

**ac-com-·plice** (ə kɒm'plɪs) *n.* A person who aids a lawbreaker in a crime but is not necessarily present at the scene of the crime.

**ag-gres-sive-ly** (ə grɛs'ɪv lē) *adv.* 1. In a manner that displays hostility. 2. Very active and forceful and sometimes too bold.

**al-lu-sion** (ə lʊ'ʒhən) *n.* Indirect mention; passing or casual reference to something.

**al-ly** (ə li') *u* **al-·lied**, **al-ly-·ing**, **al-·lies**. To join or unite for a specific purpose. — *n.* (əl'i) or (ə li'), *pl.* **al-·lies**. A person or country joined with another for a special purpose.

**am-bas-sa-dor** (əm bās'ə dər) *n.* Any messenger or representative: *a good-will ambassador.*

**am-e-thyst** (əm'ə thɪst) *n.* 1. A gemstone. 2. Moderate purple to graying, reddish purple color.

**a-mi-a-ble** (ə'mē ə bəl) *adj.* Friendly; good-natured.

**an-guished** (əŋg'gwɪʃt) *adj.* Feeling, expressing, or caused by a great pain of the body or of the mind: *anguished people clinging to the sinking ship.*

**an-ten-nae** (ən tɛn'ē) *n. pl.* The pair of long, slender feelers growing on the head of an insect or a crustacean such as a lobster or shrimp.

**ap-pa-ra-tus** (əp'ə rā'təs) or (-rāt'əs) *n., pl.* **ap-pa-ra-tus** or **ap-pa-ra-tus-es**. A device or mechanism formed by a group of parts working together, as in a machine.

**ap-pease** (ə pēz') *u* **ap-peased**, **ap-peas-·ing**. To make calm or quiet, especially by giving what is demanded.

**ap-pren-tice** (ə prɛn'tɪs) *n.* A person who is learning a trade or a craft from some-

one with experience in the trade or craft.

—**ap-pren-tice** *adj.*

**as-set** (əs'ɛt') *n.* A useful or valuable quality or thing; advantage: *An agreeable personality is a great asset.*

**as-so-ci-ate** (ə sō'shē āt') *u* 1. To join in a relationship as a member, partner, etc. 2. To connect with a group or a cause.

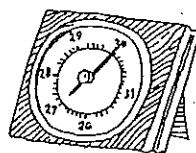
**at-tuned** (ə tūnd') or (ə tyūnd') *adj.* To be in harmony with, or accustomed to: *a person attuned to the times.*

**av-o-ca-tion** (āv'ə kā'shən) *n.* An activity engaged in, usually for pleasure, in addition to one's regular work; a hobby.

**ban-ish** (bān'ɪʃ) *u* Forced to leave a country or place by official decree; to exile.

**bar-gain** (bār'gɪn) *n.* Something offered or bought at a low price: *This dress is a bargain.* —*adj.* A low or reduced price: *I bought the bike at a bargain price.*

**ba-rom-e-ter** (bə rōm'ɪ tər) *n.* An instrument that measures the pressure of the atmosphere: *The data recorded by a barometer is used to forecast the weather.*



barometer

**bed-lam** (bɛd'ləm) *n.* A place or situation of confusion, or noisy uproar.

**be-fall** (bɪ fɔl') *u* To happen to.

**be-lay** (bɪ lā') *u* 1. To tie a mountain climber with a rope. 2. To stop.

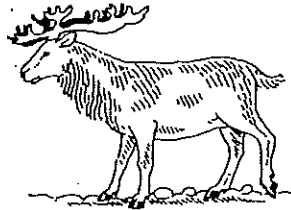
**be-queath** (bɪ kwɛθ') *u* **bequeathed**. To leave property or other possessions in a will.

**bill** (bɪl) *n.* An outline or plan of a law presented for approval to a legislature.

bivouac / chasm

- biv-ou-ac** (biv'ōō āk') or (biv'wāk') *n.* A temporary camp.
- blaze** (blāz) *n.* 1. A white spot on the face of a horse or other animal. 2. A mark cut on a tree to indicate a trail.
- bleat** (blēt) *n.* The hoarse, broken cry of a goat, sheep, or calf. —*v.* To utter the cry of a goat, sheep, or calf.
- bore** (bôr) or (bōr) *v.* **bored, bor-ing.** To seem to penetrate like a drill.
- bot-tle-neck** (bōt'l nēk') *n.* 1. A narrow route or passage where movement is slowed down. 2. Any condition that slows or hinders progress.
- branch** (brānch) or (brānch) *n.* 1. A part or division of a larger whole: *Biology is a branch of science.* 2. A division of government: *the executive branch.*
- bra-zen** (brā'zən) *adj.* Made of or resembling brass: *the rich sound of a brazen bell.*
- break-er** (brā'kər) *n.* A wave that breaks into foam on a shore.
- brood** (brōōd) *n.* 1. The young of certain animals, esp. a group of young birds hatched at one time and cared for by the same mother. 2. The children in one family.
- broth** (brōth) *n.* A clear soup made from the water in which meat, fish, or vegetables have been boiled.
- buf-fet** (būf'it) *n.* A repeated, forceful blow; a battering: *The small craft took quite a buffeting in the storm.*
- cal-cu-late** (kāl'kyə lāt') *v.* To make an estimate of; evaluate.
- car-cass** (kār'kəs) *n.* The dead body of an animal.

- car-go** (kār'gō) *n.* The freight carried by a vehicle such as a ship or an airplane.
- car-i-bou** (kār'ə bōō') *n.* A large deer of northern North America that is related to the reindeer.



caribou

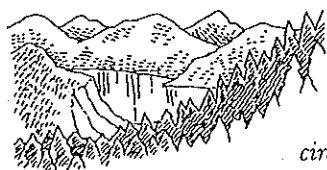
- ca-tas-tro-phe** (kə tās'trə fē) *n.* A great and sudden disaster, such as an earthquake or flood.
- cav-al-ry** (kāv'al rē) *n., pl. cav-al-ries.* Troops trained to fight on horseback or, more recently, in armored vehicles. — **cav'al-ry** *adj.*
- ca-vort** (kə vōrt') *v.* To leap about playfully; romp; frolic.
- ce-leb-ri-ty** (sə lēb'rī tē) *n., pl. ce-leb-ri-ties.* A famous person.
- cha-os** (kā'ōs') *n.* Great disorder or confusion.
- chap-er-on**, also **chap-er-one** (shāp'ə rōn') *n.* An older person who attends a dance or party for young, unmarried people to see that they behave properly. —*v.* To act as a chaperon: *chaperon a party; chaperon a girl.*
- char-ter** (chār'tər) *v.* **char-tered.** To hire or rent for a limited time: *We chartered a bus to go to the Grand Canyon.*
- chasm** (kāz'əm) *n.* A deep crack or opening in the surface of the earth; a narrow gorge.

**chil-i-co-the** (chil'ə kō'thē) *n.* A vine found in California, having prickly fruit.

**chiv-al-ry** (shiv'əl rē) *n.* The qualities of the ideal knight, as courage, bravery, courtesy, honor, and devotion to the weak.

**cir-cum-stance** (sūr'kəm stāns') *n.* A condition, fact, or event that is related to and may affect something or someone else.

**cirque** (sūrk) *n.* A steep hollow, often containing a small lake, occurring at the upper end of some mountain valleys.



