

SIR IELTS





300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

300 TOEFL vocabulary words (1)

Common 300 TOEFL words are grouped in 6 units. A good resource to prepare your TOEFL test in a narrow timeframe. Actually, this list have been added in these years, so it is much more than 300 words now.

abandon:

/əˈbændən/ n. Syn. relinquish

lacking restraint or control; feeling of extreme emotional intensity; unbounded enthusiasm

With her parents out of town, Kelly danced all night with abandon.

abash:

/əˈbæʃ/ v. Syn. embarrass

embarrass; make ashamed or uneasy; disconcert

Her open admiration should not abash him at all.

abdicate:

/ˈæbdɪkeɪt/ v. Syn. renounce

give up, renounce, abandon, lay down, or withdraw from, as a right or claim

When Edward VIII did abdicate the British throne to marry the woman he loved, he surprised the entire world.

abet:

/əˈbet/ v. Syn. encourage

aid, usually in doing something wrong; encourage

She was unwilling to abet him in the swindle he had planned.

abridge:

/əˈbrɪdʒ/ v. Syn. condense; shorten

condense; shorten; reduce length of written text

Because the publishers felt the public wanted a shorter version of War and Peace, they proceeded to abridge the novel.

abrogate:

/ˈæbroʊgeɪt/ a. Syn. abolish



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abolish, do away with, or annul, especially by authority
He intended to abrogate the decree issued by his predecessor.

abstemious:

/æb'sti:m I əs/ a. Syn. temperate

sparing or moderation in eating and drinking; temperate

Concerned whether her vegetarian son's abstemious diet provided him with sufficient protein, the worried mother pressed food on him.

academic:

/ækə'dɛm I k/ a. Syn. scholarly; collegiate; theoretical

related to school; not practical or directly useful; relating to scholarly organization; based on formal education

The dean's talk about reforming the college admissions system was only an academic discussion.

accede:

/æk'si:d/ v. Syn. agree; assent; concede

agree; give consent, often at insistence of another; concede

The idea that one of the two chief executives should eventually accede to the role, as has happened in the past, would raise fresh doubts about the board's independence.

accelerate:

/ək'sɛləreɪt/ v. Syn. speed; hasten

move faster; cause to develop or progress more quickly; occur sooner than expected

Demand for Taiwanese goods likely will accelerate from the second quarter, as strong Asian demand offsets the effects of a U.S. slowdown.

accolade:

/'ækəleɪd/ n. Syn. praise

award of merit; expression of approval; praise

In Hollywood, an "Oscar" is the highest accolade.

accord:

/ə'kɔ:d/ n. Syn. agreement; treaty

settlement or compromise of conflicting opinions; written agreement between two states

Although the accord is a small step forward, politicians around the world have their work cut out for them.

acrimonious:



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/ækrɪ'moʊnɪəs/ a. Syn. rancorous

bitter and sharp in language, tone, or manner

The candidate attacked his opponent in highly acrimonious terms.

acumen:

/'ækjʊmən, ə'kju:mən/ n. Syn. acuteness; insight

mental keenness; quickness of perception

However, her team's political acumen is clearly beyond mine, an Ivy League Medical Science Professor and NOT a Political "Science" Professor.

admonish:

/əd'mɒnɪʃ/ v. Syn. warn; reprove

warn; counsel someone against something to be avoided

I would again admonish the reader carefully to consider the nature of our doctrine.

admonition:

/əd'mɒnɪʃ(ə)n/ n. Syn. warning

gentle or friendly reproof; counseling against fault or oversight; warning

After the student protesters rejected Chairman Deng's last admonition, the government issued an ultimatum: either the students would end the demonstration at once or the soldiers would fire on the crowd.

adversary:

/'ædvəsəri/ n. Syn. opponent; contestant

opponent in contest; someone who offers opposition

The young wrestler struggled to defeat his adversary.

adverse:

/'ædvɜrs/ a. Syn. unfavorable; hostile

in opposing direction; harmful or unfavorable; acting or serving to oppose

The recession had a highly adverse effect on father's investment portfolio: he lost so much money that he could no longer afford the house.

adversity:

/əd'vɜrsɪtɪ/ n. Syn. poverty; misfortune

state of misfortune, hardship, or affliction; misfortune

A young boy who's strength in adversity is an inspiration to all who know him.

aesthetic:



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/i:s'tetIk/ a. Syn. artistic; elegant

elegant or tasteful; of or concerning appreciation of beauty or good taste

Kenneth Cole, the American designer known for his modern, urban aesthetic, is hawking \$35 T-shirts.

affable:

/'æfəb(ə)l/ a.

easily approachable; warmly friendly

Accustomed to cold, aloof supervisors, Nicholas was amazed at how affable his new employer was.

affluent:

/'æfluənt/ a.

having an abundant supply of money or possessions of value

They want the same opportunity to pursue their dreams as everyone else who lives in affluent school districts.

aggressive:

/'əgrɛsɪv/ a.

making assaults; unjustly attacking; combative; hostile; tending to spread quickly

During his tenure in Beijing, Huntsman was known as an aggressive advocate for human rights and pushed to expand U.S. economic ties with China.

alacrity:

/ə'lækriti/ n.

cheerful promptness or willingness; eagerness; speed or quickness

Phil and Dave were raring to get off to the mountains; they packed up their ski gear and climbed into the van with alacrity.

alienate:

/'eɪliəneɪt/ v. Syn. estrange; transfer; separate

cause to become unfriendly or hostile; transfer property or ownership; isolate or dissociate emotionally

We could not see what should again alienate us from one another, or how one brother could again oppress another.

allay:

/ə'leɪ/ v. Syn. calm; pacify; relieve

calm; pacify; reduce the intensity of; relieve

The crew tried to allay the fears of the passengers by announcing that the fire had been



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controlled.

allude:

/əˈluːd/ v. Syn. imply; refer

refer casually or indirectly, or by suggestion

Try not to mention divorce in Jack's presence because he will think you allude to his marital problems with Jill.

allure:

/əˈljʊə(r)/ v. Syn. entice; attract

attract with something desirable; be highly, often subtly attractive

Promises of quick profits allure the unwary investor.

allusion:

/əˈluːʒ(ə)n/ n. Syn. metaphor

indirect reference; symbolical reference or comparison; metaphor

Without naming names, the candidate criticized the national leaders by allusion.

ambiguous:

/æmˈbɪɡjʊəs/ a.

unclear or doubtful in meaning

His ambiguous instructions misled us; we did not know which road to take.

amenable:

/əˈmiːnəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. responsible; accountable

responsive to advice or suggestion; responsible to higher authority; willing to comply with; agreeable

He was amenable to any suggestions that came from those he looked up to.

amiable:

/əˈmiəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. agreeable; lovable

good-natured and likable; lovable; warmly friendly

In Little Women, Beth is the amiable daughter whose loving disposition endears her to all who know her.

analogous:

/əˈnæləɡəs/ a. Syn. comparable

comparable; similar or alike

She called our attention to the things that had been done in an analogous situation and recommended that we do the same.



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analogy:

/ə'neɪlədʒi/ n. Syn. similarity; parallelism

similarity in some respects; comparison based on similarity

This analogy is almost always noted without further comment, although in fact it may be taken further.

anarchy:

/'ænəkɪ/ n. Syn. lawlessness; disorder

absence of governing body; state of disorder; political disorder and confusion

One might say that eastern Congo is already in anarchy, but Congo has faded from the headlines in recent months.

animus:

/'ænɪməs/ n. Syn. enmity; disposition

feeling of enmity or ill will; attitude that informs one's actions; disposition

The animus of the speaker became obvious to all when he began to indulge in sarcastic and insulting remarks.

annals:

/'æn(ə)lz/ n. Syn. records; history

chronological record of the events of successive years

In the annals of this period, we find no mention of democratic movements.

anonymous:

/ə'nɒnɪməs/ a. Syn. unknown; nameless

having no name; having unknown or unacknowledged name

The buyer, who wished to remain anonymous, is a foreigner with homes in Europe.

anthology:

/æn'tholədʒi/ n. Syn. collection

book of literary selections by various authors

This anthology of science fiction was compiled by the late Isaac Asimov.

antithesis:

/æn'tɪθəsɪs/ n. Syn. contrast

contrast; direct contrast; opposition

This tyranny was the antithesis of all that he had hoped for, and he fought it with all his strength.



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apathetic:

/æpə'tetɪk/ a.

feeling or showing a lack of interest or concern; indifferent

But he shares Mary's apathetic and listless look: he seems to have more length of limb than vivacity of blood or vigor of brain.

apathy:

/'æpəθɪ/ n. Syn. indifference

lack of caring; indifference

A firm believer in democratic government, she could not understand the apathy of people who never bothered to vote.

apprehend:

/æprɪ'hend/ v. Syn. arrest; perceive

take into custody; arrest a criminal; grasp mentally; perceive

The police will apprehend the culprit and convict him.

apprehensive:

/æprɪ'hensɪv/ a.

capable of apprehending; knowing; conscious; relating to the faculty of apprehension; sensible; feeling; perceptive

Here I walked about for a long time, feeling very strange, and mortally apprehensive of some one coming in and kidnapping me.

apprise:

/ə'praɪz/ v. Syn. inform

inform; give notice to; make aware

If you apprise him the dangerous weather conditions, he has to postpone his trip.

approbation:

/æprə'beɪʃ(ə)n/ n. Syn. approval

expression of warm approval; praise

She looked for some sign of approbation from her parents, hoping her good grades would please them.

apt:

/æpt/ a. Syn. appropriate; suitable

likely; exactly suitable; appropriate; quick to learn or understand

The defeated England coach, Bobby Robson, described it as a miracle, which following 'the Hand-of-God' goal seems supremely apt.



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aptitude:

/ˈæptɪtjuːd/; /ˈæptɪtʊd/ n. Syn. intelligence; talent

inherent ability; quickness in learning and understanding

The counselor gave him an aptitude test before advising him about the career he should follow.

arbiter:

/ˈɑːrbɪtə(r)/ n. Syn. judge

person with power to decide a dispute; judge

As an arbiter in labor disputes, she has won the confidence of the workers and the employers.

archetype:

/ˈɑːrkɪtaɪp/ n. Syn. prototype

prototype; original model or type after which other similar things are patterned

The Brooklyn Bridge was the archetype of the many spans that now connect Manhattan with Long Island and New Jersey.

arid:

/ˈærɪd/ a. Syn. dry; barren

dry; lacking moisture, especially having insufficient rainfall to support trees or plants

The cactus has adapted to survive in an arid environment.

aristocracy:

/æˈrɪsˈtɒkrəsi/ n.

hereditary nobility; privileged class

Americans have mixed feelings about hereditary aristocracy.

articulate:

/ɑːrˈtɪkjələt/ a. Syn. effective; distinct

expressing oneself easily in clear and effective language

Her articulate presentation of the advertising campaign impressed her employers.

ascetic:

/əˈsɛtɪk/ a. Syn. austere; severe

leading a life of self-discipline and self-denial; austere

The wealthy, self-indulgent young man felt oddly drawn to the strict, ascetic life led by members of some monastic orders.



