

## Aa

### **abscond** • *verb*

to run away suddenly and secretly

*The bank robbers planned to abscond with thousands of dollars.*

### **absorb** • *verb*

1. to soak up liquid

2. to take in information

*I read the instructions twice in order to absorb the information about how to absorb the paint I spilled on the rug.*

### **absurd** • *adjective*

without good sense

synonym: silly

*It was absurd to try to eat the broth with a fork!*

### **ache** • *noun*

a dull, steady pain

*After the doctor gave me a shot, I had an ache in my arm for a few days.*

### **adapt** • *verb*

to change in order to get along in a new situation

synonym: adjust

*A chameleon can adapt to its surroundings by changing color to blend in with rocks and trees.*

### **admonish** • *verb*

to caution or warn

synonym: reprimand

*Mrs. Wu had to admonish her students about running in the hallway.*

**advance** • *verb*

to move forward or make progress

*After I finished the books in Level One, I advanced to Level Two.*

**affluent** • *adjective*

having a lot of money

synonym: wealthy

*Marta loved to visit her affluent aunt because she had a swimming pool and a tennis court.*

**agriculture** • *noun*

the science of growing crops and raising livestock

synonym: farming

*My uncle studied agriculture in college and now grows organic tomatoes that he sells to restaurants.*

**ambition** • *noun*

a strong desire to achieve a specific goal

*Mark's ambition was to learn to surf.*

**amuse** • *verb*

to make someone laugh or smile

*The playful monkeys always amuse the visitors at the zoo.*

**atmosphere** • *noun*

the mood or feeling of a place

*The atmosphere during the test was quiet and serious.*

## **Bb**

### **baffled** • *adjective*

confused or puzzled

synonym: perplexed

*I was baffled by the complicated directions for assembling my new model car.*

### **barricade**•*verb*

to block off

•*noun*

a barrier used to block passage

*The fire department had to barricade the streets for the parade. They parked their fire trucks across the crosswalks to make a barricade.*

### **barrier** • *noun*

something that prevents things from going through

synonym: obstruction

*The people made a barrier of sandbags to keep the river from flooding their town.*

### **bedlam** • *noun*

a scene of noise and confusion

synonym: chaos

*There was bedlam on the decks of the Titanic when the ship began to sink.*

### **belligerent** • *adjective*

hostile; wanting to fight

*The Peacemakers at our school use conflict resolution to help stop belligerent behavior.*

**betray** • *verb*

to not be loyal or faithful to

*Kin Yui didn't mean to betray Laura's secret when she told Ana. She thought Ana already knew about it.*

**bloated** • *adjective*

swelled up

*After eating six pieces of watermelon, my stomach was so bloated that I had to unbutton my pants.*

**boost** • *noun*

something that lifts you up, either physically or emotionally

*I couldn't reach the doorbell, so my brother gave me a boost.*

**brawl** • *noun*

a loud fight

synonym: altercation

*When the pitcher accidentally hit the batter with a fastball, a brawl broke out between the two teams.*

**bygone** • *adjective*

anything that is past or has gone by

synonym: previous

*Antique stores are full of things from bygone times.*

**Cc**

**candidate** • *noun*

someone who is applying for a job or running in an election

*Each candidate for school president gave a speech at the assembly.*

**cantankerous** • *adjective*

hard to get along with

synonym: cranky

*Because Jerry is so cantankerous, I already know he won't agree with me.*

**capable** • *adjective*

having the skill to do something

synonym: competent

*My little brother is capable of tying his shoes, but he asks for help anyway.*

**casual** • *adjective*

1. happening by chance; not planned

2. informal; not fancy

*When Jared's casual meeting with a friend led to a dinner invitation, he was glad his casual clothes were neat and clean.*

**classify** • *verb*

to put into groups according to a system

*Lilia will classify the insects in her collection by color.*

**collide** • *verb*

to strike or bump together

*If you don't watch where you're going, you can collide with someone.*

**command** • *verb*

to order someone to do something

*The trainer at the wild animal park commanded the wolf to bring him a stick.*

**compass** • *noun*

a tool that can help you figure out in which direction you are facing

*We knew that the camp was to the southwest, so we used our compass to help us find our way back to it.*