**clear-ance** (klīr'əns) *n.* Permission for an airplane, ship, or other vehicle to proceed during certain traffic conditions.

**cod-ed** (kōd'əd) *adj.* Something, such as a text or a set of numbers, which has been put into a code, usually to keep it secret: *He coded the message with a specific system of words in Arabic.*

**col-lab-o-ra-tion** (kə lāb'ə rā'shən) *n.* A joint effort, with people working together: *Students worked in collaboration on the school play.*

**col-lide** (kə līd') *v.* **col-lid-ed**, **col-lid-ing.** To strike or bump together with violent, direct impact: *The planes collided in midair.*

**com-mis-sion** (kə mish'ən) *n.* The act of granting authority to someone to carry out a certain job or duty; the job or duty assigned by such a grant: *Investigating charges of fraud in the company was their commission.*

**com-pen-sa-tion** (kōm'pən sā'shən) *n.*

Something used, needed, or done to balance or make up for something else.

**com-po-si-tion** (kōm'pə zīsh'ən) *n.* The arrangement of parts or elements forming a whole, as in an artistic work: *the composition of a painting.*

**com-post** (kōm'pōst') *n.* A mixture of decaying plant or animal substances such as leaves, used to enrich the soil.

**com-po-sure** (kəmpō'zhər) *n.* Calmness; self-possession: *Even though she was excited, she kept her composure as the prizes were awarded.*

**con-ceive** (kən sēv') *v.* To form in the mind, think up: *Inventors conceived the idea of the airplane by watching birds in flight.*

**con-fer** (kən fūr') *v.* **con-ferred**, **con-fer-ring.** To hold a conference; to advise and discuss together: *The President conferred with his advisers.*

**con-fi-den-tial-ly** (kōn'fī dēn'shəl ē) *adv.* In a manner that is secret or private.

**con-fig-ure** (kən fig'yər) *v.* To arrange in certain form, shape, or figure.

**con-fis-cate** (kōn'fī skāt') *v.* To take something away from someone, in some cases because one has the legal right to do so.

**con-gen-ial** (kən jēn'yəl) *adj.* 1. Friendly: *a congenial host.* 2. Suited to one's nature; pleasant; agreeable: *congenial work.*

**con-gre-gate** (kōng'grə gāt') *v.* **con-gre-gat-ed**, **con-gre-gat-ing.** To gather together; assemble: *People congregate in the town square.*

**con-se-crate** (kōn'sə krāt') *v.* 1. To make, declare, or set apart as sacred. 2. To dedicate to some worthy purpose.

**con-ser-va-tion** (kōn'sər vā'shən) *n.* The controlled use and protection of natural resources.

constitution / default

**con-sti-tu-tion** (kɔn'stī tōō'shən) *n.* 1. The way in which someone or something is made up, especially the physical makeup of a person. 2. **the Constitution.** The written law of the United States, adopted in 1787 and put into effect in 1789.

**con-tend** (kən tēnd') *v.* 1. To fight, as in battle. 2. To compete, as in a race. — **con-tend'er** *n.*

**con-trail** (kɔn'trāl) *n.* A visible trail of water droplets or ice crystals sometimes forming in the wake of an aircraft.

**con-trib-u-tor** (kən trīb'yōō tər) *n.* One who gives or supplies in common with others to a fund or for a common purpose.

**con-ven-tion** (kən vən'shən) *n.* A formal assembly or meeting: *a teachers' convention.*

**cor-o-ner** (kôr'ə nər) *n.* A public official charged with investigating any deaths not due clearly to natural causes.

**coun-sel** (koun'səl) *n.* An exchange of opinions or ideas; a discussion.

**cou-ri-er** (kōōr'ē ə) *or* (kūr'-) *or* (kūr'-) *n.* A messenger, especially one on official diplomatic business.

**cove** (kōv) *n.* A small, sheltered bay or inlet.

**coy-o-te** (kī ō'tē) *or* (kī'ōt') *n.* A wolf-like animal common in western North America.

**craft-y** (krāf'tē) *or* (krāf'-) *adj.* **craft-i-er**, **craft-i-est.** Skilled in underhanded dealing and deceit; cunning. — **craft'i-ly** *adu.* — **craft'i-ness** *n.*

**crest** (krēst) *n.* The top of something, as of a mountain or wave.

**crus-ta-cean** (krū stā'shən) *n.* Any of a group of animals, such as a lobster, crab, or shrimp, that live mostly in water and have a body with a hard outer covering.

**cum-ber-some** (kūm'bər səm) *adj.* Heavy and awkward to carry or wear; burdensome: *cumbersome baggage.*

**cun-ning** (kūn'ing) *adj.* Clever in deceiving or gaining an advantage.

**cur-ric-u-lum** (kə rīk'yə ləm) *n.* 1. All the courses of instruction offered by an educational institution. 2. A particular course of study in one specific field.

**cur-ry-comb** (kūr'ē kōm') *or* (kūr'-) *n.* A comb with metal teeth, used for grooming horses.

**cus-to-dy** (kūs'tə dē) *n., pl. cus-to-dies.* 1. The act or right of caring for or guarding, especially when granted by a court: *The grandparents were given custody of the children.* 2. The condition of being kept or guarded: *Leave your valuables in the custody of the bank.*

**dam** (dām) *n.* A female parent of a four-footed animal.

**dam-sel** (dām'zəl) *n.* A young girl.

**daunt-less** (dānt'līs) *or* (dānt'-) *adj.* Not easily discouraged; brave; fearless: *a dauntless astronaut.*

**de-ceive** (dē sēv') *v.* To cause someone to believe something that is not true; mislead.

**de-crep-it** (dē krēp'it) *adj.* In poor condition because of old age or long use; worn-out; broken-down.

**de-fault** (dē fōlt') *n.* A failure, absence or lack of something: *Because he was not*

ă pat / ā pay / â care / ä father / ë pet / è be / ï pit / î pie / ï fierce / ò pot / ô go / ô paw, for / oi oil / öo book / oo boot / ou out / ũ cut / û fur / th the / th thin / hw which / zh vision / ə ago, item, pencil, atom, circus

a good hitter, Doug became an outfielder by default.

**de-lir-i-ous** (dī līr'ē əs) *adj.* In a state of uncontrolled excitement or emotion: *I am delirious with joy that I won the race.*

**de-lude** (dī lōōd') *v.* **de-lud-ed**, **de-lud-ing**. Deceive in the mind or in the judgment of; mislead.

**de-plete** (dī plēt') *v.* **de-plet-ed**, **de-plet-ing**. To reduce the amount of (something) until little or none remains; use up; exhaust.

**de-ploy** (dī plōi') *v.* To station or spread out in a systematic or strategic pattern.

**de-pressed** (dī prēst') *adj.* Sad or gloomy.

**de-scend-ant** (dī sēn'dənt) *n.* A person or animal considered as coming from specified ancestors: *Children are the descendants of their parents.*

**des-o-late** (dēs'ə lit) *adj.* 1. Having little or no vegetation; barren: *a desolate wilderness.* 2. Having few or no inhabitants; deserted.

