List 1

1. abate
   to lessen, diminish, to mitigate, to ease back
   The pioneers often had to wait for the flood waters of the Missouri River to abate before attempting to cross.

2. axiom
   a self-evident truth, an established principle
   "The whole is greater than the parts" is an axiom.

3. candid
   open, frank, outspoken, unbiased, honest
   She asked the drama critic for a candid evaluation of her performance.

4. conjecture
   v. to suppose, theorize, to guess
   n. an educated guess, a supposition
   The professor asked for factual proof, not just conjecture, from her students.

5. deluxe
   elaborate, elegant, of especially good quality
   With our grand prize, we were able to stay in a deluxe suite at the hotel.

6. discord
   disharmony, lack of agreement, dissention, strife
   The discord between the two groups was evident to all who had to listen to their constant bickering.

7. feign
   to pretend, dissemble, to make a false show
   The clever murderer feigned insanity during his trial.

8. gallant
   brave, intrepid, courageous, chivalrous
   The movie star's gallant manners had the ladies swooning at his feet.

9. grotesque
   having distortions or incongruities in shape or appearance, bizarre
   The avant garde interior designer put the grotesque statue in the entry.

10. illustrious
    renowned, brilliant, celebrated, distinguished
    The successful diplomat retired after an illustrious career in the Mid-East.

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List 2

1. ignominious –
   infamous, shameful, scandalous, dishonorable
   The disgraced diplomat returned home after an ignominious turn of events.

2. incidentally
   by the way; parenthetically
   Incidentally, have you seen the weather report? The mountain passes might be snowy this weekend.

3. infringe
   to hinder or impair, to violate or break
   His mother felt that playing sports would infringe upon his study time.

4. innate
   inborn, inherent, native, inbred
   The desire to survive is an innate characteristic in humans.

5. instigate
   provoke, incite, encourage, stimulate
   The group was arrested for trying to instigate a riot at the rock concert.

6. locale
   a specific place, spot or site
   The locale for the 1994 World Cup final was in Pasadena, California.

7. palatial
   large, ornate, stately or magnificent, belonging in a palace
   The new home built on the bluff wasn't just grand—it was positively palatial.

8. prattle
   to utter foolishly, to prate, to babble
   The three-year-old was likely to prattle on forever about his new bike.

9. ricochet
   to rebound or skip along a surface
   The bullet was bound to ricochet off the iron surface.

10. skittish
    shy, easily frightened, timorous
    The colt was skittish around noisy children.

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List 3

1. abject
   worthless, low, without hope or regard
   The researchers were shocked to see the abject poverty that seemed to encompass the entire population of the village.

2. apprehend
   to take or seize; to understand with the mind
   The warrant gave them permission to apprehend the suspect.

3. autonomy
   self-government
   Tired of the authoritarian teacher, the students were asking for more autonomy in the classroom.

4. cadence
   a fall or decline, a flow of rhythm, an intonation
   The cadence in the wedding march is slow and stately.

5. cliché
   noun an expression or idea that has become trite, overused, or unimaginative
   Using a cliché shows a lack of new and original ideas.

6. diffident
   lack of self-confidence, bashful, modest, humble
   Asked about her piano recital, the shy girl's attitude was diffident.

7. drastic
   severe, harsh, extreme
   After standard treatments failed, they had to take drastic measures to treat the infection.

8. falter
   stumble, teeter, to lose strength, move uncertainly
   His horse began to falter when the track got muddy.

9. garrulous
   talkative, loquacious, prating with repetition
   We hesitated to ask about her trip because she had a reputation for being garrulous in her enthusiasm.

10. hackneyed
    adjective describes an expression or idea that has become trite, overused, or unimaginative
    "Boy Meets Girl" stories can become hackneyed if they do not have new twists in the plot.

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List 4

1. absolve
   to release from obligation, acquit, pardon
   The judge decided to absolve the driver of the car of any wrongdoing after hearing the testimony of the witnesses.

2. arbitrary
   not governed by principle, despotic, dictatorial
   The school administration's abrupt decision to cancel the dance seemed to be arbitrary.

3. aver
   to declare with confidence, affirm, assert, avow
   He struck his fist on the table and said, "I aver that my son is telling the truth."

4. calculation
   computation, forethought, prudence, reckoning
   The calculation of weight being carried by the train proved to be in error, and the trestle bridge collapsed.

5. cognizant
   aware of, having knowledge of, informed
   When made cognizant of the facts, the judge absolved the man of any wrongdoing.

6. cosmopolitan
   belonging to the world, not local or national; sophisticated
   The cosmopolitan atmosphere of the World's Fair added to the excitement.

7. digress
   to get off the track, to deviate
   Sometimes teachers will digress from their original lesson plans.

8. obstinate
   stubborn, dogged, mulish, not easily subdued
   In spite of protests, they were obstinate about serving only healthful foods at the dance.

