List 1

1. alliteration
   putting together two or more words which start with the same sound
   Abundant use of alliteration is almost always annoying.

2. anecdote
   a short account of something interesting or funny that happened in the past
   She told a humorous anecdote regarding her grandparents' dog.

3. culminate
   to reach a climax or highest point
   Hopefully, all his training will culminate in his being chosen for the team.

4. denouement
   the outcome, solution, the final revelation
   The denouement did not come until the last paragraph of the book.

5. deus ex machina
   in writing, any sudden, unlikely event used by a writer to solve a problem and end the story
   The deus ex machina in science fiction can seem very plausible.

6. dialect
   colloquial speech, a regional language or way of speaking
   The dialect in Uncle Tom's Cabin was very hard to read because I haven't had much experience with this type of dialect.

7. dramatic illusion
   the willing suspension of disbelief; the brief assumption that a fictional event is real
   The dramatic illusion created by *Jurassic Park* had me believing I could see a live dinosaur.

8. flashback
   an interruption in the chronological plot sequence which shows an earlier event
   The use of flashbacks can be confusing if the story is not well-written.

9. foreshadowing
   hints about what is to come; a plot device to create suspense and anticipation
   A good mystery writer's use of foreshadowing throughout the story that will culminate in a believable but exciting climax and denouement.

10. genre
    a type or category of writing or other works of art
    Adventure, fantasy, historical fiction and biographies are some of the different literary genres.

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List 2

1. botanist
   one who studies plant life
   The botanist was amazed at the color of the hybrid rose.

2. cataract
   large waterfall; heavy downpour; opacity of the eye, causing partial or total blindness
   Portaging around some smaller rapids, we could hear the cataract long before we could see it.

3. doughty (doubt-ee)
   brave, valiant, eminent, noble
   The doughty hero in fairy tales is likely to be a prince.

4. foray
   a sudden or irregular military advance, invasion, or raid
   The successful foray into enemy territory won the young officer a field promotion.

5. forging
   shaping of metal by hammering; pushing onward
   The blacksmith is forging a new set of shoes for the horse.

6. kayaks
   canoes which are completely covered except for an opening in the middle for the paddlers or kayakers to sit
   Our friends took their kayaks on a trip through the Queen Charlotte Islands.

7. limbo
   a place of oblivion (neither heaven nor hell); temporary suspension
   I was between jobs and felt like I was living in limbo.

8. nomadic
   wandering, not having a permanent residence
   He lived a nomadic life in Europe for a year after he left college.

9. roil
   to churn up; to make muddy by stirring
   He felt his stomach roil as the time for the test drew near.

10. sojourn
    to dwell for a time, a longish visit
    The doctor prescribed a long sojourn in a hot, dry climate to cure my asthma.

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List 3

1. almanac
   a book containing useful information on weather, tide tables, holidays, etc., published annually
   We looked in the almanac to determine when low tide would be.

2. computations
   mathematical numberings or reckonings to arrive at an answer
   Our computations were incorrect and our simulated rocket missed its target.

3. foul
   offensive, dirty, disgusting, unfair, out of bounds
   The referee ruled that the ball was over the line and therefore it was foul.

4. latitude
   freedom from narrow restrictions;
   a region considered with reference to its distance north or south of the equator
   The teacher allowed some latitude when we were designing the posters for the Open House.

5. longitude
   a region considered with reference to its position east or west of Greenwich, England, measured in degrees and running from pole to pole
   Navigators use degrees of longitude to compute locations.

6. meridian
   any imaginary circle through the earth that includes the poles
   The Prime Meridian runs through Greenwich in England.

7. slate
   a thin-layered, hard, fine-grained rock; a list of proposed candidates;
   a small, hand-held blackboard
   The children in the old schoolhouse wrote their answer on a slate.

8. slew
   turn or swing around a fixed point
   The car slewed over the center line because of ice.

9. swagger
   to strut arrogantly, to boast or brag
   The bully liked to swagger across the playground.

10. zenith
    the high point, culmination, peak, summit
    The sun is at its zenith at noon.

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List 4

1. authorities
   those in command or in charge;
   persons with credibility in specific areas of knowledge
   In order to prove her point in the debate, she went to the library to research the authorities.

2. cower
   back away from in fear, cringe
   The dog cowered under the bed during the storm.

3. crone
   an old ewe; an old withered woman
   The children were unkind to the hunchbacked crone who lived in the neighborhood.

4. crotchety
   cantankerous, crabby, full of peculiar whims
   The crotchety man yelled at the children when they played ball near his house.

5. gourd
   a plant belonging to the squash family;
   the dried, hollowed-out shell of a squash-like plant
   They used a gourd to dip water from the stream.

6. gratify
   please, satisfy
   The teacher was gratified to see all her students graduate.

7. hearth
   the floor of a fireplace which often extends out into the room
   We gathered close to the hearth during the last cold spell.

8. heiress
   a female who is expected to inherit great wealth
   All the young men swarmed around the heiress and ignored the other young ladies at the party.

