A

**accolade**  *v/n* to praise/praise

**acquiesce** *v* to capitulate, agree to, give into, succumb

**adhere** *v* to stick to

altruism *n* kindness

altruistic *adj* kind

amalgam *n* a mixture

ambiguous *adj* vague, uncertain, having more than one meaning

ambivalence *n* mixed feelings

ambivalent *adj* feeling two or more ways about one thing/event

ambivalently *adv* doing something in a way that shows mixed feelings

archaic *adj* old, old fashioned, out of date

astute *adj* brilliant

audacious *adj* in-your-face, almost stupid brave

**augment** *v* to increase, to add to, to make bigger

B

**beguile** *v* to sweetly persuade (manipulate) someone to do/give something

belligerence *n* rudeness

belligerent *adj* rude

benevolence *n* kindness (opposite of belligerence)

benevolent *adj* kind (opposite of belligerent)

bilk *v* to take/get something illegally; to cheat someone; to defraud

billow *n* a large wave, swell or surge of water/ wind/smoke/sound

**billowing** *v/adj* to surge, swell, or fill with water/wind/smoke/sound

**blanch** *v* to bleach, to take the color from, to whiten

brawny *adj* strong, muscular, super healthy

C

**cajole** *v* to get someone to do something by flattery or promises of return

callous *adj* hard-hearted, unfeeling, uncaring

camaraderie *n* friendship

candor *n* honesty, integrity

cantankerous *adj* cranky, crabby, argumentative, tetchy, testy

**capitulate** *v* to give into; to surrender

capricious *adj* random, whimsical, fickle, subject to sudden change

**carouse** *v* to look for a good time, cruise, party

**cherish** *v* to care for dearly

cicatrix *n* a scar (usually a prominent, web-like, fantastic mess)

circumvent *v* to go around, to find a (clever) way around an obstacle

crepuscular *adj* active at twilight (dawn and dusk)

cringe *v* to flinch, shy away, recoil

coerce *v* to force

compassion *n* absolute, open hearted understanding and love

conflagration *n* a huge fire

converge *v* to come together, to approach an intersecting point

convergence *n* place where things come together: convergence of lines: +

curtail *v* to cut short, stop an action

cynical *adj* believing people only act out of selfish motives; distrustful of “good”

D

dearth*n* a lack

**debase** *v* to deride, to degrade, to lower the value or worth

decry *v* to condemn openly, to publically belittle or declare wrong

defile *v* to make unclean, impure, to make pure impure

deleterious *adj* harmful

demagogue *n* leader who obtains power through emotionally appealing (pathos) to crowd

**derail** *v* to get off track, distract, get off topic, or cause the quest/effort to fail

**deride** *v* to laugh at, to mock, to scorn, to disrespect

despot *n* complete ruler

despotic *adj* acting tyrannical, having absolute power, often arrogant

dilatory *adj* going slow, lackadaisical, intended to delay or procrastinate

dissemble *v* to conceal or to fake, dither (be indecisive), hide true intentions, stall

**dissent** *v/n* to disagree/ a disagreement: *dissenter*: disagrees with majority

dubious *adj* questionable, suspicious, of questionable character

E

eclectic *adj* diverse, crazy mixture (amalgam), containing a variety

elitist *n* one who believes that they and their “group” are superlative (best)

eloquent *adj* persuasive, well spoken, powerful with words, rhetorically masterful

**elucidate** *v* to explain

elude *v* to escape or avoid

empathetic *adj* to feel with someone, to share joys and sorrows, kind and benevolent

engender *v* to bring into existence, to cause

enfranchise *v* to include, to give power, to give rights, to free from bondage

enigma *n* a mystery

enigmatic *adj* containing a mystery, puzzling, difficult to figure out

ennui *(n-u-e)* *n* boredom

esoteric *adj* intended to be understood by only a few, inside joke/understanding

evasive *adj* intentionally vague or ambiguous, trying to mislead or get away

**evade** *v* to escape, avoid- especially avoid giving direct answer, cleverly elude

evasiveness *n* tendency to avoid, ability to escape

exacerbate *v* to make things much, much, much worse

exegesis *n* a scholarly explanation, usually an explanation of literature

F

fabricate *v* to create, make, manufacture, put together, produce

faction *n* a group, clique, party (political), club

fastidious *adj* picky, exacting, perfectionist-ish, choosy, persnickety

fervent *adj* eager, enthusiastic, passionate, zealous

fecund *adj* fertile, fruitful, will produce results/profit

**finagle** *v*to get something from someone in not honest way

filial *adj* relating to family; mother/son =a filial relationship

foil *v* to mess up someone’s plans (also a literary device)