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assiduous:

/ə'sɪdjʊəs/; /ə'sɪdʒʊəs/ a. Syn. diligent; persistent

constant in application or attention; diligent; unceasing or persistent

He was assiduous, working at this task for weeks before he felt satisfied with his results.

asylum:

/ə'saɪləm/ n. Syn. protection

place of refuge or shelter; protection

The refugees sought asylum from religious persecution in a new land.

atheist:

/eɪθiɪst/ n. Syn. nonbeliever

nonbeliever; one who denies the existence of god

The view that children are born atheist is relatively recent.

attribute:

/ə'trɪbjʊt/ n. Syn. trait

essential quality; reputation; honor

His outstanding attribute was his kindness.

augment:

/ɔ:g'mɛnt/ v. Syn. increase

make greater, as in size, extent, or quantity

Armies augment their forces by calling up reinforcements.

auspicious:

/ɔ:'spɪʃəs/ a. Syn. propitious

attended by favorable circumstances; marked by success; prosperous

With favorable weather conditions, it was an auspicious moment to set sail.

authentic:

/ɜr'θɛntɪk/ a. Syn. genuine; real; valid; trustworthy

not counterfeit or copied; valid; trustworthy

It is authentic, genuine, and a true and correct copy of the original.

autocratic:

/ɔtə'krætɪk/ a. Syn. dictatorial

having absolute, unchecked power; dictatorial



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Someone accustomed to exercising authority may become autocratic if his or her power is unchecked.

avarice:

/ˈævərɪs/ n.

greediness for wealth; insatiable desire of gain

King Midas is a perfect example of avarice, for he was so greedy that he wished everything he touched would turn to gold.

awry:

/əˈraɪ/ ad. Syn. distorted; crooked; askew; amiss

in a position that is turned toward one side; away from correct course

He held his head awry, giving the impression that he had caught cold in his neck during the night.

banal:

/bəˈnɑːl/; /beɪnl/ a. Syn. dull; commonplace; trite

obvious and dull; commonplace; lacking originality

The writer made his comic sketch seem banal.

bane:

/beɪn/ n. Syn. curse

something causes misery or death; curse; fatal injury or ruin

Lucy's little brother was the bane of her existence: his attempts to make her life miserable worked so well that she could have poisoned him.

banter:

/ˈbæntə(r)/ n.

good-humored, playful conversation

You bring good diversity to the BombCast because your opinions are varied and present a good contrast to what can sometimes be predictable banter from the guys.

baton:

/ˈbæt(ə)n/; /bəˈtɒn/ n.

a staff or truncheon, used for various purposes, as one of a conductor in musical performances, one transferred by runners in a relay race

What's the textbook way to handoff the baton in the relays?

belie:

/bɪˈlaɪ/ v. Syn. contradict



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contradict; give a false impression

His coarse, hard-bitten exterior does belie his inner sensitivity.

bellicose:

/ˈbɛlɪkoʊs/ a. Syn. warlike; belligerent

warlike or hostile in manner or temperament; showing or having impulse to be combative

His bellicose disposition alienated his friends.

belligerent:

/bɪˈlɪdʒərənt/ a. Syn. quarrelsome; aggressive

inclined or eager to fight; aggressive

Whenever he had too much to drink, he became belligerent and tried to pick fights with strangers.

benevolent:

/bɪˈnɛvələnt/ a. Syn. generous; charitable

generous in providing aid to others; charitable

Mr. Fezziwig was a benevolent employer, who wished to make Christmas merrier for young Scrooge and his other employees.

besmirch:

/bɪˈsmɜrtʃ/ v.

soil, smear so as to make dirty or stained

The scandalous remarks in the newspaper besmirch the reputations of every member of the society.

biased:

/ˈbaɪəs(ɪ)d/ a. Syn. slanted; prejudiced

favoring one person or side over another; prejudiced

Because the judge played golf regularly with the district attorney's father, we feared he might be biased in the prosecution's favor.

bizarre:

/bɪˈzɑː(r)/ a. Syn. fantastic

fantastic; violently contrasting; strangely unconventional in style or appearance

The plot of the novel was too bizarre to be believed.

bland:

/blænd/ a. Syn. soothing; mild; agreeable



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lacking stimulating or mild; agreeable

She kept her gaze level and her expression bland, but her teeth were gritted.

blandishment:

/ˈblændɪʃmənt/ n. Syn. flattery

flattery; speech or action expressive of affection or kindness, and tending to win the heart

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

blemish:

/ˈblɛmɪʃ/ v.

mark with deformity; injure or impair, as anything which is excellent; make defective, either the body or mind

A newspaper article alleging he had taken bribes may blemish his reputation.

blight:

/blaɪt/ v.

blast; prevent the growth and fertility of; destroy the happiness of; ruin; frustrate

I wish to foster, not to blight -- to earn gratitude, not to wring tears of blood -- no, nor of brine: my harvest must be in smiles, in endearments, in sweet -- That will do.

blithe:

/blaɪð/ a. Syn. gay; joyous; heedless

gay; joyous; carefree and lighthearted

Shelley called the skylark a "blithe spirit" because of its happy song.

bombastic:

/bɒmˈbæstɪk/ a. Syn. pompous

pompous; using inflated language; high-sounding but with little meaning

The biggest military power on Earth was acting belligerent and its president was indulging in bombastic nationalistic grandstanding.

boorish:

/ˈbuərɪʃ/ a. Syn. rude; clumsy; illiterate

rude and clumsy in behavior; ungentlemanly; awkward in manners

Natasha was embarrassed by her fellow spy's boorish behavior. "If you cannot act like a gentleman, Boris, go back to Russia: espionage is no job for clumsy boors."

bucolic:



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/bju:'kɒlɪk/ a. Syn. rustic; pastoral

rustic; pastoral; agricultural; relating to country affairs, or to shepherd's life and occupation

Filled with browsing cows and bleating sheep, the meadow was a charmingly bucolic sight.

buffoon:

/bʌ'fu:n/ n.

one who makes a practice of amusing others by low tricks, antic gestures; droll; mimic; clown

This buffoon is the most self-centered idiot I have ever seen or heard.

bulwark:

/ˈbʊlwək/ n.

earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends

The navy is our principal bulwark against invasion.

bumptious:

/ˈbʌmpʃəs/ a.

offensively self-assertive; liable to give or take offense; forward; pushing

His classmates called him a show-off because of his bumptious airs.

cabal:

/kə'bæl/ n.

small group of persons secretly united to promote their own interests

The number of Republicans who support this man and his cabal is astonishing, but nothing will change the minds of that percentage.

cacophonous:

/kə'kɒfənəs/ a. Syn. discordant; inharmonious

discordant; inharmonious; sounding harshly; ill-sounding

Do the students in the orchestra enjoy the cacophonous sounds they make when they're tuning up? I don't know how they can stand the racket.

300 TOEFL vocabulary words (2)

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cadaverous:

/kə'dævərəs/ a. Syn. pale

like corpse; pale; Having appearance or color of dead human body

By his cadaverous appearance, we could see how the disease had ravaged him.

callous:

/kæləs/ a.

emotionally hardened; unfeeling

He had worked in the hospital for so many years that he was callous to the suffering in the wards.

candid:

/kændɪd/ a. Syn. straightforward; frank

straightforward; frank; free from prejudice; impartial

In private, I gave them my candid opinion.

candor:

/kændə(r)/ n. Syn. frankness

frankness; quality of being honest and straightforward in attitude and speech

Jack can carry candor too far: when he told Jill his honest opinion of her, she nearly slapped his face.

cantankerous:

/kæn'tæŋkərəs/ a. Syn. irritable

ill humored; irritable; marked by ill-tempered contradiction or opposition; ugly; malicious

Constantly complaining about his treatment and refusing to cooperate with the hospital staff, he was a cantankerous patient.

capricious:

/kə'prɪʃəs/ a. Syn. unpredictable; fickle; arbitrary

fickle; impulsive and unpredictable; apt to change opinions suddenly

The storm was capricious: it changed course constantly.

captious:

/kæpʃəs/ a.

intended to confuse in an argument

I resent the way he asked that was captious question.



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caricature:

/kæɪrɪkə'tʃʊə(r)/ n. Syn. distortion; burlesque

representation that is deliberately exaggerated to produce a comic effect

The caricature he drew yesterday emphasized a personal weakness of the people he burlesqued.

castigate:

/kæstɪgeɪt/ v. Syn. punish

criticize severely; punish; revise or make corrections to publication

When the teacher threatened that she would castigate the mischievous boys if they didn't behave, they shaped up in a hurry.

celestial:

/sɪ'lestɪəl/; /sə'lɪstɪəl/ a. Syn. heavenly

relating to the sky or the heavens; supremely good; god or angel

She spoke of the celestial joys that awaited virtuous souls in the hereafter.

chauvinist:

/'ʃoʊvɪnɪst/ n.

person with prejudiced belief in superiority of own kind

A chauvinist cannot recognize any faults in his country, no matter how flagrant they may be.

chicanery:

/ʃɪ'keɪnəri/ n. Syn. trickery; deception

mean or unfair artifice to obscure truth; deception by trickery or sophistry

Those sneaky lawyers misrepresented what occurred, made up all sorts of implausible alternative scenarios to confuse the jurors, and in general depended on chicanery to win the case.

chronic:

/krɒnɪk/ a.

lasting for long period; marked by frequent recurrence, as certain diseases

The doctors were finally able to attribute his chronic headaches to traces of formaldehyde gas in his apartment.

circumspect:

/'sɜrkəmspekt/ a. Syn. prudent; cautious

carefully aware of all circumstances; cautious



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Investigating before acting, she tried always to be circumspect.

circumvent:

/sɜrkəm'vent/ v. Syn. outwit

surround; enclose or entrap outwit; beat through cleverness and wit

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

civil:

/'sɪv(ə)l/ a. Syn. civic

having to do with citizens or the state; courteous and polite

Although Internal Revenue Service agents are civil servants, they are not always courteous to suspected tax cheats.

clamorous:

/'klæməərəs/ a.

speaking and repeating loud words; full of clamor; calling or demanding loudly or urgently; vociferous; noisy; bawling; loud

He sprung his secret, but the surprise it occasioned was largely counterfeit and not as clamorous and effusive as it might have been under happier circumstances.

clandestine:

/'klæn'destɪn/ a. Syn. secret

secret; conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods

After avoiding their chaperon, the lovers had a clandestine meeting.

coalesce:

/'koʊəleɪs/ v. Syn. combine; fuse; mix

combine; fuse; grow together; come together so as to form one whole; unite

Through it all, he tries to cling to a trembling grip on reality, as love and pain coalesce into a shocking.

coalition:

/'koʊəliʃ(ə)n/ n. Syn. partnership; league; union

partnership; league; state of being combined into one body

The Rainbow coalition united people of all races in a common cause.

coercion:

/'koʊ'ɜrʃən/ n.

use of force to get someone to obey



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The inquisitors used both physical and psychological coercion to force Joan of Arc to deny that her visions were sent by God.

cogent:

/ˈkoʊdʒənt/ a. Syn. convincing

reasonable and convincing; based on evidence; forcefully persuasive

It was inevitable that David chose to go to Harvard: he had several cogent reasons for doing so, including a full-tuition scholarship.

collusion:

/kəˈluːʒ(ə)n/ n.

secret agreement for an illegal purpose; conspiracy

They're in collusion with the government and just want a piece of the pie like everyone else.

commodious:

/kəˈmoʊdiəs/ a.

spacious and comfortable; fit; proper; convenient

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

compatible:

/kəmˈpætɪb(ə)l/ a. Syn. harmonious

harmonious; having similar disposition and tastes

They were compatible neighbors, never quarreling over unimportant matters.

compensation:

/kəmˈpɛnsɪʃ(ə)n/ n.

something given or received as payment as for a service or loss or injury

There are an estimated 86000 survivors around the world and almost half of them could be eligible for payments from the compensation fund.

compunction:

/kəmˈpʌŋkʃ(ə)n/ n.

feeling of deep regret; strong uneasiness caused by a sense of guilt

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

concede:

/kənˈsiːd/ v. Syn. admit; yield

admit; yield; give up physical control of another



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Despite all the evidence Monica had assembled, Mark refused to concede that she was right.

condole:

/kən'doʊl/ v. Syn. grieve

grieve; express sympathy; speak sympathetically to one in pain, grief, or misfortune
My hamster died this morning, my friends condole with me and help bury him in the yard.

condolence:

/kən'doʊləns/ n.

expression of sympathy with another in sorrow or grief.

