

abbreviate

shorten

In formal papers, it is not proper to **abbreviate** words.

abdominal

lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, or for the abdomen

The **abdominal** bandage seemed too tight.

abhor

to shrink from in fear; detest

I **abhor** baiting my fishhook with worms.

absorb

to suck up or drink in

The paper towel will **absorb** the spilled milk.

absurd

so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous

It was **absurd** to say the baby could reach the counter.

accessory

useful but not essential thing

That necklace is a nice **accessory** to your outfit.

accommodate

to make fit, suitable, or congruous

The school can now **accommodate** handicapped students.

acoustics

the qualities of a room that enhance or deaden sound

The concert hall is known for its fine **acoustics**.

active

lively, busy, agile

Last night I baby-sat for a very **active** two-year old.

acumen

acuteness of mind; keenness in intellectual or practical matters; sharpness

He was a businessman of acknowledged **acumen**.

addendum

thing added or to be added

The name of the second speaker is an **addendum** to the program.

addressee

person to whom mail, etc., is addressed

His name is that of the **addressee** on the envelope.

admire

to gaze on with delight

I **admire** your choice of neckties.

adolescent

period of life between puberty and adulthood

An **adolescent** frequently has trouble communicating with parents.

advise

to give counsel

I would **advise** you to study hard for this test.

against

in opposition to

The Student Council voted **against** school uniforms.

Albuquerque

the largest city in New Mexico

Albuquerque is the site of an annual hot air balloon festival.

algid

cold, chilly

When the door was opened an **algid** wind came howling in.

allegiance

the obligation of fidelity in general

The soldier's **allegiance** to their country was unquestioned.

allegory

a figurative story or narrative

Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" is a celebrated example of the **allegory**.

almond

the edible, nutlike kernel of the small, dry, peach like fruit of a tree

Modesto is known as an **almond**-growing region.

amaze

to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder

The musician's talent will **amaze** the audience.

ambush

an arrangement of persons in hiding to make a surprise attack

The sheriff did not suspect **ambush**.

amphibious

capable of operating on land or water

D-day was marked by an **amphibious** assault.

anniversary

the yearly commemoration of a special event

Our school will celebrate its fiftieth **anniversary** next year.

Antarctica

the continent surrounding the South Pole

The cold climate of **Antarctica** is the perfect habitat for penguins.

antecedence

priority; precedence; going before

The teacher stressed the **antecedence** of study to success.

antidote

something that relieves, prevents, or counteracts

Education is often said to be an **antidote** to crime.

antimacassar

a covering to prevent the soiling of the backs of chairs or sofas

To create the Victorian setting, we will need a lace **antimacassar** for each of the chairs.

apiarist

one who keeps bee hives

When he retired, he became an enthusiastic

apiarist.

apparatus

equipment used to do a particular kind of work

The balance beam is an **apparatus** in gymnastics.

appoint

to name or select officially for an office, position

The president will **appoint** all the committee chairs.

architecture

the style of building that designers produce

Colonial style **architecture** was popular in Southern plantation homes.

argue

to dispute or quarrel

My friend and I often **argue** over trivial details.

arouse

to excite to action

The night watchman hastened to **arouse** the sleeping guests.

arrogance

self-importance; overbearing pride; haughty

His **arrogance** was difficult to put up with.

aspirin

a white crystalline drug used as a pain and fever remedy

The doctor prescribed **aspirin** and bed rest for my cold.

Australia

a continent (country) southeast of Asia

Someday I hope to visit **Australia** and see koala bears and kangaroos in the wild.

awkward

not graceful, clumsy

My walk was very **awkward** right after my cast was removed.

ballot

a ticket or paper by which a vote is registered; act or method of voting

The class president was elected by a written **ballot**.

bankrupt

a person legally declared unable to pay debts

The store's owner was **bankrupt** and had to go out of business.

banner

a flag

The boy scouts held their **banner** high throughout the parade.

barrel

a container with rounded sides and flat top and bottom

The last **barrel** of water was loaded on to the truck.

basin

a washbowl or sink

Rinse your contact lenses over a **basin** with the drain closed.

battalion

a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle; and large group joined in some activity

He had command of a **battalion** during World War II.

behavior

manner of one's conduct

The young child's reward for good **behavior** was a trip to the zoo.

beleaguer

to blockade by surrounding with an array

The military operation was planned to **beleaguer** the enemy.

believe

to have faith or confidence

I **believe** this will be an interesting contest.

bellwether

a male sheep (usually wearing a bell) which leads the flock

The **bellwether** led the sheep into the pasture to graze.

benefit

promotion of welfare or prosperity

This project will **benefit** all humankind.

benevolent

doing or inclined to do good; kindly; charitable

He was known as a **benevolent** despot.

biscuit

a small quick bread

Here's some honey for your **biscuit**.

blasphemy

any irreverent act or utterance

It was **blasphemy** to speak ill of our teachers.

blithe

jovial; glad; cheerful; lightheartedly gay

The theatergoers were in a **blithe** spirit.

Boise

the capital of Idaho

To the southeast of **Boise** the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area provides a haven for these species.

boisterous

rowdy

The security officer had to quiet the **boisterous** group.

botany

the science of plants

The branch of biology dealing with plant life is called **botany**.

bougainvillea

evergreen vine with vibrant colored flowers

The walls of the hotel terrace in Mexico were covered with gorgeous **bougainvillea** vines.

boulevard

a broad often landscaped thoroughfare

Sometimes driving on a **boulevard** is faster than taking the freeway.

brief

condensed; short

The teacher gave a **brief** description of the assignment.

bruise or brews

to crush or damage by pounding

Dropping a peach will **bruise** it.

buoyancy

the tendency of a body to float in a fluid

Filling the raft with more air will increase its **buoyancy**.

bureaucracy

a body of (hired) government officials

The federal government is criticized for the size of its **bureaucracy**.

burglar

a person who steals from a home or business

The **burglar** entered through an unlocked door.

buyer or byre

a purchaser for a store

The **buyer** selected an entire new line of clothing for the store.

camouflage

the disguise applied to military equipment

The uniforms are now tan to **camouflage** them in the desert.

campaign

a systematic course of aggressive activities

At the meeting, they introduced the advertising **campaign** for the coming season.

capriciousness

a change without apparent reason; erratic behavior

Her **capriciousness** was evident as soon as she appeared at dinner.

caption

a heading or title, as of a newspaper article

The **caption** at the top of the story attracted my attention.

career

one's progress through life or in a particular vocation

I enjoy this as a hobby, but I would not want to make a **career** out of it.

carnivorous

meat-eating

The lion is a **carnivorous** animal.

carousel

a merry-go-round

I love riding the **carousel** at the park.

carry

take from one place to another

I helped the teacher **carry** all his books.

cashier

an officer in a bank or company responsible for receipts and disbursements

The **cashier** collected the receipts and recorded them for the bank.

