ENG 4U1 Vocabulary Words

**A**

**abbreviation**: (n) a quite-long word meaning “short form”

**abject**: (adj) sunk to or existing in a low state, perhaps of depression

**abortive**: (adj) failing to accomplish an intended result

**absolutism**: (n) a political theory that the government needs absolute power over its citizens

**abstruse**: (adj) incomprehensible to someone of ordinary understanding or knowledge

**absurdity**: (n) quality of being ridiculous and silly.

**acclaim**: (n) fame and mass approval

**acolyte**: (n) apprentice or student

**acquiesce**: (v) to agree or express agreement

**acrid**: (adj) harsh or sharp-smelling, like vinegar

**acumen**: (n) shrewdness shown by keen insight

**acuteness**: (n) the quality of having a sharp edge or point

**adamant** (adj):unable to have one’s mind changed.

**addendum**: (n) Latin for “added thing”

**addle**: (v) to mix up or confuse

**adjacent**: (adj) beside, with an edge touching, as in the case of two plots of real estate.

**affluent**: (adj) rich

**alacrity**: (n) liveliness and eagerness

**alchemist**: (n) one who was versed in ancient chemistry and who wanted to create things such as an elixir of eternal youth or to turn lead into gold, perhaps using the philosopher’s stone.

**alloy**: (n) a mixture containing two or more metallic elements or metallic and non-metallic elements usually fused together or dissolving into each other when molten

**allusion**: (n) a reference to something else

**alpha:** (n) the first letter of the Greek alphabet; something that is first

**altercation**: (n) a fight

**amoral**: (adj) the state of having no ethics

**ampersand**: (n) the “and” symbol on a computer keyboard (example: &)

**annihilate**: (v) to destroy

**anomaly**: (n) a thing which is unusual and inconsistent with what would be expected

**anthropomorphize**: (v) to imagine something inhuman (for instance, death, or hope or a river) as having human characteristics

**antiquities**: (n) old things



**apocalypse**: (n) the final revelation of all things, the end of the world

**apoplectic**: (adj) showing symptoms of stroke, greatly excited or angered

**apparition**: (n) a ghostly appearing figure

**apt**: likely to

**aquiline**: (adj) eagle-like. often used to describe hooked, beaky noses

**archaic**: (adj) old, from an ancient time

**ardent**: (adj) characterized by intense emotion

**ardour**: (n) strong feelings of great warmth and intensity

**artifact**: (n) a found, ancient and usually archaeological object

**aspirations**: (n) hopes, dreams, ambitions

**assassin**: (n) person hired to kill someone, from the Arabic word for hashish

**assiduously**: (adv) with care and persistence

**austere**: (adj) severe, unkind

**B**

**bacchanale**: (n) an unrestrained party (from the Greek god of wine, Bacchus)

**bacchanalian**: (adj) characterized by unrestrained partying (from the Greek god of wine, Bacchus)

**banal**: (adj) unimportant, trivial, a waste of time.

**banish**: (v) to expel, as if by official decree

**banishment**: (n) state of being expelled, as if by official decree.

**benevolent**: (adj) showing or motivated by sympathy and understanding and generosity

**benign**: (adj) good, helpful

**berserk**: (adj) in a blind, killing rage destroying everything in his/her/its path

**berserker**: (n) one of the ancient Norse warriors legendary for working themselves into a frenzy before a battle and fighting with reckless savagery and insane fury, sometimes due to drugs

**beta:** (n) the 2nd letter of the Greek alphabet

**blasphemy**: (n) something disrespectful or hostile to something sacred or holy

**bludgeon**: (n/v) a club, or to club someone or something

**brigand**: (n) pirate, sea-faring robber

**brink**: (n) the edge of a steep place

**brusquely**: in a blunt direct manner

**buckler**: (n) a small round shield used in fencing

**burgeoned:** (v) sent forth new growth; flourished

**C**

**casement**: (n) a window sash that is hinged

**caste: (n) a social grouping in a hierarchical culture in which members cannot move up to higher levels of importance.**   
**corporeal:** (adj) relating to the body  
**catapult**: (n) device for launching stones, including a slingshot