The FBI has seized a two-page, handwritten letter of condolence sent by Jacqueline Kennedy to the widow of Robert F. Kennedy shortly after he was assassinated in 1968.

confederate:

/kən'fɛdərət/ n. Syn. ally; collaborator

ally; form a group or unite

President Davis was captured at Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, and the remaining confederate armies surrendered by June 1865.

congenial:

/kən'dʒiːniəl/ a. Syn. compatible

compatible

Thus ideas already in consciousness always repel the entry incompatible idea and make entry of the congenial idea.

conjecture:

/kən'dʒɛktʃə(r)/ v.

believe especially on uncertain or tentative grounds

I can now conjecture readily that this streak of light was, in all likelihood, a gleam from a lantern carried by someone across the lawn.

consensus:

/kən'sɛnsəs/ n. Syn. Agreement; accord

general agreement or accord; opinion reached by a group as a whole

The main consensus from the group was to center on students and their parents.

consternation:



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/kɒnstə'neɪʃ(ə)n/ n. Syn. dismay; shock; fear

intense state of fear or dismay; astonishment combined with terror

One would never think that a hunter would display such consternation when a bear closed to camp.

construction:

/kən'strʌkʃ(ə)n/ n.

act of constructing or building something

The work, funded by the European Union, is aimed at finding out exactly how the Lagoon functions before the construction of a Thames-style barrier of steel gates.

consummate:

/kɒnsəmeɪt/ a.

carried to the utmost extent or degree; of the highest quality; complete; perfect

She dealt with the problem with consummate skill.

contemptuous:

/kən'temptʃʊəs/ a. Syn. scornful

scornful; expressing contempt; showing a lack of respect

The diners were intimidated by contemptuous manner of the waiter.

convivial:

/kən'vɪvɪəl/ a. Syn. festive

festive; occupied with or fond of the pleasures of good company

The convivial celebrators of the victory sang their college songs.

copious:

/koʊpiəs/ a. Syn. plentiful

plentiful; containing plenty; affording ample supply

She had copious reasons for rejecting the proposal.

corpulent:

/kɔ:pjʊlənt/ a. Syn. fat

very fat; large in body; overweight

The corpulent man resolved to reduce.

cosmopolitan:

/kɒzmə'pɒlɪt(ə)n/ a. Syn. sophisticated

sophisticated; of worldwide scope



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

Her years in the capitol had transformed her into a cosmopolitan young woman highly aware of international affairs.

coterie:

/ˈkoʊtəri/ n.

group that meets socially; an exclusive circle of people with common purpose

After his book had been published, he was invited to join the literary coterie that lunched daily at the hotel.

countenance:

/ˈkaʊntɪnəns/ v. Syn. approve; tolerate

give sanction or support to; tolerate or approve

He refused to countenance such rude behavior on their part.

credence:

/ˈkri:dəns/ n. Syn. credit; faith

credit; faith

A letter of credence is a letter sent by one head of state to another formally accrediting a named individual, usually but not always a diplomat.

credible:

/ˈkrɛdɪb(ə)l/ a.

capable of being credited or believed; worthy of belief; entitled to confidence; trustworthy

Every detail of the damaging circumstances that occurred in the graveyard upon that morning which all present remembered so well was brought out by credible witnesses, but none of them were cross-examined by Potter's lawyer.

credulous:

/ˈkrɛdjʊləs/; /ˈkrɛdʒələs/ a.

apt to believe on slight evidence; easily imposed upon; unsuspecting; believed too readily

They are credulous people who believe in the advertisement.

cringe:

/ˈkrɪndʒ/ v.

shrink or recoil, as in fear, disgust or embarrassment; bend or crouch with base humility

One thing that makes me cringe is seeing politicians from the mainstream parties acting as apologists for voters.



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

crucial:

/ˈkruːʃ(ə)l/ a.

of extreme importance; vital to the resolution of a crisis; of the greatest importance

The meeting of today is the crucial moment in his career.

cryptic:

/ˈkrɪptɪk/ a.

having hidden meaning; mystifying; using code or cipher

Here are a couple of verses written in cryptic rhyme from some of my currently published books.

curb:

/kɜrb/ v.

bend or curve; guide and manage, or restrain

Paradoxically, Ray's strong-arming may be helping to curb violence in Bangalore.

cursory:

/ˈkɜrsəri/ a. Syn. casual

casual; brief or broad; not cautious, nor detailed

Because a cursory examination of the ruins indicates the possibility of arson, we believe the insurance agency should undertake a more extensive investigation of the fire's cause.

curt:

/kɜrt/ a.

having been shortened; effectively cut short; rudely brief or abrupt, as in speech or manner

The grouchy shop assistant was curt with one of her customers, which resulted in a reprimand from her manager.

cynical:

/ˈsɪnɪk(ə)l/ a.

skeptical of motives of others; selfishly calculating; negative or pessimistic

What I find sad, and cynical, is that this guy is essentially saying things will not be better by 2012.

dearth:

/dɜrθ/ n. Syn. scarcity

scarcity; shortage of food; famine from failure or loss of crops



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

The dearth of skilled labor compelled the employers to open trade schools.

deference:

/ˈdɛfərəns/ n. Syn. respect

willingness to carry out the wishes of others; great respect

In deference to the minister's request, please do not take photographs during the wedding service.

deity:

/ˈdiːtɪ/ n. Syn. god; divinity

god; divinity; supernatural things

The earmarks of such a religion are: faith in a supreme deity, hope of eternal survival, and love, especially of one's fellows.

delectable:

/dɪˈlɛktəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. delightful; delicious

delightful; delicious; extremely pleasing to the sense of taste

We thanked our host for a most delectable meal.

delete:

/dɪˈlɪt/ v. Syn. erase

erase; strike out; remove or make invisible

Less is more: if you delete this paragraph, your whole essay will have greater appeal.

delineate:

/dɪˈlɪneɪt/ v. Syn. portray; depict; sketch

portray; depict; draw or trace outline of; sketch out

Using only a few descriptive phrases, you delineate the character of Mr. Collins so well that we can predict his every move.

delinquent:

/dɪˈlɪŋkwənt/ a.

failing in duty; offending by neglect of duty.

But the couple say their mortgage servicer, CitiMortgage, reported to the credit bureaus that they made partial payments that were delinquent.

deluge:

/ˈdɛljʊːdʒ/ n. Syn. flood; rush

great flood; heavy downpour; any overflowing of water



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

When we advertised the position, we received a deluge of applications.

demagogue:

/ˈdɛməɡɒɡ/ n.

person who appeals to people's prejudice; false leader of people

He was accused of being a demagogue because he made promises that aroused futile hopes in his listeners.

demeanor:

/dɪˈmiːnə(r)/ n. Syn. behavior

conduct; management; way in which a person behaves

It'll be interesting to see what her demeanor is and what kind of witness she is.

demure:

/dɪˈmjʊə(r)/ a. Syn. grave; serious

modest and reserved in manner or behavior

She was demure and reserved, a nice modest girl whom any young man would be proud to take home to his mother.

denounce:

/dɪˈnaʊns/ v. Syn. condemn; criticize; announce

condemn openly; criticize; make known in formal manner

The reform candidate kept to denounce the corrupt city officers for having betrayed the public's trust.

deplete:

/dɪˈpliːt/ v. Syn. reduce; exhaust

decrease fullness of; use up or empty out

We must wait until we deplete our present inventory before we order replacements.

deprecate:

/ˈdɛprɪkeɪt/ v. Syn. belittle

express disapproval of; protest against; belittle

A firm believer in old-fashioned courtesy, Miss Post must deprecate the modern tendency to address new acquaintances by their first names.

depreciate:

/dɪˈpriːʃieɪt/ v.

lessen price or value of; think or speak of as being of little worth; belittle



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

If you neglect this property, it will depreciate.

devastation:

/dɛvə'steɪʃən/ n.

an event that results in total destruction; the state of being decayed or destroyed

Only a few years ago the River Oder on the Polish-German border caused huge amounts of devastation.

devious:

/'di:vɪəs/ a.

departing from correct or accepted way; misleading; not straightforward

The story of Byzantine art, though not precisely devious, is not straightforward either.

devoid:

/dɪ'vɔɪd/ a. Syn. barren; empty

completely lacking; barren or empty

You may think her mind is a total void, but she's actually not devoid of intelligence. She just sounds like an airhead.

devout:

/dɪ'vaʊt/ a. Syn. pious

expressing devotion or piety; earnest in religious field

The devout man prayed daily.

dilemma:

/dɪ'lɛmə/ n. Syn. predicament

predicament; state of uncertainty or between equally unfavorable options

It could create a painful dilemma for the group's members: either accept a lower price or give up additional production quotas they have just given themselves.

disconcert:

/dɪskən'sɜrt/ v. Syn. confuse; upset; embarrass

confuse; frustrate by throwing into disorder; embarrass

The evidence produced by her adversary does disconcert the lawyer.

disconsolate:

/dɪskɒnsələt/ a. Syn. sad

sad; cheerless; gloomy; hopeless or not expecting

The death of his wife left him disconsolate.



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

discourse:

/ˈdɪskɔːs/ n. Syn. conversation

formal, lengthy discussion of a subject; verbal exchange; conversation

The young Plato was drawn to the Agora to hear the philosophical discourse of Socrates and his followers.

discrete:

/dɪˈskri:t/ a. Syn. separate; distinct

separate; consisting of unconnected distinct parts

The universe is composed of discrete bodies.

discursive:

/dɪˈskʊrsɪv/ a.

tending to depart from main point or cover a wide range of subjects

As the lecturer wandered from topic to topic, we wondered what if any point there was to his discursive remarks.

300 TOEFL vocabulary words (3)

Common 300 TOEFL words are grouped in 6 units. A good resource to prepare your TOEFL test in a narrow timeframe. Actually, this list have been added in these years, so it is much more than 300 words now.

disparate:

/ˈdɪspərət/ a. Syn. unrelated

fundamentally distinct or different in kind; entirely dissimilar

Unfortunately, Tony and Tina have disparate notions of marriage: Tony sees it as a carefree extended love affair, while Tina sees it as a solemn commitment to build a family and a home.

disparity:

/dɪˈspærɪtɪ/ n. Syn. difference

difference; condition or fact of being unequal, as in age, rank, or degree

Their disparity in rank made no difference at all to the prince and Cinderella.

dispassionate:

/dɪˈspæʃ(ə)nət/ a. Syn. calm; impartial

calm; impartial; unaffected by strong emotion or prejudice



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

Known in the company for his cool judgment, Bill could impartially examine the causes of a problem, giving a dispassionate analysis of what had gone wrong, and go on to suggest how to correct the mess.

dispatch:

/dɪ'spætʃ/ n. Syn. expedition; sending off

act of sending off something; property of being prompt and efficient; message usually sent in haste

He sent a dispatch to headquarters informing his commander of the great victory.

dispel:

/dɪ'spel/ v. Syn. scatter

scatter; drive away; cause to vanish

The bright sunlight eventually might dispel the morning mist.

dissent:

/dɪ'sent/ v. Syn. disagree

differ in opinion or feeling; withhold assent or approval

In the future Supreme Court decision, Justice O'Connor will dissent from the majority opinion.

dissolute:

/'dɪsɒlʊt/ a.

lacking moral restraint; indulging in sensual pleasures or vices

The dissolute life led by the ancient Romans is indeed shocking.

distraught:

/dɪ'strɔ:t/ a. Syn. upset

deeply agitated, as from emotional conflict; mad; insane

Her father had recently died and her mother was still distraught from the loss.

diverse:

/daɪ'vɜrs/ a. Syn. various

differing in some characteristics; various

The professor suggested diverse ways of approaching the assignment and recommended that we choose one of them.

diversify:

/daɪ'vɜrsɪfaɪ/ v. Syn. vary



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

give variety to; spread out activities or investments

For most small investors, the ability to diversify is a primary advantage of index funds.

divulge:

/daɪˈvʌldʒ/ v. Syn. reveal

reveal; make known to public

Will update regarding the details, but all I can divulge is that it involves a really good-looking guy.

dogmatic:

/dɒgˈmætɪk/; /dɔːgmætɪk/ a. Syn. opinionated; doctrinal

stubbornly adhering to insufficiently proven beliefs; inflexible, rigid

We tried to discourage Doug from being so dogmatic, but never could convince him that his opinions might be wrong.

dynamic:

/daɪˈnæmɪk/ a. Syn. energetic

energetic; vigorously active

The dynamic aerobics instructor kept her students on the run.

ecclesiastic:

/ɪkˈlɪzɪˈæstɪk/ a.

pertaining to church, specifically, to ministry or administration of church

The minister donned his ecclesiastic garb and walked to the pulpit.

edict:

/ɪˈdɪkt/ n.

decree, especially issued by a sovereign; official command

The emperor issued an edict decreeing that everyone should come see him model his magnificent new clothes.

edify:

/ˈɛdɪfaɪ/ v. Syn. instruct

instruct or correct, especially so as to encourage intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement

Although his purpose was to edify and not to entertain his audience, many of his listeners were amused rather than enlightened.

egregious:



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

/ɪˈɡriːdʒəs/ a. Syn. notorious

notorious; conspicuously bad or shocking

She was an egregious liar; we all knew better than to believe a word she said.