**compete** • *verb*

to try to beat others in a race or contest

*My cousin is training to compete in a bicycle race this summer.*

**complement** • *noun*

something that makes something else complete

*Cinderella's glass slippers were the perfect complement to her gown.*

**conceal** • *verb*

to hide from view

*I conceal my diary in a box under my bed so that no one will read it.*

**criticize** • *verb*

to tell someone about what he or she has done wrong

*Father criticized the young child's poor table manners.*

**curtail** • *verb*

to cut short; reduce

synonym: shorten

*Jeff's teacher suggested he curtail the time he spends playing video games if he wants to do better on his homework.*

## **Dd**

**dapper** • *adjective*

attractive in dress

synonym: fashionable

*James was such a dapper dresser that he looked like a model.*

**dawdle** • *verb*

to waste time; be slow

*If you dawdle before breakfast, you'll miss your ride to school.*

**deceive** • *verb*

to make someone believe something that is not true; to trick

synonym: lie

*The wolf tried to deceive Little Red Riding Hood by dressing like her grandmother.*

**decline** • *verb*

to turn down or refuse something

*Mike had to decline the invitation to his friend's party because his family was going to be out of town.*

**defiant** • *adjective*

bold in standing up against someone or something

*The colonists were defiant when the king's soldiers ordered them to return home.*

**dejected** • *adjective*

low in spirits

synonym: discouraged

*Hiroshi felt dejected when he didn't break the record for the long jump.*

**destitute** • *adjective*

having no money or other means of living

*The fifth-graders raised money to help destitute people in their community.*

**determined** • *adjective*

showing a firm decision to do something

*No matter how tired he got, Harry was determined to finish the race.*

**detest** • *verb*

to hate or strongly dislike

*I don't like most vegetables, but what I really detest is cabbage.*

**devour** • *verb*

to eat something very quickly or hungrily

*Zoo visitors like to gather at feeding time to watch the cheetahs devour their steak.*

**dexterity** • *noun*

skill in using the hands

*After playing the piano for years, Mei-Ling has wonderful dexterity.*

**digits** • *noun*

1. the numerals from zero through nine

2. fingers and toes

*We have started adding numbers with three digits in math this week.*

**digress** • *verb*

to get off the subject, especially when speaking or writing

*The teacher took a moment to digress to tell a funny story before getting back to the lesson.*

**dilemma** • *noun*

a situation that requires a difficult choice

synonym: predicament

*Bonnie's dilemma was whether to attend her best friend's birthday party or play in the championship soccer game.*

**diligent** • *adjective*

hardworking

*Amy is a diligent student who always turns in her homework on time.*

**dingy** • *adjective*

having a dirty or dull appearance

*After years of hanging in the dusty windows, the white lace curtains looked dingy.*

**discussion** • *noun*

a talk about things

synonym: conversation

*Our teacher gathered us in a circle for a discussion about our upcoming field trip.*

**docile** • *adjective*

easy to handle or train

*Anita's docile dog won the prize for "best behaved pet" at the show.*

**drenched** • *adjective*

soaked or completely wet

*We got drenched when we were caught out in the rain without an umbrella.*

## Ee

**efficient** • *adjective*

doing a job in a timely manner with the least amount of effort or materials

*Pete was such an efficient busboy that he could stack and carry all the plates on the table at once.*

**elated** • *adjective*

filled with joy

antonym: miserable

*Jessica felt elated when she crossed the finish line first.*

**encounter** • *noun*

an unexpected meeting

*An encounter with a bear was the biggest surprise of our hike.*

**enthusiasm** • *noun*

a strong feeling of excitement or interest

synonym: eagerness

*Stella's enthusiasm for the ballet soon had the whole class eager to attend the performance.*

**establish** • *verb*

to set up

*The telephone company decided to first establish Internet service in large cities before setting it up in small towns.*

**exact** • *adjective*

correct; having no mistakes

*We need to know the exact measurements of the desk to be sure it will fit in my room.*

