
410. Germane – appropriate, relevant
411. Gesticulate – to motion or gesture
412. Gingerly – very carefully
413. Gloaming – twilight; dusk
414. Gnomonic – expressed in short, pithy statements
415. Grandiloquence – pompous language
416. Gratuitous – free, voluntary; unnecessary
417. Guy – a rope, cord, or cable attached to something as a brace or guide; to steady or reinforce using a guy; think *guide*

## H

418. Hackneyed – worn-out because of overuse
419. Hamartia – Aristotle's terms for what is popularly called 'the tragic flaw'. An inherent psychological flaw
420. Hamlet – small village
421. Hamper – to obstruct
422. Hapless – unfortunate, having bad luck
423. Harbinger – precursor, sign of something troubling
424. Haughty – arrogant and condescending
425. Heathen – pagan; uncivilized and irreligious
426. Hector – bully; torment
427. Heinous – shocking, wicked, terrible

428. Hellenism – the culture and civilization of ancient Greece
429. Hemorrhage – heavy bleeding
430. Herculean – calling for great strength or courage
431. Hermaphroditism – a condition in animals and humans in which male and female reproductive organs and secondary sexual characteristics are present in the same individual
432. Hermeneutic – explaining; interpreting
433. Heuristic – helping to learn
434. Hiatus – break, interruption, vacation
435. Hidebound – excessively rigid; dry and stiff
436. Hierarchy – a series arranged by rank or grade
437. Hinterland – the remote or less developed parts of a country
438. Hoary – very old; whitish or grey from age
439. Hobson`s choice – a double bind; that is, a situation in which a person must choose between alternatives that are equally unsatisfactory.
440. Hoi Polloi – the common people
441. Homeric epithet – a repeated descriptive phrase, as found in Homer`s epics.
442. Homonym – word identical in pronunciation and spelling but with a different meaning
443. Hudibrastic – a term derived from Samuel Butler`s *Hudibras*. It refers specifically to the couplets of rhymed tetrameter lines (well, eight syllables long, anyway), which Butler employed in *Hudibras*, or more generally to any deliberate, humorous, ill-rhymed couplets. Butler had a genius for “bad” poetry.
444. Husband – to farm, manage carefully and thriftily
445. Hydrological – concerned with water, esp. its effects on the earth
446. Hyperbole – a deliberate exaggeration

447. Hypochondria – unfounded belief that one is often ill  
 448. Hypocritical – pretending to be virtuous; deceiving

## I

449. Idiom – expression whose meaning as a whole differs from the meanings of its individual words  
 450. Idiosyncrasy – peculiarity of temperament, eccentricity  
 451. Idyllic – simple and carefree  
 452. Ignoble – dishonorable, not noble in character  
 453. Ignominious – disgraceful and dishonorable  
 454. Ilk –type of kind  
 455. Illimitable – limitless  
 456. Imbroglio – complicated situation; an entanglement  
 457. Imbue – to infuse; dye, wet, moisten  
 458. Impeach – to charge with misdeeds in public office; accuse  
 459. Impeccable – perfect  
 460. Imperious – arrogantly self-assured, domineering, overbearing  
 461. Impetuous – quick to act without thinking  
 462. Impious – not devout in religion  
 463. Implicate – to involve in a crime, incriminate  
 464. Implication – that which is hinted or suggested  
 465. Impolitic – not wise or expedient  
 466. Importune – to ask repeatedly; beg  
 467. Imposing – dignified, grand  
 468. Impound – to seize and confine

469. Impresario – a sponsor or producer of public entertainments
470. Imprimatur – official approval to publish; sanction
471. Improvident – without planning or foresight
472. Imprudent – unwise or indiscreet
473. Impudent – arrogant, audacious
474. Impugn – to call into question, attack verbally
475. Impunity – exemption from penalty, punishment, or harm
476. Impute – to attribute to a particular cause or source; attribute the fault to; assign as a characteristic
477. Inadvertent – careless, unintentional
478. Inalienable – incapable of being surrendered
479. Inanition - exhaustion
480. Inaugurate – to begin or start officially; induct into office
481. Incarnadine – blood-red in color
482. Incipient – beginning to exist or appear; in an initial stage
483. Incisive- perceptive; penetrating
484. Incurable – uncorrectable
485. Inculpate – to blame, charge with a crime
486. Incumbent – holding a specified office, often political
487. Indict – to charge
488. Indigent – very poor
489. Indignant – angry incensed, offended
490. Indolent – habitually lazy; idle
491. Indomitable – fearless unconquerable
492. Indubitable – unquestionable

493. Inducement – act or process of persuasion or bringing about
494. Induct – to place ceremoniously in office; to admit to military service
495. Ineluctable – not to be escaped or avoided; inevitable
496. Infatuated – strongly or foolishly attached to, inspired with foolish passion
497. Ingenue – a naïve, innocent girl or young woman
498. Ingratiate – to purposely bring oneself into another's good graces
499. Ingress – entrance
500. Inimical – injurious or harmful; hostile; unfriendly
501. Inimitable – defying imitation; matchless
502. Iniquity – wickedness; evil act
503. Injunction – command, order
504. Innuendo – indirect and subtle criticism, insinuation
505. Inopportune – untimely; poorly chosen
506. Inquest – investigation; court or legal proceeding
507. Insensible – unconscious, unresponsive
508. Insentient – unfeeling, unconscious
509. Insidious – treacherous, devious; causing harm in a way that is not apparent
510. Insipid – lacking in flavor; dull
511. Insolent – insulting and arrogant
512. Insolvent – bankrupt, unable to pay one's debts
513. Insouciant – indifferent; lacking concern or care
514. Insurgent – rebellious, insubordinate
515. Insurrection – rebellion
516. Intemperate – not moderate
517. Inter – to bury