**cavalry**: (n) horse-mounted soldiers

**centrifugal**: tending to move away from a center

**centripetal**: tending to move toward a center

**chaos**: (n) state of there being no structure, order or system

**charisma**: (n) ability to charm people and be likeable.

**charnel house**: (n) a vault or building where corpses or bones are deposited

**chastity**: (n) state of abstaining from sex.

**chiffon**: (n/adj) either a thin silky fabric, or a fabric decoration such as a sash or bow.

**chronicles**: (n) stories, written records of

**clairvoyant**: (adj) able to see things going on in a place where one is not present

**clamor**: (n/v) disorderly crowd noise; to shout

**cleric**: (n) religious figure, priest

**collate**: (v) to assemble (usually papers) in the proper order

**commodity**: (n) something which can be sold, a product or good

**compunction**: (n) a feeling of deep regret (usually for some misdeed)

**conducive**: (adj) tending to bring about; being partly responsible for

**console**: (n) (say: CON-Soul) an instrument panel from which electronics can be controlled

**console**: (v) (say: con-SOUL) to give moral or emotional strength to

**constraints**: (n) limitations

**consummation**: (n) the act of bringing to completion or fruition

**contempt**: (n) lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike

**contrived**: (adj) fake, made up, unconvincing

**corpulence**: (adj) obesity, thickness of body

**countenance**: (n) the appearance conveyed by a person's face

**cudgel**: (n) a club that is used as a weapon

**cumbersome**: (adj) heavy or awkward to carry

**cumulative**: (adj) collected, built up over time

**D**

**dapple**: (v) to cast blotchy patterns of shadows and patches of light

**dearth**: (n) a lack of something

**debauchery**: (n) immorality, usually sexual and involving orgies and substance abuse; excessive partying

**deference**: (n) courteous regard for people's feelings

**deferential**: (adj) apt to show respect and esteem due a superior or an elder, honor

**degradation**: (n) state of being humiliated or reduced from what it once was

**degrade**: (v) to reduce in worth or character

**delta**: (n) the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; in math, an increment of a variable

**demeanor**: (n) way in which one behaves, particularly toward others

**denounce**: (v) to judge and declare the guilt of while cutting off all support for

**depict**: (v) to show, as in a picture

**deplore**: (v) to express strong disapproval of

**despicable**: (adj) deserving to be hated and despised

**destiny**: the ultimate agency regarded as predetermining the course of all events

**dexterity**: (n) coordination

**dictum**: (n) a strongly expressed view

**digression**: (n) a going off the path, a getting off track

**dilapidate**: (v) to bring into a condition of decay or partial ruin by neglect or misuse

**dilapidated**: (adj) worn out, in disrepair

**discorporeal**: lacking a physical body

**disdain**: (n) the contempt or scorn one feels toward someone or something felt to be deserving of that.

**disgorge**: eject the contents of the stomach through the throat and mouth

**disinclined**: (adj) unwilling because of mild dislike or disapproval

**dispel**: (v) to get rid of, send away

**disproportionately**: (adj) unusually, inappropriately or unexpectedly

**dissemble**: (v) to behave unnaturally or deceitfully.

**dissipate**: (v) to scatter or disperse, as with a crowd

**dither**: (v) to act nervously; be undecided; be uncertain

**dogmatic**: (adj) closedmindedly holding an opinion and being vocal about it

**dour**: (adj) extremely serious and/or grim and unfriendly

**draconian**: (adj) fiercely cruel and harsh. Dragon-like

**draught**: (n/v) word used to describe a chilly movement of air, or an outpouring of beer from a keg

**dysfunctional**: (adj) broken, not working properly.

**E**

**ebb**: (n/v) a gradual decline in size or strength or power or number; to decline

**eccentricity**: (n) the oddity or unconventionality, usually of a person

**elemental**: (adj) resembling a great force of nature, or rudimentary/basic

**elixir**: (n) a substance believed to cure all ills

**emaciated**: (adj) grown weak and thin or wasted away physically

**embezzlement**: (n) the acquiring of money not rightly belonging to one, usually in the business world

**embodiment**: (n) physical manifestation (of)

**encumbrance**: (n) state of being weighed down with items; also an item which weighs one down

**endeavour**: (n) an attempt

**engrossed**: (adj) giving or marked by complete attention to

**enticement**: (n) something that seduces or has the quality to attract

**entreaty**: (n) an earnest or urgent request

**epsilon**: (n) the 5th letter of the Greek alphabet; small positive quantity in math

**erroneously**: (adj) in a mistaken manner

**eternal**: (adj) free from the effects of time, lasting forever with no beginning nor end

**ethereal**: (adj) not solid, but rather gaseous or ghostly (like ether)

**expel**: (v) to cast out

**expostulate**: (v) to reason with someone for the purpose of expressing disapproval

**exultation**: (n) a feeling of extreme joy

**F**

**façade**: (n) a false front, as for a store, or a person who is creating a false impression of himself

**facile**: (adj) From the French, too easy, arrived at without due care or effort; lacking depth

**factotum**: (n) servant with a very wide variety of responsibilities

**fantastic**: (adj) like something from a fantasy

**fathom**: (v/n) to understand, often something felt to be deep and hard to grasp, also a unit for measuring depth beneath the ocean