casserole

earthenware or glass baking dish, or food cooked in one

Please bring a vegetable **casserole** to the potluck.

catastrophe

the culminating event of a drama, tragedy; disastrous end; any great and sudden calamity or failure

The Northridge Earthquake was a **catastrophe**.

census or senses

an official enumeration of the population

The last **census** showed a population increase.

center

the middle

A small island was in the **center** of the lake.

central

in, at, or near the center

Let us get back to the **central** issue we are here to discuss.

centrifugal

radiating or departing from the center

The road was banked to counteract the **centrifugal** force.

cessation

ceasing or stopping, either forever or for a period of time

Shutting the heavy door caused a **cessation** of all the noise.

chief

a ruler, leader, head

The crew **chief** will give you your assignments.

chrysanthemum

popular plant grown for its long-lasting flowers
A **chrysanthemum** bouquet was the centerpiece for our Thanksgiving table.

cinnamon

a highly aromatic spice
We are serving **cinnamon** rolls for breakfast.

clothes or close

covering for the human body
Clothes make the man.

coalesce

to grow together; to unite or merge into a single body
The splint would help the broken bones to continue to **coalesce**.

coincidence

the happening of events at the same time by chance
It is quite a **coincidence** that Steve and his father have their birthdays on the same day.

colleague

a fellow worker
I would like to introduce my **colleague** who designed this project.

college

a school after high school
Many high school students also take **college** courses.

collegian

a member of a college; college student
Dad bought the **collegian** a new set of luggage.

column

a vertical arrangement of items
Place the cursor at the top of this **column**.

comfort

to impart strength and hope
The stranger tried to **comfort** the frightened child.

compatible

capable of existing together in harmony
In a group, it helps if the members are **compatible**.

compel

to enforce or constrain, as to do something
New laws **compel** judges to issue the maximum sentence.

complexion

the skin color of the face
People with a fair **complexion** need to be very careful in the sun.

concerto

a piece for one or more soloists and orchestra
She played the piano **concerto** beautifully.

confidential

told in confidence; secret
Do not you dare tell anyone I said this; it is **confidential** between you and me.

Connecticut

one of the New England states
Hartford, **Connecticut** is a major insurance center.

conscientious

scrupulous; careful
I try to be **conscientious** about getting my homework done.

constitutional

of or in the constitution of a person or thing; basic; essential
Everyone in the United States has **constitutional** rights.

convenient

conducive to comfort or ease
It would be more **convenient** if you would stop by around 6:00.

convert

to change from one form to another
Use this key to **convert** uppercase letters to lowercase ones.

correct

to change from wrong to right; to point out or mark the errors of
Schoolteachers often take papers home to **correct**.

correspondence

a communication by letters

Please file this **correspondence** alphabetically.

corrupt

spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound

The **corrupt** official accepted a bribe.

counterfeit

to imitate or copy, especially with intent to deceive

This is the way to check if this bill is **counterfeit**.

courteous

marked by respect for and consideration of others

If one is **courteous**, one will reap many benefits.

crescent

the shape of a new moon or one in its last quarter

These little **crescent** shaped rolls are delicious.

crimson

deep red color

The sky, at sunset became beautifully **crimson**.

crisis

decisive or crucial time or stage of an event

We knew we had to deal with the **crisis** quickly and efficiently.

cruise or crews

to sail over or about

We are planning a **cruise** through the islands in the Caribbean Sea.

curtain

window drapery

The window **curtain** matched the bedspread in the room.

data

things known or assumed; facts or figures for information

The computer analyst entered **data** during his shift.

daughter

a female offspring

We are very proud of all that our **daughter** has accomplished.

deafen

overwhelm with noise

The volume of the loudspeaker will **deafen** the audience.

decent

proper and fitting; not immodest; conforming to approved social standards

Father provided for a **decent**, comfortable standard of living.

deciduous

shedding leaves annually

The fall colors on the **deciduous** trees are beautiful.

defendant

a person who is sued or accused in court

The jury ruled the **defendant** is not guilty.

delicacy

pleasing in taste, odor, texture; fragile beauty of graceful slightness

Caviar is considered a **delicacy** by many.

delicatessen

a shop where sandwich items, meats and cheeses are sold

Let us stop by the **delicatessen** to pick up things for our picnic.

depress

to press down; push or pull down; lower

If you **depress** this button, water comes out.

depressant

a drug that reduces bodily functional activity

The doctor administered a **depressant** to calm the manic patient's behavior.

depth

distance from the top

The pool goes down to a **depth** of ten feet.

description

the art, process or technique of picturing in words; sort or variety

Her **description** of the cathedral made us feel as if we had been there.

destroy

to tear down

The demolition crew will **destroy** the whole building.

devoid

completely without; empty or destitute

Crippled badly from the accident, he was **devoid** of any way to resume his former occupation.

dichotomy

division into two (contrasting) halves, pairs or set

Reconciling the **dichotomy** between public and private interests is a difficult job.

dictionary

wordbook, lexicon

If you cannot spell the beginning of a word, it is hard to look it up in the **dictionary**.

dilemma

predicament; a situation in which one must choose

It was a real **dilemma** deciding which college to attend.

dinosaur

any of a group of extinct reptiles

A plastic replica of a huge **dinosaur** is on display at the science museum.

disassemble

to take apart

We will have to **disassemble** the room immediately following the competition.

discipline

training that develops self-control or character

The vice principal is in charge of **discipline** at many schools.

discord

lack of agreement; conflict; inharmonious combination of tones

The sense of **discord** in the committee made us nervous.

distress

to cause sorrow or misery; pain, suffering

Arthritic pain causes **distress** in her stiff knee when she walks.

disturbance

a tumult or commotion by which the public peace is upset

There was quite a **disturbance** outside my bedroom window last night.

doctor

a person licensed to practice any of the healing arts

The **doctor** examined the patient.

dollar

a coin or piece of paper money in the value of 100 cents

The **dollar** bill has a picture of George Washington on it.

dormant

sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive

Some plants and animals are **dormant** during the cold weather.

dosage

the system to be followed in taking doses, as of medicine

He forgot to take his **dosage** of cough medicine.

drawl

to speak in a slow, lengthened tone

Pardon my southern **drawl**.

dreadful

inspiring dread; terrible or awesome

The volcano eruption was **dreadful**.

dying

losing life

Following the heavy frost, the annual flowers started **dying**.

dynamite

a explosive

They had to **dynamite** the building in order to knock it down.

eclipse

the partial or total obscuring of the sun when the moon comes between it and the earth; or of the moon when the earth's shadow is cast upon it

We studied the lunar **eclipse** in class.

ecstatic

overwhelming joy or delight

The team was **ecstatic** over their unexpected win.

effusion

a pouring fourth; a gushing or unrestrained utterance

An **effusion** of praise marked the speech.

embarrass

to cause to feel self-conscious, ill at ease

The students did not want to **embarrass** themselves in front of their friends.

embroidery

a decoration made by needlework on cloth

The **embroidery** on this sampler is a nineteenth century design.

emollient

something that has a softening or soothing effect

An aggressive ad campaign touted the cream's **emollient** powers.

employ

to engage services or labor for pay

The new business is seeking to **employ** fifty qualified workers.