**Ff**

**fickle** • *adjective*

always changing in interests or loyalty

*We weren't surprised when Lisa switched teams at the last minute, because she is often fickle.*

**flounder**•*noun*

a flatfish that lives in saltwater

•*verb*

to struggle through something, either physically or mentally

*After floundering through the deep, wet sand at the sea's edge, imagine my surprise at finding a flounder in the cuff of my pants.*

**foreign** • *adjective*

1. from another country
2. different; strange

*We served lots of foreign foods at the international celebration. The hamburgers looked foreign alongside all the other exotic foods.*

**frantic** • *adjective*

very excited with worry or fear

*Linh was so frantic that she'd miss the bus for the field trip that she ran all the way to school.*

**frigid** • *adjective*

extremely cold

*There is no swimming in this mountain lake, as the water in it remains frigid even in the summer.*

## Gg

**gallery** • *noun*

a room or building where art is shown or sold

*Ima was impressed by all the colorful paintings in the gallery.*

**germinate** • *verb*

to begin to grow

synonym: sprout

*The spring rains helped the wildflower seeds to germinate.*

**glamorous** • *adjective*

attractive and exciting

synonym: enchanting

*Heads turned as the glamorous movie star walked down the red carpet.*

**glitter** • *verb*

to shine and sparkle

*The crystal goblets are so clean that they glitter in the candlelight.*

**gloomy** • *adjective*

1. dull and dark

2. sad

*The gloomy weather on the day of the school picnic was mirrored by the gloomy expressions on the students' faces.*

**gossip** • *verb*

to talk about other people's personal lives when they are not present

*The neighbors gossiped about why the Wong family moved to New York, but no one really knew for sure.*

**gratitude** • *noun*

a feeling of being grateful and thankful

*When Dad gave me a new computer game, I showed my gratitude by giving him a big hug.*

**gregarious** • *adjective*

fond of being with others

synonym: sociable

*Because Heather is so gregarious, she always has friends around her.*

**Hh**

**habitat** • *noun*

the home of a particular group of plants and animals

*Although you might see a lion at a wild animal park, its natural habitat is the African savanna.*

**harass** • *verb*

to bother repeatedly

*My brother shoots rubber bands at me when he wants to harass me.*

**hazardous** • *adjective*

dangerous

antonym: safe

*A curvy road becomes even more hazardous during heavy rainstorms.*

**heirloom** • *noun*

a valued object handed down from generation to generation

*Alana's gold locket was a family heirloom that had belonged to her great-grandmother.*

**hemisphere** • *noun*

one half of the Earth; there are four hemispheres: northern and southern; eastern and western

*If you live in North America, you live in the northern and western hemispheres.*

**hermit** • *noun*

a person who lives alone to be away from other people

synonym: recluse

*The hermit saw other people only when he hiked into town to buy groceries.*

**hilarious** • *adjective*

very funny

synonym: hysterical

*The movie was so hilarious that we almost cried from laughing so hard.*

**humdrum** • *adjective*

lacking variety or excitement

synonym: monotonous

*The movie was so humdrum that I fell asleep.*

## Ii

**ignore** • *verb*

to pay no attention to something

*If someone teases you, just ignore him or her and walk away.*

**indulge** • *verb*

to allow yourself to enjoy something

*Adrienne fought the urge to indulge her craving for the rich chocolate dessert.*

**ingenious** • *adjective*

clever or skillful, especially at inventing or solving problems

*The ingenious children made a skateboard using old roller skates and a piece of wood.*

## Jj

**jumble** • *noun*

a confused mess

*The jumble of books in the box made it impossible to find what I was looking for.*

**justify** • *verb*

to give a good reason or cause for something

*Mark knew he could justify getting home from school late by explaining that the bus got a flat tire.*

## **Kk**

### **knickknack** • *noun*

a small ornament or decorative object

synonym: trinket

*The souvenir shop at the amusement park was full of knickknacks.*

### **kowtow** • *verb*

1. to show respect or unquestioning obedience

2. in traditional China, to bow from a kneeling position where the forehead touches the ground as a way to show respect