**febrile**: (adj) afflicted with fever

**fecundity**: (n) the quality of being fertile or productive, including of being able to spark ideas or start discussion

**feral**: (adj) untamed, as in the case of wild dogs

**fervour**: (n) feelings of great warmth and intensity

**fissure**: (n) a crack or gap in something, as in rock

**flay**: (v) to remove the skin

**flog**: (v) to whip, also to sell

**foisted**: (v) to be forced upon people without their prior knowledge or consent

**foliage**: (n) mass of plants growing, leaf-cover

**forays**: (n) scavenging trips, going looking for something.

**Ford**: (n) a man who popularized the use of the assembly line to build automobiles  
**Freud:**  (n) the father of modern psychoanalysis.   
**forlorn**: (adj) sadly alone

**fortitude**: (n) strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity with courage, from the French for “strong.”

**fretted**: (v) worried

**furtive**: (adj) sneaky, hidden and stealthy

**G**

**galvanised**: (v) to be energized into sudden action

**gambol**: (n/v) light-hearted recreational activity for diversion or amusement; to walk light-heartedly

**gamete:**  (n) A cell that fuses with another cell during fertilization.  
**gamma**: (n) the 3rd letter of the Greek alphabet; a unit of magnetic flux

**gauntlet**: (n) a heavy glove

**genial**: (adj) favorable to growth or comfort

**genre**: (n) a category of creative work characterized by a particular style, form, or content

**glut**: (n) a surplus, (v) to indulge in to an excessive degree

**glyph**: (n) a magical symbol or icon

**gnawing**: (v) to be chewing on

**gradient**: (n) gradual progression, as from light to dark

**grange**: (n) a house with a farm

**gratuitous**: (adj) word used to describe an unnecessarily free and excessive use of something such as nudity or violence

**guise**: (n) a costume or semblance, a way of seeming to others, often to fool them

**gumption**: (n) guts, grit, spirit, heart, energy

**H**

**haggard:** (adj) rough-looking, tired, worn out

**haggle**: (v) to argue over how much something should be sold for, to bargain

**hallucination**: (n) something that is seen but which doesn’t actually exist, due to altered mental perception

**haste**: (n) rushing, speed

**henchmen**: (n) assistants in evil-doing

**heresy**: (n) a belief or opinion that is judged to reject the beliefs of a religion or world view

**heretic**: (n) person who is teaching and believing something which is forbidden

**hierarchy**: (n) a power structure with clearly defined roles and levels of importance

**hither**: (n) old fashioned word now shortened to the modern word “here.”

**hoard**: (v) to keep or stash in great number or with great enthusiasm

**hobble**: (v) to walk unevenly because of an injured or restrained leg, to injure or restrain a leg, as of a horse

**I**

**idleness**: (n) reluctance to work or move around much

**idolatrous**: (adj) blindly or excessively devoted or adoring; worshipping someone or something that is a God substitute.

**imbibe**: (v) to drink

**imbue**: (v) to fill or give the capacity to do something

**imbue**: (v) to grant

**immutable**: (adj) not subject or susceptible to change or variation in form or quality or nature

**impalpable**: (adj) difficult to detect or grasp by the mind, or analyze

**imperious**: (adj) having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy

**implicate**: (v) to involve someone in a crime, to connect them to misbehaviour

**improvisation**: (n) the on-the-spot making up of something, as in lines in a play

**incantation**: (n) a ritual recitation of words or sounds believed to have a magical effect, from the French word meaning “to sing”

**inception**: (n) beginning; when a thing starts

**inconceivable**: (adj) beyond one’s ability to imagine or think could possibly be true

**incontrovertible**: (adj) something no one can argue against, disbelieve or disagree about.

**incriminate**: (v) to indicate that one is a criminal, often used to describe the effect of evidence of criminal involvement