9. passion
   extreme, compelling emotions; the object of any strong desire or fondness
   His passion for buying electronic gadgets led to financial problems.

10. thatch
    a roof or roofing of straw, rushes, palm leaves, etc.;
    the material for this type of roof; to apply this type of roof
    They replaced the thatch on the cottage at the lake.

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List 5

1. aerial
   placed in the air, high, lofty, elevated
   The car's aerial had been broken by the falling branch.

2. conservation
   preservation from loss, decay or injury
   Through conservation, we shall save the rain forests.

3. debris
   scattered fragments, remains, rubbish
   The debris from the accident was scattered over the roadway.

4. embryonic
   in an early stage, undeveloped
   Negotiations to buy the property were in an embryonic stage.

5. forage
   to search for food or supplies; fodder for animals
   The horses were left to forage for food in the old field.

6. incubate
   keep in a favorable environment for development
   The eggs were incubating behind the stove in the kitchen.

7. membrane
   a thin layer or sheet used as a covering or lining
   The membrane that surrounds the heart is quite strong.

8. migratory
   roving, wandering, nomadic
   The field workers led a migratory life.

9. rupture
   break apart, burst
   The boy's appendix ruptured during surgery.

10. shanty
    a hut or shabby dwelling
    The hobo used the shanty underneath the railroad bridge.

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List 6

1. accelerate
   speed up, hasten, bring nearer in time
   Scientists believe exposure to the sun accelerates aging of the skin.

2. accent
   n. a stress of the voice on a certain syllable;
   a striking feature of an artistic composition
   v. to stress or emphasize
   The pillow added just the right color accent to the room.

3. maneuver
   to manage or plan skillfully, to manipulate
   They tried to maneuver the ship between the reefs.

4. massive
   huge, large, imposing, ponderous, weighty
   Cataloguing the books turned into a massive task.

5. orbiting
   circling of an object, such as a planet moving around the sun
   We couldn't see the comet that was orbiting our solar system.

6. reef
   n. a ridge of sand or rock lying near the surface of the water
   v. haul in on, cut down to size
   The coral reefs near Australia are a popular diving site.

7. rendezvous
   a previously appointed time and place for a meeting
   The rendezvous for the different scouting parties was set for sunrise on Wednesday.

8. revolt
   n. a rising up against some situation
   v. to rise up against
   The cause of the revolt was more than just lack of jobs.

9. secretive
   tendency to conceal, not to be open or frank
   The secretive way they were acting made me suspicious of them.

10. sullied - dirtied, soiled, tarnished, defiled
    She felt sullied after overhearing the dirty joke.

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List 7

1. abroad
   widely, with expansion, not confined to narrow limits; out of the country
   My sister went abroad to study art.

2. appease
   to calm, still, pacify, conciliate
   The snack appeased my hunger pains.

3. compact
   adj. dense, terse, taking little space
   n. contract between two parties, a small case
   v. to press closely together, to consolidate
   They made a compact to only trade with each other.

4. conspicuous
   easy to see, obvious, striking
   The red shirt was certainly conspicuous with the white background.

5. indifferent
   neutral, impartial, unconcerned, apathetic
   Her parents were not indifferent concerning her progress report from school.

6. peril
   danger, risk, jeopardy
   With all the rain, the dam was in peril.

7. simultaneously
   at the same time, in synchronization
   The synchronized swimmers dove simultaneously.

8. submit
   to yield or surrender, to defer to another; to offer one's own opinion, to suggest
   The architect had to submit the building plans to the county.

9. trifle
   n. something of little value; an English dessert
   v. to act or talk without seriousness; to toy with
   Please don't trifle with my affections.

10. verge
    the edge, the brink, a boundary
    He was on the verge of being through with his research paper.

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List 8

1. balk
   v. to delay or thwart, to obstruct
   n. anything left untouched; anything acting as an obstruction or hindrance
   I knew he was going to balk at my suggestion that he turn off the television and finish his homework.

2. blemish
   n. a spot, flaw, stain, defect, or shortcoming
   v. to mark with deformity, to mar, to sully
   The speeding ticket was the only blemish on her 30-year driving record.

3. cunning
   adj. skillful, clever, shrewd, pleasingly attractive
   n. knowledge, art skill, dexterity
   He displayed a cunning knowledge of rare baseball cards.

4. dappled
   marked with variegated spots, mottled
   The rain created a dappled effect on her silk shirt.

5. dissent
   v. to disagree, to differ from an established view
   n. a declaration of disagreement; a minority opinion
   The letter of dissent was sent to the Archbishop's office.

6. ledge
   a shelf or shelf-like projection
   She cowered beneath the ledge on the cliff to avoid the rockslide.

7. revel
   v. to make merry, to be festive, to take pleasure in
   n. merrymaking, boisterous festivity
   He seemed to revel in the competition for the team.

8. serene
   fair, clear, calm, undisturbed
   Her serene expression led us to speculate she was not the waif she cunningly portrayed.

9. speculate
   to contemplate or consider; to buy or sell with the intention of making quick money, to invest in a risky business venture
   I asked them not to speculate on the situation until they had more information.