elicit:

/ɪˈlɪsɪt/ v. Syn. provoke

draw out; bring forth or to light; generate or provoke as response or answer

The detectives tried to elicit where he had hidden his loot.

elucidate:

/ɪˈluːsɪdeɪt/ v. Syn. explain; enlighten

make clear or plain, especially by explanation; clarify

He was called upon to elucidate the disputed points in his article.

emissary:

/ˈɛmɪsəri/ n. Syn. agent; messenger

agent sent on a mission to represent or advance the interests of another

A native of Brazil, Bella considers herself a kind of emissary from the Brazilian community.

engender:

/ɪnˈdʒɛndə(r)/ v. Syn. cause; produce

cause; bring into existence; give rise to

To receive praise for real accomplishments would engender self-confidence in a child.

ennui:

/ɒnˈwiː/ n.

feeling of being bored by something tedious

The monotonous routine of hospital life induced a feeling of ennui that made him moody and irritable.

ensue:

/ɪnˈsjuː/; /ɪnˈsuː/ v. Syn. follow

pursue; follow or come afterward; follow as a consequence

The evils ensue from lack of a stable government.

entreat:

/ɪnˈtri:t/ v. Syn. plead

plead; make earnest request of; ask for earnestly



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

She had to entreat her father to let her stay out till midnight.

ephemeral:

/ɪˈfɛmərəl/ a.

short-lived; enduring a very short time

The mayfly is an ephemeral creature: its adult life lasts little more than a day.

epigram:

/ˈɛpɪgræm/ n.

witty thought or saying, usually short; short, witty poem expressing a single thought or observation

The disadvantage of the epigram is the temptation it affords to good people to explain it to the others who are assumed to be too obtuse to comprehend it alone.

epitaph:

/ˈɛpɪtɑːf/ n.

inscription on tombstone in memory

In his will, he dictated the epitaph he wanted placed on his tombstone.

epithet:

/ˈɛpɪθɛt/ n.

word or phrase characteristically used to describe a person or thing

So many kings of France were named Charles that you could tell one apart only by his epithet: Charles the Wise was someone far different from Charles the Fat.

equable:

/ˈɛkwəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. tranquil; uniform

tranquil; not varying; uniform; not easily disturbed

After the hot summers and cold winters of New England, he found the climate of the West Indies equable and pleasant.

equanimity:

/iˈkwəˈnɪmɪti/ n.

calmness of temperament; steadiness of mind under stress.

Even the inevitable strains of caring for an ailing mother did not disturb Bea's equanimity.

erratic:

/ɪˈrætɪk/ a. Syn. odd; unpredictable



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

no fixed or regular course; wandering

State Senate Minority Leader, a Democrat, accused him of engaging in erratic behavior.

erudite:

/ˈɛrʊːdaɪt/ a. Syn. learned; scholarly

learned; scholarly, with emphasis on knowledge gained from books

Though his fellow students thought him erudite, Paul knew he would have to spend many years in serious study before he could consider himself a scholar.

esoteric:

/iːsoʊˈtɛrɪk/ a. Syn. mysterious

hard to understand; known only in a particular group

The New Yorker short stories often include esoteric allusions to obscure people and events: the implication is, if you are in the in-crowd, you'll get the reference; if you come from Cleveland, you won't.

exceptionable:

/ɪkˈsɛpʃ(ə)nəb(ə)l/ a.

open or liable to objection or debate; liable to cause disapproval

Do you find the punk rock band Green Day a highly exceptionable, thoroughly distasteful group, or do you think they are exceptionally talented performers?.

exculpate:

/ˈɛkskʌlpeɪt/ v.

pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

The court will exculpate him of the crime after the real criminal confesses.

exemplary:

/ɪɡˈzɛmpləri/ a. Syn. modeled; ideal

serving as model; outstanding; typical

But the official Miss America website stresses you performed all your duties in exemplary fashion before you gave up the crown.

exodus:

/ˈɛksədəs/ n. Syn. departure

departure of a large number of people

The exodus from the hot and stuffy city was particularly noticeable on Friday evenings.

exotic:



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

/ɛɡˈzɒtɪk/ a. Syn. strange

from another part of the world; foreign; strikingly strange or unusual

Because of his exotic headdress, he was followed in the streets by small children who laughed at his strange appearance.

expatriate:

/ɛksˈpætriət/ n. Syn. exile

someone who has withdrawn from his native land

Henry James was an American expatriate who settled in England.

expedient:

/ɪkˈspɪdɪənt/ a. Syn. suitable

suitable; appropriate to a purpose; serving to promote your interest

A pragmatic politician, he was guided by what was expedient rather than by what was ethical.

exploit:

/ɛkˈsplɔɪt/ v.

make use of, sometimes unjustly

Cesar Chavez fought attempts to exploit migrant farm workers in California.

exposition:

/ɛkspəˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ n.

exhibition; part of a play that provides the background information; opening section of a fugue

We would have understood the play better if there had been some initial exposition of the background.

expound:

/ɪkˈspaʊnd/ v.

explain or describe in detail

The teachers expound on the theory of relativity for hours.

expurgate:

/ˈɛkspəʒeɪt/ v. Syn. clean

clean; remove offensive parts of book

The editors decided to expurgate certain passages in the book before it could be used in the classroom.



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

extinct:

/ɪk'stɪŋkt/ a. Syn. nonexistent; vanished; dead

no longer existing or living; vanished; dead

There are about 35 different kinds of extinct kangaroos in these deposits, none of them looked like anything we know today because they didn't hop.

extirpate:

/'ɛkstəpeɪt/ v.

root out; eradicate, literally or figuratively; destroy wholly

The policemen extirpate the criminals after many years of investigation.

extraneous:

/ɛks'treɪniəs/ a.

not essential; coming from outside

No wonder Ted can't think straight! His mind is so cluttered up with extraneous trivia, he can't concentrate on the essentials.

facade:

/fə'sɑrd/ n. Syn. face; appearance

front of building; superficial or false appearance

I believe the Religious Right's thin facade is being revealed.

facetious:

/fə'siːʃəs/ a. Syn. humorous

joking, often inappropriately; humorous

I'm serious about this project; I don't need any facetious cracks about do-gooder little rich girls.

fallacious:

/fə'leɪʃəs/ a. Syn. false; deceptive

false; tending to mislead; deceptive

Paradoxically, fallacious reasoning does not always yield erroneous results: even though your logic may be faulty, the answer you get may nevertheless be correct.

fallacy:

/'fæləsɪ/ n.

deceptive or false appearance; false notion; deception

This particular logical fallacy is called ♦ circular definition ♦.



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

fallible:

/ˈfæləb(ə)l/ a.

likely to fail or be inaccurate

I know I am fallible, but I feel confident that I am right this time.

fathom:

/ˈfæð(ə)m/ v.

measure the depth; come to understand

I find his motives impossible to fathom; in fact, I'm totally clueless about what goes on in his mind.

fatuous:

/ˈfætjʊəs/ a. Syn. foolish

foolish or silly, especially in self-satisfied way

He is far too intelligent to utter such fatuous remarks.

feasible:

/ˈfiːzɪb(ə)l/ a. Syn. practical; possible; suitable

capable of being accomplished or brought about

Now, the expert that would have to come in and examine "Baby R.B." and decide whether that's feasible is just now being scheduled.

feign:

/feɪn/ v. Syn. pretend; disguise; conceal

make false appearance of; disguise; conceal; invent or imagine

Lady Macbeth decided to feign illness although she was actually healthy.

feint:

/feɪnt/ n. Syn. trick

trick; any distracting or deceptive maneuver

The boxer was fooled by his opponent's feint and dropped his guard.

felicitous:

/fəˈlɪsɪtəs/ a. Syn. apt

apt; suitably expressed; well chosen

He was famous for his felicitous remarks and was called upon to serve as master-of-ceremonies at many a banquet.

felicity:

/fəˈlɪsɪti/ n. Syn. happiness



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

great happiness; pleasing and appropriate manner or style

She wrote a note to the newlyweds wishing them great felicity in their wedded life.

fervid:

/ˈfɜrvɪd/ a.

extremely hot; eager; impassioned; burning

Her fervid enthusiasm inspired all of us to undertake the dangerous mission.

fetish:

/ˈfɛtɪʃ/ n.

a charm superstitiously believed to embody magical powers; excessive or irrational devotion to some activity

The 3 day expo will feature dozens of vendor booths displaying the best in fetish clothing, adult toys, erotica, art, jewelry, and even smoking accessories.

fiasco:

/fɪˈæskoʊ/ n.

complete failure; sudden and violent collapse

The real problem with our job fiasco is that I essentially had two nights with almost no sleep.

fictitious:

/fɪkˈtɪʃəs/ a. Syn. imaginary

existing only in imagination; feigned; not true or real

Although this book purports to be a biography of George Washington, many of the incidents are fictitious.

flaccid:

/ˈflæsɪd/ a.

acting in strength, firmness, or resilience

His sedentary life had left him with flaccid muscles.

flagrant:

/ˈfleɪgrənt/ a.

obvious and offensive, blatant, scandalous; flaming into notice

The governor's appointment of his brother-in-law to the State Supreme Court was a flagrant violation of the state laws against nepotism.

flamboyant:



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

/flæm'bɔɪənt/ a. Syn. showy; ostentatious

elaborately or excessively ornamented

Modern architecture has discarded the flamboyant trimming on buildings and emphasizes simplicity of line.

flaunt:

/flɔ:nt/ v.

display proudly or shamelessly; show oneself off

And all the information they did flaunt is easily obtainable.

fleeting:

/'fli:tɪŋ/ a. Syn. ephemeral

transient; brief; temporary; passing quickly

Sometimes, for a fleeting moment, I thought I caught a glance, heard a tone, beheld a form, which announced the realization of my dream.

fluctuate:

/'flʌktjʊeɪt/ v. Syn. waver; shift

rise and fall in or as if in waves; shift; vary irregularly

The water pressure in our shower does fluctuate wildly.

forbearance:

/fɔ:bɛərəns/ n. Syn. patience

patience; restraint of passions; act of forbearing or waiting

We must use forbearance in dealing with him because he is still weak from his illness.

forensic:

/fɔ'renzɪk/; /fɔ'renzɪk/ a.

relating to use of technology in investigation and establishment of facts or evidence in court by law

An expert in forensic accounting, according to a recent report in Newsweek, says the AIG scandal might get considerably worse than it already is.

fortuitous:

/fɔ:tju:ɪtəs/; /-tu:-/ a. Syn. accidental; random

accidental; by chance; coming or occurring without any cause

Though he pretended their encounter was fortuitous, he'd actually been hanging around her usual haunts for the past two weeks, hoping she'd turn up.



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

fracas:

/ˈfrækʌr/ n. Syn. disturbance

noisy, disorderly fight or quarrel; disturbance

The military police stopped the fracas in the bar and arrested the belligerents.

frustrate:

/frʌˈstreɪt/; /frʌˈstrɛt/ v. Syn. thwart; defeat

make null; bring to nothing; prevent from taking effect or attaining fulfillment

We must frustrate this dictator's plan to seize control of the government.

fulsome:

/ˈfʊlsəm/ a.

offensively flattering or insincere; offensive; disgusting

His fulsome praise of the dictator revolted his listeners.

garnish:

/ˈɡɑːnɪʃ/ v. Syn. decorate

decorate with ornamental appendages

Parsley was used to garnish the boiled potato.

genealogy:

/dʒiːnɪˈælədʒi/ n. Syn. lineage

account or history of descent of person or family from ancestor; lineage

He was proud of his genealogy and constantly referred to the achievements of his ancestors.

genesis:

/ˈdʒɛnɪsɪs/ n. Syn. origin

coming into being of something; origin

But let's rewind, back to the beginning, as their genesis is available for all to read online.

ghastly:

/ˈɡɑːstli/; /ˈɡæstli/ a. Syn. horrible

horrible; inspiring shock; extremely unpleasant or bad

Another reason the summer of 2009 seems so ghastly is because other countries are living through infinitely more exciting times.

gibe:

/dʒaɪb/ v. Syn. mock



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

mock; laugh at with contempt and derision

As you gibe at their superstitious beliefs, do you realize that you, too, are guilty of similarly foolish thoughts?

glib:

/glɪb/ a. Syn. fluent

performed with a natural or offhand ease

"Excuse me, sir," said the man in glib English.

glut:

/glʌt/ v. Syn. overstock

fill beyond capacity, especially with food; swallow greedily

The many manufacturers glut the market and could not find purchasers for the excess articles they have produced.