**indefatigable**: (adj) showing sustained, untiring enthusiastic action

**indignation**: (n) anger, particularly when one feels one has a legitimate grievance

**indissoluble**: (adj) incapable of being annulled, undone, or broken

**indoctrination**: (n) training or teaching people accept a certain point of view and reject all others.

**infallible**: (adj) incapable of failing, making mistakes or being wrong

**innumerable**: (adj) unable to be numbered or counted

**inquisitor**: (n) person who interrogates someone, often using torture

**inscrutable**: (adj) impossible or difficult to read, generally used to describe blank faces

**insidious**: (adj) sneakily dangerous and underhanded; harmful very gradually.

**insipid**: (adj) dull, boring, tasteless

**interdependence**: (n) healthy reliance on others

**internment**: (n) the ritual placing of a corpse in a grave

**interminable**: (adj) never ending

**intermittent**: (adj) inconsistent, as in an electrical problem which comes and goes

**interpose**: (v) to stand or to place a thing between other persons or things so as to come between or separate them

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**intimidate**: (v) to frighten or make timid

**intonation**: rise and fall of the voice’s tones or pitch

**intricacy**: (n) quality of being marked by elaborately complex detail

**intricate**: (adj) complicated

**invalid**: (adj) *(say in-VAL-lid)* not acceptable

**invalid**: (n) *(say IN-val-lid)* sick person

**invariably**: (adv) to do, reliably and without variation

**iota**: (n) the ninth letter of the Greek alphabet, a tiny bit, a small degree

**irony**: (n) state of something seeming odd (or oddly appropriate) when considered, as in the case of a Superman actor dying from a gunshot wound, also sarcasm

**irreconcilable**: (adj) unable to be fixed or reconciled, as in the case of a problem or people not getting along.

**irrepressible**: (adj) impossible to quiet or repress, as in the case of a child or a fart.

**irrevocable**: (adj) impossible to undo or revoke

**ivy league:** (adj) term used to describe American colleges so old there has been time for vegetation to grow up their walls.

**J**

**jack:** (n) proper name for a male donkey

**jackal**: (n) a wild pack-hunting dog in Africa

**jaded**: (adj) toughened, insensitive

**jeer** (v): to abuse vocally; taunt or mock; to “chirp”

**jest**: (n/v) a joke or to joke

**joist**: (n) the small timbers or metal beams ranged parallel from wall to wall in a structure to support a floor or ceiling.

**jostle**: (v) to bump, as in knocking someone’s elbow

**juncture** (n): Where two things come together.

**Jurassic**: (adj) one of the prehistoric time periods in which dinosaurs existed

**jurisprudence**: (n) the science or practice of law

**K**

**kaleidoscope**: (n) toy for looking through and transforming one’s view with mirrors and coloured beads

**keen:** (adj) sharp; or else paying close attention.

**keg** (n): a barrel

**kin**: (n) blood relative

**kindle**: (v) to start a fire

**kinetic**: (adj) term used to discuss motion, and the energy required to achieve motion

**kiosk** (n.) a small “building within a building,” often used as a desk for customer service

**knead:** (v) to squeeze and flatten with the hands, for example, bread dough

**knoll** (n): a small rounded hill

**L**

**laggards**: (n) people who lag behind

**languorous**: (adj) lacking energy, spirit or liveliness

**legacy**: (n) a thing left from previous generations

**legendary**: (adj) depicted in dramatic stories or legends

**leonine**: (adj) like a lion

**lethal**: (adj) apt to kill

**liege**: (n) lord, master

**listless**: (adj) sick, without energy, unresponsive

**lofty**: (adj) of high moral or intellectual value, elevated in nature or style

**loll**: (v) to hang loosely or laxly

**longevity**: (n) state of being long-lived

**ludicrous**: (adj) silly, ridiculous. The name of a rapper.

**luminous**: (adj) producing light

**lurid**: (adj) glaringly tacky, vivid and graphic

**luscious:** (adj) having a delicious taste or smell

**lycanthropy**: (n) state of being apt to turn into a wolf or werewolf

**M**

**maiden**: (n) virgin female/a young girl, (adj) virginal

**malady**: (n) an impairment of normal function affecting part or all of an organism; a sickness or ailment

**malevolent**: (adj) evil, harmful, as in the case of an evil person, from the French for “bad.”

**malignant**: (adj) bad or dangerous, as in the case of a tumour. From the French for “bad.” the opposite of benign

**marred**: (adj) ruined, disfigured, mangled

**meditatively**: (adv) thoughtfully, while thinking or meditating upon something

**melee**: (n/adj) hand-to-hand fight or brawl

**mere**: (adj) being nothing more than specified; (n) a small pond of standing water like a mirror

**meticulously**: (adv) with a great amount of care and attention to detail

**milieu**: (n) area one is generally found, or is comfortable in

**monotony**: (n) tedium or boredom due to unchanging routine

**moral**: (n/adj) lesson illustrated by a story; the quality of having a good sense of right and wrong.

**morale**: (n) spirits/mood

**multifarious**: (adj) having many aspects or sides

**mutability**: (n) quality of being changeable

**myriad**: (n) a large indefinite number; too numerous to be counted

**myrtle**: (n) a wild-growing shrub with flowers and berries.

**mythic**: (adj) like something from a myth or “explanation story”

**N**

**narcissistic**: (adj) overly interested in enjoying and focusing upon one’s own physical beauty or other positive traits about one’s own self.