10. waif
    a homeless child, a strayed animal found by chance that is without an owner

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The waif was found wandering by the river in the park.

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List 9

1. assert
   to declare with assurance, to insist on one's rights, to thrust oneself forward
   Shy people are often told that they need to assert themselves.

2. boor
   a rude, ill-mannered person
   Only a boor would express himself by making obscene remarks.

3. contempt
   a feeling toward something considered worthless or beneath notice; scorn, disregard
   He showed his contempt for the speaker by walking out before the presentation was finished.

4. dogged
   not giving in readily, persistent, stubborn
   His dogged pursuit of rock stardom gave him little time to do homework or chores.

5. foil
   v. to frustrate, to thwart, to balk
   n. a long, thin fencing sword; a thin sheet or leaf of a metallic substance
   The hero in the melodrama foiled the villain's plans.

6. forthright
   straightforward, direct, frank
   We appreciated the doctor's forthright approach when telling us about the treatment of the disease.

7. fracas (fray-cus)
   a noisy quarrel, a brawl, a disturbance
   The police were called because of the fracas in the stadium.

8. hamper
   n. a large basket, usually with a cover
   v. to shackle, to entangle, to impede progress
   Not having transportation would hamper the social life of many teenagers.

9. laminate
   to cover with thin layers, to press into a thin sheet or layer
   Teachers often laminate posters with plastic so they will last for more than one school year.

10. recluse
    one who lives alone, avoiding contact with other people; a hermit
    Living by himself in the wilderness, the recluse became friends with many wild animals.

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List 10

1. annihilate
   to reduce to nothing, to destroy absolutely
   Scientists hope to annihilate the disease with a new vaccine.

2. collateral
   anything of value that is pledged as additional security for a loan
   My parents used their house as collateral for my college loan.

3. consensus
   unanimity; general agreement especially in opinion
   The jury finally reached a consensus on the tenth day of deliberation.

4. finesse
   skill, craft, artfulness
   He played the game with great finesse and won despite his small size.

5. fuselage
   the body of an airplane without the wings and tail
   The investigators were amazed that the fuselage was still in one piece after the crash.

6. mar
   v. to make imperfect, to damage or spoil
   n. a blemish or disfigurement
   The scar did not mar her beauty but gave her an air of mystery.

7. rampant
   violent and uncontrollable, widespread, flourishing, unchecked
   The group tried to stop the rampant growth of pollution.

8. shiftless
   lacking the will to accomplish, inefficient, lazy
   No one wants other people to think they are shiftless.

9. tumult
   commotion, disturbance, great noise, uproar
   The tumult was tremendous when the school announced that there would be no Winter Break that year.

10. vendetta
    a feud in which one tries to get revenge; a seeking of vengeance
    The vigilante's vendetta against crime in the streets only succeeded in making matters worse.

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List 11

1. abashed
   disconcerted, ashamed, confused
   He was abashed when his lack of knowledge on the subject was pointed out.

2. comprehend
   understand, discern, grasp
   The score on your test will show us whether you comprehend the text material.

3. converse
   v. to associate, talk, commune, chat
   n. the opposite
   It is quite nice to hear the students converse in moderate decibels.

4. dispute
   v. to argue, disagree, debate
   n. strife, controversy, argument
   It turned out that the playground dispute was over a rumor heard in the bathroom.

5. gape
   yawn, stare at something wide-eyed
   She gaped as she watched the tornado race through the town.

6. impulse
   incentive, push, incitement, force, motive
   He had a sudden impulse to walk away from his friends and talk to the new student.

7. intruder
   one who thrusts in where he is not welcome, one who has no right to be where he is
   The intruder sneaked quietly through the house.

8. melancholy
   n. sadness, depression of spirits
   adj. gloomy, pensive
   A great melancholy had settled over the whole community after the defeat of their number one team.

9. soliloquy
   speech given in a drama expressing one's feelings to the audience; talking to oneself
   Alone on the stage, he soliloquized about the injustice of the court system.

10. vagrant
    a tramp, hobo, a rover, idle wanderer
    The vagrant came to the door hoping for a free meal.

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List 12

1. authentic
   real, genuine, authorized
   The letter telling me I had won the grand prize was authentic!

2. desolate
   forlorn, barren, uninhabited, miserable, lonely
   There are some desolate spots in eastern Washington.

3. emerge
   come forth, become visible, appear
   As I watched, the Loch Ness monster emerged from the lake.

4. errant
   deviating from a particular course, wandering; itinerant, rambling, roving
   The errant knight was having trouble finding a damsel in distress.

5. inflection
   a turn, bend or curve, a change in the pitch or tone of the voice
   Listening to the inflection of the speaker's voice is like reading between the lines.

6. malevolent
   evil; wishing harm or ill toward others
   The malevolent wind threatened to tear the rock climbers from their precarious perch.

7. menacing
   threatening harm or evil
   The large dog certainly looked menacing.

8. tamper
   meddle with, interfere, change from the original
   The police suspected the lock had been tampered with because of the scratch marks on the door.