*Although I am not required to get on the ground and kowtow to my parents, I am expected to kowtow to their wishes by never talking back to them.*

## **Ll**

### **lackadaisical** • *adjective*

lacking interest, enthusiasm, or energy

*Your piano playing won't improve if you have a lackadaisical attitude about practicing.*

### **landscape**•*verb*

to make the natural features of an outdoor area more attractive by adding trees or plants

•*noun*

an area of land that you can view from one place

*After we landscape the yard, the landscape outside the living room window will be more pleasant.*

**lecture** • *noun*

a prepared talk about something

• *verb*

to scold

*The park ranger gave a lecture about wild animals. He told about having to lecture some campers about leaving food out for the bears.*

**legend** • *noun*

a story that is handed down from the past that is often based on fact, but is not completely true

*The legend of Johnny Appleseed is based on the life of a man named John Chapman.*

**lenient** • *adjective*

not strict in enforcing rules and restrictions

synonym: permissive

*Mrs. Johnson was so lenient about deadlines that most students turned in their projects late with no consequence.*

**lofty** • *adjective*

1. very high

2. grand or noble

*Roberta's lofty ambitions include designing lofty skyscrapers in New York City.*

**luminous** • *adjective*

giving off light

*The full moon was so luminous that Tim did not need a flashlight to see the path.*

## Mm

**maneuver** • *verb*

to move carefully and skillfully

*Mika tried to maneuver his bike around the cones on the obstacle course.*

**marionette** • *noun*

a puppet that is moved by pulling strings or wires attached to parts of its body

*The puppeteer was so skilled in moving the marionette that the puppet almost seemed real.*

**massive** • *adjective*

extraordinarily large, heavy, and solid

*It took eight men to move the massive oak table into the moving van.*

**mischievous** • *noun*

playful behavior that often annoys or irritates others and may cause harm

*The puppies' mischief stopped being funny when they chewed up Papi's new slippers.*

**moist** • *adjective*

slightly wet or damp

*I used a moist towel to wipe the pencil marks off my desk.*

## Nn

**narrative** • *noun*

a story or narration

*Ms. Sanchez read the class a first-person narrative written by a soldier in the Civil War.*

**numerous** • *adjective*

many; great in number

*The curious student asked numerous questions during the science lesson.*

## Oo

**obligation** • *noun*

something that you must do

synonym: duty

*After my birthday, one of my obligations was to write thank-you notes to the people who gave me gifts.*

**obvious** • *adjective*

very easy to see or understand

*It was obvious from the smile on her face that she was happy to see her grandmother.*

**outwit** • *verb*

to be more clever than someone else

*Edmond always won at chess because he could outwit any player he faced.*

## Pp

**panic** • *noun*

a sudden feeling of great fear that comes over a person or group of people

• *verb*

to feel or be overcome by panic

*I felt panic when I thought I'd lost my purse. "Don't panic!" said my friend. "It's right behind your chair."*

**participant** • *noun*

someone who joins in an activity

*The winner of the race will receive a medal, but all participants will receive a T-shirt.*

**patriot** • *noun*

someone who loves and supports his or her country

*During the American Revolution, many patriots fought against the British for the independence of the colonies.*

**peer** • *noun*

a person of the same age or ability level

*Even though Daisy is Roberto's peer, she is three inches taller than he is.*

**penetrate** • *verb*

to go into or pass through something

*The attackers could not penetrate the stone walls of the castle.*

**perennial** • *adjective*

lasting for a long time; never ending

• *noun*

a plant that blooms or grows for many years without needing to be replanted

*If you have a perennial dislike for buying new plants every year, plant some perennials in your garden.*

**permanent** • *adjective*

lasting for a very long time or forever

*Baby teeth fall out, but permanent teeth do not.*

**perplexed** • *adjective*

confused; uncertain

*I was perplexed because the directions to the museum did not make sense to me.*

**plunge** • *verb*

1. to dive into water
2. to fall sharply

*Standing at the edge of the boat, my heart plunged as I watched my necklace plunge into the sea.*