300 TOEFL vocabulary words (4)

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glutton:

/'glʌt(ə)n/ n.

person who eats too much food and drink

When Mother saw that Bobby had eaten all the cookies, she called him a little glutton.

gossamer:

/'gɒsəmə(r)/ a.

sheer, light, delicate, or tenuous

They would laugh in gossamer tones, and then move on gracefully to someone else, sometimes moving gracefully at speeds exceeding 40 mph.

gregarious:

/grɪ'ɡeɪəriəs/ a. Syn. sociable

sociable; seeking and enjoying the company of others

Natural selection in gregarious animals operates upon groups rather than upon individuals.



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

grimace:

/grɪ'meɪs/; /'grɪməs/ n.

facial distortion to show feeling such as pain, disgust

Even though he remained silent, his grimace indicated his displeasure.

hail:

/heɪl/ n.

call for; salute; greet; praise vociferously

The US Embassy in Manila found itself under a hail of rotten fruit early today, the latest symptom of anti-American feeling reverberating across Asia in recent days.

harangue:

/hə'reɪŋ/ n.

noisy speech; speech or piece of writing with strong feeling or expression

In her lengthy harangue, the principal berated the offenders.

harbinger:

/ˈhɑːrbɪndʒə(r)/ n. Syn. forerunner

forerunner; an indication of approach of something or someone

The crocus is an early harbinger of spring.

haughty:

/ˈhɔːti/ a.

high; lofty; bold; arrogant; overbearing

"Indeed, mama, but you can -- and will," pronounced the haughty voice of Blanche, as she turned round on the piano-stool; where till now she had sat silent, apparently examining sundry sheets of music.

heedless:

/hiːdlɪs/ a. Syn. disregarding

unaware, without noticing; unmindful or thoughtless

He drove on, heedless of the danger warnings placed at the side of the road.

heinous:

/ˈheɪnəs/ a. Syn. wicked; atrocious; flagitious

grossly wicked; abominable; hateful; infamous

I'm a sincere believer that people who have engaged in heinous crimes deserve the ultimate retribution.



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heresy:

/ˈhɛrɪsɪ/ n.

opinion contrary to popular belief; opinion contrary to accepted religion

Galileo's assertion that the earth moved around the sun directly contradicted the religious teachings of his day; as a result, he was tried for heresy.

hiatus:

/haɪ'eɪtəs/ n. Syn. gap; pause

gap; interruption in duration or continuity; pause

During the summer hiatus, many students try to earn enough money to pay their tuition for the next school year.

histrionic:

/hɪstrɪ'ɒnɪk/ a.

characteristic of acting or stage performance

He was proud of his histrionic ability and wanted to play the role of Hamlet.

hoax:

/hoʊks/ n. Syn. trick

act intended to deceive or trick; practical joke

Mr. Troyer said later that some of the search had been in response to a hoax ~ a man called the police and falsely said he was the gunman.

hovel:

/ˈhʊv(ə)l/; /hʊvl/ n. Syn. shack

shack; small, wretched house

He wondered how poor people could stand living in such a hovel.

hyperbole:

/haɪ'pɜrbəlɪ/ n. Syn. exaggeration; overstatement

figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis; overstatement

As far as I'm concerned, Apple's claims about the new computer are pure hyperbole: no machine is that good!

hypothesis:

/haɪ'pɒθəsɪs/ n. Syn. assumption; theory

assumption; theory

A hypothesis is a tentative statement that proposes a possible.



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idiosyncrasy:

/ɪdɪə'sɪŋkrəsɪ/ n.

behavioral attribute that is distinctive and peculiar to an individual

One Richard Nixon's little idiosyncrasy was his liking for ketchup on cottage cheese.

ignominy:

/'ɪɡnəmiːni/ n.

deep disgrace; shame or dishonor

To lose the Ping-Pong match to a trained chimpanzee! How could Rollo stand the ignominy of his defeat?

immaculate:

/ɪ'mækjʊlət/ a. Syn. spotless; flawless

spotless; flawless; absolutely clean

Chatman said her mom and dad always kept their vehicles in immaculate shape.

imminent:

/'ɪmɪnənt/ a. Syn. impending

near at hand; close in time; about to occur

Peak oil does not mean that we are in imminent danger of running out of oil.

immune:

/ɪ'mjuːn/ a. Syn. exempt; resistant

resistant to; free or exempt from; not subject to

Still, the company doesn't expect to remain immune from the effects of the downturn.

impale:

/ɪm'peɪl/ v. Syn. pierce

pierce; kill by piercing with a spear or sharp

His adversary hurled a spear to impale him.

impeach:

/ɪm'pi:tʃ/ v. Syn. indict; hinder

charge with crime; challenge or discredit the credibility of

The angry congressman wanted to impeach the president for his misdeeds.

impeccable:

/ɪm'pekəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. faultless; perfect

faultless; incapable of sin or wrongdoing



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His voting record has been impeccable from a conservative point of view.

impervious:

/ɪm'pɜrvɪəs/ a. Syn. impenetrable

impenetrable; incapable of being damaged or distressed

The carpet salesman told Simone that his most expensive brand of floor covering was warranted to be impervious to ordinary wear and tear.

implacable:

/ɪm'plækəb(ə)l/ a.

incapable of being pacified; not to be relieved;

Madame Defarge was the implacable enemy of the Evremonde family.

implicit:

/ɪm'plɪsɪt/ a. Syn. implied; suggested

implied or understood though not directly expressed

Jack never told Jill he adored her; he believed his love was implicit in his actions.

import:

/ɪm'pɔ:t/ v.

bring in from another country

Despite being one of the world's largest oil exporters, Nigeria refines only a very small proportion of even its own fuel needs, and has to import the rest – a severe and unnecessary drain on resources.

impostor:

/ɪm'pɒstə(r)/ n.

someone who assumes a false identity

Some Sarah Palin impostor somehow got access to Sarah Palin's Facebook page and posted the bizarre comments.

imprecation:

/ɪmprɔ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ n. Syn. curse

curse; act of calling down a curse that invokes evil

Spouting violent imprecation, Hank searched for the person who had vandalized his truck.

impregnable:

/ɪm'prɛɡnəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. invulnerable



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invulnerable; able to withstand attack

Until the development of the airplane as a military weapon, the fort was considered impregnable.

impropriety:

/Imprə'praɪətɪ/ n. Syn. impropriety

improper act; improper or unacceptable usage in speech or writing

Because of the impropriety of the punk rocker's slashed T-shirt and jeans, the management refused to admit him to the hotel's very formal dining room.

improvident:

/Im'prɒvɪdənt/ a. Syn. thrifless

thrifless; not providing for future; incautious

He was constantly being warned to mend his improvident ways and begin to "save for a rainy day."

impugn:

/Im'pjʊn/ v. Syn. challenge

dispute or contradict, often in insulting way; challenge

Our treasurer was furious when the finance committee's report tried to impugn the accuracy of his financial records.

incarcerate:

/In'kɑrsəreɪt/ v. Syn. imprison

imprison; put into jail; shut up or inclose

He was not willing to incarcerate the civil rights workers because their imprisonment could serve the cause.

incisive:

/In'saɪsɪv/ a. Syn. cutting; sharp

penetrating, clear, and sharp, as in operation or expression

His incisive remarks made us see the fallacy in our plans.

incognito:

/Inkɒɡ'nɪtoʊ/; /In'kɒɡnətoʊ/ a.

with one's identity disguised or concealed; in disguise; in an assumed character, or under an assumed title

You can browse normally and in incognito mode at the same time by using separate windows.



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incontrovertible:

/ɪnkɒntrə'vɜrtɪb(ə)l/ a. Syn. indisputable

indisputable; not open to question

Unless you find the evidence against my client absolutely incontrovertible, you must declare her not guilty of this charge.

increment:

/'ɪnkriːmənt/ n. Syn. increase

process of increasing in number, size, quantity, or extent

The new contract calls for a 10 percent increment in salary for each employee for the next two years.

incumbent:

/ɪn'kʌmbənt/ a. Syn. obligatory

imposed as an obligation or duty; currently holding an office

Voters see the same old candidates year after year and figure that the incumbent is usually a lock in a vast number of congressional districts.

indefatigable:

/ɪndɪ'fætɪɡəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. tireless

tireless; showing sustained enthusiastic action

Although the effort of taking out the garbage tired Wayne out for the entire morning, when it came to partying, he was indefatigable.

indigenous:

/ɪn'dɪdʒɪnəs/ a. Syn. native; original

native; originating where it is found

But rarely was the music they played anchored in indigenous sounds of their homelands, as the groups eagerly explored musical hybrids.

indomitable:

/ɪn'dɒmɪtəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. unconquerable; invincible

unconquerable; incapable of being overcome

Focusing on her game despite all her personal problems, tennis champion Steffi Graf proved she had an indomitable will to win.

inference:

/'ɪnfərəns/ n.

inferring by deduction or induction; truth or proposition drawn from another which is



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admitted or supposed to be true; conclusion; deduction
If he is guilty, then by inference so is she.

ingenious:

/ɪn'dʒiːniəs/ a. Syn. clever; resourceful

clever; having inventive or cunning mind

Do not certain ingenious philosophers teach this doctrine, and ought not we to be grateful to them?

ingenuous:

/ɪn'dʒɛnjʊəs/ a. Syn. young; unsophisticated

naive and trusting; young; unsophisticated

The woodsman had not realized how ingenuous Little Red Riding Hood was until he heard that she had gone off for a walk in the woods with the Big Bad Wolf.

ingratiate:

/ɪn'greɪʃieɪt/ v.

become popular with; make agreeable or acceptable

He tried to ingratiate himself into her parents' good graces.

inhibit:

/ɪn'hɪbɪt/ v. Syn. restrain; prevent

restrain; prevent or forbid; hold back

Only two things inhibit him from taking a punch at Mike Tyson: Tyson's left hook, and Tyson's right jab.

innocuous:

/ɪ'nɒkjʊəs/ a. Syn. harmless

having no adverse effect; harmless

An occasional glass of wine with dinner is relatively innocuous and should have no ill effect on you.

innuendo:

/ɪnju:'ɛndəʊ/ n. Syn. hint; implication

hint; indirect implication, usually malicious

Until he engages in innuendo about being supported by "hard-working, white Americans," then he has not said much that should upset fellow Democrats.

inordinate:



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/ɪˈnɔːdɪnət/ a. Syn. unrestrained; excessive

exceeding reasonable limits; excessive; not regulated; disorderly

She had an inordinate fondness for candy, eating two or three boxes in a single day.

insatiable:

/ɪnˈseɪʃəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. unquenchable; greedy

not easily satisfied; impossible to satiate or satisfy; greedy

If this country has an insatiable need for Mexico's drugs, it's only due to federal negligence in fencing and securing our borders.

inscrutable:

/ɪnˈskruːtəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. impenetrable; mysterious

impenetrable; not readily understood; mysterious

Experienced poker players try to keep their expressions inscrutable, hiding their reactions to the cards behind a so-called "poker face."

insidious:

/ɪnˈsɪdɪəs/ a. Syn. treacherous; stealthy; sly

spreading harmfully in a subtle manner; designed or adapted to entrap

More insidious is the whole issue of the second amendment.

instigate:

/ˈɪnstɪgeɪt/ v. Syn. urge; incite; provoke

goad or urge forward; provoke; incite

Rumors of police corruption led the mayor to instigate an investigation into the department's activities.

integrity:

/ɪnˈtegrɪti/ n. Syn. uprightness; wholeness

quality or condition of being whole or undivided; completeness

Protecting global supply chain integrity is of the utmost importance for manufacturers.

invective:

/ɪnˈvɛktɪv/ n. Syn. abuse

abusive language used to express blame or ill will

He had expected criticism but not the invective that greeted his proposal.

irascible:

/ɪˈræsɪb(ə)l/ a. Syn. irritable



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irritable; easily angered; excited by or arising from anger

Miss Minchin's irascible temper intimidated the younger schoolgirls, who feared she'd burst into a rage at any moment.

