

Adulation: flattery; admiration
Adversity: poverty; misfortune
Advocate: urge; plead for
Aesthetic: pertaining to art or beauty
Affable: easily approachable; warmly friendly
Affirmation: assertion; confirmation
Aggregate: total
Alleviate: relieve; make more bearable
Aloof: apart; reserved
Altruistic: unselfishly generous; concerned for others
Ambiguous: unclear or doubtful in meaning
Ambivalence: the state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitude
Amorphous: formless; lacking shape or definition
Anarchist: a person who seeks to overturn the established government; an advocate of abolishing authority
Anomaly: irregularity
Antagonism: actively expressed hostility
Antediluvian: antiquated; extremely old
Antidote: medicine to counteract a poison or disease
Antiquated: old-fashioned; obsolete
Apathy: lack of interest or concern
Appease: pacify or soothe; relieve
Apprehension: fearful anticipation of the future; dread
Archaic: ancient; out of date
Ardent: intense; passionate; zealous
Arrogance: pride; haughtiness
Artifact: object made by human beings
Artisan: manually skilled worker; craftsman as opposed to artist
Ascendancy: controlling influence; domination
Ascetic: practicing self-denial; austere
Aspire: seek to attain; long for
Assuage: ease or lessen; satisfy; soothe
Audacious: daring; bold
Austere: forbiddingly stern; severely simple and unornamented
Autonomous: self-governing
Avarice: greediness for wealth
Aversion: firm dislike
Beguile: charm; mislead or delude
Belie: contradict; give a false impression
Bolster: support; reinforce
Bombastic: pompous; using inflated language
Braggart: boaster
Calculated: deliberately planned
Candor: frankness; open honesty
Capricious: unpredictable; fickle
Charlatan: a quack; pretender to knowledge

Coalesce: combine; fuse
Colloquial: pertaining to conversational or common speech
Compile: assemble; gather; accumulate
Complacency: self-satisfaction; smugness
Conflagration: great fire
Confound: confuse; puzzle
Cordial: gracious; heartfelt
Criterion: standard used in judging
Cryptic: mysterious; hidden; secret
Culpable: deserving blame
Debilitate: weaken; enfeeble
Depravity: extreme corruption; wickedness
Deprecate: express disapproval of; belittle
Deride: ridicule; make fun of
Derivative: unoriginal; derived from another source
Digression: wandering away from the subject
Diligence: steadiness of effort; persistent hard work
Disclose: reveal
Discount: disregard; dismiss
Discriminating: able to see differences
Disdain: scorn
Disinclination a lack of inclination; reluctance
Disputatious: argumentative; fond of arguing
Dissent: disagree
Divergent: varying; going in different directions from the same point
Document: provide written evidence
Dogmatic: opinionated; arbitrary
Egotism: excessive self-importance; conceit
Elated: overjoyed; in high spirits
Elusive: hard to grasp; tending to evade capture
Embellish: adorn; ornament; add fictitious detail
Emulate: imitate; strive to equal or excel
Enmity: ill will; hatred
Ephemeral: short-lived; fleeting
Equivocal: unclear in meaning; intentionally misleading
Eulogy: expression of praise
Evanescent: fleeting; vanishing
Exalt: raise in rank or dignity; praise
Exemplary: serving as a model; outstanding
Exuberance: joyful enthusiasm; overflowing abundance
Facilitate: help bring about; make less difficult
Fallow: plowed but not sowed; uncultivated
Fanaticism: excessive enthusiasm; extreme devotion to a belief or cause
Fastidious: difficult to please; really careful
Feasible: practical; possible
Furtive: sneaky; secretive