518. Interlocutor – someone taking part in a dialogue
519. Interloper – trespasser; meddler in others` affairs
520. Interminable – endless
521. Intermittent – starting or stopping
522. Interpose – to insert; intervene
523. Intractable – not easily managed
524. Intramural – with an institution such as a school
525. Intransigent – uncompromising, refusing
526. Intrepid – fearless
527. Inundate – to cover with water; overwhelm
528. Inure – to hard; accustom; become used to
529. Inveigle – to win over by flattery or coaxing
530. Invest – to endow with authority
531. Investiture – ceremony conferring authority
532. Invidious – likely to provoke ill will, offensive
533. Inviolable – safe from violation or assault
534. Inviolate – not violated; intact
535. In vitro – outside the living organism in an artificial environment
536. In vivo – within a living organism
537. Invocation – prayer
538. Iota – very tiny amount
539. Iridescent – showing many colors
540. Irredeemable – incapable of being remedied or reformed
541. Irreproachable – blameless
542. Irresolute – unsure of how to act

543. Irreverent – disrespectful
544. Isotope – one of two or more atoms having the same atomic number but different mass numbers

## J

545. Jaundiced – having a yellowish discoloration of the skin; affected by envy, resentment, or hostility
546. Jejune – not interesting; childish
547. Jingoism – extreme support of one`s country
548. Jingoist – person who supports his or her country in an extreme way
549. Joie de vivre – joy of living
550. Jubilee – special anniversary
551. Jurisdiction – power to interpret and apply law; control
552. Jurisprudence – philosophy of law

## K

553. Kafkaesque – characterized by distortion and impending anger
554. Kindle – to set fire to or ignite; excite or inspire
555. Kinetic – relating to motion; characterized by movement
556. Kismet – fate; destiny
557. Knell – sound of a funeral bell; omen of death or failure

## L

558. Laceration – cut or wound
559. Lachrymose – tearful or sad

560. Lackadaisical – idle, lazy; apathetic; indifferent
561. Lackluster – lacking brightness or vitality
562. Laconic – using few words
563. Laissez-faire – relating to a doctrine that opposes government interference in the economy; non-interference in the affairs of others.
564. Lamaism – Tibetan Buddhism
565. Lamarckism – a theory of biological evolution holding that traits can be inherited
566. Lampoon – to attack with satire mock harshly
567. Languid – lacking energy; indifferent, slow
568. Languish – to become weak; to live in disheartening conditions; to be neglected
569. Languor – lassitude
570. Lapidary – relating to precious stones
571. Larceny – theft of property
572. Larder – place where food is stored
573. Largess – generosity; gift
574. Lassitude – lethargy; sluggishness
575. Latent – present but hidden; potential
576. Lavish – liberal; wasteful
577. Lax – careless
578. Leery – suspicious
579. Legerdemain – trickery
580. Legion – constituting a large number
581. Leitmotif – a dominant, recurrent theme
582. Lethargy – inactivity
583. Lexis – vocabulary; the set of words in a language

584. Liaise – to communicate and maintain contact
585. Libel – defamatory statement; act of writing
586. Liberal – tolerant, tolerant; broad-minded
587. Libretto – the text of a dramatic musical work
588. Licentious – immoral; unrestrained by society
589. Lien – right to possess and sell property of a debtor
590. Lilliputian – extremely small
591. Limn – to draw; describe
592. Limpid – clear, transparent
593. Lineage – ancestry
594. Lingua franca – a language used for communication among peoples speaking  
different languages
595. Liniment – medicinal liquid used externally to ease pain
596. Lionize – to treat as a celebrity
597. Lissome – easily flexible
598. Listless – lacking energy or enthusiasm
599. Lithe – moving or bending with ease; graceful
600. Litigation – legal proceedings
601. Litotes – an understatement created through a double negative (or more precisely,  
negating the negative). It sounds more complicated than it is
602. Livid – discolored from a bruise; reddened with anger
603. Loath – unwilling or reluctant; disinclined
604. Loathe – to abhor, despise, hate
605. Lobbyist – person who attempts to influence legislators or other public officials  
toward desired action

- 606. Locus – locality; center of gravity
- 607. Lofty – very high; noble
- 608. Logo – corporate symbol
- 609. Loiter – to stand by idly
- 610. Loquacious – talkative
- 611. Lothario – seducer
- 612. Low – to make a deep sustained sound like a cow, moo
- 613. Lucre – money or profits
- 614. Lugubrious – sorrowful, mournful
- 615. Lumber – to move slowly and awkwardly
- 616. Luminary – a person who has achieved eminence in a specific field
- 617. Luminous - bright; brilliant; glowing
- 618. Lunar – relating to the moon
- 619. Lurid – harshly shocking, sensational
- 620. Lurk – to prowl, sneak
- 621. Luxuriant – marked by lavishness
- 622. Lyric – suitable for poetry

## M

- 623. Macabre - grim and horrible
- 624. Machiavellian – crafty; double-dealing
- 625. Machinations – plots or schemes
- 626. Magisterial – authoritative
- 627. Magnanimous –generous, noble
- 628. Magnate – powerful person

629. Magnitude – extent, greatness in size
630. Magnum opus – the greatest single work of a writer, composer, or artist
631. Maladroit – clumsy, tactless
632. Malady – illness
633. Malaise – feeling of discomfort; general sense of depression
634. Malapropism – humorous misuse of a word
635. Malcontent – discontented person
636. Malediction – curse
637. Malefactor – doer of evil
638. Malevolent – causing evil
639. Malfeasance – misconduct
640. Malice – animosity, hatred
641. Malign – evil
642. Malingering – to feign illness to escape duty
643. Malleable – capable of being shaped impressionable
644. Mandate – authoritative command
645. Mandatory – required, necessary
646. Manichaeism – a dualistic religious philosophy taught by the Persian prophet Manes
647. Manifest – obvious
648. Manifold – diverse, comprised of many parts
649. Manna – spiritual nourishment
650. Manumission – freedom from slavery
651. Martial – warlike; associated with war and the armed forces
652. Martinet – strict disciplinarian

