

## choreography

meaning

art of dancing

example

Martha Graham introduced a form of choreography that seemed awkward and alien to those who had been brought up on classic ballet.

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## collaborate

meaning

work together

example

Two writers collaborated in preparing this book.

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## commodious

meaning

spacious and comfortable

example

After sleeping in a small roadside cabins, they found their hotel suite commodious.

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## conformity

meaning

harmony; agreement

example

In conformity with our rules and regulations, I am calling a meeting of our organization.

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## disclaim

meaning

disown; renounce claim to

example

If I grant you this privilege, will you disclaim all other rights?

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## dishearten

meaning

discourage

example

His failure to pass the bar exam disheartened him.

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## divulge

meaning

reveal

example

I will not tell you this news because I am sure you will divulge it prematurely.

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## downcast

meaning

disheartened; sad

example

Cheerful and optimistic by nature, Beth was never downcast despite the difficulties she faced.

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## embroil

meaning

throw into confusion

example

He became embroiled in the heated discussion when he tried to arbitrate the dispute.

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## ferret

### meaning

ardent; hot

### example

She felt that the fervent praise was excessive and somewhat undeserved.

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## gawk

### meaning

stare foolishly; look in open-mouthed awe

### example

The country boy gawked at the skyscrapers and neon lights of the big city.

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## hibernate

### meaning

sleep throughout the winter

### example

Bears are one of the many species of animals that hibernate.

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## ignite

### meaning

kindle; light

### example

When Desi crooned, "Baby, light my fire," literal-minded Lucy looked around for some paper to ignite.

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## indignity

### meaning

offensive or insulting treatment

### example

Although he seemed to accept cheerfully the indignities heaped upon him, he was inwardly very angry.

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## inevitable

### meaning

unavoidable

### example

Death and taxes are both inevitable.

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## intransigence

### meaning

state of stubborn unwillingness to compromise

### example

The intransigence of both parties in the dispute makes an early settlement almost impossible to obtain.

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## nauseate

### meaning

cause to become sick; fill with disgust

### example

The foul smells began to nauseate him.

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## nonentity

### meaning

person of no importance; nonexistence

### example

Don't dismiss John as a nonentity; in his quiet way, he's very important to the firm.

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## obelisk

### meaning

tall column tapering and ending in a pyramid

### example

Cleopatra's Needle is an obelisk in New York City's Central Park.

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## odium

### meaning

repugnance; dislike

### example

I cannot express the odium I feel at your heinous actions.

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## ordeal

### meaning

severe trial or affliction

### example

Terry Anderson spoke movingly of his long ordeal as a hostage in Lebanon.

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## palette

### meaning

board on which a painter mixes pigments

### example

At the present time, art supply stores are selling a paper palette that may be discarded after use.

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## paradox

### meaning

statement that looks false but is actually correct; a contradictory statement

### example

Wordsworth's "The child is father to the man" is an example of paradox.

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## patriarch

### meaning

father and ruler of a family or tribe

### example

In many primitive tribes, the leader and lawmaker was the patriarch.

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## pittance

### meaning

a small allowance or wage

### example

He could not live on the pittance he received as a pension and had to look for an additional source of revenue.

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## precipice

### meaning

cliff; dangerous position

### example

Suddenly Indiana Jones found himself dangling from the edge of a precipice.

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## requiem

### meaning

mass for the dead; dirge

### example

They played Mozart's Requiem at the funeral.

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## saline

meaning

salty

example

The slightly saline taste of this mineral water is pleasant.

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## serpentine

meaning

winding; twisting

example

The car swerved at every curve in the serpentine road.

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## snivel

meaning

run at the nose; snuffle; whine

example

Don't you come sniveling to me complaining about your big brother.

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## somnambulist

meaning

sleepwalker

example

The most famous somnambulist in literature is Lady Macbeth; her monologue in the sleepwalking scene is one of the highlights of Shakespeare's play.

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## stipple

meaning

paint or draw with dots

example

Seurat carefully stippled dabs of pure color on the canvas, juxtaposing dots of blue and yellow that the viewer's eye would interpret as green.

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## synoptic

meaning

providing a general overview; summary

example

The professor turned to the latest issue of Dissertation Abstracts for a synoptic account of what was new in the field.

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## talisman

meaning

charm

example

She wore the talisman to ward off evil.

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## unsullied

meaning

untarnished

example

I am happy that my reputation is unsullied.

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## valid

meaning

logically convincing; sound; legally acceptable

example

You're going to have to come up with a better argument if you want to convince me that your reasoning is valid.

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## veneer

### meaning

thin layer; cover

### example

Casual acquaintances were deceived by his veneer of sophistication and failed to recognize his fundamental shallowness.

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## wean

### meaning

accustom a baby not to nurse; give up a cherished activity

### example

He decided he would wean himself away from eating junk food and stick to fruits and vegetables.

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## actuarial

### meaning

calculating; pertaining to insurance statistics

### example

According to recent actuarial tables, life expectancy is greater today than it was a century ago.

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## avert

### meaning

prevent; turn away

### example

She averted her eyes from the dead cat on the highway.

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## beneficiary

### meaning

person entitled to benefits or proceeds of an insurance policy

### example

You may change your beneficiary as often as you wish.

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## biennial

### meaning

every two years

### example

The group held biennial meetings instead of annual ones.

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## bloated

### meaning

swollen or puffed as with water or air

### example

Her bloated stomach came from drinking so much water.

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## brindled

### meaning

tawny or grayish with streaks or spots

### example

He was disappointed in the litter because the puppies were brindled; he had hoped for animals of uniform color.

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## cascade

### meaning

small waterfall

### example

We could not appreciate the beauty of the many cascades as we made detours around each of them to avoid getting wet.

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