English

the language of the people of England, the official language of the British Commonwealth, the U.S., Liberia, etc.

We study **English** in school.

engrave

to cut or etch into a metal plate or other surface

We will want to **engrave** the coach's name on the trophy.

enough

sufficient

Do you have **enough** clothes for your trip?

ensemble

a group of musicians playing together

A string **ensemble** will play at the concert hall tonight.

entrepreneur

a person who takes the risk of starting and running a business

The young **entrepreneur** started a roommate matching business.

environment

all the influences surrounding and affecting an organism

The National Parks preserve the natural **environment**.

equal

of the same quantity or size

These two objects have **equal** value.

equivalent

equal in quantity, value, force, meaning

Although their education had been **equivalent**, one twin did much better in mathematics than the other.

erroneous

mistaken; wrong

The police report for the accident was **erroneous**.

error

mistake

Be careful that you do not make an **error** in spelling this word.

ethnic

designating any or of any of the basic groups of divisions of mankind

His **ethnic** background was Italian.

euphemism

use of a word considered less distasteful even though less direct

Instead of referring to the body as a corpse, they used the **euphemism**, remains'.

excellent

superior in worth of value

They served an **excellent** dish of spaghetti and meatballs.

excuse

an explanation; that which is offered as a reason

What is your **excuse** for being late?

exhaustion

deprivation of strength or energy

The marathon runners' **exhaustion** was apparent as they entered the stadium.

existence

the state or fact of being

They were debating the **existence** of life on Mars.

expertise

possessing outstanding skill

The soccer player showed **expertise** in controlling the ball.

extemporaneous

speaking without notes

The highlight was an entertaining speaker who delivered an **extemporaneous** talk about spelling bees of the past.

extraordinary

exceeding the ordinary degree

The spelling champion demonstrated **extraordinary** composure under the intense pressure.

extravagance

the wasteful spending of money

The new diamond bracelet was an **extravagance** for the young waitress.

facetious

joking, especially at an inappropriate time

I did not mean to hurt you with my **facetious** remarks.

facsimile

an exact copy, especially one transmitted electronically

I am sending you a **facsimile** of this report.

Fahrenheit

a temperature scale

Normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees

Fahrenheit.

faithful

having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility

My dog is a very **faithful** companion.

familiar

well acquainted

I am very **familiar** with the rigors of studying for a spelling competition.

famine

any acute shortage

The people were suffering from the **famine.**

fancy

gaudy; not plain

The dress was very **fancy.**

fashion

to make in a certain way; give a certain form to; shape; mold

The potter will **fashion** the clay to resemble a lion.

fasten

to become fixed or joined

Let me help you **fasten** those buckles.

fastidious

not easy to please; very critical or discriminating

With **fastidious** attention to detail, the musician practiced the piece again.

faucet

a fixture for drawing a liquid from a pipe

A dripping **faucet** wastes a lot of water.

feather

the lightweight body covering of birds

Use the **feather** duster to clean these figurines.

February

the second month of the year

Valentine's Day is **February** 14th.

fervent

having or showing great warmth of feeling; intensely devoted or earnest; ardent

The children showed a **fervent** devotion to their pet.

fervor

intensity of feeling; ardent zeal

Upon seeing the Declaration of Independence, we experienced a surge of patriotic **fervor.**

fiction

anything made up or imagined, as a statement, story, etc.

The librarian directed us to the **fiction** section.

fictitious

imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended

Some novelists use a **fictitious** name under which they write.

first

preceding all other

I hope I win **first** place in the spelling competition.

flexible

capable of being bent, turned or twisted without breaking

It would be easier if you used **flexible** pipe for this part of the job.

fluid

that which can flow; not solid; able to move and change shape without separating when under pressure

Water is an important **fluid** for survival.

foreign

connected with another country

Their formal style of dress was very **foreign** to us.

forest

dense growth of trees

The family of bears lived in the **forest**.

forty

cardinal number between 39 and 41

These shoes cost **forty** dollars.

foulard

a thick, soft material of silk

Her dress was of flaming red **foulard**.

fountain

a water spray; a spring

We all threw a coin in the **fountain** and made a wish.

fourfold

increased four times

When the quadruplets were born the couple's needs were **fourfold**.

fraud

deceit

Cellular phone **fraud** is costing millions to legitimate users.

freeze or frees or frieze

to become ice or severely chilled

If you go out in this weather, you are likely to **freeze** to death.

fulminating

thundering forth; exploding

It was a **fulminating** rally for the political candidate.

furrier

a dresser of or dealer in furs

The **furrier** appraised the mink coat at three thousand dollars.

gasconade

a boast or boasting; bravado

The braggart was insufferable with his ridiculous **gasconade**.

giggle

to laugh with rapid, often high-pitched sounds

We all started to **giggle** when the teacher noticed our practical joke.

giraffe

large cud-chewing animal with a very long neck and legs

During our trip to the zoo we enjoyed watching the **giraffe** chew on the acacia leaves.

glossy

having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish

The **glossy** cat was sleeping in the window.

gnarled

distorted, cross-grained

We enjoyed playing under the old **gnarled** tree in the park.

gobble

to eat quickly and greedily

The chickens usually **gobble** all the grain.

gorgeous

very beautiful

You look **gorgeous** in that evening gown.

government

the established political administration

Washington D.C. is the seat of our federal

government.

grammar

the use of language according to proper rules

Your essay will be graded on content, **grammar**, punctuation and spelling.

gratuitous

given or received without charge or payment; free

I reject offers of so-called **gratuitous** merchandise, as some kind of later payment is often expected.

grease or Greece

animal fat

Put the leftover bacon **grease** in this can.

gregarious

tending to live associate or congregate with others of the same kind, sociable

Baboons are **gregarious** animals, seldom found in isolation.

guillotine

the instrument of capital punishment in France which beheads the victim

As they marched the prisoner to the **guillotine**, the crowds begged for mercy.

gymnasium

a building used for physical education activities

If the bond passes, we will get a new **gymnasium** at our school.

hachures

short lines used in drawing; shading to denote different surfaces

The **hachures** on the map told where the elevation was highest.

hammer

a tool used for pounding nails

Please bring a **hammer** to the work party tomorrow.

harbor

a place of refuge, safety, retreat; a protected inlet, branch of the sea, etc., used as shelter and anchorage for ships

Ships lay in the broad sunny **harbor** at the foot of the street.

harmful

able to cause hurt or damage

The cold weather is **harmful** to these tropical plants.

harvest

time of year when matured fruit, grain, vegetables, etc., are reaped; season's yield; gathering of a crop

We usually **harvest** our pumpkins and squash for Halloween.