9. poignant
   heartbreaking, keen, pointed
   The cross by the side of the road was a poignant reminder of what happens when alcohol is mixed with automobiles.

10. revocable
    able to be taken back, reversible
    The contract was immediately revocable if the delivery was delayed even a day.

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List 5

1. durable
   sturdy, enduring, lasting, permanent
   The material used to upholster the chair was not durable and looked worn within months.

2. farcical
   belonging to an exaggerated comedy, absurd, ludicrous
   We were surprised to discover the play was farcical rather than serious.

3. gaudy
   showy, garish, glittering, tawdry
   Though the decor in the restaurant was gaudy, it could not disguise the cracks and peeling paint on the walls.

4. haggard
   worn-out looking, gaunt, tired
   The woman looked haggard after staying up all night with sick children.

5. incise
   to cut into with a sharp tool, engrave, carve
   The doctor will incise the inflamed area in order to drain the infection.

6. integrate
   to mix, to unify or make complete, to bring together
   They wanted to integrate the old sports program into the new Park Department.

7. manifest
   to make clear, plain or obvious, evident
   If he has measles, it will manifest itself with spots.

8. misgivings
   serious doubts, apprehensions, mistrusts
   We had misgivings about traveling over the pass in winter.

9. obtuse
   not sharp, slow to understand, dull
   The directions were clear on how to weed the garden, but she wanted to get out of the dreaded chore and was acting obtuse on purpose.

10. poise
    n. carriage, bearing, dignity of manner
    v. to suspend, hover, to weigh mentally
    She showed extreme poise when the attorney questioned her, answering every question calmly.

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List 6

1. abstain
   to keep away from, to refrain, to take no action
   After learning the dangers of alcohol abuse, she made the decision to abstain from drinking any alcoholic beverages.

2. ascribe
   to attribute to
   He can ascribe his writing style to the type of books he read while growing up.

3. avert
   to turn away, to prevent
   Luckily, he was in time to avert a major disaster at the oil spill site.

4. cajole
   coax, wheedle
   It is not possible to cajole her from her bad mood today.

5. dilemma
   a predicament, a choice between two unpleasant alternatives
   She was in a dilemma. Should she tell her mother what happened and perhaps be grounded? Or should she keep quiet and face worse punishments if her mom found out?

6. elation
   great joy, delight, high spirits
   He felt great elation when he earned enough points for a top grade in reading.

7. escalate
   to raise, to grow, to rise on a moving step
   Building a new type of bomb will only escalate the international arms race.

8. ferociously
   savagely, fiercely, wildly
   The mother bear was ferociously protecting her cub from the hapless humans.

9. gauntlet
   a large glove; in medieval times used to challenge another to a duel
   The falconer used a leather gauntlet when perching the birds on his hand.

10. haven
    a place of safety, a shelter, a harbor
    The ship was lucky to reach a safe haven during the storm.

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List 7

1. acclaim
   v. to applaud, to give vocal approval
   n. approval, applause
   She won worldwide acclaim for her work in medical research.

2. assassin
   hired or delegated killer
   The jury could not convict the assassin because the prosecution could not provide an eye witness to his crimes.

3. avid
   enthusiastic, greedy
   She was an avid reader of Agatha Christie mysteries, going through a book a week.

4. incognito
   in disguise, using a false name
   The president of the company decided to work incognito at one of his plants to see what it was like for a regular worker there.

5. intercept
   to cut off, to seize before arrival at an intended destination
   The Coast Guard intercepted the drug shipment before it arrived in U.S. waters.

6. lull
   v. to calm or soothe, to ease or mitigate
   n. a calm spot, a short period of quiet
   There was a lull in the dining area at the summer camp between lunch and dinner.

7. mimic
   to imitate, to copy closely
   The boy learned to mimic the correct swimming stroke from watching the Olympics.

8. obvious
   clear, apparent, self-evident
   It was obvious he was lost because he kept coming across the same large tree in the path.

9. ogre
   in folklore, a man-eating giant; a cruel, hideous or mean man
   An ogre was a villain in many fairy tales.

10. ponderous
    bulky, heavy, dull, unwieldy
    Pachyderms led the ponderous procession down the street.

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List 8

1. capacious
   spacious, roomy, capable of holding much
   The accommodations could be described as capacious—we were able to fit the whole team in one hotel room!

2. collaborate
   work together on, cooperate
   Instead of working independently, the researchers decided to collaborate on the paper.

3. covetous
   envious, eager to obtain, greedy
   He gave more than one covetous look at my spectacular collection of baseball cards.

4. diminish
   decrease, grow smaller, reduce
   Ignoring the mess will not diminish the amount of work needed to clean it up.

5. fictitious
   not real, not factual, imaginary
   A prankster gave the paper a fictitious account of the game; imagine their embarrassment when the real facts came out!

6. genial
   good-natured, friendly, cordial
   We were given a genial welcome by the gregarious owner of the gallery.

