

excerpt

meaning

selected passage (written or musical)

example

The cinematic equivalent of an excerpt from a novel is a clip from a film.

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extrapolation

meaning

projection; conjecture

example

Based on their extrapolation from the results of the primaries on Super Tuesday, the networks predicted that George Bush would be the Republican candidate for the presidency.

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fetid

meaning

malodorous

example

The neglected wound became fetid.

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fiasco

meaning

total failure

example

Our ambitious venture ended in a fiasco and we were forced to flee.

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fortitude

meaning

bravery; courage

example

He was awarded the medal for his fortitude in the battle.

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gamut

meaning

entire range

example

In this performance, the leading lady was able to demonstrate the complete gamut of her acting ability.

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glut

meaning

overstock; fill to excess

example

The many manufacturers glutted the market and could not find purchasers for the many articles they had produced.

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gullible

meaning

easily deceived

example

He preyed upon gullible people, who believed his stories of easy wealth.

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hubbub

meaning

confused uproar

example

The marketplace was a scene of hubbub and excitement.

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ichthyology

meaning

study of fish

example

Jacques Cousteau's programs about sea life have advanced the cause of ichthyology.

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irrevocable

meaning

unalterable

example

Let us not brood over past mistakes since they are irrevocable.

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jaunt

meaning

trip; short journey

example

He took a quick jaunt to Atlantic City.

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missive

meaning

letter

example

The ambassador received a missive from the Secretary of State.

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monetary

meaning

pertaining to money

example

Jane held the family purse strings: she made all monetary decisions affecting the household.

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myopic

meaning

nearsighted

example

In thinking only of your present needs and ignoring the future, you are being rather myopic.

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nubile

meaning

marrigeable

example

Mrs. Bennet, in *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, was worried about finding suitable husbands for her five nubile daughters.

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philanderer

meaning

faithless lover; flirt

example

Swearing he had never so much as looked at another woman, Jack assured Jill he was no philanderer.

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potential

meaning

expressing possibility; latent

example

The juvenile delinquent is a potential murderer.

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preponderance

meaning

superiority of power, quantity, etc.

example

The rebels sought to overcome the preponderance of strength of the government forces by engaging in guerilla tactics.

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profusion

meaning

lavish expenditure; overabundant condition

example

Seldom have I seen food and drink served in such profusion as at the wedding feast.

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pungency

meaning

sharpness; stinging quality

example

The pungency of the cigarette smoke made me cough.

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redundant

meaning

superfluous; excessively wordy; repetitious

example

Your composition is redundant; you can easily reduce its length.

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remonstrance

meaning

protest; objection

example

The authorities were deaf to the pastor's remonstrances about the lack of police protection in the area.

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repine

meaning

fret; complain

example

There is no sense repining over the work you have left undone.

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repository

meaning

storehouse

example

Libraries are repositories of the world's best thoughts.

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rhapsodize

meaning

to speak or write in an exaggeratedly enthusiastic manner

example

She greatly enjoyed her Hawaiian vacation and rhapsodized about it for weeks.

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sagacious

meaning

keen; shrewd; having insight

example

He is much too sagacious to be fooled by a trick like that.

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scurrilous

meaning

obscene; indecent

example

Your scurrilous remarks are especially offensive because they are untrue.

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seasoned

meaning

experienced

example

Though pleased with her new batch of rookies, the basketball coach wished she had a few more seasoned players on the team.

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sinister

meaning

evil

example

We must defeat the sinister forces that seek our downfall.

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sodden

meaning

soaked; dull, as if from drink

example

He set his sodden overcoat near the radiator to dry.

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surmise

meaning

guess

example

I surmise that he will be late for this meeting.

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tedium

meaning

boredom; weariness

example

We hope this radio will help overcome the tedium of your stay in the hospital.

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terminology

meaning

terms used in a science or art

example

The special terminology developed by some authorities in the field has done more to confuse laypersons than to enlighten them.

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throes

meaning

violent anguish

example

The throes of despair can be as devastating as the spasms accompanying physical pain.

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tirade

meaning

extended scolding; denunciation

example

Long before he had finished his tirade, we were sufficiently aware of the seriousness of our misconduct.

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unction

meaning

the act of anointing with oil

example

The anointing with oil of a person near death is called *extreme unction*.

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unerringly

meaning

infallibly

example

My teacher *unerringly* pounced on the one typographical error in my essay.

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voracious

meaning

ravenous

example

The wolf is a voracious animal, its hunger *never* satisfied.

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bandy

meaning

discuss lightly; exchange blows or words

example

The president refused to *bandy* words with reporters at the press conference.

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belittle

meaning

disparage; depreciate

example

Parents should not *belittle* their children's early attempts at drawing, but should encourage their efforts.

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bleak

meaning

cold; cheerless

example

The Aleutian Islands are *bleak* military outposts.

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celerity

meaning

speed; rapidity

example

Hamlet resented his mother's *celerity* in remarrying within a month after his father's death.

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curator

meaning

superintendent; manager

example

The members of the board of trustees of the museum expected the new *curator* to plan events and exhibitions that would make the museum more popular.

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encomium

meaning

high praise; eulogy

example

Uneasy with the *encomiums* expressed by his supporters, Tolkien felt unworthy of such high praise.

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