

## atrocious

meaning

brutal deed

example

In time of war, many atrocities are committed by invading armies.

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## bauble

meaning

trinket; trifle

example

The child was delighted with the bauble she had won in the grab bag.

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## blandishment

meaning

flattery

example

Despite the salesperson's blandishments, the customer did not buy the outfit.

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## browbeat

meaning

bully; intimidate

example

Billy resisted Ted's attempts to browbeat him into handing over his lunch money.

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## burgeon

meaning

grow forth; send out buds

example

In the spring, the plants that burgeon are a promise of the beauty that is to come.

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## cleave

meaning

split asunder

example

The lightning cleaves the tree in two.

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## compunction

meaning

remorse

example

The judge was especially severe in this sentencing because he felt that the criminal had shown no compunction for his heinous crime.

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## contumacious

meaning

disobedient; resisting authority

example

The contumacious mob shouted defiantly at the police.

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## cornucopia

meaning

horn overflowing with fruit and grain; symbol of abundance

example

The encyclopedia salesman claimed the new edition was a veritable cornucopia of information, an inexhaustible source of knowledge for the entire family.

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## crypt

meaning

secret recess or vault usually used for burial

example

Until recently only bodies of rulers and leading statesmen were interred in this crypt.

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## dawdle

meaning

loiter; waste time

example

Inasmuch as we must meet a deadline, do not dawdle over this work.

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## decorum

meaning

propriety; seemliness

example

Shocked by the unruly behavior, the teacher criticized the class for its lack of decorum.

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## depict

meaning

portray

example

In this book, the author depicts the slave owners as kind and benevolent masters.

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## dormer

meaning

window projecting from roof

example

In remodeling the attic into a bedroom, we decided that we needed to put in dormers to provide sufficient ventilation for the new room.

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## entree

meaning

entrance; a way in

example

Because of his wealth and social position, he had entree into the most exclusive circles.

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## eulogy

meaning

praise

example

All the eulogies of his friends could not remove the sting of the calumny heaped upon him by his enemies.

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## facsimilie

meaning

copy

example

Many museums sell facsimilies of the works of art on display.

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## galleon

meaning

large sailing ship

example

The Spaniards pinned their hopes on the galleon, the large warship; the British, on the smaller and faster pinnace.

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## graduated

### meaning

arranged by degree (of height, difficulty, etc.)

### example

Margaret loved her graduated set of Russian hollow wooden dolls; she spent hours happily putting the smaller dolls into their larger counterparts.

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## impious

### meaning

irreverent

### example

The congregation was offended by her impious remarks.

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## indubitably

### meaning

beyond a doubt

### example

Because her argument was indubitably valid, the judge accepted it.

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## insinuate

### meaning

hint; imply

### example

What are you trying to insinuate by that remark?

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## invalidate

### meaning

weaken; destroy

### example

The relatives who received little or nothing sought to invalidate the will by claiming that the deceased had not been in his right mind when he signed the document.

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## knotty

### meaning

intricate; difficult; tangled

### example

What to Watson had been a knotty problem to Sherlock Holmes was simplicity itself.

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## lewd

### meaning

lustful

### example

They found his lewd stories objectionable.

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## malaise

### meaning

uneasiness; distress

### example

She felt a sudden vague malaise when she heard sounds at the door.

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## masochist

### meaning

chew

### example

We must masticate our food carefully and slowly in order to avoid digestive disorders.

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## menial

### meaning

suitable for servants; low

### example

I cannot understand why a person of your ability and talent should engage in such menial activities.

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## misconstrue

### meaning

interpret incorrectly; misjudge

### example

She took the passage seriously rather than humourously because she misconstrued the author's ironic tone.

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## pediatrician

### meaning

physician specializing in children's diseases.

### example

The family doctor advised the parents to consult a pediatrician about their child's ailment.

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## physiognomy

### meaning

face

### example

He prided himself on his ability to analyze a person's character by studying his physiognomy.

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## potion

### meaning

dose (of liquid)

### example

Tristan and Isolde drink a love potion in the first act of the opera.

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## pretentious

### meaning

ostentatious; ambitious

### example

I do not feel that your limited resources will permit you to carry out such a pretentious program.

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## pugilist

### meaning

boxer

### example

The famous pugilist Cassius Clay changed his name to Muhammed Ali.

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## recipient

### meaning

receiver

### example

Although he had been the recipient of many favors, he was not grateful to his benefactor.

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## refurbish

### meaning

renovate; make bright by polishing

### example

The flood left a deposit of mud on everything; it was necessary to refurbish our belongings.

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## stagnant

meaning

motionless; stale; dull

example

The stagnant water was a breeding ground for disease

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## summation

meaning

act of finding the total, summary

example

In his summation, the lawyer emphasized the testimony given by the two witnesses.

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## vantage

meaning

position giving an advantage

example

They fired upon the enemy from behind trees, walls and any other point of vantage they could find.

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## venturesome

meaning

bold

example

A group of venturesome women were the first to scale Mt. Annapurna.

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## allege

meaning

state without proof

example

It is alleged that she had worked for the enemy.

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## alluvial

meaning

pertaining to soil deposits left by running water

example

The farmers found the alluvial deposits at the mouth of the river very fertile.

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## anarchist

meaning

person who rebels against the established order

example

Only the total overthrow of all governmental regulations would satisfy the anarchist.

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## annuity

meaning

yearly allowance

example

The annuity he set up with the insurance company supplements his social security benefits so that he can live very comfortably without working.

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## aquiline

meaning

curved, hooked

example

He can be recognized by his aquiline nose, curved like the beak of the eagle.

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