7. indomitable
   not easily defeated or discouraged
   Her indomitable spirit helped her recover from the accident.

8. lurid
   sensational, vivid in a shocking way
   The lurid headlines got the shoppers to buy the tabloid paper.

9. mollify
   pacify, soften, mitigate, moderate
   After the mistake at her bank, the manager tried to mollify the woman with a cup of coffee.

10. scintillating
    sparkling; brilliant or witty
    We enjoyed a scintillating conversation with the brilliant author.

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List 9

1. acquiesce
   to give in to gracefully, accede, yield
   Although we think we should have won, we will acquiesce to the will of the majority.

2. assiduous
   diligent, unremitting, persevering
   She was assiduous in her quest for perfection on her recital.

3. barbarously
   in an uncivilized manner, savagely
   The sea lion was barbarously slaughtered by an angry fisherman.

4. casual
   relaxed, informal
   The best part of the dinner was the casual and fun atmosphere at the table.

5. copious
   abundant, plentiful, overflowing
   There are copious treasures of knowledge to be found in books.

6. cynic
   one who questions the sincerity or goodness of others
   The cynic ruined the inauguration address for me with all her muttered negative comments.

7. dingy
   soiled, sullied, not bright or clean
   The dingy upholstery showed even more after the room was painted.

8. odious
   unpleasant, hateful, offensive
   The burning garbage had an odious aroma.

9. perceptible
   able to be sensed or seen
   There was a perceptible feeling of excitement at the rally.

10. portly
    stout or obese but with a dignified manner.
    The Senator was described as *portly* by his campaign manager and as *fat* by his opponent.

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List 10

1. ecstasy
   great joy, rapture, elation
   The teens of the 60s went into ecstasy when the Beatles visited Seattle.

2. equilibrium
   state of balance between two conflicting forces or desires
   It is of vital importance for a tightrope walker to maintain her equilibrium.

3. figurative
   metaphorical, using figures of speech; represented by a figure; symbolic; art using human or animal figures
   The Amelia Bedeliah books have many examples of figurative language that is taken literally.

4. geology
   study of the Earth's crust and the various layers beneath it
   We wanted to take a geology class because much of the work was going to be done in the mountains on a field trip.

5. hectic
   frantic, hurried, haste
   Christmas time can be hectic for some people if they haven't learned to relax and enjoy the season in a simple manner.

6. indulgent
   kind or lenient, often to excess
   The indulgent mother smiled kindly at her child while he explored the back of the television.

7. intimidate
   to overawe, to scare, to make afraid
   Don't let a fast-talking salesperson to intimidate you into making a poor decision.

8. ominous
   threatening, sinister, menacing
   The black clouds had such an ominous look we hurried home to avoid the storm.

9. potency
   power, strength, stored power
   Check the expiration date on medicine to make sure it has not lost its potency.

10. potentate
    one with great power, a ruler or monarch
    The potentate was not an indulgent ruler.

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List 11

1. adversary
   opponent, enemy, antagonist
   The team from Puyallup will be a worthy adversary for the North Kitsap team.

2. benevolence
   charitableness, kindheartedness
   The destitute man was overwhelmed by the benevolence of the whole community.

3. chagrin
   embarrassment, humiliation
   Her chagrin came from her tendency to mix up words when answering a question in class.

4. complacent
   self-satisfied, smug
   Satisfied he knew all the answers, he left the testing area with a complacent grin on his face.

5. crevasse
   a deep crack or fissure, as in a glacier
   They crossed the ice crevasse using only one rope and a dozen pitons.

6. erroneous
   false, mistaken, wrong
   He left for his trip to the Bahamas with erroneous information as to time and date of departure. No wonder he missed his flight!

7. flaunt
   to make a showy, proud, defiant or impudent display
   The high school student was chagrined when she found out that she had been trying to flaunt her knowledge of Italian in front of a native of Rome.

8. glibly
   smoothly, in a slippery manner
   The child lied glibly when asked what had happened to the candy.

9. hoi polloi
   common people, usually used contemptuously
   During the regency period in England, one did not want to be part of the hoi polloi.

10. omnivorous
    taking in anything; eating both plants and animals
    The goat is characterized as an omnivorous animal.

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List 12

1. advocate
   n. one who pleads the cause of another, defender
   v. to plead in favor of, to defend or support
   The committee advocated that all cyclists wear protective headgear.

2. ascetic
   n. one who lives with rigorous self-denial for religious purposes
   a. rigid, severe, austere
   After a few months, the ascetic lifestyle in the commune began to wear thin.

3. auditor
   a hearer, one who listens, one who judges or audits accounts or judicial proceedings
   The auditor was checking the account for errors in bookkeeping.

4. biographical
   pertaining to a person's life
   We were asked to write a biographical account of a Pacific Rim political figure.

5. charlatan
   a quack, imposter, a fraud
   Pretending to be a medical expert, the charlatan was hawking his cancer cure at the fair.