**de-spair-ing-ly** (dī spār'ing lē) *adv.* In a completely hopeless manner.

**des-per-ate** (dēs'pər it) *adj.* 1. Without or nearly without hope. 2. Ready to run any risk because of hopelessness.

**de-tract** (dī trākt') *v.* To take away, as from value or quality.

**dev-as-tate** (dēv'ə stāt') *v.* **dev-as-tat-ed**, **dev-as-tat-ing**. To lay waste, ruin. —**dev'as-tat-ing** *adj.*: *a devastating blow.*

**de-vour** (dī vour') *v.* **de-voured**. 1. To eat up in a greedy way: *The cat devoured its dinner.* 2. To take in eagerly: *I devoured every book on caves I could find.*

**di-gest** (dī-jēst') *or* (dī-) *v.* **di-gest-ed**. To break food down into a form that is easily taken in and used by the body.

**di-lap-i-dat-ed** (dī lāp'ī dā'tid) *adj.* In a condition of partial ruin or disrepair.

**dis-il-lu-sion** (dīs'ī lōō'zhən) *v.* To free from or take away an idea or belief that proves false or in error.

**dis-taff** (dīs'tāf') *or* (-tāf') *n.* A stick holding flax or wool to be drawn off onto a spindle and spun into thread or yarn.

**dis-taste** (dīs tāst') *n.* Dislike.

**dis-tort-ed** (dīs-tōrt'əd) *adj.* Twisted out of shape.

**dis-traught** (dī strōt') *adj.* Agitated with anxiety; worried.

**dom-i-nance** (dōm'ə nəns) *n.* The condition or fact of being dominant.—

**dom-i-nant** *adj.* Having the most influence or control; governing: *the dominant person in a partnership.*

**draw** (drō) *v.* **drew** (drōō), **drawn** (drōn), **draw-ing**. 1. To pull out; remove: *Try to draw two balls from the box at the same time.* 2. **draw** (lots) To get by chance or in a chance drawing: *We will draw lots to see who will go first.*

**du-bi-ous-ly** (doo'bē əs lē) *or* (dyoo'-) *adv.* 1. Doubtfully; uncertainly. 2. Suspiciously.

**e-con-o-my** (ī kōn'ə mē) *n.* 1. The management of the resources of a country, community, or business: *the American economy.* 2. The economic system of a country, region, state, etc.: *Automobile manufacturing is the basis of their economy.*

**edg-y** (ēj'ē) *adj.* **edg-i-er**, **edg-i-est**. Tense, nervous.

**ef-fec-tive** (ī fēk'tiv) *adj.* Having or producing a desired effect.

**e-late** (ī lāt') *v.* **e-lat-ed**, **e-lat-ing**. To raise the spirits of; make very happy or joyful: *The news of his victory elated his faithful supporters.* —**e-lat'ed** *adj.*

emanate / fidelity

**em·a·nate** (ēm'ə nāt') *v* **em·a·nat·ed**, **em·a·nat·ing**. To come or send forth, as from a source or origin; issue or emit.

**em·bold·en** (ēm bōl'dən) *v* To foster boldness in (someone); encourage: *He was emboldened by his success.*

**en·chant·ress** (ēn chān'trīs) *n*. A woman who uses supernatural powers to cast magical spells.

**en·dorse·ment** (ēn dôrs'mənt) *n*. Approval; support: *We will give our endorsement to your new product.*

**en·dur·ance** (ēn dōōr'əns) or (-dyōōr'-) *n*. The ability to withstand strain, stress, hardship, use, etc.: *Climbing that mountain is a test of a person's endurance.*

**en·dure** (ēn dōōr') *v* 1. To put up with, bear: *I can no longer endure your rudeness.* 2. To continue to exist; last: *Their friendship endured for years.*

**en·ter·prise** (ēn'tər prīz) *n*. 1. An undertaking or venture: *a new business enterprise.* 2. Initiative in undertaking new projects; adventurous spirit: *the enterprise of the inventor.*

**en·trench** (ēn trēnch') *v* To place in a strong defensive position: *The soldiers entrenched themselves in the tunnel.*

**e·quiv·a·lent** (i kwiv'ə lənt) *adj*. Equal in amount, value, meaning, force, etc.

**es·pi·o·nage** (ēs'pē ə nāzh) *n*. The use of spies by a government to get secret information about other countries.

**e·ter·ni·ty** (i tūr'nī tē) *n*. 1. Infinite time. 2. The state or quality of being eternal.

**ex·hil·a·rate** (īg zil'ə rāt') *v* **ex·hil·a·rat·ed**, **ex·hil·a·rat·ing**. 1. To make very happy: *Challenges can both exhilarate and*

*frighten us.* 2. To stimulate: *Cold air exhilarates us.* —**ex·hil'a·ra'tion** *n*.

**ex·or·bi·tant** (īg zōr'bī tənt) *adj*. Exceeding reasonable limits; excessive: *The price for those flowers is exorbitant for spring.*

**ex·ploit** (ēk'splōit') *n*. An act or deed, especially a brilliant or heroic feat.

**ex·tinc·tion** (ik stīngk'shən) *n*. The condition of no longer existing: *Man hunted the buffalo almost to extinction.*

**ex·trav·a·gant·ly** (ik strāv'ə gənt lē) *adv*. Exceeding reasonable bounds.

**ex·trem·i·ty** (ik strēm'ī tē) *n*. Extreme danger, distress, or need.

**fa·cade or fa·cade** (fə sād') *n*. 1. The main face or front of a building. 2. The front part of anything, especially an artificial or false front.

**fac·ul·ty** (fāk'əl tē) *n*. A special ability or aptitude; skill: *You have a faculty for languages.*

**fa·tigue** (fə tēg') *n*. 1. Physical or mental weariness or exhaustion. 2. **fatigues**. Clothing usually worn by soldiers for heavy work or field duty. —*v* **fa·tigue**, **fa·ti·guing**. To tire out; exhaust: *Playing guard in soccer practice fatigued me.*

**fe·ro·cious** (fə rō'shəs) *adj*. 1. Extremely cruel and fierce: *a ferocious dog.* 2. Extreme; intense. —**fe·ro'cious·ly** *adv*.

**fi·as·co** (fē əs'kō) *n*. A complete failure: *The new book was the worst fiasco of the writer's career.*

**fi·del·i·ty** (fī dēl'ī tē) *n.*, *pl.* **fi·del·i·ties**. Truthfulness; accuracy: *the*

ă pat / ā pay / â care / ä father / ě pet / ē be / ĭ pit / ĩ pie / ï fierce / ò pot / ô go / ô paw, for / oi oil / oō book / oō boot / ou out / ũ cut / ũ fur / th the / th thin / hw which / zh vision / ə ago, item, pencil, atom, circus

*fidelity with which the experience was described.*

**flail** (flāl) *v* To beat, thrash, wave.

**for·mal·i·ty** (fôr māl'ī tē) *n.*, *pl.* **for·mal·i·ties**. 1. Rigorous observance of accepted rules or forms: *There was no formality at our dinner table.* 2. An established rule, form, or custom: *the legal formalities of a trial.*

**fran·tic** (frān'tik) *adj.* Emotionally desperate or exasperated: *frantic with worry.*

**fur·tive·ly** (fūr'tiv lē) *adu* In a quiet or sly way, so as not to be noticed.

**fu·tile** (fyōō'til) or (fyōō'til) *adj.* Having no useful result; useless: *futile efforts.* — **fu'tile·ly** *adu*

**gaunt** (gōnt) *adj.* Thin and bony: *a gaunt face.*

**gob·let** (gōb'līt) *n.* A drinking glass with a stem and a base.

**gourd** (gōrd) or (gōrd) or (gōōrd) *n.* The dried, hollowed-out shell of a fruit related to the pumpkin, squash, and cucumber that is used as a ladle, bowl, etc.