653. Masculine Rhyme – a rhyme ending on the final stressed syllable (aka, regular old rhyme)
654. Matriarchy – a family or community governed by women
655. Matriculate – to enroll in college
656. Matrilineal – tracing ancestry through the other`s line
657. Maudlin – overly sentimental
658. Maven – expert
659. Maverick – dissenter
660. Mawkish – very sentimental
661. Maxim – a concise statement of a fundamental principle
662. Mea culpa – an admission of a personal fault or mistake
663. Meager – scanty; inadequate
664. Meandering – winding back and forth, rambling
665. Medley – mixture
666. Megalith – huge stone used in prehistoric structures
667. Megalomania – delusions of power or importance
668. Melange – mixture
669. Menagerie – a variety of animals kept together
670. Mendacious – dishonest
671. Mendicant – beggar
672. Mercurial – quick, unpredictable
673. Meretricious – gaudy; plausible but false; specious
674. Meridian – imaginary circle that passes through the north and south poles
675. Meritocratic – relating to a system in which advancement is based on achievement
676. Meritorious – deserving praise

677. Metaphor – figure of speech that compares two different things
678. Metaphysic – an underlying philosophical or theoretical principle
679. Meteorological – concerned with the weather
680. Metonymy – a term for a phrase that refers to a person or object by a single important feature of the person
681. Mettle – courage, endurance
682. Mettlesome – full of courage and fortitude; spirited
683. Milieu – environment; surroundings
684. Militant – combative; bellicose
685. Minatory – threatening; menacing
686. Mince – pronounce or speak affectedly, euphemize, speak too carefully
687. Mirth – gaiety
688. Miscellany – mixture of writings on various subjects
689. Miscreant – villain criminal
690. Miserly – stingy, mean
691. Misgivings – doubt, sense of foreboding
692. Misnomer – incorrect name
693. Missive – letter
694. Modus operandi – a method of operating or proceeding
695. Mollify – to soothe
696. Monism – philosophical belief that reality is comprised of one fundamental substance
697. Monochromatic – having one color
698. Montage – composite picture
699. Moot – debatable, previously decided
700. Moratorium – an authorized delay of a specific activity

- 701. Morbid – gruesome, unhealthily gloomy
- 702. Mordacious – Bitingly sarcastic
- 703. Mordant – bitingly sarcastic
- 704. Mores – customs
- 705. Moribund – dying
- 706. Morose – ill-humored; sullen
- 707. Mote – tiny particle
- 708. Motif – a main theme for development; a repeated figure
- 709. Multifaceted – made up of many parts
- 710. Multifarious – diverse
- 711. Munificent – generous
- 712. Muse – to consider something at length; ponder
- 713. Mutability – changeability
- 714. Mutation – significant genetic change
- 715. Muted – silent; toned down
- 716. Myopic – near-sighted, unable to anticipate events

## N

- 717. Nadir – lowest point
- 718. Nascent – starting to develop, coming into existence
- 719. Natal – relating to birth
- 720. Nebulous – vague, cloudy
- 721. Necromancy – black magic
- 722. Necropsy – autopsy
- 723. Nefarious – vicious, evil

724. Negate – to cancel out, nullify
725. Neoclassical Unities – Principles of dramatic structure derived (and applied somewhat too strictly) from Aristotle’s *Poetics*. They are called the neoclassical unities because of their popularity in the neoclassical movement of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The essential unities are of time, place, and action.
726. Neonate – newborn child
727. Ne plus ultra – the perfect or most extreme example of its kind
728. Nepotism – favoritism to a relative
729. Nescience – absence of knowledge; ignorance
730. Nestorianism – a religious belief holding that within Jesus are two distinct person, divine and human, rather than a single divine person
731. Nether – located below or under
732. Nettle – to irritate
733. Neurosis – a mental disorder arising without evidence of organic disease
734. Nexus – a means of connections; a connected group or series; a center
735. Nicety – elegance or delicate feature; minute distinction
736. Niche – recess in a wall; best position for something
737. Niggardly – stingy
738. Noblesse oblige – obligation of persons of high birth or rank to act nobly and benevolently
739. Noisome – stinking, putrid
740. Nomenclature – terms used in a particular science or discipline
741. Nominal – existing in name only; negligible
742. Nondescript – lacking interesting or distinctive qualities; dull
743. Nonpareil – having no match or equal

- 744. Nonplussed – bewildered; confused
- 745. Non sequitur – conclusion not from following from apparent evidence
- 746. Nostrum – a remedy of doubtful effectiveness
- 747. Notoriety – dispute; ill-fame
- 748. Notorious – known widely and unfavorably
- 749. Nouveau riche – one who has recently become rich
- 750. Novitiate – state of being a novice or beginner
- 751. Numismatics- coin collecting

## O

- 752. Obeisance – deference or homage
- 753. Objet d`art – object with artistic value
- 754. Oblique – indirect, evasive; misleading, devious
- 755. Obloquy – abusively detractive language; ill repute
- 756. Obscure – dim, unclear; not well-known
- 757. Obsequy – funeral ceremony
- 758. Obsolescent – becoming obsolete
- 759. Obstreperous – troublesome, boisterous, unruly
- 760. Obtrusive – pushy, too conspicuous
- 761. Obviate – to make unnecessary; anticipate and prevent
- 762. Occult - relating to supernatural phenomena; secret
- 763. Ockham`s razor – the principle that no more assumptions than necessary should be made in explaining a phenomenon
- 764. Odious – hateful, contemptible
- 765. Oeuvre – the sum of the lifework of an artist

766. Ogle – to stare at
767. Ombudsman – a person who investigates complaints and mediates settlements between parties
768. Ominous – threatening
769. Ontology – theory of the nature of existence
770. Onus – a difficult responsibility or burden
771. Opalescent – iridescent, displaying colors
772. Opaque – not transparent; obscure; unintelligible
773. Opine – to express an opinion
774. Opprobrium – disgrace; contempt
775. Opulence – wealth
776. Oracular – prophetic; uttered as if with divine authority; mysterious or ambiguous
777. Ordain – to make someone a priest or minister; order
778. Osmosis – diffusion of a fluid; gradual assimilation or absorption
779. Ossify – to turn to bone; become rigid; make rigidly conventional
780. Ostensibly – apparently; professedly
781. Ouster – expulsion, ejection
782. Outré – unconventional; eccentric
783. Overwrought – agitated, overdone
784. Oxymoron – the combining of incongruous or contradictory terms