6. complement
   quota, required number, full amount (*not* compliment)
   The school had already received its full complement of textbooks.

7. discrepancy
   difference, contradictory error, disagreement
   One major discrepancy in the accounts caused the auditor to search for other errors.

8. gloating
   smiling scornfully, saying "I told you so"
   His gloating about winning the election was almost more than the losing candidate could bear gracefully.

9. homicide
   the killing of another person, a manslayer
   The homicide detective was anxious to solve the apparent murder case.

10. ingenious
    clever, resourceful, skillful
    The ingenious design of the straw bridge won first prize at the Science Olympics.

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List 13

1. aggressive
   bold, quarrelsome, going to the attack
   His aggressive stance should have forewarned us that trouble was coming.

2. agility
   nimbleness, skillfulness, in a coordinated manner
   She showed amazing agility on the parallel bars.

3. auspices
   patronage, protection, sponsorship
   The Fourth of July concert was presented for free under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce.

4. biped
   n. an animal having only two feet
   a. two-footed
   Sasquatch is supposed to be a biped, so he shouldn't leave four different footprints.

5. imminent
   about to happen, impending
   If you continue to lean so far over the barricade, you are in imminent danger of falling.

6. introvert
   v. to turn in or direct inward
   n. one who directs his attention to himself; a loner
   An introvert might need help to feel comfortable in a group.

7. meander
   to wind or turn, to wander aimlessly
   We had all afternoon with nothing to do so we decided to meander by the river and watch the sun on the water.

8. mottled
   covered with blotches of different shades of color
   The mottled effect on the vase was achieved by using several different glazes before the firing.

9. pervade
   to permeate, to pass through, to be diffused throughout
   The holiday atmosphere seems to pervade the mall all through December.

10. premiere
    the first performance, the leading lady
    We were able to see the premiere showing of the new Disney film.

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List 14

1. chide
   to scold, rebuke, to find fault
   His mother would chide him in front of others when he forgot his table manners.

2. comprehensively
   completely, thoroughly, all inclusively
   Her report on Venezuela was comprehensively done and got an A+ from the teacher.

3. defile
   v. to make dirty, to pollute or contaminate, to taint
   n. a narrow, long valley or mountain pass
   We need to be aware of how toxic waste can defile our oceans and rivers.

4. disheveled
   disarranged, untidy, messed up
   From his disheveled appearance we could tell he had slept in his clothes.

5. exasperated
   irritated, annoyed, provoked, nettled
   He was exasperated when he could not find his addition error.

6. fortitude
   strength, courage, patient endurance
   The team showed great fortitude when playing against the State Champs.

7. immune
   exempt from, protected from something harmful
   If your immune system breaks down, you will not be able to fight off disease.

8. innovation
   a new twist on something, a novelty
   His innovation in treatment remained unproven and caused much dissention among the hospital's medical staff.

9. laconic
   tight-lipped, curt, terse
   Her laconic responses made her seem uninterested; it was difficult to carry on a conversation.

10. medieval
    belonging to the Middle Ages
    The rare medieval unicorn tapestry was on display in the museum.

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List 15

1. amble
   to walk at a leisurely pace
   It was relaxing to amble through the woods with my dog.

2. autocracy
   absolute authority by one person; dictatorship
   Government by autocracy is not popular with those who are used to a democracy.

3. bizarre
   strange, extreme, exotic, grotesque
   The bizarre chain of events left us nervous about what would happen next.

4. checkmate –
   to leave without a possibility of victory; in chess, to win by trapping the other player's king
   After many years of losing to my father, it was exciting to finally place his king in checkmate.

5. condolences
   expression of sympathy for another's grief
   We sent our condolences to the family when their mother died.

6. deplore
   verb to lament, be sorry about, to be regretful, mourn
   I deplore the amount of prodding it sometimes seems to take to get a person to do what is only right.

7. mystic
   a. beyond human comprehension, mysterious
   n. one who believes in or practices mysticism
   At the fair there was a mystic who claimed to be able to read your mind.

8. orthodox
   conforming to the usual beliefs or practices
   The teacher did not always use an orthodox method for challenging the students to think on their own.

9. plaintive
   adj. lamenting, expressing sorrow or grief, sad
   Her plaintive voice was enough to make you start to cry.

10. presume
    to take for granted, to suppose, to take liberties
    I presume that you will not mind if I borrow your book for a month or so.

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List 16

1. discriminating
   able to make or see fine distinctions, discerning; treating differently based on prejudices
   The man was accused of discriminating between rich and poor when he priced his repair services.

2. exorcise
   to expel or cast out evil spirits by a religious or magical ceremony
   In Salem they tried to exorcise "evil spirits" by burning people at the stake.

3. fossil
   the hardened remains with traces of plant or animal life, something preserved in rock form
   The dinosaur fossil was found by a farmer plowing a field.

