

## augment

meaning  
increase

example

How can we hope to augment our forces when our allies are deserting us?

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## bode

meaning  
foreshadow; portend

example

The gloomy skies and the sulfurous odors from the mineral springs seemed to bode evil to those who settled in the area.

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## brook

meaning  
tolerate; endure

example

The dean would brook no interference with his disciplinary actions.

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## comestible

meaning  
something fit to be eaten

example

The roast turkey and other comestibles, the wines, and the excellent service made this Thanksgiving dinner particularly memorable.

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## consign

meaning  
deliver officially; entrust; set apart

example

The court consigned the child to her paternal grandmother's care.

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## dais

meaning  
raised platform for guests of honor

example

When he approached the dais, he was greeted by cheers from the people who had come to honor him.

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## defunct

meaning  
dead; no longer in use or existence

example

The lawyers sought to examine the books of the defunct corporation.

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## dingy

meaning  
dull; not fresh; cheerless

example

Refusing to be depressed by her dingy studio apartment, Bea spent the weekend polishing the floors and windows and hanging bright posters on the walls.

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## dogged

meaning  
determined; stubborn

example

Les Miserables tells of Inspector Javert's long, dogged pursuit of the criminal Jean Valjean.

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## drab

### meaning

dull; lacking color; cheerless

### example

The Dutch woman's drab winter coat contrasted with the distinctive, colorful native costume she wore beneath it.

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## dynamic

### meaning

active; efficient

### example

A dynamic government is necessary to meet the demands of a changing society.

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## embryonic

### meaning

undeveloped; rudimentary

### example

The evil of class and race hatred must be eliminated while it is still in an embryonic state; otherwise, it may grow to dangerous proportions.

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## enunciate

### meaning

speak distinctly

### example

How will people understand you if you do not enunciate?

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## epitaph

### meaning

inscription in memory of a dead person

### example

In his will, he dictated the epitaph he wanted placed on his tombstone.

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## explicate

### meaning

explain; interpret; clarify

### example

Harry Levin explicated James Joyce's novels with such clarity that even *Finnegan's Wake* seemed comprehensible to his students.

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## fickle

### meaning

changeable; faithless

### example

He discovered his supposedly faithful girlfriend was fickle.

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## fictitious

### meaning

imaginary

### example

Although this book purports to be a biography of George Washington, many of the incidents are fictitious.

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## garrulous

### meaning

excessively talkative, especially about unimportant subjects; loquacious; wordy

### example

Many club members avoided the company of the garrulous junior executive because his constant chatter bored them to tears.

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## grandiose

meaning

imposing; impressive

example

His grandiose manner impressed those who met him for the first time.

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## hinterlands

meaning

back country

example

They seldom had visitors, living as they did way out in the hinterlands.

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## induce

meaning

persuade; bring about

example

After the quarrel, Tina said nothing could induce her to talk to Tony again.

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## isotope

meaning

varying form of an element

example

The study of the isotopes of uranium led to the development of the nuclear bomb.

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## junta

meaning

group of persons joined in political intrigue; cabal

example

As soon as he learned of its existence, the dictator ordered the execution of all of the members of the junta.

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## maladroit

meaning

clumsy; bungling

example

In his usual maladroit way, he managed to upset the cart and spill the food.

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## mirage

meaning

unreal reflection; optical illusion

example

The lost prospector was fooled by a mirage in the desert.

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## presumptuous

meaning

arrogant; taking liberties

example

It seems presumptuous for one so relatively new to the field to challenge the conclusions of its leading experts.

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## prevail

meaning

induce; triumph over

example

He tried to prevail on her to type his essays for him.

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## ramshackle

### meaning

rickety; falling apart

### example

The boys propped up the ramshackle clubhouse with a couple of boards.

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## reactionary

### meaning

recoiling from progress; retrograde

### example

His program was reactionary since it sought to abolish many of the social reforms instituted by the previous administration.

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## redress

### meaning

remedy; compensation

### example

Do you mean to tell me that I can get no redress for my injuries?

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## seine

### meaning

net for catching fish

### example

When the shad run during the spring, you may see fishermen with seines along the banks of our coastal rivers.

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## sepulcher

### meaning

tomb

### example

Annabel Lee was buried in a sepulcher by the sea.

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## skulduggery

### meaning

dishonest behavior

### example

The investigation into municipal corruption turned up new instances of skulduggery daily.

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## smolder

### meaning

burn without flame; be liable to break out at any moment

### example

The rags smoldered for hours before they burst into flame.

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## stigma

### meaning

token of disgrace; brand

### example

I do not attach any stigma to the fact that you were accused of this crime; the fact that you were acquitted clears you completely.

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## stymie

### meaning

present an obstacle; stump

### example

The detective was stymied by the contradictory evidence in the robbery investigation.

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## temper

### meaning

moderate; tone down or restrain;  
toughen (steel)

### example

Not even her supervisor's grumpiness could temper Nancy's enthusiasm for her new job.

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## tentative

### meaning

provisional; experimental

### example

Your tentative plans sound plausible; let me know when the final details are worked out.

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## theoretical

### meaning

not practical or applied;  
hypothetical

### example

Bob was better at applied engineering and computer programming than he was at theoretical physics and math. While I can still think of some theoretical objections to your plan, you've convinced me of its basic soundness.

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## trek

### meaning

travel; journey

### example

The tribe made their trek further north that summer in search of game.

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## velocity

### meaning

speed

### example

The train went by at considerable velocity.

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## wont

### meaning

custom; habitual procedure

### example

As was his wont, he jogged two miles every morning before going to work.

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## ambivalence

### meaning

the state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes

### example

Torn between loving her parents one minute and hating them the next, she was confused by the ambivalence of her feelings.

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## armada

### meaning

fleet of warships

### example

Queen Elizabeth's navy was able to defeat the mighty armada that threatened the English coast.

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## astute

### meaning

wise; shrewd

### example

That was a very astute observation.

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