**nebulous**: lacking definite shape or structure

**nethermost**: farthest down, at the bottom

**niggling**: (adj) bothersome, hard to shake, as in the case of recurring doubts and fears.

**nodule**: (n) a lump.

**nomadic**: (adj) apt to move from place to place, rather than living in the same locale for extended periods.

**nominate** (v): to name, as in the case of suggesting who will fill a new position of responsibility

**nonchalantly**: (adv) without seeming to worry, showing no concern

**noose**: (n) a rope looped in such a way as to allow a person to be executed by hanging from the neck

**nostalgia:** (n) the state of enjoying past memories

**nouveau riche**: (adj) from the French, meaning “new money” or “newly wealthy”

**numerous**: (adj) many, large in number

**nurture:** (v) to care for the needs of

**O**

**obeisance**: (n) a show of reverence or submission or shame or polite greeting.

**obliterate**: (v) to do away with completely, without leaving a trace

**obliterated**: (v) reduced to nothingness

**obsolete**: (adj) no longer in use or useful

**obstetrics**: (n) dealing with childbirth

**obtuse**: (adj) dull, unintelligent, dim-witted

**ochre**: (n) red or yellow iron ore used as a pigment

**offal**: (n) intestines, once they are no longer in the abdominal cavity

**officiousness**: (n) aura of self-importance, of being official and conceited

**oh**: (int) an exclamation of surprise.

**ominously:** (adv) in a threatening way

**omit**: (v) to leave out

**oppressive** (adj): heavy, bullying; burdensome, overwhelming

**orchard** (n): an area where many fruit or nut trees are planted.

**orgiastic**: (adj) characterized by a frenzied, unrestrained, dramatic release of emotional energy, usually in large crowds as at a rock concert or religious ceremony.

**orifice**: (n) an opening, as in the body

**ow**: (int) an exclamation of pain.

**P**

**pallid**: (adj) deficient in color; lacking sparkle or liveliness

**pallor**: (n) unnatural lack of color in the skin

**paradox:** (n)  something that is apparently contradictory

**paramount**: (adj) having superior power and influence

**pathos**: (n) Greek word meaning sympathy or pity, as for a character in a story

**patrician**: (adj) aristocratic, high-class

**patron**: (n) one who funds someone else’s efforts, from the Latin word for “father/one who protects.”

**Pavlov:** (n) a behaviourist who trained dogs to salivate when he rang a bell, as they associated the sound with food.   
**pneumatic:** (adj) inflated with air, as in the case of a truck tire