4. inquisitive
   inclined to seek answers, curious, prying
   He was very inquisitive about how I was able to make money on the stock market.

5. legitimate
   legal, allowed by law or custom
   She was the only child of the king, so her claim to the crown of England was certainly legitimate.

6. melodramatic
   sensational, emotional, overly dramatic
   Never one to be plain or simple, she treated the class to a melodramatic explanation of why her report was not ready.

7. nocturnal
   done or happening at night, functioning at night
   It is unusual to see a nocturnal animal in broad daylight.

8. oscillate
   to swing back and forth, to vacillate
   We need a large fan that will oscillate so the entire apartment can be cooled.

9. planetary
   having to do with planets, terrestrial
   The planetary map was obviously not from our solar system.

10. priority
    most important, taking precedence
    Dad said, "Homework is a priority in this house."

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List 17

1. amends
   alters, corrects errors, improves
   He was sentenced to 100 hours of community service work in order to make amends for the damage he caused at the park.

2. broach
   to bring up, to approach
   It is sometimes awkward to broach the subject of money with someone who owes you wages but doesn't want to pay you.

3. cite
   to quote, to call upon officially, to name
   You will be asked to cite your sources of information for your report.

4. confide
   to share as a secret, to discuss in private
   When things aren't going well, we need someone in whom we can confide.

5. dialogue
   conversation, the passages of talk in a story
   Through the author's clever use of dialogue the scene of the town meeting presented many characters and a wide variety of ideas.

6. disrupt
   break apart, to split up
   People being noisy in the halls can disrupt the learning process of the students in the classrooms.

7. exploitation
   the act of turning or using something or someone for personal gain
   The sales company lost its license because of its continued exploitation of underage employees.

8. frenzied
   wildly excited, frantic
   We could tell this was a real emergency because of all the frenzied activity.

9. grueling
   torturing, exhausting
   We took a grueling hike up the steep mountainside in order to rescue the injured condor.

10. site
    a location, a piece of land
    The site for the building was purchased from the city.

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List 18

1. appraisal
   evaluation, estimate of worth
   The bank's appraisal of the value of the new house was surprisingly low.

2. eerie
   creepy, weird, uncanny
   The old house was covered with vines which made eerie noises as they slid along the windowpanes.

3. exhort
   to urge onward, to give advice, to warn
   A pep talk before a test is supposed to exhort you to do your best work.

4. impute
   to lay the responsibility or blame for; to credit to a person or cause
   The judge will not impute your crime to ignorance but rather to carelessness.

5. insatiable
   impossible to satisfy, greedy, unappeasable
   Since he has an insatiable appetite for chocolate, they got him a three-pound Hershey's bar for his birthday.

6. laudable
   praiseworthy, commendable, worthy of applause
   Her quick thinking and efficient actions during the crisis were laudable.

7. merge
   to join together, to be combined or taken over
   The small utility companies were trying to merge into one large company in order to decrease operating expenses.

8. nimbly
   spryly, with agility, quickly, lightly
   The trapeze artist moved nimbly over the wire while skipping rope.

9. ostracize
   to exile, banish by popular decision, to exclude
   It would be silly to ostracize someone from our circle of friends because we don't like the way they comb their hair.

10. quixotic
    extravagantly chivalrous, impractical, foolish
    College freshmen often have quixotic ideas on how to change the world into a perfect place to live.

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List 19

1. brusque
   abrupt, blunt, rude
   When asked about his estranged children, the old man's answers were brusque.

2. chiropodist (kuh-**rop**-ud-ist)
   a foot doctor, one who treats ailments of the foot
   I went to a chiropodist because I had a wart on my foot.

3. connive
   plot, scheme, to cooperate secretly in mischief
   We will need to connive together if we want to get the teacher to postpone the math test.

4. didactic
   intended to be morally instructive, too much inclined to teach others, preachy
   Her didactic speech on smoking was repetitive and boring.

5. erudite
   scholarly, learned, intelligent
   The erudite lecture about space travel impressed us with the speaker's deep grasp of his subject and had many of us wanting to become astronauts.

6. extort
   to get by force, to blackmail
   The school bully tried to extort money from me by threatening to beat me up.

7. futile
   hopeless, useless, in vain
   Her attempt to shovel water with a pitchfork was futile.

8. guise
   a deceiving appearance, a different identity
   The little boy's big smile was a guise to convince his mother that he was innocent.

9. listless
   spiritless, indifference, weariness
   Her listless attitude gave her mother a clue that she was not feeling well.

10. novice
    beginner, one who is unskilled at something
    I should be in a class for novice jugglers because I am struggling so hard in the intermediate class.

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List 20

1. esoteric –
   taught only to a select few, characterized by secrecy; private, not for general knowledge
   Some organizations have esoteric rituals so their members can feel superior to other people.

2. inalienable
   that which can not be taken from a person or transferred to another
   The Declaration of Independence speaks about our inalienable rights that we are born with and no one can take away.