ire:

/ˈaɪə(r)/ n. Syn. anger; irritate

anger; wrath; keen resentment; irritate

The waiter tried unsuccessfully to placate the ire of the diner who had found a cockroach in her soup.

irksome:

/ˈɪrksəm/ a. Syn. annoying; tedious

causing annoyance, weariness, or vexation; tedious

He found working on the assembly line irksome because of the monotony of the operation he had to perform.

itinerant:

/aɪˈtɪnərənt/ a. Syn. wandering; traveling

wandering; traveling place to place, especially to perform work or duty

Since the storm, the city had also been attracting a new kind of itinerant idealist.

jargon:

/ˈdʒɑrgən/ n. Syn. gibberish

language used by a special group; technical terminology; nonsensical or meaningless talk

The computer salesmen at the store used a jargon of their own that we simply couldn't follow; we had no idea what they were jabbering about.

jaunty:

/ˈdʒɔːntɪ/ a. Syn. lighthearted; animated

gay in manner, appearance, or action; easy and carefree

In *An American in Paris*, Gene Kelly sang and danced his way through "Singing in the Rain" in a properly jaunty style.

jeopardy:

/ˈdʒɛpədi/ n.

exposure to death, loss, or injury; hazard; risk of loss or injury

Some private developers say the number of projects in jeopardy is much higher.

jettison:



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/ˈdʒɛtɪs(ə)n/ v.

throw overboard; eject from boat, submarine, aircraft, or spaceship

In order to enable the ship to ride safely through the storm, the captain had to jettison much of his cargo.

judicious:

/dʒuːˈdɪʃəs/ a. Syn. wise; prudent

exhibiting good judgment or sound thinking; prudent

At a key moment in his life, he made a judicious investment that was the foundation of his later wealth.

ken:

/kɛn/ n. Syn. understanding; knowledge; scope

understanding; knowledge; range of vision

I really do not know the reason. It is beyond my ken.

labyrinth:

/ˈlæbərɪnθ/ n. Syn. maze

maze; complex structure of interconnecting passages

You know, Michelle, one thing contributing to this labyrinth is the nation's biggest private employer, Wal-Mart.

lachrymose:

/ˈlækriˌmoʊs/ a.

weeping or inclined to weep; tearful; showing sorrow

His voice has a lachrymose quality more appropriate to a funeral than a class reunion.

laconic:

/ləˈkɒnɪk/ a. Syn. concise

brief; effectively cut short; marked by use of few words

Many of the characters portrayed by Clint Eastwood are laconic types: strong men of few words.

larceny:

/ˈlɑrsənɪ/ n. Syn. theft

unlawful taking and removing of another's personal property; theft

When an author sells the thoughts of another man for his own, the larceny is called plagiarism.



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latent:

/ˈleɪtənt/ a. Syn. dormant; hidden

present or potential but not evident or active; dormant; hidden

Existing arrangements contain latent functions that can be neither seen nor replaced by the reformer.

lavish:

/ˈlævɪʃ/ a. Syn. liberal; profuse

liberal; wasteful; excessive spending

I would fly to Paris and stay in lavish hotels if someone else were paying.

lethal:

/ˈliːθ(ə)l/ a. Syn. deadly; fatal

deadly; causing or capable of causing death

In a decision the court upheld the use of all three drugs in lethal injections.

longevity:

/ˈlɒŋdʒɛvɪtɪ/ n.

long life; great duration of life; long duration or continuance, as in an occupation

When he reached ninety, the old man was proud of his longevity.

low:

/ləʊ/ v. Syn. moo

utter sound made by cattle; make a low noise

From the hilltop, they could see the herd like ants in the distance; they could barely hear the cattle low.

lucid:

/ˈluːsɪd/ a. Syn. clear; intelligible

easily understood; clear; intelligible

So in lucid moments, you structure your life to serve your own best interest.

ludicrous:

/ˈluːdɪkrəs/ a. Syn. laughable; trifling

laughable; completely devoid of wisdom or good sense

It is ludicrous to call a cottage a mansion.

luminary:

/ˈluːmɪnəri/; /ˈlumɪnəri/ n. Syn. celebrity; dignitary



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celebrity; person who is an inspiration to others; person who has achieved eminence in specific field

A leading light of the American stage, Ethel Barrymore was a theatrical luminary whose name lives on.

malice:

/ˈmælɪs/ n.

enmity of heart; malevolence; ill will; spirit delighting in harm or misfortune to another
I detected a suggestion of malice in his remarks.

malicious:

/məˈlɪʃəs/ a. Syn. spiteful

deliberately harmful; spiteful; proceeding from extreme hatred

It is just plain malicious software designed to corrupt your device or steal your information.

masquerade:

/mæskəˈreɪd/; /mæskəˈrɛd/ n.

assembly of persons wearing masks, and amusing themselves with dancing, conversation, or other diversions; dramatic performance by actors in masks

The masquerade is where fans play instruments and perform skits, dance numbers, and stand-up comedy in costume.

maudlin:

/ˈmɔːdlɪn/ a. Syn. sentimental

tearfully sentimental; over-emotional; sickly-sentimental

One moment he was in maudlin tears and the next he was cracking some miserable joke about the disaster.

meander:

/mɪˈændə(r)/ v.

follow a winding and turning course; move aimlessly and idly without fixed direction

Needing to stay close to a source of water, he follows every twist and turn of the streams as they meander through the countryside.

mediocre:

/miːdɪˈoʊkə(r)/ a. Syn. ordinary; commonplace; average

moderate to inferior in quality; ordinary; commonplace

He manages to give solid performances even in mediocre movies.



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mercenary:

/ˈmɜrsɪnərɪ/; /-nɛrɪ/ a.

interested in making money; profit oriented; hired for service in foreign army

South African involvement in mercenary activities was approved in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

meretricious:

/mɛrɪˈtrɪʃəs/ a.

of or pertaining to prostitutes; tastelessly showy; lustful; deceptive; misleading

The net result is that both the news columns and the editorial columns are commonly meretricious in a high degree.

meticulous:

/mɪˈtɪkjʊləs/ a. Syn. scrupulous; cautious

excessively careful; marked by extreme care in treatment of details

One neighbor, who usually uses the truck to haul away lawn debris, always returns the truck in meticulous condition.

mettle:

/ˈmɛt(ə)/ n. Syn. courage; spirit

quality of endurance and courage; good temperament and character

When challenged by the other horses in the race, the thoroughbred proved its mettle by its determination to hold the lead.

300 TOEFL vocabulary words (5)

Common 300 TOEFL words are grouped in 6 units. A good resource to prepare your TOEFL test in a narrow timeframe. Actually, this list have been added in these years, so it is much more than 300 words now.

microcosm:

/ˈmaɪkrəkɒz(ə)m/ n.

small, representative system having analogies to larger system; miniature model of something

The small village community that Jane Austen depicts serves as a microcosm of English society in her time.



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mimic:

/ˈmɪmɪk/ v. Syn. imitate; copy

copy or imitate closely, especially in speech, expression

Scientists process skin tissue to mimic embryonic stem cells.

misanthrope:

/ˈmɪsənθroʊp/ n.

one who hates or mistrusts mankind

In Gulliver's Travels, Swift portrays an image of humanity as vile, degraded beasts; for this reason, various critics consider him a misanthrope.

misnomer:

/ˈmɪsˈnoʊmə(r)/ n.

error in naming person or place; incorrect designation

His tyrannical conduct proved to all that his nickname, King Eric the Just, was a misnomer.

monologue:

/ˈmɒnəlɒɡ/ n.

speech uttered by a person alone; dramatic soliloquy

I am not really a big fan of Sarah either but what she said in her opening monologue is true.

morose:

/məˈroʊs/ a. Syn. sullen; gloomy

ill humored; sullen; depressingly dark; gloomy; persistent

Though we feel sad at someone's pain and sorrow, feeling morose is difficult while actively wishing the person to be happy.

motley:

/ˈmɒtli/ a. Syn. mixed; heterogeneous

multi-colored; mixed; having elements of great variety

He wore a loose tunic and looser trousers, homespun and dyed in motley green and brown.

mottled:

/ˈmɒt(ə)ld/ a. Syn. spotted

spotted with different shades or colors



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When old Falstaff blushed, his face was mottled with embarrassment, all pink and purple and red.

mundane:

/ˈmʌndeɪn/ a. Syn. worldly; earthly; secular

belonging to this earth or world; not ideal or heavenly; concerned with commonplaces; ordinary

Unlike other players, the CEO and Secretariat are less interested in mundane benefits than in value.

murky:

/ˈmɜrki/ a. Syn. vague

dark and gloomy; thick with fog; vague

The murky depths of the swamp were so dark that one couldn't tell the vines and branches from the snakes.

myriad:

/ˈmɪrɪəd/ a. Syn. innumerable; many; countless; numberless

of very large or indefinite number; of ten thousand

In China, for example, where a number of different dialects are spoken, the same character can be pronounced in myriad ways.

nautical:

/ˈnɔ:tɪk(ə)l/ a. Syn. marine; maritime; naval

relating to ships, sailors, or navigation

I dressed myself in nautical rig, and went on deck to see all that I could.

nettle:

/ˈnɛt(ə)l/ v. Syn. annoy; vex

cause annoyance in; disturb, especially by minor irritations; vex

Do not let him nettle you with his sarcastic remarks.

nocturnal:

/ˈnɒkˈtɜrn(ə)l/ a. Syn. nightly

of or relating to or occurring in the night; most active at night

They wouldn't rest until the large black snake, which appears to be nocturnal, is no longer free.

noisome:



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/ˈnɔɪsəm/ a.

foul-smelling; offensive by arousing disgust; harmful or dangerous

The noisome atmosphere downwind of the oil refinery not only stank, it damaged the lungs of everyone living in the area.

nostalgia:

/nəˈstældʒə/ n. Syn. homesickness

homesickness; bittersweet longing for things of past.

We've been there for a couple weeks now and the nostalgia is there, but we are trying to keep everything fresh.

notorious:

/noʊˈtɔːriəs/ a. Syn. disreputable; infamous

disreputable; known widely and usually unfavorably; infamous

They could add a subset of public restrooms around the country where certain notorious events have taken place.

novice:

/ˈnɒvɪs/ n. Syn. beginner

beginner; person new to a field or activity

To do this appears so abrupt that the novice is apt to make a further effort to finish up the subject.

obdurate:

/ˈɒbdʒʊrɪt/; /ˈʌbdərɪt/ a. Syn. stubborn; inflexible

hardened in wrongdoing or wickedness; not giving in to persuasion

He was obdurate in his refusal to listen to our complaints.

oblivion:

/əˈblɪvɪən/ n. Syn. amnesty

condition or quality of being completely forgotten; official overlooking of offenses; amnesty

The only thing keeping McCain from oblivion is his image as a nonpartisan maverick.

oblivious:

/əˈblɪvɪəs/ a. Syn. forgetful

inattentive or unmindful; lacking all memory; forgetful

One can even travel to Ben Gurion Airport and remain oblivious to the concrete separation wall.



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obsession:

/əb'sɛʃ(ə)n/ n. Syn. fascination; mania

compulsive, often unreasonable idea or emotion

This obsession is aimless and brainless and ends with your oblivion in American politics.

obsolete:

/ˈɒbsəli:t/ a. Syn. outmoded; antiquated

no longer useful; outmoded; antiquated

But the content is very difficult to locate, and often in obsolete video formats.

obtrude:

/əb'tru:d/ v.

push oneself or one's ideas forward or intrude; stick out or extrude

Because Fanny was reluctant to obtrude her opinions about child-raising upon her daughter-in-law, she kept a close watch on her tongue.

obtrusive:

/əb'trusɪv/ a.

inclined to intrude or thrust one's self or one's opinions upon others; enter uninvited; forward; pushing; intrusive.

