

IELTS HIGH SCORE VOCABULARY LIST

**A Specially Selected List of
IELTS Vocabulary Words
Guaranteed to Increase
Your Score!**

IELTS High Score Vocabulary List (2012)

“Discover A Specially Selected List of IELTS Vocabulary Words Guaranteed To Increase Your Score!”

By:

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Please note: All Verbs have an explanation that starts with “To”

ABANDON: To give up completely - *abandoned* the sinking ship.

Synonyms: relinquish, forgo, forsake

ACADEMIC: Pertaining to school; theoretical *academic* interests; an *academic* discussion, with no practical implications.

Synonym: scholastic

ACCELERATE: - To quicken, speed tip - took an *accelerated* course in order to graduate early.

Synonym: expedite (adj. expeditious)

Antonym: retard

ADVERSITY: Misfortune - calm in the face of *adversity*.

Synonyms: affliction, mischance, reverses

AGGRESSIVE (noun: AGGRESSION. an unprovoked attack): self-assertive; attacking, offensive - annoyed people by his *aggressive* attitude;

Synonyms: bumptious, officious, obtrusive

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AMBIGUOUS: Uncertain, vague, capable of being inter- in more than one way - puzzled by the *ambiguous* statement.

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ANONYMOUS: Of unknown authorship-an *anonymous* publication.

APPREHENSIVE (verb: APPREHEND): Fearful - Being unprepared, John is *apprehensive* of the examination.

ARTFUL: Sly; crafty - attained his mean objective by *artful* measures.

Synonyms: cunning, wily, adroit, ingenious, guileful

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ATHEIST: One who denies that God exists - The *atheist* declared, "There is no God."

Synonyms: infidel, agnostic, sceptic

ATTRIBUTE (verb): Assign -*attributed* his success to hard work.

Synonym: ascribe

(noun): An inherent quality -Generosity was his outstanding *attribute*.

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1. Of or having to do with citizens or the state - We have *civil* duties as well as *civil* liberties.
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Synonyms: stipend, remuneration, recompense, emolument

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Synonym: smug

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Synonym: accord



COSMOPOLITAN (noun): One who is at home in all countries - A *cosmopolitan* can feel at ease anywhere in the world.

(adj.): Free from local prejudices - a world-wide traveller, *cosmopolitan* in tastes and attitudes.

Synonyms: Catholic

Antonyms: parochial, provincial

CRASS: Coarse and stupid - displayed *crass* ignorance.

Synonym: gross

CREDIBLE: Worthy of belief - a *credible* story, true to life.

Antonym: incredible

CREDITABLE: Deserving or reflecting Credit or honour - applauded for his *creditable* performance.

Synonyms: praiseworthy, meritorious, commendable

Antonyms: discreditable, infamous, opprobrious, ignominious

CURT: Rudely abrupt -offended by the *curt* response.

Synonyms: blunt, brusque, bluff

Antonyms: affable, civil

DELINQUENT (noun): An offender - found to be a *delinquent* by the court.

(adj.): Failing to fulfil an obligation - too many people who are *delinquent* in meeting their civic duties.

Synonym: derelict

DEMEANOR: Behaviour; bearing - carrying himself with a proud *demeanour*.

Synonyms: deportment, mien

DENOUNCE (noun: DENUNCIATION): To speak against - *denounced* by the press as a traitor.

Synonyms: stigmatize, censure, reprehend, castigate

Antonyms: laud, eulogize

DEPRECIATE: To belittle or speak insignificantly of - *depreciated* his speaking ability.

Synonyms: disparage, derogate (adj. derogatory)

Antonyms: enhance, magnify, extol, laud, eulogize

DEVIOUS:

(1) Winding; indirect - took a *devious*, rather than the direct way home.

Synonym: circuitous

(2) Straying from the right course - used *devious* means to attain his wicked ends.

Synonyms: crooked, erring

DEVOUT: Devoted to religious observances - *devout* in his regularity of attendance at worship.

Synonyms: pious, religious

Antonym: impious

DILEMMA: A situation calling for a choice between two equally difficult alternatives; hence, a difficult or perplexing situation - faced with a *dilemma* defying solution.

Synonyms: predicament, quandary, plight

DISCRETE: Separate - two *discrete* issues, totally unrelated.

DISTRAUGHT: Mentally distressed; distracted - *distraught* by trials and tribulations.

Synonym: harassed

DIVERSE: (verb: DIVERSIFY; noun: DIVISIBILITY): Varied; different - two *diverse* characters; one candid, the other insincere.

Synonym: multifarious

DIVULGE: To make public or reveal - refused to *divulge* his source of information.

Synonyms: disclose, impart

DYNAMIC: Forceful - possessed *dynamic* energy, tireless and powerful.

Synonym: energetic

Antonyms: static, inert, dormant, torpid, sluggish, quiescent

EDIFY: To instruct or uplift, particularly in morals or religion - a story that *edifies* the reader, as well as entertains him

EJACULATE: To exclaim or utter suddenly - *ejaculated* cry of horror.