Garrulous: talkative; wordy
Gregarious: sociable
Gullible: easily deceived
Hamper: obstruct; make more difficult
Hardy: strong; sturdy
Haughtiness: pride; arrogance
Hedonist: one who believes that pleasure is the sole aim in life
Heresy: opinion contrary to popular belief
Hierarchy: arrangement by rank or standing
Homogeneous: composed of identical parts
Hyperbole: exaggeration; overstatement
Hypocritical: pretending to be virtuous; deceiving
Iconoclastic: attacking cherished traditions
Immutable: unchangeable
Impeccable: faultless; having no flaws
Impudence: offensive boldness
Incite: arouse to action
Incongruous: not fitting; absurd
Inconsequential: insignificant; unimportant
Indifferent: unmoved; unconcerned by; mediocre
Induce: persuade; bring about
Innocuous: harmless; unlikely to provoke strong emotion
Innovation: change; introduction of something new
Insularity: narrow-mindedness; isolation
Integrity: uprightness; wholeness
Intimidate: frighten; coerce or inhibit by threats
Intrepid: fearless
Ironic: unexpected and contrary in outcome
Jocular: said or done in jest
Lavish: extravagant; wasteful
Linger: loiter or dawdle; continue or persist
Listless: lacking in spirit or energy
Mercenary: interested in money or gain
Meticulous: painstaking; excessively careful
Mitigate: moderate in intensity
Morose: ill-humored; sad; gloomy
Mosaic: picture made of colorful small inlaid tiles; something that resembles a mosaic
Mundane: worldly as opposed to spiritual; everyday; concerned with the commonplace
Nefarious: very wicked
Nonchalance: indifference; casual lack of concern
Notoriety: ill fame (being known widely and unfavorably)
Obliterate: destroy completely
Oblivion: obscurity; forgetfulness
Obscure: indistinct; not easily understood

Obstinate: stubborn; hard to control or treat
Opportunist: one who sacrifices principles for gain by taking advantage of circumstances
Orator: public speaker
Ornate: excessively or elaborately decorated
Pacifist: one opposed to force; antimilitarist
Penury: severe poverty; stinginess
Peripheral: outer; marginal
Phenomena: observable facts; subjects of scientific investigation
Pithy: concise; meaningful; substantial; meaty
Placate: pacify; lessen the anger of
Polemical: aggressive in verbal attack; disputatious
Ponderous: weighty; unwieldy
Pretentious: pompous; making unjustified claims; outwardly extravagant
Prodigal: wasteful; reckless with money
Profusion: overabundance; excess
Quagmire: soft wet boggy land; complex or dangerous situation from which it is difficult to free oneself
Querulous: complaining; fretful
Quiescence: state of being at rest; temporary inactivity
Ramble: wander aimlessly
Rancor: bitterness; hatred
Rant: speak in an angry or excited manner; rave
Ratify: approve formally; confirm; verify
Raucous: harsh and shrill; disorderly and boisterous
Ravenous: extremely hungry
Raze: destroy completely
Recount: narrate or tell; count over again
Redundant: unnecessary; repetitious; excessively wordy
Rhetorical: pertaining to effective communication; insincere in language; characterized by overly elaborate, pompous language
Robust: vigorous; strong
Sage: person celebrated for wisdom
Satirical: mocking; characterized by sarcastic wit to attack or expose folly
Saturate: soak thoroughly; drench
Scanty: meager; insufficient
Scrupulous: conscientious; extremely thorough
Scrutinize: examine closely and critically
Seclusion: isolation; solitude
Servile: slavish; submissive
Sluggish: slow; lazy; lacking energy
Soporific: sleep-causing; marked by sleepiness
Sporadic: occurring irregularly
Stagnant: motionless; stale; dull
Stolid: showing little emotion
Strident: loud and harsh; insistent

Subside: settle down; descend; grow quiet
Superficial: concerned only with the obvious; shallow; near the surface
Superfluous: unnecessary; excessive; overabundant
Surfeit: indulge to excess in anything
Surreptitious: done in a secret way; hidden
Sycophant: self-seeker who tries to gain favor by flattering important people;
bootlicker
Tantamount: equivalent in effect or value
Tenacity: firmness; persistence
Threadbare: worn through till the threads show; shabby and poor
Tirade: extended scolding; long, angry speech denouncing something
Torpor: physical or mental inactivity; sluggishness; dormancy
Trifling: trivial; unimportant
Truncate: shorten; cut the top off
Turmoil: great commotion and confusion
Uniformity: sameness
Vaporize: turn into vapor
Virtuoso: highly skilled artist
Virulent: extremely poisonous; hostile; bitter
Whimsical: unpredictable; fanciful
Zealot: fanatic; person who shows excessive zeal