**penultimate**: (adj) second-last

**perish**: (v) to die

**perpetually**: (adv) everlastingly; for all time

**persona**: (n) a created identity one may use

**pestilence**: (n) an infestation of insects and/or germs

**physiology**: (n) the branch of the biological sciences dealing with the functioning of organisms

**piety**: (n) quality of being dutifully pure and obediently religious

**pinions**:(n) wings

**pittance**: (n) a tiny amount, an inadequate payment

**pituitary**: (adj) of or relating to the gland responsible for growth

**platitude**: (n) a cliché that people in general, or a certain person, says all the time

**plunder**: (v) to go through, looking for things to steal, to raid or loot

**polyglot**: (n) a person who speaks more than one language

**portents**: (n) omens, signs of the future

**portmanteau**: (n) a large traveling bag made of stiff leather

**posterior**: (n) back of, rear end

**precipice**: (n) a very steep cliff

**predilection**: (n) a tendency to like or be something or other

**prestige**: (n) fame and recognition

**pretence**: (n) an act of giving a false appearance

**pristine**: (adj) unspoiled, undamaged

**procure**: (v) to get by special effort

**prodigal**: (n) a runaway child, (adj) like a runaway child

**prodigious**: (adj) far beyond what is unusual in magnitude or degree

**proficiency**: (n) the quality of having great ability and competence in a given area

**progeny**: (n) the children or immediate descendants of a person

**prognosticate**: (v) to make a prediction about; tell in advance

**prohibited**: (adj) disallowed, (v) to have been disallowed

**proliferate**: (v) to multiply and infiltrate, as in the case of bacteria

**prolific**: (adj) quality of having produced a great number of things

**promiscuity**: (n) quality of being incautious and not particular about sexual partners, particularly as to number

**prone**: (adj) apt, likely to, or else lying upon one’s stomach

**prone**: (adj) apt, likely to, or else lying upon one’s stomach

**propaganda:** (n)manipulative work, often multimedia, used to elicit a response from the masses, for example to make them hate the enemy in wartime.

**puissant**: (adj) powerful (from the French)

**Q**

**quaint**: (adj) strange in an interesting or pleasing way, attractively old-fashioned

**quavered**: (v) trembled, or spoke in a trembling voice

**quay**: (n. say *key*) a platform built out from the shore into water;

**query**: (n/v) a question or to ask

**queue**: (n) a lineup, as at the grocery store; from the French word for “tail”

**quizzical**: (adj) describes the expression of someone who is curious to know something

**quorum**: (n) a group rather like a committee

**quote**: (v) to repeat word for word.

**R**

**rampage**: (n) uncontrolled destructive journey, leaving wreckage behind; (v) the act of so doing

**rankle**: (v) to gnaw at emotionally; to make resentful or angry

**raspingly**: (adv) said or done with a rough quality in the sound

**ravage**: (v) to rape or destroy

**ravening**: (adj) starving hungry and likely to eat you

**rebuff**: (v) to reject outright

**recluse**: (n) a person living alone and not seeing other human beings, as a hermit

**recompense**: (v/n) to make payment to; compensate, a reward or payment

**recurrence**: (n) the happening again of an event

**reek**: (v) to smell horribly, (n) a horrible stench

**refute**: (v) to argue against

**regeneration**: (n) remaking or re-growing

**relinquish**: (v) to turn away from; to give up

**remonstrate**: (v) to passionately try to talk someone out of something

**remorselessly**: (adv) without regret or remorse

**renegade**: (n) a deserter, one who breaks off ties with conventional rules and behaviour and allegiances

**repent**: (v) to rethink and feel remorse for something one probably shouldn’t have done. From the French word for “think”

**replete**: (adj) comfortably full and unable to take on more

**repression**: (n) the denying or thoughts or feelings to the extent perhaps of being unaware of having them

**reprisal**: (n) act of revenge

**reproach**: (v) to try to make someone feel regret or guilt about something

**reproachfully**: (adv) in a manner which expresses disapproval

**reprobate**: (n) a person without morals or ethics

**repudiate**: (v) to boycott, cut off ties to or refuse to have anything further to do with, as in the case of a wife or a social group

**repugnance**: (n) disgust, intense aversion

**respite**: (n) a pause or break

**reticent**: (adj) reluctant, unwilling

**reverberate**: (v) to echo

**reverence**: (n) feeling of respect; seriously recognizing the importance of a person, place, idea or thing.

**reverential**: (adj) feeling or manifesting veneration, awe or respect

**revised**: (v) changed, usually referring to printed matter

**ribald**: (adj) vulgar and offensive

**righteousness**: (n) quality of being above judgment, criticism or guilt

**rowdy**: (adj) filled with unbridled energy and apt to be loud and disruptive

**ruddy**: (adj) having a healthy reddish color

**rudimentary** (adj) being or involving basic facts; in the earliest stages of development

**ruminate**: (v) to consider and mull over, as a cow chews her cud

**S**

**sabotage**: (n) the purposeful wrecking of something important, often secretly.

**saboteur**: (n) someone who secretly wrecks something important, as in war-time

**sage**: (adj) wise, (n) a wise person. From the French.

**salutation**: (n) greeting, how one salutes or addresses another, as “good morning” or “Mrs.”

**sanctioned**: (adj) officially supported by authority figure or expert, (v) to have done so

**sanguine**: (adj) confidently optimistic and cheerful

**sardonically**: (adv) word used to describe an action done with a bit of a smug mockery or amusement to it

**satiate**: (v) to fill to satisfaction

**savage: (adj) viewed as wild and lacking proper civilized manners.**   
**sibilant:** (adj) making a hissing sound.  
**simian: (adj)**  of, or relating to, apes.  
**solidarity: (n) the state of being unified and supported by each other**  
**scarcity**: (n) quality of being difficult to find an example of, there being so few around

