

## cavalier

### meaning

casual and offhand; arrogant

### example

Sensitive about having her ideas taken lightly, Marcia felt insulted by Mark's cavalier dismissal of her suggestion.

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## cognizance

### meaning

knowledge

### example

During the election campaign, the two candidates were kept in full cognizance of the international situation.

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## default

### meaning

failure to do

### example

As a result of her husband's failure to appear in court, she was granted a divorce by default.

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## deviate

### meaning

turn away from

### example

Do not deviate from the truth; you must face the facts.

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## dilate

### meaning

expand

### example

In the dark, the pupils of your eyes dilate.

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## dint

### meaning

means; effort

### example

By dint of much hard work, the volunteers were able to control the raging forest fire.

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## disingenuous

### meaning

not naive; sophisticated

### example

Although he was young, his remarks indicated that he was disingenuous.

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## divine

### meaning

perceive intuitively; foresee the future

### example

Nothing infuriated Tom more than Aunt Polly's ability to divine when he was not telling the truth.

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## exacting

### meaning

extremely demanding

### example

The colonies rebelled against the exacting financial claims of the mother country.

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## exchequer

meaning  
treasury

example

He had been Chancellor of the exchequer before his promotion to the office he now holds.

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## filigree

meaning  
delicate, lacelike metalwork

example

The pendant with gold filigree that she wore round her neck trembled with each breath she took.

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## frailty

meaning  
weakness

example

The doctor prescribed vitamin and mineral supplements for the sick old woman because of her frailty.

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## gibberish

meaning  
nonsense; babbling

example

Did you hear that foolish boy spouting gibberish about monsters from outer space?

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## glossy

meaning  
smooth and shining

example

I want this photograph printed on glossy paper, not matte.

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## hovel

meaning  
shack; small, wretched house

example

He wondered how poor people could stand living in such a hovel.

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## hurtle

meaning  
crash; rush

example

The runaway train hurtled toward disaster.

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## indefatigable

meaning  
tireless

example

He was indefatigable in his constant efforts to raise funds for the Red Cross.

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## inertia

meaning  
state of being inert or indisposed to move

example

Our inertia in this matter may prove disastrous; we must move to aid our allies immediately.

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## infidel

meaning

unbeliever

example

The Saracens made war against the infidels.

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## interim

meaning

meantime

example

The company will not consider our proposal until next week; in the interim, let us proceed as we have in the past.

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## litany

meaning

supplicatory prayer

example

On this solemn day, the congregation responded to the prayers of the priest during the litany with fervor and intensity.

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## lurk

meaning

stealthily lie in waiting; slink; exist unperceived

example

Who knows what evils lurk in the hearts of men? The shadow knows.

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## metallurgical

meaning

pertaining to the art of removing metals from ores

example

During the course of his metallurgical research, the scientist developed a steel alloy of tremendous strength.

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## motley

meaning

parti-colored; mixed

example

The captain had gathered a motley crew to sail the vessel.

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## oblique

meaning

slanting; deviating from the perpendicular or from a straight line

example

The sergeant ordered the men to march "oblique right."

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## orifice

meaning

mouthlike opening; small opening

example

The Howe Caverns were discovered when someone observed that a cold wind was issuing from an orifice in the hillside.

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## paradigm

meaning

model; example; pattern

example

Pavlov's experiment in which he trains a dog to salivate on hearing a bell is a paradigm of the conditioned-response experiment in behavioral psychology.

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## parley

meaning

conference

example

The peace parley has not produced the anticipated truce.

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## prefatory

meaning

introductory

example

The chairman made a few prefatory remarks before he called on the first speaker.

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## quibble

meaning

equivocate; play on words

example

Do not quibble; I want a straightforward and definite answer.

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## raze

meaning

destroy completely

example

The owners intend to raze the hotel and erect an office building on the site.

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## rusticate

meaning

banish to the country; dwell in the country

example

I like city life so much that I can never understand how people can rusticate in the suburbs.

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## seminal

meaning

germinal; influencing future developments; related to seed or semen

example

Although Freud has generally been regarded as a seminal thinker who shaped the course of psychology, his psychoanalytic methods have come under attack recently.

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## smattering

meaning

slight knowledge

example

I don't know whether it is better to be ignorant of a subject or to have a mere smattering of information about it.

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## stifle

meaning

suppress; extinguish; inhibit

example

Halfway through the boring lecture, Laura gave up trying to stifle her yawns.

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## stultify

meaning

cause to appear or become stupid or inconsistent; frustrate or hinder

example

His long hours in the blacking factory left young Dickens numb and incurious, as if the menial labor had stultified his mind.

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## thematic

### meaning

relating to a unifying motif or idea

### example

Those who think of *Moby Dick* as a simple adventure story about whaling miss its underlying thematic import.

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## yen

### meaning

longing; urge

### example

She had a yen to get away and live on her own for a while.

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## zephyr

### meaning

gentle breeze; west wind

### example

When these zephyrs blow, it is good to be in an open boat under a full sail.

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## acrimonious

### meaning

stinging, caustic

### example

His tendency to utter acrimonious remarks alienated his audience.

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## allay

### meaning

calm; pacify

### example

The crew tried to allay the fears of the passengers by announcing that the fire had been controlled.

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## allude

### meaning

refer indirectly

### example

Try not to allude to this matter in his presence because the topic annoys him.

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## appreciate

### meaning

be thankful for; increase in worth; be thoroughly conscious of

### example

Little Orphan Annie truly appreciated the stocks Daddy Warbucks gave her, whose value appreciated considerably over the years.

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## ardor

### meaning

heat; passion; zeal

### example

Katya's ardor was contagious; soon all her fellow demonstrators were busily making posters and handing out flyers, inspired by her ardent enthusiasm for the cause.

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## catechism

### meaning

book for religious instruction; instruction by question and answer

### example

He taught by engaging his pupils in a catechism until they gave him the correct answer.

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