*gourd*

**graf·fi·ti** (grā fē'tē) *n. pl.* Anything drawn or written, as on a wall or door, so as to be seen by the public.

**gran·dil·o·quence** (grān dil'ə kwəns) *n.* A dignified or wordy speech or expression. — **gran·dil'o·quent** *adj.*

**groom** (grōōm) or (grōōm) *n.* 1. A person who takes care of horses. 2. A bridegroom; a man recently married or about to be married.

**flail / imperturbably**

**guise** (gīz) *n.* Outward appearance; aspect: *entered the enemy castle in the guise of a beggar.*

**hab·i·ta·tion** (hāb'ī tā'shən) *n.* Place of abode.

**hal·low** (hāl'ō) *v* To make or set apart as holy; sanctify.

**haugh·ty** (hō'tē) *adj.* **haugh·ti·er**, **haugh·ti·est**. Proud and arrogant: *the haughty celebrity.*

**head·land** (hēd' lānd') *n.* A point of land, usually high and with a sheer drop, extending out into a body of water; a promontory.

**hilt** (hilt) *n.* The handle of a sword or dagger.

**hoist** (hoist) *v* To raise or haul up, often with the help of some mechanical apparatus: *hoist the sails.* — *n.* A device, such as a crane, winch, or tackle, for hoisting, raising, or hauling up.

**hold** (hōld) *n.* The lower inside of a ship or airplane, where cargo is stored.

**hum·ble** (hūm'bəl) *adj.* 1. Showing deference or submissive respect. 2. Of low rank or station; unpretentious.

**hy·po·therm·i·a** (hī'pō thūr'mē ə) *n.* Dangerously low body temperature.

**il·lu·sion** (ī lōō'zhən) *n.* 1. An appearance or impression that has no real basis: *creating the illusion of depth in a painting.* 2. A mistaken notion or belief.

**im·i·ta·tion** (im'ī tā'shən) *n.* Something derived or copied from an original.

**im·mi·nent** (im'ə nənt) *adj.* About to occur; impending.

**im·mor·tal** (ī mōr'tl) *adj.* Not subject to death; living forever.

**im·per·turb·a·bly** (im pər tūr'bə blē) *adu* Acting in a calm, collected way.

impetuous / labyrinth

**im-pet-u-ous** (im pĕch'oo əs) *adj.*  
Tending toward suddenness and boldness of action; impulsive: *An impetuous person may not plan ahead before acting.*

**in-can-ta-tion** (in'kän tä'shən) *n.* Formula of words or sounds recited or chanted to produce a magical effect.

**in-cen-tive** (in sĕn'tiv) *n.* Something that stirs one to action or effort, such as the promise of a reward.

**in-dig-nant-ly** (in dig'nənt lē) *adv.*  
Showing anger in reaction to something unjust, mean, or unworthy.

**in-dis-pen-sa-ble** (in'di spĕn'sə bəl) *adj.*  
1. Not capable of being dispensed with.  
2. Essential.

**in-dom-i-ta-ble** (in dŏm'ī tə bəl) *adj.* Not capable of being overcome or subdued; unconquerable.

**in-dul-gent** (in dūl'jənt) *adj.* Showing, characterized by, or given to leniency.  
—**in-dul-gent-ly** *adv.*

**in-effi-cient** (in'ī fish'ənt) *adj.* 1. Unable to produce the desired effect. 2. Wasteful of time, material, or energy.

**in-fir-mi-ty** (in fūr'mī tē) *n., pl. in-fir-mi-ties.* 1. Lack of power. 2. Frailty of the body.

**in-ge-nu-i-ty** (in'jə nŏo'ī tē) *or* (-nyoo'-) *n.* Inventive skill or imagination; cleverness.

**in-nate** (ī nāt') *or* (īn'āt') *adj.* Existing as a basic, seemingly inborn, characteristic: *an innate musical ability.*

**in-quir-y** (in'kwīr'ē) *n.* 1. The act or process of asking in order to find out. 2. A request for information.

**in-quis-i-tive** (in kwīz'ī tiv) *adj.* Curious and eager to learn.

**in-ten-si-ty** (in tĕn'sī tē) *n., pl. in-ten-si-ties.* The degree or amount of depth, force, or strength: *The blast was of great intensity.*

**in-tol-er-ance** (in tŏl'ər əns) *n.* The inability or unwillingness to let others think as they choose, especially in matters of religion: *The Pilgrims left England because of intolerance and persecution.*

**in-trud-er** (in trŏod'ər) *n.* A person or thing that is unwanted or out of place: *an intruder in the quiet forest.*

**in-vin-ci-ble** (in vīn'sə bəl) *adj.* Too strong, powerful, or great to be defeated or overcome: *an invincible army.*

**i-so-la-tion** (ī'sə lā'shən) *n.* The condition of being set apart.

**jit-ter** (jit'ər) *v. jit-tered, jit-ter-ing.* 1. To be nervous or uneasy. 2. To fidget.

**joust** (joust) *or* (jüst) *or* (jōost) *n.* A combat between two knights on horseback armed with lances and wearing armor.

**jux-ta-pose** (jŭk'stə pŏz') *v. jux-ta-posed, jux-ta-pos-ing.* To place side by side, esp. for comparison or contrast. — **jux'ta-po-si'tion** *n.*

**kay-ak** (kī'āk') *n.* An Eskimo canoe made of skins stretched over a light wooden frame.

**lab-y-rinth** (lāb'ə rīnth') *n.* 1. A network of winding, connected passages through which it is difficult to find one's way without help. 2. In Greek mythology, the maze in which the Minotaur was confined.

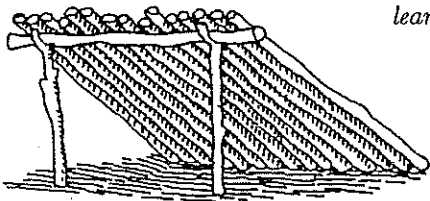
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**la-ment** (lə mēnt') *n.* An expression of grief; *a wailing lament.*

**lance** (lāns) or (lāns) *n.* A weapon, such as one used by knights or warriors on horseback, consisting of a long, narrow rod and a sharp metal head.

**lean-to** (lēn'tōō') *n., pl. lean-tos.* 1. A shed with a sloping roof, built against a wall or the side of a building. 2. A simple shelter, often having a sloping roof resting on the ground at one side and raised on poles at the other.



lean-to

**lib-er-a-tion** (lib'ə rā'shən) *n.* The state of being free from confinement.

**li-chen** (li'kən) *n.* A plant that consists of a fungus and an alga growing together.

**loom** (lōom) *v.* To come into view or appear as a massive image. *n.* A machine or frame on which threads or yarns are woven to make cloth.

**lot** (lōt) *n.* 1. An object used to determine or choose something by chance. 2. (or **draw**) lots: To arrive at a decision or selection by means of lots: *They drew lots to see who would go first.*

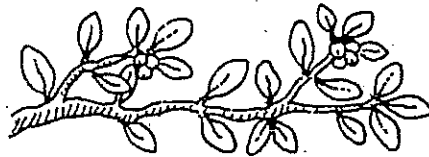
**man-da-ri-n** (mān'də rīn) *n.* In imperial China, a high public official.