3. insidious
   lying in wait, wily; characterized by treachery
   The insidious gossip instigated by her chief rival ruined her chances to be hired.

4. meditative
   inclined to close and serious thought, contemplative
   When Mom is in a meditative mood, she doesn't hear or answer questions quickly.

5. promenade
   n. a leisurely walk to display one's finery; a public place for walking
   v. to walk about for exercise or show
   The promenade deck on the ship could have been the site for a Paris fashion show.

6. propriety
   quality of being proper, fitting or suitable
   You need to rethink the propriety of wearing shorts to a formal wedding.

7. ravage
   cause violent destruction, ruin, lay waste to
   The swarm of locusts are certain to ravage the wheat crop.

8. seethe
   to boil, to be violently agitated or disturbed
   Dad begins to seethe every time he sees my messy room.

9. servile
   humbly yielding or submissive, cringing
   His servile attitude gave him a reputation for being cowardly.

10. tawny
    brownish-yellow, tan
    The lion had a tawny coat.

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List 21

1. prospective
   expected, anticipated, likely
   After compiling his research, he was able to give a prospective account of the computer industry in the year 2020.

2. protagonist
   leading character in a drama or novel (the person you are "pro" or "for")
   In this story the protagonist was young, handsome and adventurous.

3. realm
   province of royalty; a domain, sphere, or department
   That she could become a famous physicist is not beyond the realm of possibilities.

4. sinister
   threatening harm or evil, wicked, dishonest
   The gathering dark clouds on the horizon had a sinister appearance.

5. swan song
   the last performance, the final creative work before death
   Richie Valens did not realize that at age 17 his rendition of "La Bamba" would be his swan song.

6. terse
   concise, to the point, brief, succinct
   She managed to write a terse plot summary of no more than 150 words.

7. transcend
   to go beyond, to overstep, to exceed
   The miraculous rescue story seems to transcend belief.

8. transfigure
   to change the outward appearance or form
   An ice storm can transfigure an urban empty lot into a fairyland.

9. trivial
   unimportant, trifling, commonplace
   Arguing about whose turn it was to turn off the TV seemed trivial to those surrounded by the squabbling children.

10. turbulent
    wildly irregular motion, disturbance, disorderly
    The flight from Alaska was more turbulent than usual and made us all nervous.

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List 22

1. pugnacious
   disposed to fighting; combative, quarrelsome
   His pugnacious attitude when discussing baseball made us wary of giving an opposing opinion.

2. pulverize
   to grind into a powder, to crush or destroy completely
   A mortar and pestle can be used to pulverize dried herbs.

3. quaint
   curious, old-fashioned, fanciful, whimsical
   Leaving an anonymous bouquet at the door is a quaint May Day custom.

4. refute
   disprove, prove false by evidence or argument
   His testimony was refuted by the presentation of evidence from expert witnesses.

5. regime
   a political or social system, a course of treatment
   His new health regime included drinking water, eating fruits and vegetables, and exercising every day.

6. rejuvenate
   to make young again, to bring back youthful appearance
   Products that claim to rejuvenate the skin are available in almost any drug store.

7. renounce
   to disown, forsake, cast off, to give up a claim to; to give up a habit
   In some religious orders you are required to renounce all of your worldly goods before you may join.

8. repartee
   witty dialogue, quick, witty conversation
   It was fun to listen to the repartee between the talk show host and the author.

9. stereotype
   fixed notion, character or pattern; without individuality or originality
   We need to be careful not to affix a stereotype to a person because of their physical appearance.

10. supercilious
    disdainful, contemptuous, arrogant, haughty
    Her supercilious attitude when discussing the entertainment made us feel gauche.

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List 23

1. repel
   to drive back, to ward off, to oppose, reject
   The smell of the pulp mills was enough to repel the least sensitive noses.

2. reprimand
   v. to scold, to reprove or rebuke
   n. a scolding; a formal or public rebuke
   The governor delivered the reprimand to those congressional aides who used the public mail system for personal business.

3. requisite
   required, necessary, essential, indispensable
   You need to earn the requisite number of credits or you will not graduate.

4. spurn
   to treat with contempt, to scorn, to show disdain
   The strong-willed child might spurn any attempts by others to show him an easier way to accomplish a task.

5. stamina
   endurance, staying power, resistance to fatigue
   To play a long, fast game, a soccer player needs stamina as well as ball skills.

6. subsequent
   directly following, to follow at a later time
   The victory was subsequent to many hours of practice and hard work by the team.

7. sundry
   various, miscellaneous, diverse
   We stopped at the drugstore to purchase the sundry items we needed to complete our list of school supplies.

8. unflinchingly
   not yielding or shrinking back, steadfast
   He stood unflinchingly in the line of fire in order to protect his family from harm.

9. ungracious
   rude, discourteous, impolite
   Her ungracious reception made us hurry through the interview so we could leave.