Hawaii

the island state in the Pacific

The climate of **Hawaii** attracts many visitors.

hello

an exclamation of greeting

I saw my friend and shouted, "**hello!**"

hidden

concealed; secret

If I put these clothes under the bed, they will be **hidden** from view.

hieroglyphs

picture writing, especially ancient

Egyptian tombs frequently contain **hieroglyphs** depicting animals.

hinge

a joint or device on which a door, gate, lid, etc., swings

The **hinge** needed oiling.

homogenize

make more uniform by breaking down and blending

Before they began to **homogenize** milk, our quarts left by the milkman used to freeze, and the cream would be pushed out of the bottle.

homonym

a word having the same pronunciation as another but a different meaning

The teacher asked for a **homonym** for the word.

honest

frank and open

The storeowner had an **honest** face.

humble

low in condition, rank, or position; lowly; unpretentious

The **humble** home was neat and tidy.

hypochondriac

a person who suffers from imaginary physical ailments

Knowing the patient was a **hypochondriac**; the doctor prescribed a placebo.

ignore

to disregard deliberately

The students appeared to **ignore** the teacher's request for quiet.

Illinois

a north central state of the United States

Over twenty inches of snow fell on parts of **Illinois** and Indiana.

impairment

to make worse, less, weaker

Dense fog is an **impairment** to safe driving.

imperceptible

not plain or distinct to the eye or mind; not easily seen

The scar on her face had healed so well it was almost **imperceptible**.

imperialism

the policy and practice of seeking to dominate the economic or political affairs of underdeveloped areas or weaker countries

A policy of **imperialism** hinders the growth of underdeveloped countries.

implement

to carry out; put into effect

This will require your signature to **implement** all the provisions of the contract.

impress

to leave pressure on so as to leave a mark

We will **impress** the leaf on the paper to make a design.

inaugurate

to introduce into office with ceremonies

Every four years we **inaugurate** our President.

indebted

owing something

I will forever be **indebted** to you for your kindness.

Indianapolis

the capital of Indiana

The **Indianapolis** Children's Museum features fun and fascinating hands-on exhibits.

inkling

a vague notion or idea

I have an **inkling** that I will get what I want for my birthday.

inspire

to have an animating effect upon; influence or impel

The concert did **inspire** him to be a musician.

instant

a moment of time

The lightning flashed and in the next **instant**, there was thunder.

insurance

a system of financial protection

I will have to pay my own auto **insurance** after I get my driver's license.

intelligence

ability to exercise the higher mental functions
The debate centered on whether **intelligence** was accurately measured by IQ tests.

intermittent

starting, stopping and starting again
The weather forecast is for **intermittent** showers.

interrupt

to break the continuity or course of
Do not **interrupt** me while I am talking.

intersection

the place or point where two or more things cross
The office is at the **intersection** of Main and Broadway.

intravenous

within or into a vein
The patient was receiving fluids through an **intravenous** tube.

irresistible

impossible to resist or oppose
The food sitting out on the table was an **irresistible** temptation for the dog.

jacket

a short coat
This blue **jacket** would like nice with your gray trousers.

jostle

to bump or push, as in a crowd
I hope I do not **jostle** too many passengers when I take these bags on the plane.

journal

a brief account of daily events
We kept a **journal** of our trip.

judicial

of or relating to the courts or judges
The defendant was awaiting a **judicial** decision regarding the acceptability of the evidence.

Juneau

the capital of Alaska
The city of **Juneau** Alaska is not accessible by road.

kaleidoscope

a changing pattern or scene
The sun through the fall trees presented a **kaleidoscope** of color.

kayak

an Eskimo canoe, or one similar
The ocean was too rough to take the **kayak** out today.

kettle

a metal container for boiling or cooking things
I will boil some water in the **kettle** for your tea.

khaki

a light yellowish brown
The soldiers wore their **khaki** uniforms during the summer.

kindling

bits of dry wood or other easily-lighted materials for starting a fire
The campers gathered **kindling** for the fire.

knowledge

understanding or skill gained by experience or learning
Visiting National Parks has increased our **knowledge** about geologic formations.

label

identifying card or paper
We could no longer read the **label** on the jar.

laboratory

a building or room fitted up for conducting scientific experiments
The scientist spent long hours in the **laboratory** perfecting the vaccine.

lackadaisical

lacking life, spirit, or zest
The **lackadaisical** students are not likely to get good grades.

ladle

to dip out with
The cook will **ladle** the soup for each customer.

lament

an outward expression of sorrow

A long **lament** was heard in the garden.

language

spoken communication

Russian is a difficult **language** for most foreigners to master.

lantern

transparent case for holding a light and protecting it from wind and weather

The light from the **lantern** helped us find our way along the rocky path.

league

an association of persons united for common interests

There is talk of forming a new baseball **league**.

lecture

an informative talk given for the purpose of teaching

Today's history **lecture** was very interesting.

legato

in music, smooth and connected with no break

The instructor cautioned the piece should be played **legato** and not staccato.

leisure

freedom from work or duties

Many retirees find it difficult having so much **leisure** time.

lemon

a small yellow fruit with a bitter taste

The old lady always put **lemon** in her tea.

leopard

a large strong cat of southern Asia and Africa; panther

The **leopard** grabbed its prey with its strong paws.

lettuce

any of a genus of plants grown for its edible green leaves

The meal will begin with a salad of **lettuce** and other vegetables.

license

formal or legal permission to do something specified

In California, you are eligible to apply for a driver's **license** when you are sixteen.

lightning or lightening

a flash of light in the sky caused by the discharge of atmospheric electricity from one cloud to another or between a cloud and the earth

The **lightning** flashed in the sky.

linen

thread, yarns or cloth made from flax

The tablecloth was made of fine **linen**.

linguistics

science of language; study of the structure of languages

Linguistics is usually divided into descriptive, historical, comparative and geographical.

listless

having no interest in what is going on about one, as a result of illness, weariness, dejection, etc.; spiritless; languid

The **listless** dog lay on the floor by the fire.

literature

writings in prose or verse having permanent value

My collection of children's **literature** includes many of the classics.

litter

scattered rubbish; disorder or untidiness

The **litter** of paper on the sidewalk was deplorable.

lonely

alone; solitary

I was very **lonely** when I first moved to town.

loquacious

given to excess talking

The teacher became very frustrated with the **loquacious** nature of the students in the class.

machinery

the working parts of a machine or instrument

The workers had the day off because the **machinery** broke down at the plant.

magnet

a piece of iron or steel that attracts metal

We use a colorful **magnet** to hold notes on our refrigerator.

maintenance

the act of keeping in an existing state

Proper **maintenance** of your car will make it last longer.

maneuver

a clever often evasive move or action

We had to **maneuver** our way through the downtown traffic.

margarine

food product made from usually vegetable oils and skim milk

Would you like **margarine** or butter for your toast?

marmalade

a clear jelly containing pieces of fruit and fruit rind

Orange **marmalade** tastes delicious on English muffins.

marriage

the state of matrimony; wedlock

That couple's **marriage** seems to be very happy.

masquerade

a party at which people wear masks and costumes

What are you going to wear for the **masquerade** ball?