**mang-y** (mān'jē) *adj.* 1. Affected with or caused by mange. 2. Having many bare spots; shabby: *a mangy old coat.*

**man-u-script** (mān'yə skript') *n.* A handwritten or typewritten book, paper,

article, etc., as distinguished from a printed copy: *The manuscript is ready to be printed.*

**man-za-ni-ta** (mān'zə nē'tə) *n.* Any of several evergreen shrubs of the Pacific coast of North America.



manzanita

**ma-raud-er** (mə rōd'ər) *n.* One who raids, invades, loots.

**mar-mot** (mār'mət) *n.* Stocky coarse-furred rodent found throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

**mat-i-nee** or **mat-i-née** (măt'n ā') *n.* A theatrical performance given in the afternoon.

**me-di-um** (mē'dē əm) *n.* 1. One of the techniques or means of expression available to an artist. 2. The materials used in a particular artistic technique.

**mel-o-dra-mat-ic** (mēl'ə drə măt'ik) *adj.* Of or pertaining to situations or scenes where characters are engaged in an exciting, exaggerated struggle.

**me-tic-u-lous** (mə tīk'yə ləs) *adj.* 1. Very precise. 2. Taking great care with details.

**mim-ic** (mīm'ik) *v.* **mim-icked**, **mim-ick-ing.** To copy or imitate closely, as in speech, expression, or gesture; ape: *The child mimicked my expression.*

**mis-hap** (mīs'hăp') or (mīs'hăp') *n.* 1. Bad luck or misfortune. 2. An unfortunate accident.

**mock** (mōk) *adj.* Simulated; false; sham: *a mock battle.*

momentous / permeate

**mo·men·tous** (mō mēn'təs) *adj.* Of utmost importance or outstanding significance: *a momentous occasion.*

**mo·not·o·ny** (mə nōt'n ē) *n.* Boring lack of variety.

**mus·ket** (mūs'kīt) *n.* An old type of gun, used before the invention of the rifle.



*musket*

**mys·tique** (mī stēk') *n.* Mystical attitudes and beliefs associated with a particular person, thing, or idea.

**nau·se·a** (nō'zē ə) *or* (-zhə) *or* (-sē ə) *or* (-shə) *n.* A stomach disturbance that causes a feeling of the need to vomit.

**ne·ces·si·ty** (nə sēs'itē) *n.* 1. Something that has to be done, must be included, or is required. 2. The fact of being necessary. 3. Great or urgent need.

**noc·tur·nal** (nōk tūr'nəl) *adj.* Active at night rather than by day: *The bat is a nocturnal animal.*

**nu·tri·ent** (nōō'trē ənt) *or* (nyōō'-) *n.* Something that nourishes: *Within enriched foods are nutrients.*

**nymph** (nīmf) *n.* In Greek and Roman mythology, one of the female spirits dwelling in woodlands and waters.

**o·blige** (əblīj') *u.* **o·bliged**, **o·blig·ing.** To satisfy the wishes of; do a service or favor for; please.

**ob·sti·na·cy** (ōb'stə nə sē) *n.* The condition or quality of being stubborn; inflexible: *The obstinacy of my friend strained our relationship.*

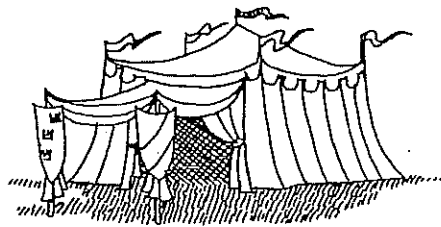
**o·paque** (ō pāk') *adj.* 1. Not capable of letting light pass through; neither transparent nor translucent. 2. Not reflecting light; not shiny; dull.

**or·gan·ic** (ōr gān'ik) *adj.* Of or derived from living things.

**par·a·dox·i·cal·ly** (pār'ə dōk'sik lē) *adv.* Apparently contradictory.

**pat·ent** (pāt'nt) *n.* A grant made by a government to an inventor, assuring the exclusive right to manufacture, use, and sell an invention for a stated period of time.

**pa·vil·ion** (pə vil'yən) *n.* An ornate tent.



*pavilion*

**pel·age** (pēl'ij) *n.* The coat of an animal consisting of hair, fur, or wool, as distinct from bare skin.

**pen·du·lum** (pēn'jə ləm) *or* (-dyə-) *n.* Something that swings back and forth from one course, opinion, or condition to another.

**per·me·ate** (pūr'mē āt') *u.* To spread or flow throughout.

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ōō boot / ou out / ũ cut / ũ fur / th the / th thin / hw which / zh vision / ə ago, item, pencil, atom, circus

**per-sua-sive** (pər swā'siv) *adj.* Tending or having the power to cause to do or believe something: *His persuasive speech convinced me to vote for him.*

**pet-ri-fy** (pēt'rə fi) *u* **pet-ri-fied**, **pet-ri-fy-ing**. To turn to stone; to stun or paralyze, as with fear.

**phe-nom-e-non** (fī nŏm'ə nŏn') *n.*, *pl.* **phe-nom-e-na** (fī nŏm'ə nə) *or* **phe-nom-e-nons**. Any occurrence or fact that can be perceived by the senses: *Floods are natural phenomena.*

**pit-tance** (pīt'ns) *n.* A small allowance of money: *The widow lived on a mere pittance.*

**plau-si-ble** (plŏ'zə bəl) *adj.* Seemingly or apparently valid, likely, or acceptable: *a plausible excuse.*

**pla-za** (plā'zə) *or* (plāz'ə) *n.* A public square or similar open area in a town or city.

**plum-met** (plūm'it) *u* To drop straight down; plunge.

**pon-der-ous** (pŏn'dər əs) *adj.* Heavy, massive, and often clumsy: *In prehistoric times ponderous creatures walked the earth.*

**por-trait** (pŏr'trīt') *or* (-trāt') *or* (pŏr'-) *n.* A painting, photograph, or other likeness of a person, especially one showing the face.

**pos-ture** (pŏs'chər) *n.* **1.** A position or attitude of the body or of bodily parts: *a sitting posture.* **2.** A characteristic way of bearing one's body; carriage: *having good posture.*

**pre-car-i-ous-ly** (prī kār'ē əs lē) *adv.* In an unstable, unsafe, uncertain way: *I balanced the tray precariously.*

**pre-cau-tion** (prī kŏ'shən) *n.* **1.** An action taken in advance to protect against possible failure or danger. **2.** Caution practiced in advance; circumspection.

**pred-a-tor** (prĕd'ə tər) *or* (-tŏr') *n.* An animal that lives by capturing and feeding on other animals.

**pre-dic-a-ment** (prī dīk'ə mənt) *n.* A difficult or embarrassing situation.

**pri-me-val** (prī mē'vəl) *adj.* Of the earliest ages of the world.

**prom-e-nade** (prŏm'ə nād') *or* (-nād') *n.* A public place for walking, as a park or upper deck of a ship.

**prom-i-nent** (prŏm'ə nənt) *adj.* **1.** Sticking out: *I have a prominent nose.* **2.** Widely known: *Our neighbor is a prominent scientist.*

**prop-o-si-tion** (prŏp'ə zīsh'ən) *n.* **1.** Something proposed; an offer. **2.** A statement or idea to be discussed, studied, or proved.