10. valiant
    brave, courageous, strong
    The valiant effort by the defense was the key to winning the game.

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List 24

1. egotist
   a person who is self-centered or conceited
   You could tell she was an egotist by the way her every sentence started with "I."

2. siblings
   brother(s) and/or sister(s)
   He hated hearing how well his siblings had done when they were in high school.

3. subside
   to become quiet, to cease, to abate, decline, sink
   We waited for the crowd around the newlyweds to subside before we offered our congratulations.

4. surmise
   to imagine, to give an educated guess, conjecture
   I can surmise from all of your excuses that you didn't get your homework done.

5. surmount
   to be on top of, to exceed, to overcome
   She finally surmounted her fear of fractions and could now do her work quickly.

6. syndicate
   n. a group organized to further an undertaking such as investments or marketing
   v. to form a group for sharing a common interest such as syndicated newspapers
   Many comics in the newspaper are bought by more than one syndicate.

7. terra firma
   solid earth, a secure foothold, dry land
   After the turbulent flight it was good to get back onto good old terra firma.

8. unseemly
   indecent, unbecoming, improper, unfit, indecorous
   Unseemly behavior can be extremely embarrassing for those who witness it.

9. unscrupulous
   not restrained by ideas of right and wrong, without morals
   The attorney's unscrupulous dealings meant he lost the right to practice law.

10. vehemently
    heatedly, fervently, emotionally, intensely
    In danger of being kicked off the team, he vehemently denied that he ever took any kind of steroids.

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List 25

1. epitaph
   an inscription on a monument to honor the dead
   It was interesting to read the epitaph on George Washington's grave.

2. hors d'oeuvres
   appetizers, usually served with drinks
   The shrimp hors d'oeuvres were excellent, and people ate the last of them quickly before going in to dinner.

3. negotiable
   able to be transferred (as in a check from one party to another); an item that can be used as a bargaining point
   He left the negotiable bonds in the safe so no one else could cash them.

4. table d'hote
   a common table for guests at a hotel; a complete meal for one price
   We ordered the table d'hote special which started with soup and ended with dessert.

5. tantalizing
   tempting, enticing, teasing, taunting
   There was a tantalizing aroma of fresh bread in the house.

6. transient
   adj. fleeting, not permanent, temporary
   n. a tramp or hobo, a wanderer, a nomad
   The anger she felt over missing the field trip was transient, and she soon regained her good humor.

7. versatile
   competent in many things; able to be used in several ways
   The black blazer was a versatile addition to her wardrobe.

8. volatile
   evaporating rapidly, therefore causing explosions; changeable, fickle
   The volatile mixture was handled carefully by the scientist.

9. voluntary
   brought about by one's free will, unconstrained
   Participation in the after-school reading program is entirely voluntary.

10. vulnerable
    capable of being hurt, open to attack
    I felt vulnerable when I was alone in an unfamiliar neighborhood.

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List 26

1. aviary
   a cage or enclosure for breeding or keeping birds
   We saw many exotic birds at the Woodland Park Zoo aviary.

2. circumstantial
   relating to but not essential, incidental; full of particular detail
   You cannot easily convict someone only on circumstantial evidence. It's easier with an eye witness.

3. controversial
   debatable, disputable
   You can always find someone willing to argue with you about controversial subjects such as politics.

4. cuisine
   the manner of preparing food, the style of cooking
   The new restaurant had a wonderful Italian cuisine that included all types of pastas and sauces.

5. depict
   to paint or portray, to describe, to represent
   The bold colors in the painting were used to depict feelings of rage and frustration.

6. embellish
   to adorn, beautify, to add to
   He decided to embellish his story to make the rescue seem more daring.

7. iridescence
   lit from within, show of colors as in a prism
   Unfortunately, the iridescence in the puddle came from spilled oil.

8. procrastinate
   to put off, delay, postpone
   If you procrastinate and do not get your reading points in on time, you will miss recess.

9. succulent
   full of juice; interesting, not dry or dull
   The cactus family is a succulent plant because of the juice contained in its tissues.

10. susceptible
    easily influenced or affected by something
    Young children seem to be susceptible to every virus that passes through an area.

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List 27

1. abysmal
   bottomless, immeasurable, unfathomable
   It took an abysmal length of time to get medical help after the accident.

2. apropos
   suited to the occasion, but not limited to the subject under discussion
   Apropos of our discussion yesterday, I have collected some interesting statistics.

3. aria
   a melody in an opera, usually a solo
   The aria was sung by Beverly Sills, the great operatic singer.

4. holocaust
   complete, great, or widespread destruction; entire destruction by fire
   A holocaust can be caused by a conflagration of nature or by man's inhumanity to man.

5. irrelevant
   not relating to the subject, not pertinent
   It is irrelevant to tell me about your math homework if I ask about your spelling!

6. misanthrope
   one who hates or distrusts humankind
   Because of the ways society had mistreated him, he had good reasons to be a misanthrope.