I might have escaped notice, had not my treacherous slate somehow happened to slip from my hand, and falling with an obtrusive crash, directly drawn every eye upon me.

obviate:

/ˈɒbvɪeɪt/ v.

bypass requirement or make it unnecessary; get rid of

I hope this contribution will obviate any need for further collections of funds.

omnipotent:

/ɒm'nɪpətənt/ a. Syn. infinite

all-powerful; having unlimited or universal power, authority, or force

The monarch regarded himself as omnipotent and responsible to no one for his acts.

onus:

/ˈɒnəs/ n. Syn. burden; responsibility

burden or obligation; difficult or disagreeable responsibility or necessity

The emperor was spared the onus of signing the surrender papers; instead, he relegated the assignment to his generals.

ostensible:



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/vɒ'stɛnsɪb(ə)l/ a. Syn. apparent

put forth or held out as real, actual, or intended; proper or intended to be shown

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

ostracize:

/vɒ'strə'saɪz/ v. Syn. ban

exclude from community or group; banish by popular vote

As soon as the newspapers carried the story of his connection with the criminals, his friends began to ostracize him.

panacea:

/pænə'siə/ n.

remedy for all diseases, evils, or difficulties; a cure-all

The rich youth cynically declared that the panacea for all speeding tickets was a big enough bribe.

panegyric:

/pænɪ'dʒɪrɪk/ n.

formal or high praise; formal eulogistic composition intended as public compliment

Blushing at all the praise heaped upon him by the speakers, the modest hero said, "I don't deserve any panegyric."

paradox:

/pærədɒks/ n. Syn. contradiction

something apparently contradictory in nature; statement that looks false but is actually correct

Richard presents a bit of a paradox, for he is a card-carrying member of both the National Rifle Association and the relatively pacifist American Civil Liberties Union.

paraphrase:

/pærə'freɪz/ v. Syn. restate; reword

restate text in one's own words, especially to clarify thought of others

In 250 words or less, paraphrase this article.

parody:

/pærədɪ/ n.

work or performance that imitates another work or performance with ridicule or irony; make fun of



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The show Forbidden Broadway presents a parody spoofing the year's new productions playing on Broadway.

peccadillo:

/pɛkə'dɪləʊ/ n.

slight offense; small sin or fault

When Peter Piper picked a peck of Polly Potter's pickles, did Pete commit a major crime or just a peccadillo?

pecuniary:

/pɪ'kjʊnɪəri/ a.

relating to money; requiring payment of money

Seldom earning enough to cover their expenses, folk dance teachers work because they love dancing, not because they expect any pecuniary reward.

pedant:

/'pɛdənt/ n.

one who is overly concerned with formal rules and trivial points of learning

Her insistence that the book be memorized marked the teacher as a pedant rather than a scholar.

pedantic:

/pɪ'dəntɪk/ a. Syn. bookish

marked by narrow focus on or display of learning, especially formal rules and trivial points; bookish

Leavening his decisions with humorous, down-to-earth anecdotes, Judge Walker was not at all the pedantic legal scholar.

pensive:

/'pɛnsɪv/ a. Syn. contemplative

deeply, often dreamily thoughtful; engaged in serious thought or reflection; contemplative

The pensive lover gazed at the portrait of his beloved and deeply sighed.

peremptory:

/pə'remptəri/; /'pɛrəmpɔːri/ a. Syn. imperative

offensively self-assured; dictatorial; not allowing contradiction or refusal

From Jack's peremptory knock on the door, Jill could tell he would not give up until she let him in.



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pertinacious:

/pɜrtɪ'neɪʃəs/; /-tɪ'neɪʃəs/ a. Syn. stubborn; persistent
stubbornly or perversely persistent; unyielding; obstinate

He is bound to succeed because his pertinacious nature will not permit him to quit.

peruse:

/pə'ru:z/ v.

read or examine, typically with great care

After the conflagration that burned down her house, Joan closely began to peruse her home insurance policy to discover exactly what benefits her coverage provided her.

perverse:

/pə'vɜrs/ a.

stubbornly wrongheaded; directed away from what is right or good

When Jack was in a perverse mood, he would do the opposite of whatever Jill asked him.

petrify:

/'petrɪfaɪ/ v.

convert wood or other organic matter into stony replica; cause to become stiff or stonelike

His sudden and unexpected appearance seemed to petrify her.

plagiarism:

/'pleɪdʒərɪzəm/ n. Syn. copying; imitation

theft of another's ideas or writings passed off as original

The editor recognized the plagiarism and rebuked the culprit who had presented the manuscript as original.

platitude:

/'plætɪtju:d/; /-tu:d/ n.

dullness; insipidity of thought; commonplace statement; lack of originality

In giving advice to his son, old Polonius expressed himself only in same platitude; every word out of his mouth was a commonplace.

plebeian:

/plɪ'bi:ən/ a.

crude or coarse; unrefined or coarse in nature or manner; common or vulgar

After five weeks of rigorous studying, the graduate settled in for a weekend of plebeian socializing and television watching.



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ponderous:

/ˈpɒndərəs/ a. Syn. weighty

slow and laborious because of weight; labored and dull

His humor lacked the light touch; his jokes were always ponderous.

precarious:

/ˈprekəriəs/ a. Syn. uncertain; risky

uncertain; risky; dangerously lacking in security or stability

But that is why NASA used test pilots, men used to handling life and death decisions in precarious situations and instantly making the right choice.

precipitous:

/ˈpreɪsɪpɪtəs/ a. Syn. steep; overhasty

extremely steep; descending rapidly, or rushing onward

This hill is difficult to climb because it is so precipitous.

precocious:

/ˈpreɪkoʊʃəs/ a.

advanced in development; appearing or developing early

Listening to the grown-up way the child discussed serious topics, we couldn't help remarking how precocious she was.

predatory:

/ˈpredətəri/; /ˈpredətɔːri/ a. Syn. carnivorous

living by preying on other animals

Every few seconds the bait fish were flying out of the water from attacks by predatory fish.

predilection:

/ˈpriːdlɪˈlekʃ(ə)n/; /ˈpreɪdlɪˈlekʃən/ n. Syn. partiality; preference

condition of favoring or liking; tendency towards; preference

Although I have written all sorts of poetry over the years, I have a definite predilection for occasional verse.

prelude:

/ˈpreljʊːd/ n. Syn. introduction; forerunner

introduction; forerunner; preliminary or preface

I am afraid that this border raid is the prelude to more serious attacks.



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prerogative:

/prɪˈrɒɡətɪv/ n. Syn. privilege

privilege; unquestionable right; exclusive power to command

For the sake of policy and representativeness, we need a constitutional amendment to remove this prerogative from the president.

prestige:

/prɛˈstiːʒ/ n. Syn. fame; reputation

impression produced by achievements or reputation; recognized distinction or importance

What they are doing to our military, our treasury, our power, and our prestige is an unconscionable national betrayal.

presumption:

/prɪˈzʌmpʃ(ə)n/ n.

act of presuming, or believing upon probable evidence; act of assuming; belief upon incomplete proof

And the poor old stick used to cry out 'Oh you villains child!' -- and then we sermonized her on the presumption of attempting to teach such clever blades as we were, when she was herself so ignorant.

prevaricate:

/prɪˈvæɪkeɪt/ v. Syn. lie

lie; stray from or evade truth; behave in evasive way such as to delay action

Some people believe that to prevaricate in a good cause is justifiable and regard such a statement as a "white lie."

procrastinate:

/proʊˈkræstɪneɪt/ v. Syn. postpone

postpone or delay needlessly; put off doing something, especially out of habitual carelessness or laziness

Looking at four years of receipts and checks he still had to sort through, Bob was truly sorry to procrastinate for so long and not finished filing his taxes long ago.

prognosis:

/prɒɡˈnoʊsɪs/ n. Syn. forecast; prediction

forecasted course of a disease; forecast or prediction; likelihood of recovery from a disease

Doctors have told him his long-term prognosis is good, but rehabilitation and training is



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necessary.

promontory:

/ˈprɒməntəri/; /-tɔːri/ n. Syn. cliff

natural elevation, especially a rock that projects into the sea; cliff; headland; high cape
They erected a lighthouse on the promontory to warn approaching ships of their nearness to the shore.

promulgate:

/ˈprɒməlgɛɪt/ v. Syn. announce

proclaim doctrine or law; make known by official publication

During an interview with ABC News, Barack Obama said Republican attempted to promulgate, falsely, his Muslim connections.

provisional:

/prəˈvɪʒən(ə)/ a. Syn. tentative; temporary

temporary; provided for present need only

Polanski is in provisional detention in Switzerland.

proximity:

/prɒkˈsɪmɪti/ n. Syn. nearness; adjacency

state of being proximate; nearness in place, time, or relation

Blind people sometimes develop a compensatory ability to sense the proximity of objects around them.

pseudonym:

/ˈsjuːdənɪm/; /ˈsuː-/ n.

pen name; fictitious name used when someone performs a particular social role

Samuel Clemens' pseudonym was Mark Twain.

punitive:

/ˈpjʊːnɪtɪv/ a. Syn. punishing

punishing; involving punishment; awarding or inflicting punishment

He asked for punitive measures against the offender.

querulous:

/ˈkwɛrʊləs/ a. Syn. fretful; whining

habitually complaining; expressing complaint or grievance

Even the most agreeable toddlers can begin to act querulous if they miss their nap.



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quixotic:

/kwɪk'sɒtɪk/ a.

idealistic without regard to practicality

Constantly coming up with quixotic, unworkable schemes to save the world, Simon has his heart in the right place, but his head somewhere in the clouds.

raconteur:

/rækʊn'tə:(r)/ n. Syn. storyteller

storyteller; one who tells stories and anecdotes with skill and wit

My father was a gifted raconteur with an unlimited supply of anecdotes.

radical:

/'rædɪk(ə)l/ a. Syn. drastic; extreme

drastic; extreme; arising from or going to a root or source; basic

President Correa has shown he is determined to follow a radical program of reforms to tackle poverty in Ecuador.

ramification:

/ræmɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ n. Syn. subdivision

act or process of branching out or dividing into branches; subdivision or branch

We must examine every ramification of this problem.

raze:

/reɪz/ v. Syn. demolish; ruin

destroy completely; scrape or shave off

Spelling is important: to raise a building is to put it up; to raze a building is to tear it down.

recapitulate:

/ri:kə'pɪtjʊleɪt/ v. Syn. summarize

summarize; repeat in concise form

Let us recapitulate what has been said thus far before going ahead.

reciprocal:

/'rɪsɪprək(ə)l/ a. Syn. mutual; exchangeable; interacting

concerning each of two or more persons or things; exchangeable; interacting

The two nations signed a reciprocal trade agreement.



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recumbent:

/rɪˈkʌmbənt/ a. Syn. reclining

reclining; lying down completely or in part

The command "AT EASE" does not permit you to take a recumbent position.

redolent:

/'rɛdələnt/ a. Syn. fragrant; odorous

fragrant; odorous; suggestive of odor

Even though it is February, the air is redolent of spring.

redoubtable:

/rɪ'daʊtəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. formidable

formidable; arousing fear or awe; worthy of respect or honor

During the Cold War period, neighboring countries tried not to offend the Russians because they could be redoubtable foes.

refute:

/rɪ'fju:t/ v. Syn. disprove

disprove; prove to be false or incorrect

The defense called several respectable witnesses who were able to refute the false testimony of the prosecution's sole witness.

reiterate:

/ri:'ɪtəreɪt/ v.

say, state, or perform again or repeatedly

He will reiterate the warning to make sure everyone understood it.

remunerative:

/rɪ'mju:nərətɪv/ a. Syn. compensating; rewarding

compensating; rewarding; profitable or paying

I find my new work so remunerative that I may not return to my previous employment.

renegade:

/'rɛnɪgeɪd/ n. Syn. deserter; traitor

disloyal person; traitor or rebel

Because he had abandoned his post and joined forces with the Indians, his fellow officers considered the hero of Dances with Wolves a renegade.

reprisal:



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/rɪ'praɪz(ə)l/ n. Syn. retaliation; recaption

action taken in return for injury or offense

Villagers have reported that thousands of homes have been burned to the ground in reprisal attacks mainly by the FDLR.

resentment:

/rɪ'zɛntmɛnt/ n. Syn. indignation; bitterness; displeasure

indignation; deep sense of injury; strong displeasure

That Gerry finally has let go of his resentment is an enormous relief to me.

resilient:

/rɪ'zɪlɪənt/ a. Syn. elastic; flexible; rebounding

elastic; having power of springing back or recover readily

Based on its highly resilient, the steel is good to make excellent bedsprings.

respite:

/'rɛspaɪt/ n. Syn. pause

usually short interval of rest or relief; delay in punishment

For David, the two weeks vacationing in New Zealand were a delightful respite from the pressures of his job.

retribution:

/rɛ'trɪbjʊ:ʃ(ə)n/ n. Syn. vengeance; compensation

something justly deserved; recompense; compensation; punishment for offenses

A robber whom a jury sentences to 10 years in retribution said something misled them.

retrieve:

/rɪ'tri:v/ v. Syn. recover; regain

recover; find and bring in; get back

They say the more they talk to these detainees, the more tips and evidence they retrieve from the area.

rudimentary:

/ru:dɪ'mɛntərɪ/ a. Syn. elementary; crude; incipient

relating to basic facts or principles; being in the earliest stages of development;

incipient

One teacher is assigned for four years to the homeroom class, which combines lessons in rudimentary social skills with those in computer and civics.