**pros-pect** (prŏs'pĕkt) *n.* Something that is expected or looked forward to: *The prospect of a picnic delighted us.*

**pro-trude** (prŏ trŏod') *u* To stick out from a surface; project.

**pur-sue** (pər soo') *u* **pur-sued**, **pur-su-ing**. **1.** To chase in order to catch: *The police pursued the outlaws.* **2.** To hunt as game or prey: *Jaguars will pursue almost any kind of animal.* —**pur-su'er** *n.*

**quar-an-tine** (kwŏr'ən tĕn') *or* (kwŏr'-) *n.* **1.** A period of time during which a person, a vehicle, goods, etc., thought to carry a contagious disease can be held at a port of entry and kept in isolation. **2.** A place where such persons, vehicles, goods, etc., are held. —*u* **quar-an-tined**, **quar-an-tin-ing**. To keep confined or isolated, especially to keep a disease from spreading.

**quar-ters** (kwŏr'tərs) *n.* A place in which to sleep or live: *Our summer quarters are at the seashore.*

quirk / reverberate

**quirk** (kwûrk) *n.* 1. A sudden sharp turn or twist. 2. A flourish in drawing, music, etc. 3. A peculiarity of behavior that eludes prediction or suppression: *The clown's quirks made us laugh.*

**quiver** (kwiv'er) *v.* To shake with a slight vibrating motion; tremble: *Her voice quivered as she spoke.*

**rap-pel** (ră pěl') *v.* **rap-pelled, rap-pel-ling.** To come down from a steep height by means of a double rope passed under one thigh and over the opposite shoulder.

rappel



**ra-tion** (răsh'an) or (ră'shən) *n.* A fixed amount, especially of food, allotted periodically.—*v.* 1. To give out or make available in fixed, limited amounts during a period of scarcity: *a drought that made it necessary to ration water.* 2. To supply with allotments of food.

**realm** (rēlm) *n.* 1. An area in which something has influence or importance: *studying the realm of insects with a microscope.* 2. Any field of activity, interest, or achievement: *the realm of piano music.*

**re-coil** (rī koil') *v.* 1. To move or jerk backward, as a gun when it is fired. 2. To draw back in fear or disgust.

**re-con-nais-sance** (rī kōn'ə səns) *n.* An inspection or exploration of an area, especially to gather information about the presence, arrangement, or activity of military forces.

**re-con-noi-ter** (rē'kə noi'tər) or (rēk'ə-) *v.* To make an inspection or exploration of an area, especially to gather information about the presence, arrangement, or activity of military forces.

**re-count** (rī kount') *v.* To tell in detail; narrate the particulars of: *Tim recounted his adventures on the canoe trip.*

**re-lent** (rī lēnt') *v.* To become gentler in attitude, temper, or determination.—**re-lent'ing-ly** *adv.*

**res-in** (rēz'in) *n.* Any of several clear yellowish or brownish substances that ooze from certain trees and plants and are used in varnishes and lacquers.

**res-o-lute** (rēz'ə lōot') *adj.* Having or showing strong will and determination: *a resolute voice.*

**res-o-lu-tions** (rēz'ə lōō'shəns) *n., pl.* Vows, pledges, or a course of action determined upon.

**res-o-nate** (rēz'ə nāt') *v.* **res-o-nat-ed, res-o-nat-ing.** To vibrate at the same rate as something else — especially musically.

**rev-e-la-tion** (rēv'ə lā'shən) *n.* Something that becomes known, especially something surprising.

**re-ver-ber-ate** (rī vûr'bə rāt') *v.* **re-ver-ber-a-ted, re-ver-ber-at-ing.** To echo back: *The boom of a bell reverberated through the town.*—**re-ver-ber-a-tion** *n.*

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**rhap·sod·i·cal·ly** (răp sŏd'ī kə lē) *adv.*

Enthusiastically expressing feelings:  
*rhapsodically telling the tale.*

**rid·dle** (rīd'l) *n.* 1. A question or statement requiring thought to answer or understand. 2. Something or someone perplexing; an enigma.

**ri·dic·u·lous** (rī dīk'yə ləs) *adj.* Deserving or inspiring ridicule; absurd or preposterous; laughable.

**rig·id** (rīj'īd) *adj.* Not changing shape or bending; stiff; inflexible: *a rigid iron frame.*

**ri·val** (rī'vəl) *n.* Someone who competes with or tries to outdo another; a competitor.

**roil·y** (roi'lē) *adj.* **roil·i·er, roil·i·est.**  
Muddy; cloudy.

**rook·ie** (rŏök'ē) *n.* 1. A recruit who lacks training. 2. A beginner.

**rout** (rout) *v.* 1. To drive or force from a resting or hiding place. 2. To put to disorderly flight; scatter.

**ruf·fi·an** (rŭf'ē ən) *n.* A tough or rowdy person.

**rush** (rŭsh) *n.* Any of several tall plants that grow in wet places and have hollow or soft, spongelike stems used to make chair seats, mats, etc.



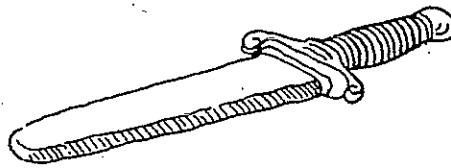
**sal·a·ble** (sā'lə bəl) *adj.* Fit and suitable to sell or capable of attracting buyers:  
*My new invention is a salable item.*

**rhapsodically** / **sea urchin**

**sanc·tu·ar·y** (sāngk'chōō ěr'ē) *n., pl.*

**sanc·tu·ar·ies.** 1. Any area where wildlife is protected by law: *a bird sanctuary.* 2. A place of refuge, asylum, or protection.

**scab·bard** (skăb'ərd) *n.* A sheath or case for the blade of a sword, dagger, or bayonet.



*scabbard*

**sce·nar·i·o** (sī nâr'ē ō) or (-nâr'-) *n., pl.*

**sce·nar·i·os.** 1. An outline of the plot of the story or play. 2. The text of a motion picture.

**scep·ter** (sĕp'tər) *n.* A staff held by a monarch.

**scraw·ny** (skrô'nē) *adj.* **scraw·ni·er, scraw·ni·est.** Thin and bony; skinny.  
—**scraw'ni·ness** *n.*

**scru·ti·nize** (skrŏot'n īz') *v.* **scru·ti·nized, scru·ti·niz·ing.** To observe or examine with great care.

**sea a·nem·o·ne** (sē' ə nĕm'ə nē) *n.* Any of several sea animals having a flexible, tube-shaped body that remains fastened to a surface at the lower end and a mouth opening surrounded by petal-like tentacles at the upper end.

**seared** (sīrd) *adj.* 1. Scorched or burned the surface of with or as if with heat. 2. Withered, dry.

**sea slug** (sē' slŭg) *n.* Any of various shell-less sea animals, having a colorful body with fringelike projections.

**sea urchin** (sē' ūr'chīn) *n.* A sea animal having a soft body enclosed in a round shell with long spines.

sequoia / subside

**se·quoi·a** (sī kwoi'ə) *n.* Either of two very large cone-bearing evergreen trees, the **giant sequoia** of the mountains of southern California or the **redwood** of northern California.