Massachusetts

one of the six states comprising New England

The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock,

Massachusetts.

massive

large or imposing or impressive; of considerable magnitude

The new bank was **massive**.

mathematician

a specialist in the science of numbers

A **mathematician** at the university derived this new number theory.

mausoleum

a large stately tomb

The **mausoleum** is on the right as you go into the cemetery.

meaning

sense; that which is intended

It was difficult to understand the **meaning** of the sentence.

medley

a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works

The chorus performed a **medley** of show tunes.

memorabilia

things worth remembering

Elvis Presley **memorabilia** is valuable to many collectors.

mental

of or for the mind or intellect

I have a **mental** picture of what I want it to look like.

metamorphosis

change of form, shape, structure, or substance

As part of her science class, Karen was able to witness the **metamorphosis** of a caterpillar into a butterfly.

metaphor

a literary likeness showing implied comparison

An example of a **metaphor** is "the ship plows the sea."

method

a way of doing anything

What **method** did you use to arrive at this answer?

middle

in between

When we drive to my grandparent's house my sister and I take turns sitting in the **middle**.

mileage

aggregate distance in miles or total number of miles traveled; recorded, etc.

The salesman bought a new car each year because he had such high **mileage** on his current one.

mindful

having in mind; aware heedful, or careful

The children were **mindful** of the danger of playing in the street.

miniature

something much smaller than the usual size

That is an impressive collection of **miniature** cars.

miscellaneous

consisting of many things of different sorts

Most people have a junk drawer for all the **miscellaneous** things they cannot easily categorize.

mischievous

conduct that is often playful but causes harm or annoyance

My **mischievous** puppy chewed the corner of my social studies book.

misspell

to spell incorrectly

During the spelling competition, we were not allowed to **misspell** a single word.

moccasin

soft leather shoes with the sole and sides of one piece

The podiatrist told me to wear a **moccasin** to protect my foot after the surgery.

mocha

a mixture of coffee and chocolate

Mocha is the flavor of the month at the ice cream parlor.

mortgage

a transfer of rights to a piece of property

Generally, the **mortgage** is a homeowner's major expense.

mystique

a set of beliefs and attitudes developing around an object

Non-runners cannot appreciate the true **mystique** of jogging.

napkin

a small cloth used to wipe the mouth and hands when dining

Line the basket with a linen **napkin**.

narcissistic

possessed by self-love

The **narcissistic** attitudes of the "Me Generation" are appalling.

narrate

to tell in writing or speech

The teacher began to **narrate** the story.

nauseous

affected with tending to cause stomach distress

I felt **nauseous** after eating too much ice cream.

neglect

to give little attention or respect to

We must not **neglect** our homework.

neighborhood

the region near where one resides

Our **neighborhood** holds a Block Party every Labor Day.

nightmare

a frightening or oppressing dream

I had a scary **nightmare** last night.

ninetieth

the ordinal number 90th

Your spelling scores are above the **ninetieth** percentile.

ninth

the ordinal number 9th

In many school districts, **ninth** grade is the first year of high school.

nuisance

that which annoys, vexes or harms

Sometimes it can be a real **nuisance** to have to take care of younger siblings.

obsequious

meanly or servilely attentive; overly compliant
General Smith's **obsequious** staff is good for nothing but fawning and groveling on command.

obsolescent

going out of use; becoming outmoded
Phonograph records are becoming **obsolescent**.

occasion

a favorable opportunity or circumstance
A sixteenth birthday is an appropriate **occasion** for a party.

occur

to take place; happen
The celebration will **occur** next week.

odor

a smell
The **odor** of sulfur filled the lab.

offense

the condition of being offended, esp. of feeling hurt, resentful, or angry; umbrage
His friend took **offense** from the joke.

office

a place of business
I usually shop here for **office** supplies.

ophthalmologist

a physician specializing in diseases of the eye
The **ophthalmologist** had to dilate the patient's eyes.

opponent

person against one; adversary
The candidate's **opponent** waged a clean campaign.

opportunity

a fit or convenient time; favorable occasion
The spelling bee will be an **opportunity** for you to practice your skills and make new friends.

orchestra

a group of musicians who perform together
Our school **orchestra** won top honors at the music festival.

orchid

the flower of a tropical plant with three petals, the lowest of which is enlarged
When we stepped off the plane in Hawaii, we were each given an **orchid** lei.

orthodontist

a doctor who corrects the position of the teeth
The **orthodontist** said I would need to wear braces for two years.

orthodox

traditional; conservative in belief
My teacher encourages both **orthodox** and novel approaches to learning.

ostrich

a large, swift-running bird of Africa and the Near East
The white **ostrich** feather adorned her new hat.

outrageous

extremely offensive, insulting or shameful
The parents were dismayed by their child's **outrageous** behavior.

overwhelming

crushed by reason of force, weight or numbers
The prosecution presented **overwhelming** evidence against the accused.

package

a small wrapped bundle
I hope there will be a **package** in the mail for me today.

pamphlet

a short publication with no cover
Please send me the **pamphlet** you advertised about starting a rock collection.

panic

sudden, unreasonable fear
They did not **panic** when the fire broke out.

pannikin

a small pan or cup
He drank heartily from the **pannikin**.

pantomime

a performance in which a story is told using expressive body or facial movements

In the game of Charades, players **pantomime** the words or phrases.

parachute

a device used for making a safe descent from an airplane

The fighter pilot feared that the **parachute** might not deploy properly.

parent

a mother or father

His **parent** signed the reportcard.

parliamentary

being in accordance with the rules

When conducting a meeting it is helpful to be familiar with **parliamentary** procedure.

parochial

narrow; provincial

That newscast presented a very **parochial** view of the problem.

partner

a person who takes part in some activity in common with another

My **partner** keeps the books, and I do the purchasing.

pasteurize

partial sterilization of a fluid by exposure to heat

The dairy will **pasteurize** milk before bottling.

patriarch

the father and ruler of a family

The family **patriarch** always sits at the head of the table.

pattern

a regular, mainly unvarying way of acting or doing

I always follow the same **pattern** when getting ready for school.

peasant

one of a group of lower class workers

Because they were of the **peasant** class, they could not attend school.