## P

785. Paeon – a song of joy or triumph
786. Pagan – someone who has no religion
787. Palatable – pleasant to the taste or mind

788. Palatial – like a palace; magnificent
789. Palaver – idle talk
790. Paleoseismology – the study of the timing, location, and size of prehistoric earthquakes
791. Palette – board for mixing paints; range of colors
792. Palisade – fence made up of sticks
793. Pall – to lose strength or interest
794. Pall – covering that darkens or obscures; coffin
795. Palliate – to make less serious, ease
796. Palliative – something that relieves symptoms without curing the disease
797. Pallid – lacking color or liveliness
798. Palpable – obvious; real; tangible
799. Palpitation – trembling; shaking
800. Paltry – pitifully small or worthless
801. Panacea – cure-all
802. Panache – flamboyance, verve
803. Pandemic – disease spread over a whole area
804. Panoply – impressive array
805. Panorama – broad view; comprehensive picture
806. Pantheist – a person who believes that manifestations of the universe are God
807. Pantheon – all gods of a people; a group of highly regarded persons
808. Papacy – office of the pope
809. Parable – a short, simple story that teaches a moral lesson
810. Paradigm – model; example; pattern
811. Paradisiacal – heavenly; wonderful

812. Parenthetical – clarifying or qualifying
813. Pariah – outcast
814. Parity – equality
815. Parlance – a particular manner of speaking
816. Parochial – narrow in outlook
817. Paroxysm – fit or attack of pain, laughter, or rage
818. Parry – to ward off or deflect
819. Parsimony – stinginess
820. Parvenu – a newly rich person who is regarded as an upstart
821. Passé – old-fashioned
822. Pastiche – piece of literature or music imitating other works
823. Pastoral Elegy – A type of poem that takes the form of an elegy (a lament for the dead) sung by a shepherd. In this conventionalized form, the shepherd who sings the elegy is a stand-in for the author, and the elegy is for another poet.
824. Pastoral Literature – a work deals with the lives of people, especially shepherds, in the country or in nature
825. Pathetic fallacy – a term coined by John Ruskin. It refers to ascribing emotion and agency to inanimate objects.
826. Pathogen – agent causing disease
827. Pathos – pity, compassion
828. Patois – a regional dialect; nonstandard speech; the jargon of a group
829. Patronizing – condescending, disparaging; buying from
830. Pauper – a very poor person
831. Peccadillo – minor sin or offense
832. Peculation – theft of money or goods

833. Pecuniary – relating to money
834. Pedagogue – teacher
835. Pedagogy – art of profession of teaching
836. Pedant – uninspired, boring academic
837. Pediatrician – doctor specializing in children and their ailments
838. Pediment – triangular gable on a roof or façade
839. Pejorative – having bad connotations; disparaging
840. Pelagic – living in open oceans or seas rather than waters adjacent to land or inland waters
841. Pellucid – transparent; translucent; easily understood
842. Penance – voluntary suffering to repent for a wrong
843. Penchant – inclination
844. Penitent – expressing sorrow for sins or offenses, repentant
845. Pensive – thoughtful
846. Penultimate – next to last
847. Penumbra – partial shadow
848. Penurious – poverty-stricken; destitute
849. Perambulation – walking about
850. Percipient – discerning, able to perceive
851. Perdition – complete and utter loss; damnation
852. Peregrination – wandering from place to place
853. Peremptory – imperative; leaving no choice
854. Perennial – present throughout the years; persistent
855. Perfidious – faithless, disloyal, untrustworthy
856. Perfidy – deliberate breach of faith or violation of trust

857. Perfunctory – superficial; not thorough; performed really as a duty
858. Perigee – point in an orbit that is closest to the earth
859. Perihelion - point in an orbit nearest to the sun
860. Peripatetic – moving from place to place
861. Periphrastic – containing too many words
862. Perjure – to tell a lie under oath
863. Permafrost – permanently frozen subsoil
864. Permeable – penetrable
865. Pernicious – very harmful
866. Persona – a person`s public image
867. Personification – act of attributing human qualities to objects or abstract qualities
868. Perspicacious – shrewd, astute, keen-witted
869. Perspicacity – acuteness of perception or understanding
870. Pert – lively and bold
871. Pertinacious – persistent, stubborn
872. Perusal – close examination
873. Peruse – to examine closely
874. Perverse – stubborn, intractable, contradicting without good reason
875. Pervert – to cause to change in an immoral way
876. Pestilence – epidemic, plague
877. Petulantly – in a rude or peevish manner
878. Phalanx – massed group of soldiers, people, or things
879. Phallogocentric – centred on men or on a male viewpoint
880. Phantasmagoria – a fantastic sequence of haphazardly associative imagery
881. Philanderer – a pursuer of casual love affairs

882. Philatelist – stamp collector
883. Philistine – narrow-minded person, someone lacking appreciation for art and culture
884. Philology – study of words
885. Phlegmatic – calm in temperament; sluggish
886. Phobia – irrational fear
887. Phonetics – study of speech sounds
888. Phonic – relating to sound
889. Physiognomy – facial features
890. Physiology – study of living organism; the functions of a living organism
891. Picaresque – a novel, typically loosely constructed along an incident-to-incident basis, that follows the adventures of a more or less scurrilous rogue whose primary concerns are filling his belly and staying out of jail
892. Pidgin – a simplified form of speech
893. Pied – multicolored, usually in blotches
894. Pilfer – to steal
895. Pillage- to loot, especially during a war
896. Pine – to lose vigor (as in grief); to yearn
897. Pinnacle – peak, highest point of development
898. Piquant – appealingly stimulating; pleasantly pungent
899. Pique – fleeting feeling of hurt pride
900. Pique – to provoke, arouse
901. Piscivore - a fish-eating animal
902. Pithy – forceful and brief
903. Pittance – meager amount or wage
904. Plaintiff – injured person in a lawsuit