300 TOEFL VOCABULARY

300 TOEFL vocabulary words (6)

Common 300 TOEFL words are grouped in 6 units. A good resource to prepare your TOEFL test in a narrow timeframe. Actually, this list have been added in these years, so it is much more than 300 words now.

rue:

/ru:/ v. Syn. regret; lament; mourn
feel regret, remorse, or sorrow for; mourn

Tina seemed to rue the night she met Tony and wondered how she ever fell for such a jerk.

sacrosanct:

/'sækroʊsæŋkt/ a. Syn. inviolable
regarded as sacred and inviolable

The brash insurance salesman invaded the sacrosanct privacy of the office of the president of the company.

sagacious:

/sə'geɪʃəs/ a. Syn. perceptive; shrewd
perceptive; shrewd; having insight

My father was a sagacious judge of character: he could spot a phony a mile away.

sagacity:

/sə'gæsətɪ/ n.

quality of being sagacious; quickness or acuteness of sense perceptions; keenness of discernment; shrewdness

She was half sorry her sagacity had miscarried, and half glad that Tom had stumbled into obedient conduct for once.

sanctimonious:

/sæŋktɪ'moʊnɪəs/ a. Syn. hypocritical

excessively or hypocritically pious; possessing sanctity; sacred; holy; saintly; religious
What we need to do is not fool ourselves and remain sanctimonious about the issue of doping in baseball.

sanguine:



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/ˈsæŋɡwɪn/ a. Syn. cheerful; hopeful; ruddy
cheerfully confident; optimistic; of healthy reddish color; ruddy
Let us not be too sanguine about the outcome; something could go wrong.

sartorial:
/sɑːˈtɔːriəl/ a.
relating to a tailor, tailoring, or tailored clothing
He was as famous for the sartorial splendor of his attire as he was for his acting.

satellite:
/ˈsætəlaɪt/ n. Syn. subordinate
small body revolving around a larger one; subordinate
U.S. officials say the satellite is a cover for Pyongyang's efforts to perfect missile technology.

scourge:
/skɜːrdʒ/ n. Syn. lash; whip
whip used to inflict punishment; severe punishment
They feared the plague and regarded it as a deadly scourge.

scrutinize:
/ˈskruːtɪnaɪz/; /-tənaɪz/ v.
examine closely and critically
Searching for flaws, the sergeant wanted to scrutinize every detail of the private's uniform.

simper:
/ˈsɪmpə(r)/ v. Syn. smirk
smirk; smile in artificial way to make an impression
. Complimented on her appearance, Stella had to self-consciously simper.

sinecure:
/ˈsaɪnɪkjʊə(r)/ n.
well-paid position with little responsibility
My job is no sinecure; I work long hours and have much responsibility.

sinister:
/ˈsɪnɪstə(r)/ a. Syn. evil
suggesting or threatening evil



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In sudden panic, she's convinced someone sinister is trying to push her from the train.

soporific:

/sɒpə'rifɪk/ a.

sleep-causing; marked by sleepiness

Professor Pringle's lectures were so soporific that even he fell asleep in class.

sordid:

/'sɔːdɪd/ a. Syn. filthy; vile; dirty; foul

filthy; unethical or dishonest; dirty; foul; morally degraded

Many of these files contain sordid details about the personal lives of the litigants.

sovereign:

/'sɒvrɪn/ a. Syn. excellent; independent

having supreme rank or power; self governing; excellent; independent

Belarus, Albania, the Ukraine also have sovereign currencies, not using euro, they also have crashed.

sporadic:

/spə'reɪdɪk/ a.

occurring at irregular intervals; having no pattern or order in time

Although you can still hear sporadic outbursts of laughter and singing outside, the big Halloween parade has passed; the party's over till next year.

spurn:

/spɜːn/ v. Syn. reject; scorn

reject disdainfully or contemptuously; scorn

The heroine had to spurn the villain's advances.

stoic:

/'stoɪk/ a. Syn. impassive

one who is seemingly indifferent to or unaffected by joy, grief, pleasure, or pain

I wasn't particularly stoic when I had my flu shot; I squealed like a stuck pig.

stringent:

/'strɪndʒənt/ a. Syn. binding; rigid

demanding strict attention to rules and procedures; binding; rigid

I think these regulations are too stringent.



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stupendous:

/stju:'pɛndəs/; /stu:-/ a.

astonishing; wonderful; amazing, especially, astonishing in magnitude or elevation

The lads came back and went at their sports again with a will, chattering all the time about Tom's stupendous plan and admiring the genius of it.

succulent:

/'sʌkjʊlənt/ a. Syn. delectable

full of juicy; full of richness; highly interesting or enjoyable; delectable

Beyond, the blue smoke of the sugar house curled into the bluer skies, and the odor of the kettles reached in succulent deliciousness far and wide.

sultry:

/'sʌltrɪ/ a.

burning hot; extremely and unpleasantly hot

He could not adjust himself to the sultry climate of the tropics.

tangible:

/'tændʒɪb(ə)l/ a. Syn. real; palpable

able to be touched; real or concrete; palpable

It'll take awhile before GM's new direction shows up in tangible new products at the dealership.

tantamount:

/'tæntəmaʊnt/ a.

equivalent in effect or value

Though Rudy claimed his wife was off visiting friends, his shriek of horror when she walked into the room was tantamount to a confession that he believed she was dead.

taunt:

/tɔ:nt/ v.

reproach in a mocking, insulting, or contemptuous manner; make fun of, often in an aggressive manner

Perhaps later tonight I will dream up something else to taunt you.

temerity:

/tɪ'mɛrɪtɪ/ n. Syn. boldness; rashness

boldness; rashness; foolhardy disregard of danger

Do you have the temerity to argue with me?



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temporal:

/ˈtɛmpər(ə)l/ a. Syn. secular

not lasting forever; limited by time; secular or civil; of material world; worldly

By passing both laws in temporal proximity to one another, Arizona has revealed itself to have great anxiety not merely about illegal immigration in this nation, but about diversity itself.

temporize:

/ˈtɛmpəraɪz/ v.

act evasively in order to gain time, avoid argument, or postpone a decision

I cannot permit you to temporize any longer; I must have a definite answer today.

tenet:

/ˈtɛnɪt/ n. Syn. doctrine; dogma

opinion, doctrine, or principle held as being true by person or organization

The agnostic did not accept the any tenet of their faith.

tenuous:

/ˈtɛnjʊəs/ a. Syn. thin; rare; slim

long and thin; slender; having little substance

The allegiance of our allies is held by rather tenuous ties.

tranquil:

/ˈtræŋkwɪl/ a. Syn. serene; pacific

free from disturbance; pacific

Though I look comfortably accommodated, I am not very tranquil in my mind.

transgress:

/ˈtrænsˈgrɛs, trɑr-/ v.

pass over or beyond; surpass

You may transgress this programming if the circumstances are right.

tremulous:

/ˈtrɛmjʊləs/ a. Syn. trembling; wavering

marked by trembling, quivering, or shaking; timid or fearful; timorous

She was tremulous more from excitement than from fear.

trivial:



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trivial /'trɪvɪəl/ a. Syn. unimportant; trifling; commonplace

unimportant; of little significance or value; ordinary; commonplace

Mr Madhi escaped from Iran in February 2008 after being sentenced to 73 years in jail for what he described as a trivial charge.

truculence:

truculent /'trʊkjələns/ n. Syn. aggressiveness; ferocity

aggressiveness; ferocity; ferociously cruel actions or behavior

Tynan's reviews were noted for their caustic attacks and general tone of truculence.

truculent:

truculent /'trʊkjələnt, 'trʌkjələnt/ a. Syn. belligerent

disposed to fight; belligerent; aggressively hostile

The bully was initially truculent but eventually stopped picking fights at the least provocation.

turgid:

turgid /'tɜrdʒɪd/ a. Syn. swollen; distended

swollen; distended; excessively ornate or complex in style or language

The turgid river threatened to overflow the levees and flood the countryside.

ubiquitous:

ubiquitous /ju:'bɪkwɪtəs/ a. Syn. omnipresent

being or existing everywhere; omnipresent

That Christmas "The Little Drummer Boy" seemed ubiquitous; David heard the tune everywhere.

untenable:

untenable /ʌn'tenəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. indefensible

indefensible; not able to be maintained

Wayne is so contrary that, the more untenable a position is, the harder he'll try to defend it.

utilitarian:

utilitarian /jʊtɪlɪ'teəriən/ a. Syn. practical; useful

practical and functional, not just for show

Do not forget those utilitarian steel tables when moving.

vanquish:



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/ˈvæŋkwɪʃ/ v. Syn. conquer; overcome; defeat

conquer; overcome; come out better in a competition

The time it takes to vanquish is greatly increased by lots of unnecessary backtracking.

veneer:

/vɪˈnɪə(r)/ n.

thin layer; coating consisting of thin layer; ornamental coating to a building

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

venerable:

/ˈvɛnərəb(ə)l/ a. Syn. revered; honored

deserving high respect; impressive by reason of age; profoundly honored

We do not mean to be disrespectful when we refuse to follow the advice of our venerable leader.

vernal:

/ˈvɜrn(ə)l/ a. Syn. fresh

related to spring; suggestive of youth; vigorous and fresh

Bea basked in the balmy vernal breezes, happy that winter was coming to an end.

versatile:

/ˈvɜrsətaɪl/; -tl/ a. Syn. flexible; pliable

having many talents; capable of working in many fields

She was a versatile athlete, especially in basketball, hockey, and track.

vicarious:

/vɪˈkeərɪəs/ a.

acting as substitute; done by deputy; experienced at secondhand

Many people get a vicarious thrill at the movies by imagining they are the characters on the screen.

vicissitude:

/vɪˈsɪsɪtʊd/ n.

change, especially in one's life or fortunes; regular change or succession of one thing to another; alternation

Humbled by life's vicissitude, the last emperor of China worked as a lowly gardener in the palace over which he had once ruled.



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vituperative:

/vaɪ'tʃʊpə'reɪtɪv/ a. Syn. abusive; scolding

marked by harsh spoken or written abuse; scolding

He became more vituperative as he realized that we were not going to grant him his wish.

waive:

/weɪv/ v. Syn. yield; relinquish

give up temporarily; yield; give up voluntarily; defer

If they can waive the fees for all charities, we think the others could lower their charges.

whim:

/wɪm/; /hwɪm/ n. Syn. fancy; caprice; impulse

sudden turn or start of mind; temporary eccentricity; fancy; capricious notion

We shouldn't be changing our constitution to suit a short-term whim or agenda.

whimsical:

/'wɪmzɪk(ə)l/ a. Syn. capricious

determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason; capricious

In Mrs. Doubtfire, the hero is a playful, whimsical man who takes a notion to dress up as a woman so that he can look after his children, who are in the custody of his ex-wife.

writhe:

/raɪð/ v. Syn. contort

move in twisting or contorted motion; contort in pain

In Dances with Snakes, the snake dancer wriggled sinuously and made her boa constrictor writhe around her torso.

zealot:

/'zeɪlət/ n. Syn. fanatic

fanatically committed person; person who shows excessive zeal

Though Glenn was devout, he was no zealot, he never tried to force his beliefs on his friends.

zealous:

/'zeɪləs/ a. Syn. enthusiastic; fervent

enthusiastic; filled with or motivated by zeal

The company will offer you the most reliable price and satisfied service with its most zealous and most professional service.



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zenith:

/ˈzɛnɪθ/ n. Syn. summit

point directly overhead in sky; summit

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