ENGENDER: To cause, produce, or stir up-an act that *engendered* good will.

ERRATIC: Irresponsible, eccentric; lacking a fixed purpose *erratic* behaviour, reflecting his queer ideas.

EXCEPTIONABLE: Objectionable - *exceptionable* behaviour, universally criticized.

Synonyms: questionable, reprehensible, censurable

Antonym: laudable

EXEMPLARY (noun: EXEMPLAR): Serving as a model; commendable - *exemplary* conduct approved by all.

Synonyms: illustrative, typical; praiseworthy, laudable

EXOTIC: Strange and foreign - an *exotic* costume imported from Asia.

EXPLOIT (verb): To use for one's selfish purpose – refugees *exploited* by unscrupulous employers.

(noun): A brilliant deed - lauded for his *exploits* in science.

Synonym: feat

EXTINCT: No longer existing or active - the *extinct* dinosaur, alive only in history.

Synonym: defunct

Antonym: extant

FACADE: Front or face, especially of a building - a *facade* of marble.

FEASIBLE: Workable - a *feasible* plan, proved practical by - previous experience.

Antonym: impracticable

FETISH.

(1) Something that is believed to have magical powers - avages worshipping the *fetish* in a ceremonial dance.



Synonym: charm, talisman, amulet

(2) An object of unreasoning devotion and worship – Photography, begun as a hobby, became a *fetish*.

FICTITIOUS: Unreal; made-up - used a *fictitious* name to avoid being recognized.

Synonym: fabricated

FLAUNT: Display or wave boastfully - *flaunted* the excellent report before his delighted parents.

FLEETING: Passing swiftly -the *fleeting* hours of happiness

Synonyms: transitory, fugitive

FLUCTUATE: To waver from one course to another; to vary irregularly - his mood *fluctuating* with every hour.

Synonyms: oscillate, vacillate, undulate, sway

FRUSTRATE: To prevent (the attainment of an object); to defeat or render ineffectual - His scholastic progress was *frustrated* by a serious illness.

Synonyms: balk, thwart, foil, baffle, obstruct, discomfit

Antonym: abet

GARNISH: To trim or decorate - dishes *garnished* attractively with greens.

Synonyms: adorn, deck

GREGARIOUS: Habitually fond of associating in a company or herd - *gregarious* sheep; that *gregarious* animal, man.

Antonyms: lone, aloof

HAIL: To greet - The crowd *hailed* the returning hero.

Synonyms: accost, salute

HOAX (noun): A trick or deception; a practical joke - played a *hoax* upon the credulous public.

Synonym: canard

(verb): To play a trick on; to deceive - He *hoaxed* the crowd completely with his disguise.

HYPOTHESIS: An assumption made for the sake of argument - worked from a fantastic *hypothesis*.

Synonym: supposition

IDIOSYNCRASY: A. personal peculiarity - Wearing white was one of Whistler's *idiosyncrasies*.

Synonyms: eccentricity, foible, mannerism, crotchet, aberration, quirk, singularity

IMMACULATE: Spotless; pure - an *immaculate* reputation.

Synonyms: undefiled, unsullied, unblemished, untarnished

Antonyms: defiled, sullied, blemished

IMMUNE (verb: IMMUNIZE): Exempt from; protected from - *immune* from taxation.

Synonym : unsusceptible

IMPECCABLE: Faultless - performed with *impeccable* skill.

Synonyms: consummate, irreproachable, unerring, infallible

Antonyms: culpable, fallible

IMPERVIOUS: Incapable of being penetrated - a mind *impervious* to new ideas.

Synonyms: impermeable, impenetrable

Antonyms: permeable, pervasive

IMPLICIT:

(1) Implied but not clearly expressed - an *implicit* agreement.

(2) Unquestioning - *implicit* confidence.

Synonyms: tacit, implied

Antonym: explicit

IMPORT (noun): Meaning; significance or importance - a matter of great *import*.

Synonyms: purport, moment, consequence

INCISIVE: Cutting, penetrating - *incisive* criticism.

Synonyms: sarcastic, mordant, trenchant, acute

INCREMENT: An increase - a salary *increment*.

Synonym: accrual

INDIGENOUS: Native - Rice is *indigenous* to China.

Synonyms: innate, inborn

INFERENCE: A conclusion reached by reasoning from data or premises - an *inference* drawn from his remarks.

Synonyms: deduction, implication

INGENIOUS: Demonstrating originality, skill, or resourcefulness - an *ingenious* device.

Synonyms: dextrous, inventive, adroit

Antonyms: maladroit, gauche

INHIBIT: To check or hinder - *inhibited* his friend from a foolhardy course.

Synonyms: restrain, curb

Antonym: promote

INSTIGATE: To stir up - *instigated* discontent among the soldiers.

Synonyms: foment, incite

INTEGRITY: Honesty, moral soundness - a man of proved *integrity*.