peninsula

a long projection of land into water

We drove around the **peninsula** until we found the best beach.

penitentiary

a prison

The old **penitentiary** held many clues to the hard life of a convict.

pennant

a long, tapering flag

Which team do you think will win the **pennant** this year?

people

human beings

A large group of **people** gathered to watch the festivities.

perceptible

capable of being noticed or observed

The difference between the two brands of hot dogs is hardly **perceptible**.

perennial

lasting or active throughout the whole year

To cut down on my yard work I planted mostly **perennial** shrubs.

perfect

complete in all respects; flawless

The blazing sunset made a **perfect** ending to the day.

permeable

having pores or openings that permit liquids or gases to pass through

The skin is a semi-**permeable** membrane.

perpetuity

the state or quality of being perpetual

Perpetuity is implied in the fundamental law of all national governments.

perseverance

continued or steadfast effort in spite of difficulties

After many years of **perseverance** the Wright Brothers finally made their airplane fly.

persistent

continuing, existing or acting for longer than the usual time

This has been **persistent** cold spell.

persuade

to convince

I hope my arguments will **persuade** you to study harder.

perturb

to cause to be alarmed, agitated, or upset; disturb or trouble greatly

The loudspeaker may **perturb** the musician in the adjoining rooms.

pestle

a club-shaped grinding tool

Many indigenous people used a **pestle** to grind food in a mortar.

phenomenal

extraordinary, remarkable

It was **phenomenal** how fast the flu virus spread.

physique

the build of a person's body

The body builder's **physique** mainly is due to good conditioning.

picturesque

resembling or suitable for a painted picture

The **picturesque** valley draws many visitors.

pigment

coloring matter, usually insoluble powder, mixed with oil or water, etc.

Pigment in some plants is increased when they grow in full sun.

plagiarize

to steal and pass off as one's own the works of another

Students who **plagiarize** articles generally get caught.

plague

a disastrous evil, especially a large number of destructive pests

A **plague** of locusts destroyed this year's crops.

plaid

a pattern of unevenly spaced repeated stripes crossing at right angles

That is a very nice looking **plaid** skirt.

plaintive

causing pity

The lost kitten gave a **plaintive** cry.

platinum

a heavy precious metallic element

This antique ring has a **platinum** band inlaid with diamonds.

plural or pleural

of or including more than one; involving or being one of

The **plural** of this noun is formed according to the principle listed.

poinsettia

usually indoor plant with showy red leaves in winter

Our neighbor gave us a **poinsettia** for the holidays.

poltergeist

a spirit supposed to manifest itself by noises, knocking, etc.

In the play, a **poltergeist** appears during the seance.

poncho

a (waterproof) cloak with a slit or hole in the middle for the head

Do not forget to take your **poncho** in case it rains.

populous or populace

abounding in people

India is one of the most **populous** countries on earth.

portion

share; part of

They were willing to share a **portion** of the proceeds from the dance.

possibility

quality or condition of being done, known or acquired

There is a **possibility** that our next trip will be to Disneyland.

posture

the position or carriage of the body; bearing
Good **posture** is important for good health.

poultry

domestic fowls

The preschoolers enjoyed their visit to the **poultry** farm.

powder

any dry substance in the form of very fine, dust like particles

The volcanic ash covered the car with a very fine **powder**.

prairie

a large area of level or rolling grassland

Life on the **prairie** was often difficult for the early settlers.

precocious

exhibiting mature qualities or abilities

That preschooler can already read and is **precocious** in other ways as well.

preliminary

introductory to the main discourse

You will have an opportunity to ask questions during the **preliminary** round of the competition.

prepare

to make ready, usually for a specific purpose

How are you going to **prepare** for the spelling competition?

prescribe

to order or direct the use of something as a remedy

The doctor will probably **prescribe** a painkiller for your recurring headaches.

prestigious

having or imparting prestige or distinction

The **prestigious** writer had a great following.

pretend

make believe

Sometimes I **pretend** that I am a pilot.

prior

preceding in time; earlier

The ad said that **prior** experience was necessary.

prism

a transparent solid body which disperses light into a spectrum

When I was cleaning this **prism** from the chandelier, it broke.

proceed

to go on or forward, especially after an interruption

We will now **proceed** with the spelling competition.

procession

orderly parade moving forward; in an orderly formal way

The elephants moved in **procession**—trunk to tail.

proliferation

growing by multiplying new parts

The **proliferation** of the buds on the rosebud was truly amazing.

prying

improperly curious or inquisitive

Someone was **prying** into her personal affairs.

psychologist

a professional who studies or treats human behavior and intelligence

The school **psychologist** will evaluate the students for placement in the special program.

puppet

doll or figure used in plays

The children will put on a **puppet** show.

pyramid

a polyhedron having a polygon for its base and triangular shaped faces

What is that **pyramid** shaped building on San Francisco's skyline?

quadratic

an algebraic term involving the square and no higher power of an unknown quantity
Solve this **quadratic** equation for the value of x.

quarrel

argument, dispute
The bitter **quarrel** ended their friendship.

quietly

still; without noise
We drove **quietly** past the hospital.

raccoon

a small carnivore of North America, usually nocturnal
A **raccoon** raided our campsite while we were asleep.

ransom

consideration paid for the release of a captured person
The kidnapper demanded \$500,000 in **ransom** for their child.

rapscallion

a rascal; a ne'er do-well
I was advised to stay away from the **rapscallion**.

rasorial

scratching the ground in search of food as fowl
Turkeys and pheasants are **rasorial** birds.

raspberry

small round fleshy red or black berry
These **raspberry** preserves won a blue ribbon at the county fair.

receive

to accept; to get or permit to enter
Did you **receive** my Christmas card?

recess

to halt temporarily
The court will **recess** until this afternoon.

recommend

to suggest favorably
I **recommend** this book to you.

reconciliation

the act of restoring friendly relations
The treaty provided for **reconciliation** between the two countries.

reconnaissance

preliminary survey of an area to gain information
Many missions of **reconnaissance** were flown over the enemy's territory.

recruit

to secure the services of
Did they **recruit** you for the competitive team?

recur

to happen or occur again
An eclipse of the sun will not **recur** for another ten years.

redoubt

a small enclosed fort often temporary, fortifying hills and passes
The soldiers took up their positions in the unassailable **redoubt**.

refuge

a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat
The deer sought a **refuge** from the hunters.

rehearsal

a practice session preparatory to a public performance
This is the final **rehearsal** before tomorrow's concert.

rejuvenate

to make seem fresh or new again
A long vacation will **rejuvenate** him.

remembrance

memory, the act of remembering
The donation was made in **remembrance** of the director who passed away recently.

reminisce

to think or talk about things from the past
At school I can **reminisce** about the good time I had at the spelling competition.

remittent

temporarily stopping or abating

The doctor said it was a **remittent** fever and would return.