905. Planetesimal – any of numerous small celestial bodies that may have existed at an early stage of the development of the solar system
906. Plaudits – enthusiastic praise or approval
907. Plebeian – crude, vulgar, low-class
908. Plenary – complete in all respects; fully attended by all qualified members
909. Plenitude – abundance, plenty
910. Pliant – pliable, yielding
911. Plucky – courageous, spunky
912. Plutocracy – society ruled by the wealthy
913. Ply – to use diligently; engage; join together
914. Pneumatic – relating to air; worked by compressed air
915. Poach – to steal game or fish; appropriate something as one`s own; cook in boiling liquid
916. Pogrom – an organized massacre or persecution of a minority group
917. Poignant – emotionally moving
918. Polar – relating to a geographic pole
919. Polemic – controversy; argument; verbal attack
920. Politic – discreet, tactful
921. Polity – an organized society having a specific form of government
922. Polyandry – the practice of having more than one husband at a time
923. Polygamy – having more than one wife or husband at one time
924. Polyglot – speaker of many languages
925. Pontificate – to speak in a pretentious manner
926. Portent – omen
927. Portentous – foreboding; exciting wonder and awe

928. Portly – stout, dignified
929. Poseur – a person who tries to impress others by affecting a manner, attitude, etc., other than his or her true one.
930. Posit – to assume or affirm the existence of; postulate; to propose as an explanation
931. Posterior – later in time
932. Posthumous – occurring or continuing after one`s death; published after a writer`s death
933. Postmodernism – theory involves a radical reappraisal of modern assumptions about culture, identity, history, or language; in the arts, any of the various movements in reaction to modernism that are typically characterized by a return to traditional materials and forms
934. Post mortem – medical examination of a dead body; autopsy
935. Potable – drinkable
936. Potentate – monarch or ruler with great power
937. Prate – to talk idly; chatter
938. Prattle – meaningless, foolish talk
939. Precarious – uncertain
940. Precipitate – rash; hasty; sudden
941. Precipitate – to cause to happen; throw down from a height
942. Precipitous – hasty, quickly, with too little caution
943. Précis – short summary of facts
944. Preclude – to make impossible; prevent
945. Predicate – to found or base on
946. Predicate – one of the two main constituents of a sentence or clause, modifying the subject

947. Predilection – preference, liking
948. Prescience – foresight
949. Prescribe – to order the use of
950. Presentiment – premonition, sense of foreboding
951. Prestidigitation – sleight of hand
952. Presumption – belief based on reasonable evidence
953. Pretext – excuse, pretended reason
954. Prima facie – at first sight; true at first sight; evident without proof
955. Privation – lack of usual necessities or comforts
956. Probity – honesty high-mindedness
957. Procure – to obtain
958. Profane – to treat with irreverence or disrespect; degrade or abuse
959. Profligacy – corruption; degeneration; wild extravagance
960. Progenitor – originator, forefather, ancestor in a direct line
961. Prognosis – predictor of a disease outcome; any prediction
962. Prognostication – prediction through use of present condition as a guide
963. Proletariat – the class of industrial age earners who must sell their labor to survive
964. Prolix – tending to speak or write at excessive length; wordy
965. Promontory – piece of land or rock higher than its surroundings
966. Promulgate – to make known publicly
967. Propinquity – nearness
968. Propitiate – to win over, appease
969. Propitious – favorable, advantageous
970. Propriety – correct conduct; fitness
971. Proscribe – to condemn; forbid, outlaw

972. Proselytize – to convert to a particular belief or religion
973. Prosification – converting (poetry, etc.) into prose
974. Prostrate – lying face downward, lying flat on ground
975. Protean – readily assuming different forms or characters
976. Protégé – person receiving protection and support from a patron
977. Protestation - strong expression of disapproval; formal declaration
978. Protocol – ceremony and manners observed by diplomats
979. Protract – to prolong
980. Protrusion – something that sticks out
981. Proverbial – widely referred to
982. Provident – providing for future needs; frugal
983. Province – range; scope
984. Proviso – a condition or qualification

## Q

985. Quixotic – foolishly impractical; marked by lofty romantic ideals
986. Quotidian – occurring or recurring daily; commonplace

## R

987. Raison d`etre – justification for existing
988. Ramification- implication
989. Rancid – spoiled, rotten
990. Rancor – bitter hatred
991. Rapacious- taking by force; greedy
992. Rapport – relationship of trust and respect

993. Rapprochement – establishment of harmonious relations
994. Rapt – deeply absorbed
995. Ratify – to approve formally, confirm
996. Ratiocination – methodical, logical reasoning
997. Raucous – harsh-sounding; boisterous
998. Ravage – to destroy, devastate
999. Ravenous – extremely hungry
1000. Raze – to tear down, demolish
1001. Reactionary – marked by extreme conservatism
1002. Rebuff – to sub; beat back
1003. Recalcitrant – resisting control
1004. Recidivism – tendency to relapse into previous behavior
1005. Recondite – abstruse; profound
1006. Rectify – to correct
1007. Redolent – odorous; fragrant; suggestive of an odor
1008. Redress – relief from wrong or injury
1009. Refectory – room where meals are served
1010. Refurbish – to renovate
1011. Regimen – government rule; systematic plan
1012. Reification – treatment of an abstraction as if it had material existence
1013. Rejoinder – response
1014. Relegate – to consign to an inferior position
1015. Relic – surviving remnant; memento
1016. Remission – lessening, relaxation
1017. Remonstrate – to object or protest