7. neurosis
   functional disorder of the nervous system; any psychic or mental disorder
   The psychiatrist diagnosed his patient's neurosis as hydrophobia.

8. persistent
   refusing to relent, stubborn, persevering
   His persistent refusal to give up helped him solve the computer's programming error.

9. tumultuous
   noisy, turbulent, agitated, greatly disturbed
   The tumultuous din made it hard to hear the keynote speaker at the convention.

10. vicarious
    enjoyed or experienced through imagined participation in another's actual experience
    She got a vicarious thrill watching the bungee jumpers. It certainly wasn't something she planned to do herself!

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List 28

1. centennial
   one hundred years; celebration of a 100 year anniversary
   Most people do not live to celebrate their centennial birthday.

2. demagogue
   a person who stirs up emotions in others in order to gain power and achieve selfish ends
   We do not need a demagogue as our representative in Congress.

3. escapade
   a breaking loose from restraint, a prank or wild adventure
   The teens thought putting Jell-O in the fountain at the Silverdale Mall was a harmless escapade, but it got them in trouble with the police.

4. innocuous
   harmless, ineffective, innocent
   The small amount of contaminants in the well water was considered to be innocuous.

5. laity
   church workers who are not ordained clergy
   The laity in the church decided on the expenditures for the clergy.

6. quay
   a pier or wharf
   Although fishing from the beach was permitted, we were not allowed to fish from the end of the quay.

7. satiate
   fill up, to satisfy
   Our teacher hopes we will never satiate our desire for knowledge.

8. vilify
   to use slanderous language about someone, to defame
   She tried to vilify my reputation because she was jealous.

9. wainscoting
   a wood paneling on the lower part of the walls
   The renters had painted the wainscoting a dark brown to cover the scratches in the wood from people kicking against it.

10. zephyr
    the west wind, a soft, gentle breeze
    The zephyr gently steered our sailboat along the shoreline.

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List 29

1. apartheid
   South Africa's policy of racial segregation (pronounced "apart hate" in their language!) Apartheid was practiced in South Africa for many years before the different ethnic groups achieved political equality.

2. bayou
   a marshy inlet or outlet of a lake or river; a backwater
   We got lost while canoeing on the bayou near my aunt's house in Louisiana.

3. castigate
   to correct by punishing; to rebuke or criticize
   He didn't need to castigate me in front of all my friends after I had already apologized!

4. dross
   impure matter; the scum formed on the surface of metals during processing
   After skimming off the dross, she poured the purified silver into the form to make a cup.

5. ennui
   weariness resulting from inactivity; "cosmic boredom"
   I have so many plans for my summer vacation—I certainly do not plan to suffer from ennui!

6. fidget
   to be restless, nervous or uneasy
   Please sit still and do not fidget.

7. glacial
   like ice; cold and hard; of ice or glaciers
   She gave me a glacial stare every time I started to fidget, hoping to freeze me in my seat.

8. hallucinate
   to wander in the mind; to rave or see imaginary objects
   The medicine they gave the child for the infection made him hallucinate; he cried when he thought he saw monsters in the closet.

9. intuition
   immediate knowing of something without the conscious use of reasoning; instantaneous apprehension
   He had an intuition about engines even though he was young and had never had any formal instruction.

10. judiciary
    system of law courts; pertaining to law courts and their functions
    We studied the judiciary system before taking a field trip to the court house.

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List 30

1. kiosk
   a small open structure used as a newsstand, bandstand; a small open entrance to something such as a park or subway
   To get out of the rain, we stood inside the kiosk by the zoo entrance.

2. lexicon
   a dictionary, especially of an ancient language or a special vocabulary
   Unable to find the word in the Webster's, we looked it up in a scientific lexicon.

3. negligible
   something that can be disregarded because it is small or unimportant
   The small loss of inventory had a negligible effect on the company's overall profit.

4. ordnance
   artillery; weapons and ammunition used in warfare, or equipment and supplies used in servicing them
   We explored what was left of the ordnance rooms at Fort Ward, climbing on the gun mounts that remained there.

5. picturesque
   having a wild or natural scenic beauty; striking
   When we visited a picturesque Native American village in New Mexico, we couldn't resist taking many photographs.

6. quorum
   the minimum number of members required to vote (one more than half)
   It did not look like the school board was going to have a quorum present to vote.

7. recompense
   repayment; something given to make up for a loss; compensation
   $500.00 was not adequate recompense for the damage done to his car.

8. Sasquatch – huge, hairy, man-like creature with long arms, reputed to live in the mountains of northwestern North America
   We heard many campfire tales about Sasquatch sightings.

9. tenacious
   persistent; holding fast or firmly; adhesive
   Afraid of falling, she kept a tenacious hold on the limb of the tree.

10. usurp
    to take by force or without right; seizure of power
    The military leaders tried to usurp the authority of the president, hoping to take over the government.

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