Synonyms: probity, uprightness, incorruptibility

JARGON: Confused, unintelligible, meaningless talk; special vocabulary used only by members of a group or trade - Variety, a newspaper written in theatrical *jargon*.

Synonyms: gibberish, argot, cant

JEOPARDY: Danger - His life was in *jeopardy*.

Synonyms: hazard, peril

JUDICIOUS: Wise; using or exhibiting good judgment - a well-chosen plan, termed *judicious* by all.

Synonyms: discreet, politic, discerning

LATENT: Hidden; present but not fully developed - *latent* talent that time will reveal.

Synonyms: dormant, quiescent, covert, potential

Antonyms: apparent, patent

LAVISH:

(1) Profuse or generous - *lavish* in praise.

Synonyms: ample, superabundant

(2) Given to extravagance - a *lavish* spender.

Synonyms: prodigal, munificent, magnanimous.

Antonyms: parsimonious, niggardly, frugal, penurious

LETHAL: Deadly - a *lethal* weapon.

Synonyms: mortal, fatal

LONGEVITY: Prolonged duration of life - a country remarkable for the *longevity* of its inhabitants.

LOW: To bellow softly like cattle - the *lowing* herd in the meadow.

Synonym: moo

LUCID: Clear; transparent; easily understood - a *lucid* explanation of a difficult text.

Synonyms: pellucid, perspicuous, intelligible, limpid, luminous, translucent

Antonyms: abstruse, obscure

LUDICROUS: Ridiculous; producing laughter - a *ludicrous* remark that set them all to roaring.

Synonyms: mirthful, droll, comical, absurd

Antonyms: doleful, lugubrious, dismal

MALICIOUS (*noun*: MALICE): Bearing, or acting with, deliberate ill-will or spite - hurting with *malicious* intent.

Synonyms: rancorous, malignant, malevolent, virulent, vindictive

Antonym: benign

MEDIOCRE: Average in quality - a *mediocre* performance, unworthy of his talents.

MONOLOGUE: A speech by one person - The actor gave his views in a dramatic *monologue*.

Synonym: soliloquy

Antonyms: colloquy (adj. colloquial): conversation between two or more persons; dialogue: conversation between two persons

MUNDANE: Of, or pertaining to, the world, as contrasted with the spirit - *mundane* affairs.

Synonyms: earthly, terrestrial, secular, temporal

MURKY: Dark; cloudy - a *murky* cavern.

Synonyms: dismal, tenebrous, fuliginous

Antonyms: resplendent, glowing, lustrous, luminous, fulgent, coruscating

MUTABLE: Given to frequent change in nature, mood, or form - *mutable* in mood as a spring wind.

Synonyms: vacillating, fickle, inconstant, fitful, mercurial, wavering, capricious

Antonyms: constant, steady

MYRIAD: Innumerable - the *myriad* stars in the heavens.

NAUTICAL: Pertaining to ships or navigation - a *nautical* career.

Synonyms: marine, naval, maritime

NOTORIOUS: Widely known (in a bad sense) - a *notorious* gambler.

NOVICE: A beginner - conducted himself in politics like a *novice*.

Synonyms: tyro, neophyte

Antonym: virtuoso

OBLIVIOUS (noun: OBLIVION): Forgetful; absent-minded - walking *oblivious* of his surroundings.

Synonyms: unmindful, heedless, abstracted

OBSESSION: A persistent feeling, idea, activity, etc., which dominates a person; the state of being exclusively preoccupied by a fixed idea - Now that he has learned bowling, it has become his *obsession*.

Synonyms: mania, infatuation (a foolish passion), monomania

OBSOLETE: No longer in use - an *obsolete* word, not even included by most dictionaries.

Synonyms: archaic, antiquated

OBTRUSIVE (verb: OBTRUDE): Thrusting oneself or itself into undue prominence - made himself obnoxiously *obtrusive*.

Synonyms: intrusive, aggressive

OSTRACIZE: To banish; to exclude from public favour or privileges - a former premier *ostracized* by popular vote.

Synonym: outlaw

PARADOX: A self -contradictory statement; something 'that appears to be absurd and yet may be true - "Life is too important a matter to be taken seriously." - a *paradox* by Oscar Wilde.

Synonym: anomaly

PARAPHRASE: To restate the meaning of a passage in other words - *paraphrased* the poem in a few lines of prose.

PARODY (noun): A humorous imitation of an author's style and mannerisms - wrote a *parody* on Kipling's "Gunga Din."

Synonym: burlesque

(verb): To write a parody - parodied the popular authors of the (lay to his audience's amusement.

Synonym: Mimic

PERVERSE: Wilfully bent on doing the wrong thing - a *perverse* lad, always disobeying his parents.

Synonyms: headstrong, forward, refractory, wayward, fractious

PETRIFY: To paralyze with horror, fear, or surprise - *petrified* by the enemy bombardment.