remnant

what is left over; remainder; residue

The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a **remnant**.

remote

distant in connection

There is only a **remote** possibility of rain today.

rendezvous

a planned meeting; a place for a planned meeting

We will **rendezvous** at the Park and Ride, then go on together to the party.

repartee

a clever or witty retort; skill in making clever

retorts; such retorts collectively

The two humorists engaged in a clever **repartee**.

reprehensible

deserving to be reprehended

Assassination is a **reprehensible** crime.

reserve

to hold; or hold over to a later time

We will **reserve** a place for you at the table.

reservoir

a place where water is stored in quantity

During the drought, the **reservoir** was dangerously low.

residential

of or having to do with residence

The families who lived in that **residential** area did not want the prison built near them.

restaurant

a public eating place

Before the prom, we are going to a nice **restaurant** for dinner.

retain

to stay constant

I hope this T-shirt will **retain** its color after washing.

retrieve

to get back; regain

I hope I can **retrieve** the lost data.

revenge

to inflict damage, injury, or punishment in return for an injury, insult, etc.

The leaders plotted **revenge** for the bombing.

rheostat

an electrical resistor for regulating current

The stage lights were dimmed by means of a **rheostat**.

rheumatism

any of various conditions characterized by inflammation or pain in muscles or joints

A person's **rheumatism** is generally worse in cold weather.

robber

one who steals or robs

The **robber** was sent to prison.

romaine

a variety of lettuce with a cylindrical head of long, loose leaves

This Caesar salad recipe calls for **romaine** lettuce.

routine

a regular or customary course of procedure

My morning **routine** includes feeding the cat.

ruin

destroy

Be careful that you do not **ruin** your good shoes by wearing them in the rain.

sabotage

deliberate damage of equipment, usually by disgruntled employees

Security was strengthened amidst concerns that striking workers might **sabotage** the factory.

sacerdotal

pertaining to a priest or his office

The **sacerdotal** functions of the pastor were numerous.

safety

freedom from danger; security

Today's presentation was on the **safety** issues we should employ in case of a disaster.

salmon

any of various large fish that live in oceans and swim up streams to lay eggs

The fish ladder at the dam allows the **salmon** to reach their spawning grounds.

sandal

a shoe consisting of a sole strapped to the foot

I had to take my **sandal** to the shoe repair shop to have the strap fixed.

satellite

a moon or man-made vehicle which orbits a celestial body

The weather **satellite** aided us in tracking the hurricane.

Saturday

the seventh day of the week

This **Saturday** we can go to the Mall together.

sauterne

a kind of sweet white wine from France

He enjoyed a glass of **sauterne** with his dinner each evening.

scaffold

temporary wood or metal framework to support workmen and/or material

They worked from the **scaffold** easily.

scarf

a piece of cloth worn around the neck or used as a cover

She wore a brightly-colored **scarf**.

scary

causing alarm; frightening

I did not like that **scary** movie.

schedule

a detailed and timed plan for any procedure

The **schedule** calls for us to take a break at 10:45.

scheme

a systemic or organized design

That is a nice color **scheme** you have picked out.

scissors

a cutting implement with handles and a pair of blades

Using sewing **scissors** for cutting paper makes them dull.

secede

to withdraw from an organization

South Carolina was the first state to **secede** from the Union.

secret

kept from public knowledge

If I tell you this, will you promise to keep it a **secret**?

secretary

a person who handles correspondence and office tasks

My **secretary** will send you a letter tomorrow.

seismologist

a scientist who studies earthquakes

The **seismologist** confirmed that the earthquake was centered twenty miles offshore.

sentence

a decision or judgment, as of a court; esp. the determination by a court of the punishment

The **sentence** was in the defendant's favor.

sequel

an event that follows or comes afterward

The **sequel** to the show will be aired next week.

session or cession

a school term or period of study

The fall **session** of school was about to end.

shady

shielded from the sun

The bench under the trees was **shady** and cool.

shepherd

a person who tends a flock of sheep

The **shepherd** led the flock along the path.

sheriff

a county law enforcement officer

The **sheriff** responded to a disturbance outside the city limits.

shield

something that protects or defends

The guide recommended that we all wear hats to **shield** ourselves from the sun.

shoulder

the part of the body where the arm joins the body

The running back suffered a **shoulder** injury and will be out for the season.

shriek

to utter a loud shrill sound, or the sound itself

Your child will **shriek** with delight upon receiving this special gift.

shuttle

a vehicle that goes back and forth between scheduled stops

You can take the airport **shuttle** to the hotel.

signal

a sign or event fixed or understood as the occasion for prearranged combined action

Traffic was backed up because the **signal** was broken.

significance

the real or implied meaning

What is the **significance** of putting a heart on the letter to your sweetheart?

silhouette

an outline of an object, filled in with a solid color

When I walked by, I could see my neighbor's **silhouette** on the window shade.

skeptic or sceptic

person who habitually doubts, questions or suspends judgment on generally accepted matters

He was such a **skeptic** that he was known as "Doubting Thomas."

skirmish

a brief encounter between small groups, usually an incident of a battle

The **skirmish** was quickly forgotten after the peace treaty was signed.

snorkel

to move or swim under water using a snorkel

We plan to **snorkel** when we are in Hawaii.

software

programs for directing the operation of a computer

This new **software** helps you trace your family tree.

solitaire

a card game played by one person alone

I played **solitaire** while waiting for my plane connection.

sortie

one mission or attack by a single plane

The pilot returned unharmed from a dangerous **sortie**.

sourdough

a leaven of dough in which fermentation is active

San Francisco is famous for **sourdough** french bread.

souvenir

memento

What did you bring home as a **souvenir** of your travels?

special

out of the ordinary; for a particular purpose or occasion

The children put on their finest clothes for the **special** occasion.

spectacular

characterized by grand scenic display

The fireworks display was the most **spectacular** part of the Independence Day celebration.

spectrum

a continuous range or entire extent

The newspaper reported a wide **spectrum** of opinions.

spinach

a potherb widely grown for its edible leaves
I will have the **spinach** salad.

spontaneity

state of acting freely and naturally
The mental health experts advise us to keep an air of **spontaneity** in our lives.

squabble

to quarrel noisily and to no purpose
Children **squabble** when they are tired.

statistician

one engaged in compiling and analyzing numerical data
The team **statistician** lets us know our batting averages before every game.

stomach

pouch where food is digested after swallowing
My **stomach** always aches when I run after eating.

straight or strait or Strait

having the same direction throughout its length
Use a ruler to draw a **straight** line.

stubborn

person who refuses to comply; resisting unreasonably; obstinate
Donkeys are said to be **stubborn** like some people I know.

submit

to refer to others for decisions
We will **submit** our plan to the committee.

substantial

important, essential
There is a **substantial** difference between the two candidates.