**precious** • *adjective*

1. rare and valuable
2. special or dear

*My most precious possession is this ring with four precious gems in the setting.*

**predicament** • *noun*

a difficult, dangerous, or unpleasant situation

*The sailors were in a predicament when the mainsail ripped.*

**purchase** • *verb*

to buy something

*Our family tries to purchase things when they're on sale.*

**Rr**

**random** • *adjective*

not following any pattern or order

*The teacher put everyone's name in a jar and drew the teams in random order.*

**recommend** • *verb*

to praise the value of something; suggest as worthwhile

synonym: endorse

*I recommend you try the milkshakes at the local diner; they're delicious!*

**remedy** • *noun*

a medicine or treatment used for healing

• *verb*

to return something to its proper condition

*Adam's mother gave him mint tea as a remedy for his upset stomach. She hoped it would remedy his stomachache quickly.*

**renovate** • *verb*

to make like new

synonym: to restore

*The school spent over one million dollars to renovate the old gym.*

**replenish** • *verb*

to refill

*After the long race, the runners had to replenish the water in their bodies.*

**resource** • *noun*

a person or thing that is a source of help or support

*The library is a great resource for learning about American history.*

**rickety** • *adjective*

likely to fall over or fall apart due to weakness

*The rickety old fence blew over with the first strong winter wind.*

**Ss**

**scavenger** • *noun*

an animal that eats already dead and decaying animals

*The deer's carcass was soon picked clean by vultures and other scavengers.*

**shrub** • *noun*

a plant that has several woody stems instead of a trunk

synonym: bush

*The yard looked beautiful now that several of the shrubs were blooming.*

**sluggish** • *adjective*

moving slowly; lacking energy

*After eating a big lunch and resting in the hammock, I felt so sluggish that I could barely move.*

**solo** • *noun*

a performance by one performer

*You could tell that Anoki had been practicing, because he performed his solo perfectly.*

**spontaneous** • *adjective*

happening without planning

*I wasn't expecting the joke to be funny, but I let out a spontaneous laugh.*

**stagnant** • *adjective*

not moving or flowing

synonym: still

*When a puddle of water is stagnant, harmful bacteria can grow in it.*

**symphony** • *noun*

a long piece of music played by an orchestra

*The famous composer Mozart wrote a symphony that was nicknamed "Jupiter."*

## Tt

### **tedious** • *adjective*

boring; tiresome

*Three hours of weeding a garden can be tedious.*

### **temporary** • *adjective*

something that lasts only for a short time

*The power outage was temporary; our electricity was back on by morning.*

### **thaw** • *verb*

to melt after being frozen

*The frozen turkey must thaw in the refrigerator for three days before we can cook it.*

### **transmit** • *verb*

1. to pass on from one person or place to another

2. to send out signals by radio or television

*When the flu season begins, people try not to transmit their germs. Some radio stations even transmit information on how to stay healthy.*

### **treacherous** • *adjective*

dangerous; hazardous

*Skydiving and mountain climbing can be treacherous sports.*

### **trivial** • *adjective*

of little or no importance

*My tiny scratch seemed trivial next to Drew's broken arm.*

## Uu

### **unique** • *adjective*

someone or something that is the only one of its kind

*A fish that could survive on dry land would be unique.*

### **unkempt** • *adjective*

not groomed; not neat or tidy

*After a week of camping in the wilderness, everybody looked quite unkempt.*

### **unruly** • *adjective*

hard to control; wild

*The unruly crowd went wild when the rock stars appeared.*

## Vv

### **vanquish** • *verb*

to defeat; overcome

synonym: conquer

*Zack had to vanquish his fear of the dark before going camping with his friends.*

### **velocity** • *noun*

rate of speed or motion

*A plane travels at a greater velocity than a car.*

### **ventriloquist** • *noun*

an entertainer who speaks without moving his or her lips

*The ventriloquist made it look like his wooden dummy was telling the jokes.*

## Ww

**weary** • *adjective*

tired or exhausted

*Mom was weary after driving for almost three days to get to Grandma's house.*