Synonyms: stupefy, stun, bewilder, amaze

PLAGIARISM. Adopting and reproducing, without acknowledgment, the writings or ideas of another and passing them off as one's own - denied the charge of deliberate *plagiarism*.

PLATITUDE: A dull and commonplace remark - bored people by his pompous phrases and *platitudes*.

Synonyms: bromide, truism, a platitude

PRESTIGE: Esteem or influence accorded for recognized achievements or reputation - As Senator he enjoyed great *prestige*.

Synonym: distinction

PREDATORY:

(1) Inclined to plunder or rob; - *predatory* bands roaming the countryside.

(2) Preying on, others - *predatory* animals prowling about.

Synonyms: predacious, looting, pillaging

PRELUDE: An introduction, forerunner, or preliminary step - a short *prelude* to the play.

Synonyms: Preface, prologue. Preamble

Antonym: epilogue

PRESUMPTION:

(1) Something taken for granted - acted on a reasonable *presumption*.

(2) Going beyond proper bounds; impudent boldness - His question was downright *presumption*.

Synonyms: effrontery, forwardness, arrogance

PROCRASTINATE: To postpone or put off to another time - missed his opportunity by *procrastinating* too long.

Synonyms: defer, delay

PROGNOSTICATE (noun: PROGNOSIS): To forecast - The Weather Bureau *prognosticates* daily.

Synonyms: presage, portend, augur, forebode

PROVISIONAL: Temporary; for the time being - a *provisional* plan until a permanent decision is reached.

Synonym: tentative

PROXIMITY: Nearness-worked in close *proximity* to his home.

Synonyms :propinquity, vicinity

Antonym: remoteness

QUASH: To crush; to render void - *quashed* a rebellion, *quashed* an insurrection.

Synonyms: suppress, extinguish, quell; annul

RADICAL (noun): One who advocates extreme basic changes - The reform movement was led by a *radical*.

(adj.): Thorough, extreme - *radical* measures adopted to meet the emergency.

Antonym:(noun and adj.) conservative

RAMIFICATION: A branching; sub-division - studied the subject in all its *ramifications*.

REFUTE: To prove incorrect or false-*refuted* his opponent's argument.

Synonyms: rebut, confute

Antonyms: substantiate, confirm, corroborate

REITERATE: Repeat (several times) - *reiterated* his story once more.

RENEGADE: One who forsakes political or party principles or his religious faith - a *renegade* from his former allegiance.

Synonyms: turncoat, apostate, recreant, traitor

RESPITE:

(1) Temporary deferment or cessation of work or pain - a brief *respite* from labor.

Synonym: surcease

(2) A temporary delay in the execution of -a sentence - granted the doom man a temporary *respite*.

Synonym: reprieve

RESILIENT: Elastic; light-hearted; possessing power of recovery - a *resilient* Spirit, refusing to admit defeat.

Synonyms: flexible, pliable, supple, limber

RETRIBUTION: The reward or punishment exacted for an injury, wickedness, or other action - suffered just *retribution* for his folly.

Synonyms: requital, nemesis

RETRIEVE:

(1) To make good -*retrieved* a mistake.

(2) To recover -*retrieved* the suitcase left at the station.

(3) To restore - *retrieved* his lost fortunes.

SATELLITE:

(1) An attentive or flattering follower - a prince surrounded by many *satellites*.

Synonyms: lackey, toady, disciple, adherent; adj., fawning, obsequious, partisan

(2) A country influenced or controlled by another - Freedom is conspicuously absent ,in the Soviet *satellites*.

(3) A body (natural or artificial) which revolves around a larger body, generally a planet - The moon is the only natural *satellite* of the earth, but in recent years it has been joined by many artificial *satellites*.

SORDID: Mean and base; filthy - *Sordid* motives breed selfish actions.

Synonyms: degraded, vile, ignoble

SPORADIC: Occurring singly, at irregular intervals; scattered - *sporadic* cases of illness.

SPURN: To refuse or reject with contempt - an offer that was *spurned* instantly.

Synonyms: repel, snub

STRINGENT: Strict; compelling, constraining *stringent* regulations; *stringent* requirements.

Synonyms: exacting, rigid

Antonym: lax

TANGIBLE: Real; actual - *tangible* gains which may be seen. and counted.

Synonyms: material, veritable, perceptible, substantial

TANTAMOUNT: Equivalent - an act that is *tantamount* to treason.

TAUNT (verb). To reproach with contempt - *taunted* him with the charge of failure to act promptly.

Synonyms: mock, twit, gibe, sneer, deride

(*noun*): An insulting, jeering, or bitter remark - hurled *taunts* at his foes.

TEEMING: In abundance, fertile, highly productive - the *teeming* tropics, rank with vegetation.

Synonyms: swarming, fruitful, fecund, abounding

TRANQUIL: Calm; peaceful - a *tranquil* summer night.