9. twang
   a sharp, vibrating sound, a nasal-sounding speaking
   The release of the arrow made the bowstring twang loudly.

10. wheezily
    hard, breathy sounds, whistling sounds
    A person with allergies may breathe wheezily.

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List 13

1. antedating
   preceding, belonging to an earlier time, happening earlier
   Historians are discovering folktales that antedate written language.

2. literary
   dealing with literature, belonging to letters
   The literary discussions were fun and gained us points in reading.

3. luxuriant
   elaborate, ornate, richly appointed; lush, fertile, thickly growing
   Her luxuriant hair made her a candidate for shampoo commercials.

4. muse
   ponder, meditate, study in silence
   He mused about the future of his job as he read the latest government findings about environmental destruction.

5. patronizing
   showing kindness in a condescending manner (treating someone like a child)
   Her compliment was made so patronizingly that I felt insulted.

6. pensively
   in a thoughtful manner; with seriousness or a degree of melancholy
   He pensively considered career options now that he had failed the bar exam.

7. quiver
   v. to shimmy or shake with fear, to tremble
   n. a case for holding arrows
   Did you quiver with fear when the earthquake struck?

8. reluctance
   a feeling of not wanting to do or agree with someone; unwillingness
   I felt a great reluctance to go along with the crowd as they booed the speaker.

9. stimulating
   invigorating, exciting
   Stimulating conversation at bedtime does not make it easy to go to sleep.

10. testily
    fretfully, petulantly, in an irritated manner
    He replied rather testily when I told him that his book had not come in with the latest shipment.

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List 14

1. belligerently
   in a hostile or warlike manner
   The toddler belligerently faced his mom and said, "NO!"

2. exotic
   strangely beautiful, foreign; having charm of the unfamiliar
   The horticulturist was unduly proud of his exotic tree that came all the way from Tibet.

3. flamboyant
   bright, eye-catching, exotic; overdone
   Her flamboyant hat was bright red, had a broad rim drooping over one eye, and was embellished with lace and long feathers.

4. meddlesome
   inclined to interfere without right or propriety; bossy or nosy
   The meddlesome sixth grader wouldn't let the little kids play their version of four-square.

5. nauseating
   sickening, disgusting
   It was a nauseating experience listening to the lady describe all her surgeries in detail.

6. rangy
   long-limbed and long-bodied, slender
   The basketball player's build could be described as rangy.

7. staid
   sedate and reserved
   Her staid hat was small and dark with a narrow brim.

8. stolid
   not excitable, dull, impassive, expressionless
   The teacher felt challenged to replace the stolid look of her new student with an aspect of interest and excitement.

9. surge
   a large mass sweeping or swelling; a short sudden rush; a sudden increase
   We have a protector on our computer so a power surge will not damage the internal chips.

10. technique
    the method or procedure used in carrying out an operation of science, mechanics or artistry
    The football player took ballet lessons to improve his catching technique.

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List 15

1. anguished
   agonized, distressed, showing extreme pain
   Her anguished expression led us to believe the worst about her father's illness.

2. antitoxins
   serums developed to immunize against specific diseases
   The antitoxins provided by the government helped prevent the spread of anthrax to other ranches in the area.

3. dominate
   rule, govern; tower over
   The new 70-story building dominated the skyline.

4. dual
   two-fold, double, consisting of two
   Many words in our language have a dual meaning. For example, *bright* means two different things: *smart* and *shiny*.

5. intent
   a. engrossed, fixed, earnest, intense
   n. a purpose or objective

   What do you think was the intent of the work stoppage?

6. maintain
   to continue, to keep or hold, to carry on; to uphold or defend, to support or affirm
   In order to maintain our level of expertise, we need to practice daily.

7. oasis
   a fertile place in the desert
   The camels did not want to leave the coolness of the oasis.

8. perturb
   to disturb greatly in mind, to throw into confusion
   The major earthquake and its aftershocks greatly perturbed the residents.

9. refuse
   v. to decline, reject, disallow
   n. rubbish, trash, garbage
   The Supreme Court will probably refuse to hear the case because of a lack of evidence that a real loss occurred.

10. residential
    suitable for homes and living
    The residential atmosphere of the area was shattered by the new shopping center.

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List 16

1. affable
   adj. easy to approach, kindly, gracious
   It was an affable group that met to discuss the plans for the upcoming fundraiser.

2. brazen
   of brass, like brass in color; impudent, shameless, bold;
   having a harsh and piercing sound
   The brazen idol was found buried near the old temple.

3. cudgel
   n. a short, thick stick of wood used as a weapon
   v. to beat with a thick stick of wood
   She used the broken branch as a cudgel to protect herself from the angry dog.

4. incite
   to move to action, to stir up, to spur on
   The yelling crowd seemed to incite the boys to continue fighting.

5. morass
   a marsh, a bog, a piece of soft, wet ground
   I felt like I was sinking into a morass of undone projects.

6. plateau
   tableland, a mesa, an elevated tract that is relatively level.
   The graph showed a plateau in sales for the last few months.