1018. Remorseless – having no pity; merciless
1019. Remuneration – pay or reward for work, trouble, etc.
1020. Renascent – reborn, coming into being again
1021. Render – to provide; give what is due; represent in drawing or painting
1022. Renege – to go back on one`s word
1023. Reparation – fame, widespread acclaim
1024. Repast – meal or mealtime
1025. Repentant – apologetic, guilty, remorseful
1026. Repertoire – pieces that an artist or artists are prepared to perform; a person`s range of skills
1027. Repine – to fret; complain
1028. Replete – abundantly supplied
1029. Replica – duplication, copy of something
1030. Repose – relaxation, leisure
1031. Reprimand – to scold
1032. Reprise – repetition, esp. of a piece of music
1033. Reproach – to find fault with; blame
1034. Reprobate – morally unprincipled person
1035. Reprove – to criticize or correct
1036. Requiem – hymns or religious service for the dead
1037. Respite – interval of relief
1038. Resplendent – splendid, brilliant
1039. Restitution – act of compensating for loss or damage
1040. Restive – impatient, uneasy, restless
1041. Reticence – reserved; reluctance

1042. Retinue – group of attendants with a important person
1043. Retort – cutting response
1044. Retrench – to regroup, reorganize
1045. Reveille – the sounding of a bugle early in the morning to awaken and summon people
1046. Revelry – boisterous activity
1047. Reverie – daydream
1048. Reversion – return to an earlier state
1049. Revivify – give new life or energy
1050. Revulsion – strong feeling of repugnance or dislike
1051. Rhapsodize – emotional literary or musical work
1052. Ribald – humorous in a vulgar way
1053. Rife – widespread, prevalent; abundant
1054. Riposte – retaliatory action or retort
1055. Risqué – bordering on being inappropriate or indecent
1056. Roil – to disturb or cause disorder
1057. Rotund – round in shape; flat
1058. Rue – to regret

## S

1059. Saccharine – excessively sweet or sentimental
1060. Sacrilege – the desecration of something holy
1061. Sacrosanct – extremely sacred; beyond criticism
1062. Sagacious – having insight; wise
1063. Sage – wise older person

1064. Salacious – lascivious; lustful
1065. Sallow – sickly yellow in color
1066. Sanguine – ruddy; cheerfully optimistic
1067. Sardonic – cynical; scornfully mocking
1068. Sartorial – pertaining to tailors
1069. Saturnine – gloomy
1070. Satyr – a creature that is half-man, half-beast with the horns and legs of a goat; lecher
1071. Saunter – to amble; walk in a leisurely manner
1072. Savoir faire – ability to behave appropriately in social situations
1073. Scabbard – sheath for sword or dagger
1074. Scion – descendant or heir
1075. Scourge – source of widespread affliction or devastation
1076. Scrivener – professional copyist
1077. Scruple – conscientious feeling that tends to hinder action
1078. Scurrilous – vulgar, low, indecent
1079. Seditious – behavior prompting rebellion
1080. Sedulous – diligent
1081. Semantics – the study of the meaning of language
1082. Semblance – outward appearance; resemblance
1083. Semiotics – the study of signs and symbols as elements of communication
1084. Senescent – growing old; aging
1085. Sententious – having a moralizing tone
1086. Sequester – to remove or set apart; put into seclusion
1087. Seraphic – angelic, pure, sublime
1088. Serendipitous – resulting from a fortunate discovery by chance

1089. Serrated – saw-toothed, notched
1090. Sextant – navigation tool that determines latitude and longitude
1091. Shibboleth – a belief or custom that distinguishes a certain group, especially one regarded as outmoded
1092. Sibyl – one of a number of women regarded as oracles or prophets by the ancient Greeks and Romans; a woman prophet
1093. Sidereal – relating to the stars
1094. Simian – ape-like
1095. Simile – comparison of one thing with another using like or as
1096. Simper – to smirk, smile foolishly  
Sinecure – well-paying job that requires little or no work
1097. Sisyphean – endlessly laborious or futile
1098. Skeltonics – a form of humorous poetry, using very short, rhymed lines and a pronounced rhythm, made popular by John Skelton. The only real difference between skeltonic and doggerel is the quality of the thought expressed.
1099. Slake – to calm down or moderate
1100. Slavish – servile; blindly imitative
1101. Slipshod – carelessly, hasty
1102. Slough – to discard or shed
1103. Slovenly – untidy or messy
1104. Sobriquet – nickname
1105. Socratic irony – profession of ignorance while questioning another person in order to discover the truth
1106. Soiree – an evening party
1107. Sojourn – visit, stay

1108. Solace – comfort in sorrow; consolation
1109. Solarium – room or glassed-in area exposed to the sun
1110. Solecism – grammatical mistake
1111. Soliloquy – literary or dramatic speech by one character, not addressed to others
1112. Solipsism – belief that the self is the only reality
1113. Solstice – shortest and longest day of the year
1114. Soluble – capable of being solved or dissolved
1115. Solvent – able to meet financial obligations
1116. Somber – dark and gloomy; melancholy, dismal
1117. Somnambulist – sleepwalker
1118. Somnolent – drowsy, sleepy; inducing sleep
1119. Sonorous – producing a full, rich sound
1120. Sophist – person good at arguing deviously
1121. Sophistical – relating to deceptive reasoning
1122. Sophomoric – immature and overconfident
1123. Soporific – something that produces sleep
1124. Sordid – filthy; contemptible and corrupt
1125. Spartan – austere, severe, grave; simple, bare
1126. Spate – a sudden outpouring
1127. Specter – an apparition; a threatening possibility
1128. Speculate – take something as true based on insufficient evidence
1129. Spendthrift – person who spends money recklessly
1130. Sporadic – irregular
1131. Sportive – frolicsome, playful
1132. Sprightly – lively, animated, energetic