Synonyms: placid, serene

Antonyms: perturbed, ruffled, turbulent

TRIVIAL: Of little - importance - a *trivial* offense.

Synonym: paltry

Antonyms: gross, momentous

VANQUISH: To subdue or conquer -an army *vanquished* with heavy losses.

VAUNT: To boast - proudly *vaunted* his strength.

Synonyms: brag (noun: braggadocio, braggart), proclaim

VERSATILE: Able to do many things skilfully - *versatile* in all the arts.

WHIM (adj.: WHIMSICAL): A sudden notion or passing fancy -frequently acted on the *whim* of the moment.

Synonyms: caprice, vagary, crotchet

ZEALOUS (noun: ZEALOT: fanatic): Full of enthusiasm or eagerness -a *zealous* student, first in his class.

Antonym: perfunctory

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ABANDON: To give up completely - *abandoned* the sinking ship.

Synonyms: relinquish, forgo, forsake

ACADEMIC: Pertaining to school; theoretical *academic* interests; an *academic* discussion, with no practical implications.

Synonym: scholastic

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Synonym: expedite (adj. expeditious)

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Synonyms: infidel, agnostic, sceptic

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Synonym: ascribe

(noun): An inherent quality -Generosity was his outstanding *attribute*.

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2. Polite, courteous - answered in a *civil* fashion.

Synonyms: respectful, gracious

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Synonym: smug

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COSMOPOLITAN (noun): One who is at home in all countries - A *cosmopolitan* can feel at ease anywhere in the world.

(adj.): Free from local prejudices - a world-wide traveller, *cosmopolitan* in tastes and attitudes.

Synonyms: Catholic

Antonyms: parochial, provincial

CRASS: Coarse and stupid - displayed *crass* ignorance.

Synonym: gross

CREDIBLE: Worthy of belief - a *credible* story, true to life.

Antonym: incredible

CREDITABLE: Deserving or reflecting Credit or honour - applauded for his *creditable* performance.

Synonyms: praiseworthy, meritorious, commendable

Antonyms: discreditable, infamous, opprobrious, ignominious

CURT: Rudely abrupt -offended by the *curt* response.

Synonyms: blunt, brusque, bluff

Antonyms: affable, civil

DELINQUENT (noun): An offender - found to be a *delinquent* by the court.

(adj.): Failing to fulfil an obligation - too many people who are *delinquent* in meeting their civic duties.

Synonym: derelict

DEMEANOR: Behaviour; bearing - carrying himself with a proud *demeanour*.

Synonyms: deportment, mien

DENOUNCE (noun: DENUNCIATION): To speak against - *denounced* by the press as a traitor.

Synonyms: stigmatize, censure, reprehend, castigate

Antonyms: laud, eulogize

DEPRECIATE: To belittle or speak insignificantly of - *depreciated* his speaking ability.

Synonyms: disparage, derogate (adj. derogatory)

Antonyms: enhance, magnify, extol, laud, eulogize

DEVIOUS:

(1) Winding; indirect - took a *devious*, rather than the direct way home.

Synonym: circuitous

(2) Straying from the right course - used *devious* means to attain his wicked ends.

Synonyms: crooked, erring

DEVOUT: Devoted to religious observances - *devout* in his regularity of attendance at worship.

Synonyms: pious, religious

Antonym: impious

DILEMMA: A situation calling for a choice between two equally difficult alternatives; hence, a difficult or perplexing situation - faced with a *dilemma* defying solution.

Synonyms: predicament, quandary, plight

DISCRETE: Separate - two *discrete* issues, totally unrelated.

DISTRAUGHT: Mentally distressed; distracted - *distraught* by trials and tribulations.

Synonym: harassed

DIVERSE: (verb: DIVERSIFY; noun: DIVISIBILITY): Varied; different - two *diverse* characters; one candid, the other insincere.

Synonym: multifarious

DIVULGE: To make public or reveal - refused to *divulge* his source of information.

Synonyms: disclose, impart

DYNAMIC: Forceful - possessed *dynamic* energy, tireless and powerful.

Synonym: energetic

Antonyms: static, inert, dormant, torpid, sluggish, quiescent

EDIFY: To instruct or uplift, particularly in morals or religion - a story that *edifies* the reader, as well as entertains him

EJACULATE: To exclaim or utter suddenly - *ejaculated* cry of horror.

ENGENDER: To cause, produce, or stir up-an act that *engendered* good will.

ERRATIC: Irresponsible, eccentric; lacking a fixed purpose *erratic* behaviour, reflecting his queer ideas.

EXCEPTIONABLE: Objectionable - *exceptionable* behaviour, universally criticized.

Synonyms: questionable, reprehensible, censurable

Antonym: laudable

EXEMPLARY (noun: EXEMPLAR): Serving as a model; commendable - *exemplary* conduct approved by all.

Synonyms: illustrative, typical; praiseworthy, laudable

EXOTIC: Strange and foreign - an *exotic* costume imported from Asia.