superintendent

person in charge; supervisor, custodian
The **superintendent** was found to be honest and trustworthy.

supple

capable of being bent or folded without creases or breaks; pliant
These boots are made out of very **supple** leather.

surgeon

a doctor who specializes in performing operations
The **surgeon** made a skillful incision.

surround

to enclose on all sides; encircle
When playing the game, the children would first **surround** themselves with all the toy cars.

surveillance

close watch
The police kept a constant **surveillance** at the suspect's house.

sword or soared

a weapon having a long usually sharp-pointed and sharp-edged blade
The magician's **sword** appeared to pass right through the rabbit.

symmetrical

having balanced proportions
It would look better if the pictures on either side were more **symmetrical**.

synonym

one of two or more words of the same language that have the same meaning
It is helpful to use a thesaurus when you want to find a **synonym** for a word.

technology

applied science
The rate of **technology** seems to increase every day.

temperament

frame of mind; internal constitution
The composer was a man of melancholy **temperament**.

tenacious

persistent, stubborn
He had **tenacious** courage as he faced the endless pile of papers on his desk.

terrace

a small, usually roofed balcony, as outside an apartment

Flowerpots lined the **terrace** outside the apartment.

terrific

extraordinary; astounding

We attended the most **terrific** party last night.

therapeutic

serving to cure or heal; curative

The **therapeutic** treatment hastened his recovery.

thermometer

an instrument for measuring temperatures

A **thermometer** placed in the sun will not give an accurate reading.

thesaurus

a dictionary of synonyms

This word processing program features an excellent **thesaurus**, making it easy for the user to find appropriate synonyms.

those

plural of that

Please hand me **those** books.

thunder

the loud noise after lighting

The **thunder** seemed to be coming from the east.

tongue or tung

the fleshy moveable part inside the mouth

When the boy tripped and fell, he bit his **tongue**.

tortoise

a land turtle

In one of Aesop's fables, the **tortoise** wins a race against the hare.

tournament

a series of contests

Our team won first place in the soccer **tournament**.

traffic

the movement or number of automobiles along a street

There is a lot more **traffic** on the freeway now.

translucent

capable of allowing some light to show through, but not transparent

We purchased a new **translucent** window for our bathroom.

treasurer

a person entrusted with handling the funds of an organization

Please turn in all magazine sales money to the **treasurer** today.

tribute

something given, done, or said, as a gift, testimonial, etc., to show gratitude

Their success was a **tribute** to his leadership.

Tuesday

the third day of the week

My birthday will fall on a **Tuesday** this year.

tyranny

a government in which absolute power is vested in a single ruler

The people rebelled against the **tyranny** of their oppressive ruler.

ubiquitous

present or seeming to be everywhere at the same time; omnipresent

I knew it was in my mind, but it seemed that everywhere I looked I saw his **ubiquitous** face.

unanimous

complete agreement

The boxer won a **unanimous** decision over his opponent.

unconstitutional

not in agreement with or permitted by a constitution, specifically the U.S. Constitution

It is **unconstitutional** to deprive me of my rights, insisted the criminal, as they dragged him away.

unprecedented

unheard-of; novel

The president took **unprecedented** steps toward peace.

unruly

not submissive to rule or restraint

The natives are **unruly** tonight.

upholstery

materials (as fabric, padding, and springs) used to make a soft covering especially for a seat

We chose this **upholstery** for our new sofa.

useful

that can be used to advantage; helpful

The fork is a **useful** utensil.

utensil

an instrument or container used in a household

A ladle is the proper **utensil** to use for serving soup.

vacant

having no occupant

They just started building on the **vacant** lot next door.

vaccine

a substance injected into the body to prevent disease by causing immunity

The polio **vaccine** was a tremendous advance in medicine.

valet

an employee who cares for the clothing of hotel patrons

If you leave your suit on the chair, the **valet** will see to it that it is pressed.

vehicle

something used to transport persons or goods

We will need a **vehicle** that holds six people.

vengeance

revenge

The family sought **vengeance** for the loss.

verbatim

in the same words: word for word

Each student in Russell's class was assigned to memorize a poem and then recite it **verbatim** to the class.

vestige

a visible sign or trace left by something vanished or lost

Only a **vestige** of the city's previous grandeur remained after the bombing.

vignette

a brief, appealing scene, as in a movie

The short **vignette** at the beginning was the key to the whole story.

visionary

having or marked by foresight and imagination

The **visionary** described a utopia that could never exist.

vociferous

characterized by clamor or vehement outcry

The **vociferous** protest of Liberals could not stop the passage of Proposition 13.

volume

the quantity, strength, or loudness of sound

The **volume** of the music was deafening.

vulpine

of or like a fox; cunning; crafty

The racketeer had a **vulpine** scheme but it backfired.

walnut

a nut; the trees which produces it; the wood of the tree

Walnut furniture is usually expensive.

warmth

state of giving off moderate degree of heat

We could feel the **warmth** of the sun on our faces.

weapon

something (as a gun, knife or club) that may be used to fight with

The police officer fired the **weapon** in self-defense.

Wednesday

the fourth day of the week

I have soccer practice every **Wednesday** after school.

wharf

a structure built on the shore to enable ships to receive and discharge cargo and passengers

That restaurant on the **wharf** serves delicious seafood entrees.

whistle

a device or manner by which a shrill sound is produced

The sound of a steam train **whistle** is music to a railroad buff's ears.

width

distance from side to side; breadth

We have to measure the **width** of the shelf to make sure it will fit the space.

wisdom

learning knowledge; good judgment; wise discourse or teaching

We cut our **wisdom** teeth at about age 15.

woman

a female human being; adult female; femininity

The term 'lady' was once restricted to a **woman** of the higher social class.

wonderful

inspiring wonder; amazing

It was a **wonderful** sight to see the sun set behind the mountain.

wreck or reck

damage or destroy

A careless driver will some day **wreck** his car.

wrist

the joint of the arm on which the hand turns

Fred sprained his **wrist** and could not play in the game.

xenophobia

fear or hatred of foreigners

Gene wished very much that he could travel more, but because of his **xenophobia** he didn't dare go to other countries.

xylophone

a musical instrument sounded by striking the series of bars with two wooden hammers

A toy **xylophone** makes a wonderful gift for a child.

yacht

any of various small ships used especially for pleasure

The annual **yacht** races will be held on the Bay tomorrow.

yellow

one of the three primary colors

If you combine blue and **yellow**, you will get green.

yield

to give up possession of on claim or demand

Be certain to **yield** to oncoming traffic.

zealous

very eager; very enthusiastic

The politician's **zealous** supporters campaigned vigorously.

zenith

the point in the celestial sphere that is exactly overhead

When the sun is at its **zenith**, it shines directly through this hole.

zucchini

a summer squash, dark green in color

Stuffed **zucchini** is one of my favorite dishes.