

choleric

meaning

hot-tempered

example

His flushed, angry face indicated a choleric nature.

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circumvent

meaning

outwit; baffle

example

In order to circumvent the enemy, we will make two preliminary attacks in other sections before starting our major campaign.

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collate

meaning

examine in order to verify authenticity; arrange in order

example

They collated the newly found manuscripts to determine their age.

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condiments

meaning

seasonings; spices

example

Spanish food is full of condiments.

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depose

meaning

dethrone; remove from office

example

The army attempted to depose the king and set up a military government.

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disembark

meaning

go ashore; unload cargo from a ship

example

Before the passengers could disembark, they had to pick up their passports from the ship's purser.

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disheveled

meaning

untidy

example

Your disheveled appearance will hurt your chances in this interview.

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disparity

meaning

difference; condition of inequality

example

The disparity in their ages made no difference at all.

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dowdy

meaning

slovenly; untidy

example

She tried to change her dowdy image by buying a fashionable new wardrobe.

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erode

meaning

eat away

example

The limestone was eroded by the dripping water

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exasperate

meaning

vex

example

Johnny often exasperates his mother with his pranks.

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felon

meaning

agitation; commotion

example

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, much of Eastern Europe was in a state of ferment.

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garrulity

meaning

talkativeness

example

The man who married a dumb wife asked the doctor to make him deaf because of his wife's garrulity after her cure.

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gingerly

meaning

very carefully

example

To separate egg whites, first crack the egg gingerly.

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gusto

meaning

enjoyment; enthusiasm

example

He accepted the assignment with such gusto that I feel he would have been satisfied with a smaller salary.

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impermeable

meaning

impervious; not permitting passage through its substance

example

This new material is impermeable to liquids.

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imprudent

meaning

lacking caution; injudicious

example

It is imprudent to exercise vigorously and become overheated when you are unwell.

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inanimate

meaning

lifeless

example

she was asked to identify the still and inanimate body.

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integrity

meaning

uprightness; wholeness

example

Lincoln, whose personal integrity has inspired millions, fought a civil war to maintain the integrity of the republic, that these United States might remain undivided for all time.

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irremediable

meaning

incurable; uncorrectable

example

The error she made was irremediable; she could see no way to repair it.

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irreverent

meaning

lacking proper respect

example

The worshippers resented her irreverent remarks about their faith.

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libelous

meaning

defamatory; injurious to the good name of a person

example

He sued the newspaper because of its libelous story.

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marked

meaning

noticeable; targeted for vengeance

example

He walked with a marked limp, a souvenir of an old IRA attack. As British ambassador, he knew he was a marked man.

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mimicry

meaning

imitation

example

Her gift for mimicry was so great that her friends said that she should be in the theater.

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misdemeanor

meaning

minor crime

example

The culprit pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor rather than face trial for a felony.

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omniscient

meaning

all-knowing

example

I do not pretend to be omniscient, but I am positive about this fact.

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ostensible

meaning

apparent; professed; pretended

example

Although the ostensible purpose of this expedition is to discover new lands, we are really interested in finding new markets for our products.

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ovoid

meaning

egg-shaped

example

At Easter she had to cut out hundreds of brightly colored ovoid shapes.

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philistine

meaning

narrow-minded person, uncultured and exclusively interested in material gain

example

We need more men of culture and enlightenment; we have too many philistines among us.

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pine

meaning

languish, decline; long for, yearn

example

Though she tried to be happy living with Clara in the city, Heidi pined for the mountains and for her gruff but loving grandfather.

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poignancy

meaning

quality of being deeply moving; keenness of emotion

example

Watching the tearful reunion of the long-separated mother and child, the social worker was touched by the poignancy of the scene.

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proclivity

meaning

inclination; natural tendency

example

The cross old lady has a proclivity to grumble.

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quarry

meaning

victim; object of a hunt

example

The police closed in on their quarry.

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rant

meaning

rave; speak bombastically

example

As we heard him rant on the platform, we could not understand his strange popularity with many people.

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retain

meaning

keep; employ

example

Fighting to retain his seat in Congress, Senator Foghorn retained a new manager to head his reelection campaign.

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revile

meaning

slander; vilify

example

He was avoided by all who feared that he would revile and abuse them if they displeased him.

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scale

meaning

climb up; ascend

example

To locate a book on the top shelf of the stacks, Lee had to scale an exceptionally rickety ladder.

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sheathe

meaning

place into a case

example

As soon as he recognized the approaching men, he sheathed his dagger and hailed them as friends.

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syllogism

meaning

logical formula consisting of a major premise, a minor premise and a conclusion; deceptive or specious argument

example

There must be a fallacy in this syllogism; I cannot accept its conclusion.

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torrent

meaning

rushing stream; flood

example

Day after day of heavy rain saturated the hillside until the water ran downhill in torrents.

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yeoman

meaning

man owing small estate; middle-class farmer

example

It was not the aristocrat but the yeoman who determined the nation's policies.

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anthropomorphic

meaning

having human form or characteristics

example

Primitive religions often have deities with anthropomorphic characteristics.

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bifurcated

meaning

divided into two branches; forked

example

With a bifurcated branch and a piece of elastic rubber, he made a crude but effective slingshot.

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bilk

meaning

swindle; cheat

example

The con man specialized in bilking insurance companies.

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burlesque

meaning

give an imitation that ridicules

example

In his caricature, he burlesqued the mannerisms of his adversary.

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