EXPLOIT (verb): To use for one's selfish purpose – refugees *exploited* by unscrupulous employers.

(noun): A brilliant deed - lauded for his *exploits* in science.

Synonym: feat

EXTINCT: No longer existing or active - the *extinct* dinosaur, alive only in history.

Synonym: defunct

Antonym: extant

FACADE: Front or face, especially of a building - a *facade* of marble.

FEASIBLE: Workable - a *feasible* plan, proved practical by - previous experience.

Antonym: impracticable

FETISH.

(1) Something that is believed to have magical powers - avages worshipping the *fetish* in a ceremonial dance.



Synonym: charm, talisman, amulet

(2) An object of unreasoning devotion and worship – Photography, begun as a hobby, became a *fetish*.

FICTITIOUS: Unreal; made-up - used a *fictitious* name to avoid being recognized.

Synonym: fabricated

FLAUNT: Display or wave boastfully - *flaunted* the excellent report before his delighted parents.

FLEETING: Passing swiftly -the *fleeting* hours of happiness

Synonyms: transitory, fugitive

FLUCTUATE: To waver from one course to another; to vary irregularly - his mood *fluctuating* with every hour.

Synonyms: oscillate, vacillate, undulate, sway

FRUSTRATE: To prevent (the attainment of an object); to defeat or render ineffectual - His scholastic progress was *frustrated* by a serious illness.

Synonyms: balk, thwart, foil, baffle, obstruct, discomfit

Antonym: abet

GARNISH: To trim or decorate - dishes *garnished* attractively with greens.

Synonyms: adorn, deck

GREGARIOUS: Habitually fond of associating in a company or herd - *gregarious* sheep; that *gregarious* animal, man.

Antonyms: lone, aloof

HAIL: To greet - The crowd *hailed* the returning hero.

Synonyms: accost, salute

HOAX (noun): A trick or deception; a practical joke - played a *hoax* upon the credulous public.

Synonym: canard

(verb): To play a trick on; to deceive - He *hoaxed* the crowd completely with his disguise.

HYPOTHESIS: An assumption made for the sake of argument - worked from a fantastic *hypothesis*.

Synonym: supposition

IDIOSYNCRASY: A. personal peculiarity - Wearing white was one of Whistler's *idiosyncrasies*.

Synonyms: eccentricity, foible, mannerism, crotchet, aberration, quirk, singularity

IMMACULATE: Spotless; pure - an *immaculate* reputation.

Synonyms: undefiled, unsullied, unblemished, untarnished

Antonyms: defiled, sullied, blemished

IMMUNE (verb: IMMUNIZE): Exempt from; protected from - *immune* from taxation.

Synonym : unsusceptible

IMPECCABLE: Faultless - performed with *impeccable* skill.

Synonyms: consummate, irreproachable, unerring, infallible

Antonyms: culpable, fallible

IMPERVIOUS: Incapable of being penetrated - a mind *impervious* to new ideas.

Synonyms: impermeable, impenetrable

Antonyms: permeable, pervasive

IMPLICIT:

(1) Implied but not clearly expressed - an *implicit* agreement.

(2) Unquestioning - *implicit* confidence.

Synonyms: tacit, implied

Antonym: explicit

IMPORT (noun): Meaning; significance or importance - a matter of great *import*.

Synonyms: purport, moment, consequence

INCISIVE: Cutting, penetrating - *incisive* criticism.

Synonyms: sarcastic, mordant, trenchant, acute

INCREMENT: An increase - a salary *increment*.

Synonym: accrual

INDIGENOUS: Native - Rice is *indigenous* to China.

Synonyms: innate, inborn

INFERENCE: A conclusion reached by reasoning from data or premises - an *inference* drawn from his remarks.

Synonyms: deduction, implication

INGENIOUS: Demonstrating originality, skill, or resourcefulness - an *ingenious* device.

Synonyms: dextrous, inventive, adroit

Antonyms: maladroit, gauche

INHIBIT: To check or hinder - *inhibited* his friend from a foolhardy course.

Synonyms: restrain, curb

Antonym: promote

INSTIGATE: To stir up - *instigated* discontent among the soldiers.

Synonyms: foment, incite

INTEGRITY: Honesty, moral soundness - a man of proved *integrity*.

Synonyms: probity, uprightness, incorruptibility

JARGON: Confused, unintelligible, meaningless talk; special vocabulary used only by members of a group or trade - Variety, a newspaper written in theatrical *jargon*.

Synonyms: gibberish, argot, cant

JEOPARDY: Danger - His life was in *jeopardy*.

Synonyms: hazard, peril

JUDICIOUS: Wise; using or exhibiting good judgment - a well-chosen plan, termed *judicious* by all.

Synonyms: discreet, politic, discerning

LATENT: Hidden; present but not fully developed - *latent* talent that time will reveal.

Synonyms: dormant, quiescent, covert, potential

Antonyms: apparent, patent

LAVISH:

(1) Profuse or generous - *lavish* in praise.