**se·rene** (sə rēn') *adj.* **1.** Peaceful and untroubled. **2.** Perfectly clear and bright: *serene skies.*

**shard** (shārd) *n.* A piece of broken pottery.

**shut·tle** (shūt'l) *n.* A device used in weaving to carry the threads back and forth between the threads that are stretched out on a loom.

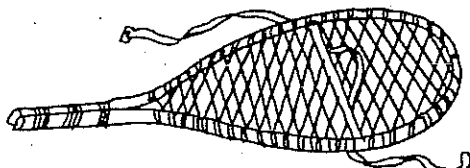
**sib·ling** (sīb'līng) *n.* A brother or a sister, usually born of the same parents.

**sin·ew·y** (sīn'yōō ē) *adj.* Lean, muscular, without excess flesh.

**sin·is·ter** (sīn'īstər) *adj.* Suggesting evil or ill will.

**slay** (slā) *u* **slew** (slōō), **slain** (slān), **slay·ing.** To kill violently, as in battle.

**snow·shoe** (snō'shōō') *n.* A racket-shaped frame strung with strips of leather or rawhide and worn under the shoe to keep the foot from sinking in deep snow.



snowshoe

**sōv·er·eign** (sōv'ə rīn) *or* (sōv'rīn) *n.* A monarch, king, or queen.

**spec·ta·cles** (spēk'tə kəls) *n., pl.* A pair of eyeglasses.

**spe·le·ol·o·gy** (spē'lē ol'ə jē) *n.* The study of the physical, geological, and biological aspects of caves.

**spout** (spout) *u* To discharge a liquid or other substance continuously or in spurts: *whales spouting offshore.*

**squall** (skwōl) *n.* A brief, sudden, and violent windstorm, often accompanied by rain or snow. —*u* To storm violently for a short time.

**squire** (skwīr) *n.* **1.** In feudal times, a young man of noble birth who served a knight as an attendant. **2.** An English country gentleman.

**staff** (stāf) *n.* A long stick carried to help in walking.

**sta·lac·tite** (stə lāk'tīt') *or* (stāl'ək-) *n.* A cylindrical or conical mineral deposit projecting downward from the roof of a cave or cavern, formed by dripping mineral water.

**staunch** (stōnch) *or* (stānch) *adj.* Firm and steadfast; true.

**stealth·i·ly** (stēl'thə lē) *adv.* In a quiet way so as to avoid notice.

**stock·ade** (stō'kād') *n.* **1.** A barrier made of strong upright posts, used for protection or imprisonment. **2.** The area surrounded by such a barrier.

**strat·e·gy** (strāt'ə jē) *n.* The science or art of military command as applied to the overall planning and conduct of large-scale combat operations.

**sub·scribe** (səb skrīb') *u* To pay for and receive a publication regularly.

**sub·side** (səb sīd') *u* **sub·sid·ed, sub·sid·ing.** **1.** To sink to a lower or more normal level. **2.** To become less active.—**sub·si'dence** *n.*

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**sub-stan-tial** (səb stān'shəl) *adj.* 1. Solidly built; strong. 2. Considerable in importance, value, degree, amount, or extent: *won by a substantial margin.*

**sub-ter-ra-ne-an** (süb'tə rā'nē ən) *adj.* 1. Situated or operating beneath the earth's surface; underground. 2. Hidden; secret.

**su-per-in-tend** (sōō'pər ĩn tēnd') *v.* To have charge of; oversee; manage.

**sup-po-si-tion** (süp'ə zīsh'ən) *n.* Something which is supposed: *His supposition about the good weather turning bad turned out to be right.*

**sur-pass** (sər pās') or (-pās') *v.* To be better, greater, or stronger than; exceed: *The height of the redwood trees surpassed the highest ship masts.*

**sym-bi-ot-ic** (sīm'biōt'ik) or (-bē-) *adj.* Of the relationship between two or more living things.

**syn-chro-ny** (sīn'krə nē) or (sīng'-) *n.* Things happening at the same time; in unison.

**syn-the-tic** (sīn thēt'ik) *adj.* Artificial, not occurring naturally: *My jacket is made of a synthetic material.*

**tal-low** (tāl'ō) *n.* A mixture of fats obtained from animals, such as cattle, sheep, or horses, and used to make candles, soaps, lubricants, and so forth.

**tan-gi-ble** (tān'jə bəl) *adj.* 1. Capable of being touched. 2. Concrete, real: *tangible evidence.*

**taut** (tôt) *adj.* **taut-er**, **taut-est.** Pulled or drawn tight: *sails taut with wind.*

**teem** (tēm) *v.* To be full of: *The wildlife preserve was teeming with birds.*

**ten-e-ments** (tēn'ə mənts) *n., pl.* A group of cheap apartment houses that are badly maintained.

**substantial / unquenchable**

**ter-ri-to-ry** (tēr'y tōr'ē) or (-tōr'ē) *n., pl. ter-ri-to-ries.* An area of land; a region: *The adventurers traveled far into the unexplored territory.*

**tes-ti-fy** (tēs'tə fī') *v.* To make an official statement under oath: *Two witnesses testified in court.*

**tim-or-ous** (tīm'ər əs) *adj.* Easily frightened; timid.

**trans-ac-tion** (trān sāk'shən) or (-zāk'-) *n.* 1. The act of doing business with someone. 2. Something carried through or negotiated.

**trans-fix** (trāns fiks') *v.* To cause to become motionless.

**trau-ma** (trou'mə) or (trō'-) *n.* An emotional shock that causes serious and lasting damage to the psychological functioning of an individual.—**trau-mat-ic** (trə māt'ik) or (trou-) or (trō-) *adj.* Of or of the nature of a trauma: *a traumatic experience.*

**tres-pass-er** (trēs'pəs ər) or (-pās') *n.* Someone who invades the property or rights of another without consent.

**trin-ket** (trīng'kīt) *n.* A small ornament or piece of jewelry.

**trough** (trōf) or (trōf) *n.* 1. A long, narrow, shallow receptacle for holding water or feed for animals. 2. A long, narrow depression, as between waves.

**tun-dra** (tūn'drə) *n.* An area of the arctic regions that has no trees and few other plants.

**tur-bu-lent** (tūr'byə lənt) *adj.* Violently agitated or disturbed; stormy: *turbulent waters.*

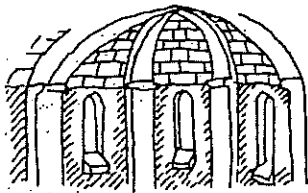
**un-quench-able** (ūn kwēnch'ə bəl) *adj.* Not capable of being satisfied, quelled, or discouraged: *an unquenchable desire to learn.*

upheaval / wry

**up-heav-al** (ŭp hē'vəl) *n.* A sudden and violent disturbance.

**u-su-er** (yoo'zhər ə) *n.* A person who lends money at an excessively high or unlawful rate of interest.

**vault** (vôlt) *n.* An arched structure forming a ceiling or roof.



vault

**ven-ti-la-tor** (vën'tl ā'tər) *n.* An opening between two rooms that allows air to circulate.

**ven-ture** (vën'chər) *v.* **ven-tured**, **ven-tur-ing**. 1. To risk. 2. To dare to say.

**ver-sa-tile** (vūr'sə tīl) or (-tīl') *adj.* Having varied uses or functions: *a versatile piece of machinery.*

**ves-sel** (vës'əl) *n.* 1. A ship or large boat. 2. A hollow container, or holder, such as a bowl, pitcher or jar.

**vi-cious** (vīsh'əs) *adj.* 1. Savage and dangerous: *a vicious shark.* 2. Violent; intense. —**vi'cious-ly** *adu*

**vic-to-ri-ous** (vīk tōr'ē əs) or (-tōr'-) *adj.* Being the winner in a contest or struggle: *the victorious team.*

**vig-il** (vīj'əl) *n.* A period of alert watchfulness during normal sleeping hours: *I was exhausted by the vigil at the bedside of my sick friend.*

