

## decomposition

meaning

decay

example

Despite the body's advanced state of decomposition, the police were able to identify the murdered man.

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## deliberate

meaning

consider; ponder; unhurried

example

Offered the new job, she asked for time to deliberate before she made her decision.

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## delve

meaning

dig; investigate

example

Delving into old books and manuscripts is part of a researcher's job.

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## discretion

meaning

prudence; ability to adjust actions to circumstances

example

Use your discretion in this matter and do not discuss it with anyone.

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## ensue

meaning

follow

example

The evils that ensued were the direct result of the miscalculations of the leaders.

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## entrepreneur

meaning

businessperson; contractor

example

Opponents of our present tax program argue that it discourages entrepreneurs from trying new fields of business activity.

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## expedite

meaning

hasten

example

We hope you will be able to expedite delivery because of our tight schedule.

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## ghastly

meaning

horrible

example

The murdered man was a ghastly sight.

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## glaze

meaning

cover with a thin and shiny surface

example

The freezing rain glazed the streets and made driving hazardous.

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## **glimmer**

meaning

shine erratically; twinkle

example

In the darkness of the cavern, the glowworms hanging from the cavern roof glimmered like distant stars.

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## **incorporeal**

meaning

immaterial; without a material body

example

We must devote time to the needs of our incorporeal mind as well as our corporeal body.

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## **intrepid**

meaning

fearless

example

For his intrepid conduct in battle, he was promoted.

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## **invoke**

meaning

call upon; ask for

example

She invoked her advisor's aid in filling out her financial aid forms.

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## **ironic**

meaning

occurring in an unexpected and contrary manner

example

It is ironic that his success came when he least wanted it.

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## **itinerary**

meaning

plan of a trip

example

Before leaving for his first visit to France and England, he discussed his itinerary with people who had been there and with his travel agent.

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## **knavery**

meaning

rascality

example

We cannot condone such knavery in public officials.

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## **legacy**

meaning

a gift made by a will

example

Part of my legacy from my parents is an album of family photographs.

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## **madrigal**

meaning

pastoral song

example

His program of folk songs included several madrigals which he sang to the accompaniment of a lute.

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## mortify

meaning

humiliate; punish the flesh

example

She was so mortified by her blunder that she ran to her room in tears.

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## opiate

meaning

sleep producer; deadener of pain

example

By such opiates, she made the people forget their difficulties and accept their unpleasant circumstances.

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## pallet

meaning

small, poor bed

example

The weary traveler went to sleep on his straw pallet.

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## parsimonious

meaning

stingy; excessively frugal

example

His parsimonious nature did not permit him to enjoy any luxuries.

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## perpetual

meaning

everlasting

example

Ponce de Leon hoped to find perpetual youth.

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## prone

meaning

inclined to; prostrate

example

She was prone to sudden fits of anger.

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## provisional

meaning

tentative

example

The appointment is provisional; only on the approval of the board of directors will it be made permanent.

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## quell

meaning

put down; quiet

example

The police used fire hoses and tear gas to quell the rioters.

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## rationalization

meaning

bringing into conformity with reason

example

All attempts at rationalization at this time are doomed to failure; tempers and emotions run too high for intelligent thought to prevail.

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## rife

### meaning

abundant; current

### example

In the face of the many rumors of scandal, which are rife at the moment, it is best to remain silent.

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## roster

### meaning

list

### example

They print the roster of players in the season's program.

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## sanction

### meaning

approve; ratify

### example

Nothing will convince me to sanction the engagement of my daughter to such a worthless young man.

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## seamy

### meaning

sordid; unwholesome

### example

In the Godfather, Michael Corleone is unwilling to expose his wife and children to the seamy side of his life as the son of a Mafia don.

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## shirk

### meaning

avoid (responsibility, work, etc.); malingering

### example

Brian has a strong sense of duty; he would never shirk any responsibility.

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## stratified

### meaning

divided into classes; arranged into strata

### example

As the economic gap between the rich and the poor increased, Roman society grew increasingly stratified.

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## tesselated

### meaning

inlaid; mosaic

### example

I recall seeing a table with a tesselated top of bits of stone and glass in a very interesting pattern.

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## transpire

### meaning

be revealed; happen

### example

When Austen writes the sentence "It had just transpired that he had left gaming debts behind him," her meaning is not that the debts had just been incurred, but the the shocking news had just leaked out.

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## vacuous

### meaning

empty; lacking in ideas; stupid

### example

The candidate's vacuous remarks annoyed the audience, who had hope to hear more than empty platitudes

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## vulnerable

meaning

susceptible to wounds

example

Achilles was vulnerable only in his heel.

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## warranty

meaning

guarantee; assurance by seller

example

The purchaser of this automobile is protected by the manufacturer's warranty that he will replace any defective part for five years or 50,000 miles.

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## wrath

meaning

anger; fury

example

She turned to him, full of wrath, and said, "What makes you think I'll accept lower pay for this job than you get?"

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## zenith

meaning

point directly overhead in the sky; summit

example

When the sun was at its zenith, the glare was not as strong as at sunrise and sunset.

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## appellation

meaning

name; title

example

He was amazed when the witches hailed him with his correct appellation.

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## auroral

meaning

pertaining to the aurora borealis

example

The auroral display was particularly spectacular that evening.

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## carnivorous

meaning

meat-eating

example

The lion is a carnivorous animal.

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## collation

meaning

a light meal

example

Tea sandwiches and cookies were offered at the collation.

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## crotchety

meaning

eccentric; whimsical

example

Although he was reputed to be a crotchety old gentleman, I found his ideas substantially sound and sensible.

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