Synonyms: ample, superabundant

(2) Given to extravagance - a *lavish* spender.

Synonyms: prodigal, munificent, magnanimous.

Antonyms: parsimonious, niggardly, frugal, penurious

LETHAL: Deadly - a *lethal* weapon.

Synonyms: mortal, fatal

LONGEVITY: Prolonged duration of life - a country remarkable for the *longevity* of its inhabitants.

LOW: To bellow softly like cattle - the *lowing* herd in the meadow.

Synonym: moo

LUCID: Clear; transparent; easily understood - a *lucid* explanation of a difficult text.

Synonyms: pellucid, perspicuous, intelligible, limpid, luminous, translucent

Antonyms: abstruse, obscure

LUDICROUS: Ridiculous; producing laughter - a *ludicrous* remark that set them all to roaring.

Synonyms: mirthful, droll, comical, absurd

Antonyms: doleful, lugubrious, dismal

MALICIOUS (*noun*: MALICE): Bearing, or acting with, deliberate ill-will or spite - hurting with *malicious* intent.

Synonyms: rancorous, malignant, malevolent, virulent, vindictive

Antonym: benign

MEDIOCRE: Average in quality - a *mediocre* performance, unworthy of his talents.

MONOLOGUE: A speech by one person - The actor gave his views in a dramatic *monologue*.

Synonym: soliloquy

Antonyms: colloquy (adj. colloquial): conversation between two or more persons; dialogue: conversation between two persons

MUNDANE: Of, or pertaining to, the world, as contrasted with the spirit - *mundane* affairs.

Synonyms: earthly, terrestrial, secular, temporal

MURKY: Dark; cloudy - a *murky* cavern.

Synonyms: dismal, tenebrous, fuliginous

Antonyms: resplendent, glowing, lustrous, luminous, fulgent, coruscating

MUTABLE: Given to frequent change in nature, mood, or form - *mutable* in mood as a spring wind.

Synonyms: vacillating, fickle, inconstant, fitful, mercurial, wavering, capricious

Antonyms: constant, steady

MYRIAD: Innumerable - the *myriad* stars in the heavens.

NAUTICAL: Pertaining to ships or navigation - a *nautical* career.

Synonyms: marine, naval, maritime

NOTORIOUS: Widely known (in a bad sense) - a *notorious* gambler.

NOVICE: A beginner - conducted himself in politics like a *novice*.

Synonyms: tyro, neophyte

Antonym: virtuoso

OBLIVIOUS (noun: OBLIVION): Forgetful; absent-minded - walking *oblivious* of his surroundings.

Synonyms: unmindful, heedless, abstracted

OBSESSION: A persistent feeling, idea, activity, etc., which dominates a person; the state of being exclusively preoccupied by a fixed idea - Now that he has learned bowling, it has become his *obsession*.

Synonyms: mania, infatuation (a foolish passion), monomania

OBSOLETE: No longer in use - an *obsolete* word, not even included by most dictionaries.

Synonyms: archaic, antiquated

OBTRUSIVE (verb: OBTRUDE): Thrusting oneself or itself into undue prominence - made himself obnoxiously *obtrusive*.

Synonyms: intrusive, aggressive

OSTRACIZE: To banish; to exclude from public favour or privileges - a former premier *ostracized* by popular vote.

Synonym: outlaw

PARADOX: A self -contradictory statement; something 'that appears to be absurd and yet may be true - "Life is too important a matter to be taken seriously." - a *paradox* by Oscar Wilde.

Synonym: anomaly

PARAPHRASE: To restate the meaning of a passage in other words - *paraphrased* the poem in a few lines of prose.

PARODY (noun): A humorous imitation of an author's style and mannerisms - wrote a *parody* on Kipling's "Gunga Din."

Synonym: burlesque

(verb): To write a parody - parodied the popular authors of the (lay to his audience's amusement.

Synonym: Mimic

PERVERSE: Wilfully bent on doing the wrong thing - a *perverse* lad, always disobeying his parents.

Synonyms: headstrong, forward, refractory, wayward, fractious

PETRIFY: To paralyze with horror, fear, or surprise - *petrified* by the enemy bombardment.

Synonyms: stupefy, stun, bewilder, amaze

PLAGIARISM. Adopting and reproducing, without acknowledgment, the writings or ideas of another and passing them off as one's own - denied the charge of deliberate *plagiarism*.

PLATITUDE: A dull and commonplace remark - bored people by his pompous phrases and *platitudes*.

Synonyms: bromide, truism, axiom

PRESTIGE: Esteem or influence accorded for recognized achievements or reputation - As Senator he enjoyed great *prestige*.

Synonym: distinction

PREDATORY:

(1) Inclined to plunder or rob; - *predatory* bands roaming the countryside.

(2) Preying on, others - *predatory* animals prowling about.

Synonyms: predacious, looting, pillaging

PRELUDE: An introduction, forerunner, or preliminary step - a short *prelude* to the play.