7. quash
   to beat down, to crush, to subdue, to suppress
   The National Guard moved quickly to quash the rioting crowd.

8. reserved
   set apart, held back for a purpose or use; withdrawn in manner, reticent, restrained
   Until we got to know him, his reserved manner made him seem unfriendly.

9. scoff
   to scorn or show mocking contempt
   She used to scoff at warnings about wearing seatbelts until she was in an accident.

10. shifty
    given to deception, evasion or fraud; elusive; tricky
    The carnival concession operator was on the lookout for shifty characters who might try to cheat at the game.

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List 17

1. abet
   to help or assist, to sanction or aid (especially to help an enemy or criminal)
   You need to be aware that if you abet a criminal, you may also be charged with a crime.

2. assent
   n. agreement with a proposal, compliance, consent
   v. to approve, to yield or concede
   Her father's nod of assent was all she needed to start the process of buying a new car.

3. baffle
   v. to frustrate or balk by bewildering, to thwart
   n. an obstructing device such as a screen to hold back or turn aside a flow of liquids
   It was a great challenge to ask questions that could baffle the experts.

4. churlish
   rude, surly, sullen, uncivil
   A churlish attitude would keep you from being chosen to represent your team at a sportsmanship conference.

5. enlighten
   to give light to, to inform or give clarification to, to free from ignorance
   A speaker who survived the Holocaust enlightened us about the dangers of racial bigotry.

6. extravagance
   a going beyond reasonable limits, excessive expenditure, unreasonable excess
   Buying a new car every year would be considered an extravagance by many families.

7. frugal
   economical, not spending freely; sparingly provided; not costly or luxurious
   A frugal government is appreciated when they are spending our hard-earned dollars.

8. impoverished
   made poor, reduced to poverty, exhausted the strength of something
   Our extravagant spending impoverished us and now we will have to work many years to pay back all the money we owe.

9. jibe
   v. to sneer at, to taunt, to jeer, to scoff at
   n. a jeer, an expression of sarcastic scorn
   The bully would jibe at me because I was short and skinny.

10. recess
    n. a temporary withdrawal from or halting of work; secluded, withdrawn; a niche
    The students felt a recess was necessary if they were to complete the testing in one day.

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List 18

1. cacao
   the bean or seed from which cocoa and chocolate are made
   The cacao tree will only grow in tropical climates.

2. engrossed
   absorbed in, totally occupied, wholly attentive to
   He was so engrossed in the book that he did not notice when the bell rang.

3. extract
   v. to take out of, draw from, to take a part away
   n. an excerpt, a concentrated form
   The dentist wanted to extract only one wisdom tooth at a time.

4. flourishing
   thriving, blooming, at the peak of development
   The new espresso bar seemed to do a flourishing business.

5. fragrant
   sweet-smelling, aromatic
   We could smell the fragrant lilacs as soon as we entered the room.

6. froth
   something of a light, trifling nature; bubbles or foam
   She found that the marshmallows would ride on top of the froth on the hot cocoa.

7. ingenuity
   cleverness, originality
   The boys showed much ingenuity in their new kite design.

8. nourishment
   sustenance, nutriment, nutrition
   I read books for the nourishment of my mind.

9. persisted
   kept at, persevered, endured, refused to quit
   He persisted in his claim of innocence until the jury finally began to recheck the testimony.

10. wistfully
    pensively, thoughtfully, longingly
    She thought wistfully about her former friends and home.

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List 19

1. aimlessly
   without purpose, direction or goal, wandering
   They strolled aimlessly through the arboretum.

2. disposition
   method, distribution or arrangement; tendency; temperament, inclination or power to settle
   The disposition of the defunct company's assets displeased the creditors.

3. instinct
   an inborn tendency, a natural gift, bent or knack
   The instinct to survive is seen in the animal kingdom.

4. mousy
   drab, timid, quiet; characteristic of a mouse
   The mousy little man lurked in the shadow of the building.

5. optimism
   looking on the bright side; taking the most hopeful view of a situation (the glass is half full)
   The team's optimism seemed to be the deciding factor in the outcome of the season.

6. pension
   v. to pay off an employee
   n. a payment given for past services; a retirement
   Grandpa received his monthly pension check from the Teamsters' Union.

7. stealthily
   in a surreptitious or clandestine manner, sneakily
   The hunter approached the deer stealthily but it did no good because the animal's instincts made it aware of the danger.

8. vacant
   unoccupied, empty, void
   The vacant lot had become the neighborhood dumping ground.

9. winced
   shrank back from, flinched, started back suddenly
   The lady winced in pain as the soccer ball hit her in the back.

10. wiry
    like wire in shape or substance; lean, sinewy, and strong
    The wrestler with the wiry build seemed to have the advantage over his opponent who was much heavier.

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List 20

1. abundance
   an overflowing amount, more than ample or sufficient
   There was an abundance of advice from the spectators as to how the child should be freed from the picket fence.

2. barricade
   to stop up a passage, obstruct, fortify to hinder the enemy
   The hijacker barricaded himself in the galley of the plane.