**viv-id** (vīv'īd) *adj.* Full of the vigor and freshness of immediate experience.

**vul-ner-a-ble** (vül'nər ə bəl) *adj.* 1. Capable of being harmed or injured: *helpless, vulnerable baby birds.* 2. Open to danger or attack; unprotected: *The retreat of the army had left the outlying territories vulnerable.*

**war-y** (wâr'e) *adj.* **war-i-er**, **war-i-est**. 1. Alert to danger; watchful: *Even at a red light, it is a good idea to be wary of speeding automobiles.* 2. Distrustful. —**war'i-ly** *adu*

**wist-ful** (wīst'fəl) *adj.* Full of sad longing; wishful: *wistful eyes.* —**wist'ful-ly** *adu*

**wit-ness** (wīt'nīs) *n.* 1. Someone who has heard or seen something. 2. Someone who is called to testify before a court of law. *v.* 1. To be present at. 2. To serve or present evidence of.

**wraith** (rāth) *n.* A seeming ghost of a living thing.

**wrench** (rēnch) *v.* To pull or turn suddenly and forcibly. —**wrench'ing** *adj.*

**wry** (rī) *adj.* **wri-er** or **wry-er**, **wri-est** or **wry-est**. Temporarily twisted in an expression of distaste or displeasure: *made a wry face.*

ă pat / ā pay / â care / ä father / ě pet / ē be / ĭ pit / ī pie / î fierce / ð pot / ò go / ô paw, for / oi oil / ō book / oo boot / ou out / ũ cut / ũ fur / th the / th thin / hw which / zh vision / ə ago, item, pencil, atom, circus



# Glossary of Literary Terms

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- Alliteration** The repetition of a consonant sound, usually as the first sound in a group of words such as *dive down deep*.
- Archaic language** Words, expressions, and phrases that were once used but are not used now.
- Autobiography** A person's account of his or her own life.
- Biographical fiction** A kind of fiction that tells about a real person and has some information that is true but that also has some events that come from the author's imagination.
- Biography** The factual account of a person's life.
- Character development** The way an author creates a character for the reader by revealing the character's traits, behavior, feelings, and motives. An author can develop a character directly by revealing thoughts or indirectly through actions and conversations.
- Characters** The people or animals in a story. The main character handles the problem or conflict in a story. Minor characters help advance the plot and reveal information about the major character's personality.
- Climax** The high point in a story where the conflict (problem) peaks.
- Conflict** The problem in the story that is handled by the main character.
- Connotation** The feelings, emotions, and ideas associated with a word. (See also **Denotation**.)
- Denotation** The exact definition of a word. (See also **Connotation**.)
- Dialect** The way of speaking used by a particular region or group and represented by spelling or using words in a different way.
- Dialogue** The words that the characters in a story or play actually speak.
- Exaggeration** Deliberate overstatement used for emphasis, effect, or humor.
- Expository writing** Informational writing that explains what something is, how it works, what it means, or why it is important.
- Fable** A brief story teaching a lesson, or moral, that may be stated at the end. A fable often features animals as the characters.
- Fantasy** Fiction that tells about people or events that are impossible in the real world.
- Fiction** Writing that comes from the imagination of the author.
- Fictionalized biography** An account of a person's life based on facts but with some imagined elements.
- Figurative language** The use of figures of speech such as similes, metaphors, and personifications. (See also **Simile**, **Metaphor**, and **Personification**.)
- First person** The point of view from which one of the characters tells the story, using *I*.
- Flashback** A writing technique that interrupts the present action to explain something that happened earlier.

**Folktale** A traditional story of a particular place or people, handed down from the past and eventually written down.

**Foreshadowing** A writing technique used to hint at or imply future happenings.

**Formal language** The use of careful, precise language. Formal language is the language of writing rather than the language people actually speak in casual conversation. (See also **Informal language**.)

**Free verse** Verse that does not follow a regular rhythm, meter, or stanza pattern. Free verse has either irregular rhyme or no rhyme.

**Historical fiction** A story based in part on historical events and people and in part on the author's imagination.

**Informal language** The language most people actually speak in casual conversation. (See also **Formal language**.)

**Informational article** An article written for the purpose of giving information; expository writing.

**Irony** The use of words or situations to contrast what is expected with what actually occurs or what is really meant.

**Jargon** Special or technical language used by people in a particular job or by people who have a particular hobby or interest.

**Legend** An imaginative story that is often connected with a national hero or historical event and may be based on truth.

**Lyric poetry** A poem that expresses personal feelings and thoughts.

**Metaphor** An implied comparison between very different things, used to add clarity and vividness to writing. (Example: *His eyes were twinkling stars.*)

**Mood** The emotional tone of a story.

**Myth** A story handed down from the past that gives an imaginary explanation of how certain things in nature, such as the moon, the sun, and the stars, came to be.

**Narrative** Description of characters, scenes, or events that is not dialogue.

**Narrative poetry** A type of poetry, sometimes rather long, that tells a story.

**Narrative writing** Writing that gives an account of an event or a series of events (as opposed to expository writing) and may be factual or fictional.

**Narrator** The character who tells the story, or in a play, who explains something or gives a description.

**Nonfiction** Writing that comes from the real world we live in rather than from the imagination.

**Onomatopoeia** The use of a word that imitates or resembles the sound it stands for or describes.

**Personal narrative** An account of an episode in a person's life written by that person.

**Personification** A comparison in which human traits are given to something that is not human.

**Plot** The action or series of events in a story. It includes the rising action, where the character deals with gains and setbacks in resolving the problem; the falling action, where the reader learns what happens as a result of the climax and how the characters are affected by it; and the conclusion, where the reader's understanding of the problem is usually clarified.

**Point of view** The position from which a story is told. (See also **First person**, **Third person**.)

**Precise language** The use of exact language to give a precise description.

**Realistic fiction** Fiction that tells about people, places, or events that could exist or happen. Realistic fiction that is set in the present is called "realistic contemporary fiction."

**Repetition** A writing technique in which a word or phrase is repeated for emphasis.

**Sarcasm** The use of words to say one thing but to imply something else, usually the opposite of what is said. Sarcasm is a form of irony.

**Science fiction** Imaginative writing that has some element of scientific fact and usually takes place in a time other than the present.

**Sensory words** Words that appeal to one or more of the five senses (hearing, sight, smell, touch, and taste).

**Setting** The time and place in which events in a story or play occur.

**Simile** The comparison of two unlike things, using the word *like* or *as*. (Example: *His eyes twinkled like stars.*)

**Symbolism** The use of an object, character, or incident to represent something else.

**Theme** The underlying idea or message in a story. The theme may be directly or indirectly stated.

**Third person** The point of view in which the author acts as an unidentified narrator to tell the story about the characters.