**scourge**: (v) to whip, (n) also an ordeal to be undergone, or implement for whipping

**scrounge**: (v) to collect or gather together, often when it is hard to do so

**scrutinize**: (v) to examine closely

**sentient**: (adj) intelligent, capable of human thought

**shards**: (n) broken pieces of a once-whole thing, as in the case of an egg

**shrewish**: (adj) quarrelsome and difficult to deal with, like a shrew

**simultaneously**: (adv) at the same time

**sinewy**: (adj) rugged and powerful

**sizable**: (adj) large

**snigger**: (n) an annoying laugh akin to a snicker, but more nasty

**sorcerer**: (n) wizard or person apt to perform magic

**sorceries**: (n) magic acts

**sordid**: (adj) gross, vile, disgusting, dirty, low, as in the case of a story that is TMI and awkward

**spell**: (n) magic act; (v) to compose a word with the correct letters.

**spelunking**: (n) underground/cave exploration

**stagnant**: (adj) used to describe water that is still and filled with dirt, insects and bacteria

**stately**: (adj) refined or imposing in manner or appearance; befitting a royal court

**strenuous**: (adj) physically difficult and exhausting

**striations**: (n) grooves, scratches or “grain”, as seen in rock faces

**subliminal**: (adj) existing or functioning  below the threshold of consciousness

**subsequent**: (adj) coming next

**sultry**: (adj) very hot and humid; hot with passion or anger

**summon**: (v) to invite or cause to draw near to one

**supersede**: (v) to take the place of

**superfluous**: (adj) exceeding what is sufficient or necessary; not needed

**supernatural**: (adj) not existing in nature or subject to explanation according to natural laws; not physical or material

**supine**: (adj) lying on one’s back

**supple**: (adj) soft, bendy and flexible, as in the case of Play-doh, or a gymnast

**surly**: (adj) unfriendly and annoyed

**susurrus**: (n) a sibilant, hissing general noise as made by a whispering crowd of people or the wind in a desert.

**swine**: (n) pigs. As in German.

**syllogism**: (n) an argument or view composed of a series of points of logic

**symbiosis**: (n) a mutually beneficial living arrangement, as in the case of birds which eat the food trapped between the teeth of a crocodile, who gets his teeth cleaned so long as he doesn’t eat the birds

**synopsis**: (n) a summary

**T**

**tacitly**: (adv) hinted at without saying outright, but clearly expecting something to be understood

**taciturn**: (adj) not talkative

**tangible**: capable of being treated as fact; capable of being perceived; especially capable of being handled or touched or felt

**taut**: (adj) stretched tightly to the limit, firm

**thrives**: (v) grows or exists healthily with ease

**timorously**: (adv) without confidence, with great timidity

**tome**: (n) book

**totalitarianism**: (n) the political concept that citizens should be totally subject to a government which holds total authority over them