Synonyms: Preface, prologue. Preamble

Antonym: epilogue

PRESUMPTION:

(1) Something taken for granted - acted on a reasonable *presumption*.

(2) Going beyond proper bounds; impudent boldness - His question was downright *presumption*.

Synonyms: effrontery, forwardness, arrogance

PROCRASTINATE: To postpone or put off to another time - missed his opportunity by *procrastinating* too long.

Synonyms: defer, delay

PROGNOSTICATE (noun: PROGNOSIS): To forecast - The Weather Bureau *prognosticates* daily.

Synonyms: presage, portend, augur, forebode

PROVISIONAL: Temporary; for the time being - a *provisional* plan until a permanent decision is reached.

Synonym: tentative

PROXIMITY: Nearness-worked in close *proximity* to his home.

Synonyms :propinquity, vicinity

Antonym: remoteness

QUASH: To crush; to render void - *quashed* a rebellion, *quashed* an insurrection.

Synonyms: suppress, extinguish, quell; annul

RADICAL (noun): One who advocates extreme basic changes - The reform movement was led by a *radical*.

(adj.): Thorough, extreme - *radical* measures adopted to meet the emergency.

Antonym:(noun and adj.) conservative

RAMIFICATION: A branching; sub-division - studied the subject in all its *ramifications*.

REFUTE: To prove incorrect or false-*refuted* his opponent's argument.

Synonyms: rebut, confute

Antonyms: substantiate, confirm, corroborate

REITERATE: Repeat (several times) - *reiterated* his story once more.

RENEGADE: One who forsakes political or party principles or his religious faith - a *renegade* from his former allegiance.

Synonyms: turncoat, apostate, recreant, traitor

RESPITE:

(1) Temporary deferment or cessation of work or pain - a brief *respite* from labor.

Synonym: surcease

(2) A temporary delay in the execution of -a sentence - granted the doom man a temporary *respite*.

Synonym: reprieve

RESILIENT: Elastic; light-hearted; possessing power of recovery - a *resilient* Spirit, refusing to admit defeat.

Synonyms: flexible, pliable, supple, limber

RETRIBUTION: The reward or punishment exacted for an injury, wickedness, or other action - suffered just *retribution* for his folly.

Synonyms: requital, nemesis

RETRIEVE:

(1) To make good -*retrieved* a mistake.

(2) To recover -*retrieved* the suitcase left at the station.

(3) To restore - *retrieved* his lost fortunes.

SATELLITE:

(1) An attentive or flattering follower - a prince surrounded by many *satellites*.

Synonyms: lackey, toady, disciple, adherent; adj., fawning, obsequious, partisan

(2) A country influenced or controlled by another - Freedom is conspicuously absent ,in the Soviet *satellites*.

(3) A body (natural or artificial) which revolves around a larger body, generally a planet - The moon is the only natural *satellite* of the earth, but in recent years it has been joined by many artificial *satellites*.

SORDID: Mean and base; filthy - *Sordid* motives breed selfish actions.

Synonyms: degraded, vile, ignoble

SPORADIC: Occurring singly, at irregular intervals; scattered - *sporadic* cases of illness.

SPURN: To refuse or reject with contempt - an offer that was *spurned* instantly.

Synonyms: repel, snub

STRINGENT: Strict; compelling, constraining *stringent* regulations; *stringent* requirements.

Synonyms: exacting, rigid

Antonym: lax

TANGIBLE: Real; actual - *tangible* gains which may be seen. and counted.

Synonyms: material, veritable, perceptible, substantial

TANTAMOUNT: Equivalent - an act that is *tantamount* to treason.

TAUNT (verb). To reproach with contempt - *taunted* him with the charge of failure to act promptly.

Synonyms: mock, twit, gibe, sneer, deride

(*noun*): An insulting, jeering, or bitter remark - hurled *taunts* at his foes.

TEEMING: In abundance, fertile, highly productive - the *teeming* tropics, rank with vegetation.

Synonyms: swarming, fruitful, fecund, abounding

TRANQUIL: Calm; peaceful - a *tranquil* summer night.

Synonyms: placid, serene

Antonyms: perturbed, ruffled, turbulent

TRIVIAL: Of little - importance - a *trivial* offense.

Synonym: paltry

Antonyms: gross, momentous

VANQUISH: To subdue or conquer -an army *vanquished* with heavy losses.

VAUNT: To boast - proudly *vaunted* his strength.

Synonyms: brag (noun: braggadocio, braggart), proclaim

VERSATILE: Able to do many things skilfully - *versatile* in all the arts.

WHIM (adj.: WHIMSICAL): A sudden notion or passing fancy -frequently acted on the *whim* of the moment.

Synonyms: caprice, vagary, crotchet

ZEALOUS (noun: ZEALOT: fanatic): Full of enthusiasm or eagerness -a *zealous* student, first in his class.

Antonym: perfunctory