3. caribou
   any of several varieties of reindeer of North America
   The Eskimo hunted caribou for food as well as for the skin.

4. ebb
   to flow back, recede, return, wane, withdraw
   The sense of expectancy ebbed as the arrival time of the plane was again delayed.

5. gallery
   the cheapest seats in the theater; a long, narrow corridor or room; a displayed collection of art
   The students went to the gallery to view the new exhibit of wildlife paintings.

6. harpoon
   a spear with a line used to hunt large sea animals
   The harpoon caught the whale just behind the blow hole.

7. hew
   to chop with an axe, hack; form with an axe
   The park rangers hewed a passable trail through the deadfall in the ravine.

8. numb
   having no feeling; deadened; insensitive
   His arm felt numb after pitching his first no-hitter.

9. statistics
   numerical data that is assembled, classified, and tabulated into a usable form
   The statistics seemed to prove that the prevention program was successful.

10. warily
    in a cautious manner
    The hunter approached his prey warily even though he had a weapon.

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List 21

1. brandish
   to move or wave a weapon (or potential weapon) in a threatening manner
   The man was brandishing his rake in the air to scare the crows from the garden.

2. cravenly
   in a cowardly manner
   She hid cravenly in the corner while her mother was looking for the cause of the broken vase.

3. defiance
   n. open or bold resistance to authority, opposition ("No! I won't!")
   His continual defiance of the law resulted in a long jail term.

4. din
   noise; long, continuing clattering or rumbling sound
   The din from the loading dock made it almost impossible to hear the telephone until I closed the windows.

5. grandeur
   greatness, splendor, magnificence, nobility
   The grandeur of the palace was almost overpowering.

6. insolent
   adj. disrespectful of authority, impertinent, impudent ("Oh, yeah? Try to make me.")
   An insolent attitude can get you in trouble even if you don't actually "do" anything.

7. jubilation
   a rejoicing, a happy celebration
   The jubilation at the victory dinner was evident by all the excited voices.

8. rebellious
   adj. opposing any control, defiant, resisting authority
   The rebellious mob refused to disperse until the mayor came out to bargain with them.

9. resolution
   a determination or deciding opinion, a solution
   The resolution of the conflict between the two countries was not decided overnight.

10. retort
    to answer back in the same terms as the previous speaker, to reply in kind
    She retorted with a remark about bald heads when her co-workers teased her about having gray hairs.

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List 22

1. astral
   from the stars; a ghost-like double of the human body
   The astral ship entering the Earth's atmosphere created a display resembling a fireworks show.

2. auxiliary
   adj. helping, assisting, giving aid, supplementary
   n. an assisting group or organization
   The astronauts had trouble controlling the auxiliary arm outside the space shuttle.

3. claustrophobia
   fear of being confined in a small space
   A person with claustrophobia would not like to be assigned to a submarine voyage.

4. conspirators
   plotters, ones engaged in plotting a crime or secret action
   The conspirators gave away the secret because of all the whispering and note passing.

5. curfew
   a time limit for someone to be inside or off the street
   The teenagers were protesting the midnight curfew set by the city council.

6. fissure
   a narrow crack or cleft in a rock, a longitudinal opening
   The water entered the cave through the fissure in the rock.

7. seismographic
   indicated or reported instance of an earthquake
   The seismographic studies predicted a large earthquake in the near future.

8. stifle
   to hold back by force, suppress, arrest
   She stifled her laugh and started to choke violently.

9. stride
   v. to walk with long steps in a vigorous manner; "to take in stride" is to cope with easily
   n. a measure of the distance covered in a step; progress or advancement
   The coach measured the runner's stride in order to improve his technique.

10. synthetic
    something produced by chemical synthesis rather than natural origins; artificial
    They found that the baby was allergic to synthetic material, and so they had to dress him in all-cotton clothing.

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List 23

1. cacophony
   discordant sounds, a jarring mixture of words or noise
   The cacophony in the room reminded me of a chicken coop.

2. concave
   a hollow or curved surface such as the inner surface of a sphere
   The concave surface collected dew and created rainbows on the side of the building.

3. flaw
   n. a defect, a blemish, a faulty place
   v. to break or crack
   The flaw in the material was too big to cut around.

4. grapple
   n. a device for seizing or grasping, such as tongs
   v. to grip and hold, to come to grips (as in wrestling)
   The rescuers used a grapple to try and extricate the victim from the hole.

5. gullible
   easily fooled or duped, believing almost anything
   After being fooled by my brother's stories many times, I finally learned not to be so gullible.

6. hinder
   to keep back, to restrain, to get in the way of
   My help on the project seemed to hinder progress rather than being a help because I didn't know how to work with wood.

7. lanky
   awkwardly tall and lean, long and slender
   The lanky teenager looked awkward on the basketball court.

8. mellow
   softened and made gentle, not bitter, aged to ripeness
   The mellow colors in the room seemed to lull me to sleep.

9. plunge
   n. a dive or downward leap
   v. to thrust or dive into something suddenly
   I took a plunge in the cold water to help me wake up.