1133. Sprung rhythm – the rhythm created and used in the nineteenth century by Gerard Manley Hopkins. Like Old English verse, sprung rhythm fits a varying number of unstressed syllables in a line – only the stresses count in scansion
1134. Spur – to prod
1135. Spurious – lacking authenticity; counterfeit, false
1136. Spurn – to reject; scorn
1137. Squalid – filthy; morally repulsive
1138. Staid – self-restrained to the point of dullness
1139. Stanch – to stop or check the flow of
1140. Stark – bare, empty, vacant
1141. Stentorian – extremely loud
1142. Stultify – to impair or reduce to uselessness
1143. Stupefy – to dull the senses of; stun, astonish
1144. Stupor – daze; state of mental confusion
1145. Stygian – dark and gloomy; hellish
1146. Stylized – conforming to a particular style
1147. Stymie – to block or thwart
1148. Suave – smoothly gracious or polite; blandly ingratiating
1149. Subdued – suppressed, stifled
1150. Sublimity – nobility; majesty; high spirituality or moral value
1151. Subpoena – notice ordering someone to appear in court
1152. Subsume – to include or incorporate into something else
1153. Subterfuge – trick or tactic used to avoid something
1154. Subterranean – hidden, secret; underground
1155. Succinct – terse, brief, concise

1156. Succor – help in times of hardship or distress
1157. Succulent – juicy; full of vitality or freshness
1158. Succumb – yield; give in; die
1159. Sufferable – bearable
1160. Suffrage – right to vote
1161. Sui generis – one of a kind; unique
1162. Sullen – brooding, gloomy
1163. Sully – to soil, stain, tarnish; taint
1164. Summa bonum – the greatest good
1165. Sumptuous – lavish, splendid
1166. Superannuated – too old, obsolete, outdated
1167. Supercilious – arrogant, haughty, overbearing, condescending
1168. Supererogatory – more than needed; superfluous
1169. Superfluity – overabundance; excess
1170. Supernal – celestial; heavenly
1171. Supine – lying on the back; marked by lethargy
1172. Suppliant – beseeching
1173. Supplicant – one who asks humbly and earnestly
1174. Supplication – humble and earnest entreaty
1175. Supposition – act of assuming to be true or real
1176. Supposititious – hypothetical; not genuine; suppositious
1177. Surfeit – excessive amount
1178. Surly – rude and bad-tempered
1179. Surmise – make an educated guess
1180. Surreptitious – secret

1181. Surrogate – relating to a substitute
1182. Swagger – behave arrogantly or pompously; walk proudly
1183. Swarthy – having a dark complexion
1184. Sybarite – person devoted to pleasure and luxury
1185. Sycophant – self-serving flatterer; yes-man
1186. Symposium – meeting with short presentations on related topics
1187. Synaesthesia – a term referring to phrases that suggest an interplay of the senses.  
 “Hot Pink” and “golden tones” are examples of synaesthesia.
1188. Synchronous – occurring at the same time; moving at the same time
1189. Syncopation – temporary irregularity in musical rhythm
1190. Syncretistic – composed of differing systems of belief
1191. Synecdoche – synecdoche is a phrase that refers to a person or object by a single  
 important feature of that object or person.
1192. Syntax – the way in which words are put together to form phrases and sentences

## T

1193. Tableau – vivid description, striking incident or scene
1194. Taboo – a ban as a result of a social custom
1195. Tabula rasa – condition of mind free from ideas or impressions; something that is new  
 and not marked by external influence
1196. Taciturn – uncommunicative; not inclined to speak much
1197. Talon – claw of an animal, esp. a bird of prey
1198. Tandem – one behind the other
1199. Tantamount – equivalent in value or significance; amounting to
1200. Tawdry – gaudy, cheap, showy

1201. Technocracy – government by scientists and engineers
1202. Technocrat – a scientist or technical expert who has a lot of power in politics or industry
1203. Technophile – person who is enthusiastic about technology
1204. Tectonic – related to structural deformation of the Earth's crust
1205. Teeter - Hesitate
1206. Temerity – boldness; rashness
1207. Temper – to moderate; restrain; tone down or toughen
1208. Temperament – disposition; characteristic frame of mind
1209. Tempestuous – stormy; raging; furious
1210. Template – pattern for making a copy
1211. Temporize – to act evasively to gain time, avoid an argument, or postpone a decision
1212. Tenacious – stubborn, holding firm
1213. Tendentious – biased; designed to further a cause; having an aim
1214. Tensile – capable of withstanding physical stress
1215. Tepid – lukewarm; showing little enthusiasm
1216. Terra firma – solid ground
1217. Terra incognita – an unexplored region or area of knowledge
1218. Tete-a-tete – a private conversation between two people
1219. Thespian – actor or actress
1220. Timbre – character quality of sound produced by a particular experiment or voice
1221. Timorous – timid, shy, full of apprehension
1222. Tirade – long violent speech; verbal assault
1223. Titular – holding title without obligations; nominal
1224. Toady – flatterer, hanger-on, yes-man

1225. Tome – book, usually large and academic
1226. Tonal – relating to pitch or sound
1227. Topography – art of making maps or charts; physical features of a place
1228. Torpid – lethargic; unable to move; dormant
1229. Torpor – lethargy; dormancy; sluggishness
1230. Torque – a turning or twisting force
1231. Torrid – burning hot; passionate
1232. Torsion – act of twisting and turning
1233. Totem – a natural object or animal believed to have spiritual significance
1234. Touchstone – a quality or example used to test the genuineness or excellence of others
1235. Tout – to promote or praise energetically
1236. Tract – region of land; pamphlet
1237. Tractable – obedient; yielding
1238. Trammel – to impede or hamper
1239. Transfix – to render motionless; as with awe, terror, or amazement
1240. Translucent – partially transparent
1241. Transmogrification – change from one shape or form to another
1242. Trappings – outward decorations; ornaments
1243. Travail – work, especially arduous work; tribulation; anguish
1244. Travesty – parody, exaggerated imitation, caricature
1245. Treatise – article treating a subject systematically and thoroughly
1246. Tremulous – trembling, quivering; fearful, timid
1247. Trenchant – acute, sharp, incisive; forceful, effective
1248. Trepidation – fear and anxiety
1249. Trifling – of slight worth, trivial, insignificant