**trample**: (v) to walk roughly over, damaging with the feet

**transitory**: (adj) lasting a very short time before changing or moving away

**transmute**: (v) to change or alter in form, appearance, or nature

**tremulous**: (adj) characterized by or affected with shaking or tremors

**truncheon**: (n) a club

**turmoil**: (n) a violent disturbance

**U**

**ubiquitous**: (adj) seen or found seemingly everywhere

**ulterior** (adj): in the case of motives, secret motives which are hidden or not revealed

**ululating**: (adj) wailing with an eerie wobble in the vocal sound

**umber**: (adj/n) a shade of paint which is earth-coloured, dark brown

**umbrage**: (n) outrage or annoyance.

**umlaut**: (n) punctuation used in Scandinavian languages, two dots which sit above a letter, as in “nöel.”

**undiminished**: (adj) not reduced nor made any fewer or less

**unendurable**: (adj) unable to be withstood or endured

**unguent**: (n) old fashioned word for ointment

**unorthodox**: (adj) not typical or according to the traditional, usual or agreed-upon methods or expectations

**unscrupulous**: (adj) lacking morals, ethics or scruples

**unsullied:** (adj) not soiled or made dirty; clean

**urn:** (n) a vase used to contain the ashes of a deceased person.

**ursine:** (adj) bear-like

**usurp:** (v) to wrongly take away power from someone who rightfully holds it

**utility**: (n) usefulness

**utopia**: (n) an imaginary world or society, run perfectly

**uvula:** (n) the fleshy tag which hangs down at the back of the throat.

**V**

**vacillate:** (v) to waver; to go back and forth indecisively between choices

**vagrant:** (n) homeless person

**valour:** (n) courage

**vanquish:** (v) to conquer or defeat

**vapid**: (adj) lacking depth or meaning or spirit

**variance**: (n) amount something varies or changes from a norm

**vehemence**: (n) confident emphatic forcefulness

**vehement**: (adj) marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions; inclined to react violently;

**veneer:** (n) a thin decorative coating, as in the case of real wood decorating a thicker piece of plastic or plywood.

**venerate**: (v) to respect or hold up for admiration. From the French for “true.”

**verisimilitude**: (n) state of seeming true or real. From the French for “true.”

**veritable**: (adj) not counterfeit or copied. From the French for “true.”

**vials**: (n) small bottles

**vicarious**: (adj) word used to describe something being experienced through hearing about it from someone else

**viciously** (adv.): cruelly; in a mean way

**vile**: (adj) disgusting

**vintage**: (adj) of quality, aged well, as wine (From the French for “wine.”)

**virtual**: (adj) almost but not quite actual

**vitality**: (n) life, energy

**vivacious**: (adj) lively in personality, conduct, or spirit

**volatile**: changeable, unstable, reactive

**voluminous** (adj): full, heavy, bulky, having a large capacity or volume

**voluptuous**: (adj) pleasantly, generously rounded and curvy; most often used to describe the female form.

**W**

**wan**: (adj) pale and unhealthy looking

**wealthy**: (adj) rich

**wearily**: (adv) in a tired, worn-out way

**whence**: from what place, source, or cause

**whimsical**: (adj) fanciful, spontaneous, subject to erratic behavior or unpredictable change

**willow**: (n) a type of tree with narrow leaves and strong, flexible twigs and branches.

**wisp**: (n) a tiny, slight strand or piece of something, such as hair or grass

**wit**: (n) cleverness

**wreak**: (v) to bring about or cause, often havoc

**wretchedness**: (n) a state of ill-being due to affliction or misfortune

**writhed**: (v) twisted and turned, perhaps in agony or delight.

**wry**: (adj) clever and often ironically or grimly humorous

**X**

**Xanadu**: (n) city mentioned in Coleridge’s poem “Kubla Khan” after which Charles Foster Kane’s estate in *Citizen Kane* is named. A terrible 70s movie with disco and rollerskating.

**xanthan**: (n) a kind of waxy gum commonly used in the preparation of candy and other junk food.

**xenon**: (n) one of the noble gases, used in fluorescent lighting.

**xenophobia**: (n) hatred or fear of strangers, foreigners or anything which is strange of foreign

**zoology**: (n) the study of animals. From the Greek for word “animals.”

**xylem**: (n) plant tissue that contains water.

**xylophone**: (n) musical instrument composed of wooden bars one strikes with mallets (from the Greek word for “wood”)

**Y**

**yahoo**: (n) in Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*, a race of filthy, uncivilized wild men, an insulting term for a wild, loud, hick person

**Yahweh**: (n) a Jewish name for God

**yak**: (n) a large type of ox

**yammer**: (v) to babble or talk pointlessly

**yarmulke**: (n) small black skullcap worn by Jewish men while worshipping

**yawn**: (v) to open the mouth wide, often because of tiredness.

**yearn**: (v) to long for, want badly, or pine for

**yelled**: (past tense v) shouted

**yield:** (v) to produce or to give way to

**yogurt**: (n) food made from fermenting dairy products.

**yore**: (n) old word for ancient times

**yowling**: (v) making a noise like an enraged cat

**yuck**: (int) a childish exclamation of disgust.

**yule**: (n) old word for Christmas

**Z**

**zeal**: (n) a feeling of strong eagerness, enthusiasm or passion (usually in favor of a person or cause)

**Zen**: a kind of Buddhism which involves peaceful meditation

**zenith**: the top of an arc, as in the case of the sun in the sky, or a thrown object. The highest something is going to get

**zephyr**: (n) a small, gentle breeze

**zeppelin:** (n) a lighter-than-air flying ship.

**zest**: (n) energy with which to enjoy something thoroughly.

**zeta:** (n) sixth letter of the Greek alphabet.

**Zeus**: (n) the name of the father of the Greek gods who lived on Mount Olympus

**zodiac:** (n) the system of twelve astrological signs, including Scorpio, Capricorn and Sagittarius

**zoology**: (n) the study of animals

**Zorro**: (n) early 20th century, black cape and mask wearing, swashbuckling, laughing, sword-fighting Hispanic hero who was a large influence on Batman.