10. tranquil
    calm, free from disturbance, serene
    Liberty Bay's tranquil waters reflected the mountains and boats.

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List 24

1. artless
   natural, free of artificiality; without guile or cunning; innocent;
   uncultured, ignorant, lacking skill
   The preschooler's drawings were fresh and appealing, and he artlessly answered his admiring audience's questions.

2. cavity
   a hole or hollow place, a natural hollow place; a hole in a tooth caused by decay
   His abdominal cavity filled with fluid so the doctor had to operate to relieve the pressure.

3. clamber
   to climb over in a clumsy manner
   We had to clamber over the wet rocks in order to get to the beach.

4. convex
   having a surface that curves outward such as a lens or sphere
   The convex lens on the telescope was 30 inches in diameter.

5. crest
   n. a tuft on the top of an animal's head;
   an insignia of a family name used on silverware, note paper, etc.;
   the top or summit of something
   v. to reach the summit or ridge, to crown
   He was panting hard by the time he reached the crest of the hill.

6. gregarious
   sociable, enjoying the company of others; tending to move in groups
   Everyone flocked to the house parties given by the gregarious playwright.

7. jar
   n. a container with a large, cylindrical body
   v. to clash; to shake by sudden impact; to make a harsh, grating sound
   We were able to jar loose the crowbar by pounding on it with a hammer.

8. qualm
   a twinge of conscience; a feeling of uneasiness or doubt
   I only had a slight qualm about attending the formal affair.

9. spendthrift
   one who spends money carelessly or wastefully; a squanderer
   He was a spendthrift who spent all his family's money buying race cars.

10. squabble
    n. a noisy quarrel over a small matter, a brawl
    v. to wrangle over something trivial, to fight

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The two children seemed to squabble over every toy that was in the toy box.

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List 25

1. candor
   openness, frankness, sincerity of heart
   His candor in discussing the problem helped bring about a solution.

2. carp
   v. to find fault, especially without reason
   n. a large-scaled, fresh water fish
   It seemed as though my mother would always carp at me about the music I listened to.

3. detect
   to discover or find out, to expose
   It was hard for the jeweler to detect the flaw in the diamond.

4. dictatorial
   dogmatic, overbearing, ruling in an absolute manner
   The captain of the ship had a dictatorial attitude and most of the crew wanted to transfer to another ship.

5. disconsolate
   comfortless, hopeless, sorrowful
   She wandered the field disconsolately searching for her lost earring.

6. fascination
   a strong attraction, allure or charm, captivation
   From the time he was a toddler, he had a fascination with any type of machinery.

7. intact
   untouched, complete, undamaged, unimpaired
   She managed to get through her employment evaluation with her self-esteem still intact.

8. overbearing
   disregarding the wishes of others, arrogant, domineering
   His overbearing attitude made it difficult for his co-workers to be around him.

9. provisions
   stock of food or other supplies; preparations, arrangements, conditions
   The provisions of the contract seemed fair to both sides.

10. tyranny
    cruel and unjust use of power or authority; harsh, unjust government
    The slaves lived in fear because of the tyranny of their owner.

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List 26

1. abyss
   a bottomless pit, an immensity of time, space or depth
   The soap opera characters always seem to be in an abyss of total despair.

2. bachelor
   a man of any age who has not been married;
   any person who has received a baccalaureate degree (B.A. or B.S.)
   My uncle remained a bachelor until he was 75.

3. cafeteria
   an eating place where food is displayed on counters and customers serve themselves
   My parents like to take us to cafeteria restaurants because we will only take food that we like and many of them let us go back for more servings.

4. cellophane
   a thin, transparent material made of cellulose and used for moisture-proof wrapping
   My grandmother used waxed paper instead of cellophane to keep sandwiches from drying out.

5. cemetery
   a place set apart for burial, a graveyard
   Many people make a special visit to a cemetery on Memorial Day.

6. cordially
   warmly, affectionately, cheerfully
   We were cordially welcomed by our host for the weekend.

7. dirigible
   a motor-driven balloon with a cabin underneath, a blimp
   The most famous dirigible is the Hindenberg, which exploded when landing in the United States.

8. fallible
   capable of making errors; tending or likely to be incorrect
   Even Mrs. Kragen is fallible.

9. inertia
   a tendency to remain in a fixed condition, a disinclination to move or act
   Inertia kept me lying on the couch after I had eaten Thanksgiving dinner.

10. kerosene
    a thin, volatile oil used for fueling stoves and lamps, coal oil
    My mother is extremely nervous when the power is out and we have to use a kerosene heater.

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List 27

1. cinema
   a motion picture or a motion picture theater
   We went to the cinema to see the latest Star Trek production.

2. hurtle
   to move violently or swiftly, to move noisily with a crashing sound
   They saw the bottles and cans hurtle through the window of the passing car.

3. initial
   n. a beginning, as in the first letter of a name
   v. to write one's initials as a signature
   We were in on the initial planning session for the new school.

4. matinee
   an entertainment or performance held in the daytime, especially in the early afternoon
   We decided to go to a matinee performance of the new musical because the tickets were half price.