1250. Trite – commonplace, unoriginal
1251. Trope – a figure of speech using words in a nonliteral way
1252. Trophic – relating to nutrition
1253. Tropism – the movement of an organism or part of an organism toward or away from an external stimulus
1254. Troupe – group of actors
1255. Truculence – state of violent agitation
1256. Truculent – fierce and cruel; eager to fight
1257. Truncate – to cut off, shorten by cutting
1258. Tumid – swollen; distended
1259. Tumult – state of confusion; agitation
1260. Tundra – treeless plain found in arctic or subarctic regions
1261. Turbid – muddy; opaque; in a state of confusion
1262. Turbulence – commotion, disorder; agitation
1263. Turgid – swollen, bloated, pompous
1264. Turpitude – inherent vileness, foulness, depravity
1265. Tutelary – serving as a guardian or protector
1266. Typology – a theory of types
1267. Tyrannical – oppressive; dictatorial
1268. Tyro – beginner, novice

## U

1269. Umbrage – offense, resentment
1270. Unavailing – hopeless, useless
1271. Unctuous – greasy, oily; smug and falsely earnest

1272. Undulating – moving in waves
1273. Unfetter – to set free
1274. Unfrock – to strip of priestly duties
1275. Ungainly – lacking grace; clumsy; unwieldy
1276. Unheralded – unannounced, unexpected, not publicized
1277. Unimpeachable – beyond question
1278. Unmitigated – not lessened or moderated in intensity; without qualification
1279. Unobstrusive – inconspicuous; not obvious
1280. Unsolicited – not requested
1281. Upbraid – to scold sharply
1282. Uproarious – loud and forceful
1283. Urban – related to a city
1284. Urbane – refined, sophisticated, suave
1285. Usurp – to seize by force
1286. Usury – practice of lending money at exorbitant rates

## V

1287. Vacuole – a small cavity in cell cytoplasm, bound by a single membrane and containing water, food or metabolic waste
1288. Vagary – an unpredictable or erratic action or occurrence
1289. Vagrant – poor person with no home
1290. Valedictory – pertaining to a farewell
1291. Valor – courage and boldness; bravery
1292. Vanguard – forerunners; advance forces
1293. Vapid – tasteless, dull

1294. Variegated – varied; marked with different colors
1295. Vaunted – boasted about, bragged about
1296. Veda – any of the oldest and most authoritative sacred texts of Hinduism
1297. Vedic – relating to the Veda
1298. Vehemently – strongly, urgently
1299. Venal – bribable; mercenary; corruptible
1300. Vendetta – prolonged feud marked by bitter hostility
1301. Venerable – respected because of age
1302. Veneration – adoration, honor; respect
1303. Verbatim – word for word
1304. Verbose – wordy
1305. Verdant – green with vegetation; inexperienced
1306. Verdure – fresh, rich vegetation
1307. Verisimilitude – quality of appearing true or real
1308. Verity – truthfulness; belief viewed as true and enduring
1309. Vermin – small creatures offensive to humans
1310. Vernacular – everyday language used by ordinary people; specialized language of a profession
1311. Vernal – related to spring
1312. Vertigo – dizziness
1313. Vexation – irritation, annoyance; confusion, puzzlement
1314. Viable – practicable; capable of developing
1315. Viaduct - series of elevated arches used to cross a valley
1316. Vicarious – substitute, surrogate; enjoyed through imagined participation in another's experience

1317. Vicissitudes – change or variation; ups and downs
1318. Vie – to compete, contend
1319. Vignette – decorative design; short literary composition
1320. Vilify – to slander, defame
1321. Vim – energy, enthusiasm
1322. Visage – countenance; appearance; aspect
1323. Visceral – deep; profound; instinctive
1324. Viscous – thick, syrupy and sticky
1325. Vision – intelligent foresight; mental image produce by imagination
1326. Vitiate – to impair or reduce the quality of; corrupt morally; make inoperative
1327. Vitriolic – burning, caustic; sharp, bitter
1328. Vituperative – using or containing harsh, abusive censure
1329. Vivacious – lively, spirited
1330. Vivisection – dissection, surgery, or painful experiments performed on a living animal  
for the purpose of scientific research
1331. Vociferous – loud, vocal and noisy
1332. Voice – the perspective from which a story is written. Literature is most often written  
from the first person or the third person, though there are rare instances of artists utilizing  
the second person or the first-person plural. It is a difficult to find an entire literary work  
that exemplifies each, as voice often changes within a particular literary work.
1333. Voluble – speaking much and easily, talkative; glib
1334. Voracious – having a great appetite

## W

1335. Waffle – speak equivocally about an issue

1336. Wag – wt, joker
1337. Waive – to refrain from enforcing a rule; give up a legal right
1338. Wallow – to indulge oneself excessively; luxuriate
1339. Wan – sickly pale
1340. Wanton – undisciplined, unrestrained, reckless
1341. Wary – careful, cautious
1342. Wax – to increase gradually
1343. Wayward – erratic, unrestrained, reckless
1344. Weltanschauung – a comprehensive conception of the universe and of humanity
1345. Weltschmerz – feeling of melancholy and world-weariness
1346. Whet – to sharpen, stimulate
1347. Wile – clever stratagem or trick to deceive
1348. Windfall – sudden, unexpected good fortune
1349. Winnow – separate good parts from bad; sift
1350. Winsome – charming, happily engaging
1351. Wized – withered, shriveled, wrinkled
1352. Wrath – anger
1353. Writ – written document
1354. Writhe – twist in coils; contort in pain
1355. Wry – amusing, ironic

## Y

1356. Yahoo – a coarse or brutish person
1357. Yen – strong desire; yearning or craving

1358. Yoga – a school of hindu philosophy advocating a course of physical and mental disciplines for attaining liberation from the material world and union of the self with the Supreme Being or ultimate principle

1359. Yoke- to join together; to harness

## Z

1360. Zany – absurd; ludicrous

1361. Zeitgeist – the outlook characteristic of a period

1362. Zephyr – a soft gentle breeze

1363. Zooplankton – plankton that consists of animals, including the corals and jelly-fish

1364. Zoroastrianism – religion founded by the sixth century B.C. Persian prophet Zoroaster teaching the worship of Ahura Mazda in the context of a struggle between the forces of light and darkness

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