5. playwright
   one who writes plays, a dramatist
   Her goal was to be a successful playwright and have her plays performed on Broadway.

6. scenario
   an outline of a plot of a play or photoplay giving the scenes and stage directions;
   an outline for any proposed series of events, real or imagined
   The scenario presented by the prosecutor was dismissed because it was purely speculative.

7. sympathy
   sameness of feeling, harmony, accord
   We felt real sympathy for the people who became ill.

8. symphony
   harmony of sounds or color, an extended composition for full orchestra
   We went to hear a newly-discovered symphony by Mozart.

9. tournament
   a series of contests, usually for a championship, such as in chess, bridge or sports
   We were really excited to be able to win back-to-back championships at the local soccer tournament.

10. transfer
    to convey or send from one person, place or position to another;
    make over a legal title, right or ownership
    He transferred from the Portland office to the Poulsbo office but kept the same job title.

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List 28

1. accomplice
   one who aides or abets an unlawful or criminal act
   The little boy was aided by his accomplice, his younger brother, in the stealing of some cookies.

2. amateur
   one who pursues any study, art or sport without payment;
   a person who does something unskillfully
   The wallpaper was hung by an amateur, but looked like it had been done by a professional.

3. benign
   gentle, kind, favorable; not harmful
   What a relief to learn that the tumor was benign--she didn't have cancer after all!

4. elite
   the choice or most carefully selected part of a group
   It was an elite gathering of scientist and journalists that were invited to the unveiling of the newest passive solar energy complex.

5. etiquette
   manners or ceremonies established by convention as acceptable in society
   We had lessons in etiquette before we had the afternoon tea for our mothers.

6. gallivant
   to go about in search of excitement, to gad about
   We were cautioned not to gallivant through the museum.

7. genial
   showing warmth of disposition, amiable, cordial
   He was a genial host, and all of us felt very welcome at his house.

8. indomitable
   not easily discouraged or subdued, unyielding
   Her indomitable courage kept her alive until the rescuers were able to reach her.

9. intricate
   complicated, hard to follow, entangled, complex
   The intricate embroidery on the gown was all done by hand.

10. solace
    comfort in sorrow, misfortune, distress; that which furnishes comfort or consolation
    Finding solace in drugs or alcohol is short-term and self-defeating; the pain is still there—and sometimes worse!—after the "high" is gone.

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List 29

1. affect
   to produce an effect upon; to influence, impress, sway
   If you use "affect" as a verb meaning "influence" and "effect" as a noun meaning "something produced by an agent or cause," you won't run into much trouble with these words!

2. bolster
   n. a long, narrow cushion or pillow
   v. to support or hold up, to maintain with difficulty
   He whistled to bolster his courage as he walked through the dark.

3. coincide
   to occur simultaneously, to agree
   It was fortunate that our vacation plans would coincide with my mother's family reunion.

4. elixir
   a medical compound, a remedy for all ailments, a magical potion
   The man told us the elixir he was selling would cure baldness.

5. fiat
   an authorization, or sanction, an order issued by legal authority
   The fiat gave them authority to search any home in the area.

6. garret
   a room just below the roof of a house, usually unfinished, a turret or watchtower
   My favorite place to hide was in the garret at my grandmother's house.

7. honorarium
   a payment to a professional person for which no fee is set or can be legally obtained
   She used the honorarium from the commencement address to help the homeless.

8. malodorous
   having a bad smell or odor
   I did not enjoy the malodorous atmosphere in the crowded room.

9. redolent
   sweet-smelling, fragrant
   The room was redolent of lilacs and sunshine.

10. swatch
    a small piece of cloth or other material cut off to use as a sample
    The decorator gave us a swatch of the curtain material to see if it would match the carpet.

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List 30

1. brevity
   shortness, succinctness, conciseness
   The brevity of the visit made us doubt that the doctor had time to completely review the tests.

2. diatribe
   a dispute, malicious criticism and/or abuse
   Her diatribe against the neighbors at the meeting made us all very uncomfortable.

3. discreet
   prudent, cautious, careful, wary; polite, courteous
   We needed to make discreet inquires in order to find out if the company was reputable.

4. frenetic
   mad, frantic, frenzied
   It seems that the last few weeks of school go by at a frenetic pace.

5. inarticulate
   unable to speak, mute, not able to speak understandably or expressively
   I was so angry at her accusations that I became inarticulate and could not defend myself.

6. languid
   drooping, sluggish, dull, spiritless, faint, weak
   His languid pose did not motivate me to do my aerobic exercises.

7. nebulous
   unclear, vague, indefinite, cloudy, hazy
   The instructions were certainly nebulous as to which road we were to take from the freeway exit.

8. nonchalant
   lacking enthusiasm, not interested, casually indifferent, unconcerned
   His parents did not approve of his nonchalant attitude toward his school work.

9. obliterate
   to erase or wipe out, to demolish, to destroy all trace of
   The criminal tried hard to obliterate the evidence of a burglary.

10. placate
    to appease or pacify, to calm
    It did no good to try to placate the toddler with another toy after his truck broke.

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