***foraging*** v/*adj* looking for food/provisions (usually in a forest or garbage can)

**forage** *v*to look for food/provisions

forager *n* one who looks through trash/fridge/forest for food/provisions

foster *v* to care for, nurture, cause to grow, encourage, cultivate

G

genre *n* type, sort, kind; in literature the text’s structure: novel, poem, etc.

germane *adj* relevant, useful, of interest, connected, to the point

glutton *n* a person who consumes A LOT

gluttony *n* greed, insatiable desire

**goad** v to nag someone into doing something

gregarious adj friendly, outgoing, social, loves people, unreserved

grievous adj serious, dreadful, terrible, awful

H

harbingers *n* indicators, bringers of warnings

hardy *adj* strong, resilient, tough, robust, healthy

haughty *adj* arrogant, proud, conceited, stuck-up, over-confident

heinous *adj* monstrous, atrocious, dreadful, odious, wicked

hedonist *n* one who lives for pleasure (food, sex, drink, good times)

hinder *v* to prevent, to slow down, to obstruct or delay

hubris *n* pride

hypothetical *adj* theoretical, imaginary

hypothetically *adv* theoretically, in theory

**hypothesize** *v* to wonder, imagine, assume, guess, conjecture

hyperbole *n* HUGE exaggeration, overstatement: *hy-per-bowl-ee* not *hyper-bowl*

*ant*: understatement

I

iconoclast *n* a rebel, someone who does things THEIR way

idiosyncratic *adj* distinctive, individual, eccentric, personal

idiosyncrasy *n* a trait that is unique, a quirk, eccentricity

immutable *adj* unchangeable, permanent

ineffable *adj* indescribable, beyond words, deep (psychologically)

inept *adj* clumsy, incompetent, unable to do anything useful

impetuous *adj* do without thinking, spontaneous

indecipherable *adj* cannot read/understand (handwriting, parents)

innocuous *adj* harmless, innocent, safe

integrity *n* honesty, trustworthiness, honor, valor

insipid *adj* dull, vapid, boring, stupid

invective *adj* harsh, using language intended to insult, vulgarities

J

jubilant *adj* really, really, really happy; triumphant, euphoric

**juxtapose** *v* to place things near each other for comparison/contrast

juxtaposition *n* a combination, state of being next to each other

judicious *adj* wise, well-thought out, shrewd, sage-like

jocular *adj* humorous, funny, jovial, witty, lighthearted, playful

K

**kindle** *v* to start a fire

kudos *n* esteem, regard, cachet, status; I give you kudos for brilliance!

kinetic *adj* physically energetic, relating to moving

*katabasis n* *Greek*: descent into hell/underworld/something that sucks

L

lackadaisical *adj* lazy, slow moving, easy-going, apathetic

lachrymose *adj* tearful; sad

lamentable *adj* terrible, woeful, appalling, regrettable, deplorable

lethargic *adj* sluggish, tired, languid, exhausted; you in the morning

levity *n* lightheartedness, cheerfulness, humor

loquacious *adj* really talkative, verbose, never ever shuts up, effusive

lucid *adj* clear, easily understood, logical, coherent, makes sense

lugubrious *adj* the saddest you can possibly be, morose, gloomy

luminous *adj* glowing, bright (light), shining, radiant, incandescent, gleaming

M

magnanimous *adj* generous, kind, giving, noble

malevolent *adj* mean, cruel, wicked, malicious

malleable *adj* bendy, impressionable, acquiescent, pliable, compliant

maverick *n* rebel, one who wanders on their own path, nonconformist, iconoclast

**mollify** *v* to calm, pacify, placate, soothe, appease

mediocre *adj* average, ordinary, pedestrian, commonplace, ubiquitous

mellifluous *adj* pleasing to the senses, especially ears

metaphor *n* figure of speech directly comparing two nouns: you are a vocab beast

mitigate *v* lessen the severity, tone down, ease, allay, diminish

modicum *n* a small amount, scrap, just a tiny bit

mundane *adj* boring, dull, insipid, everyday, nothing new, same-old-same-old

myopic *adj* near-sighted, can’t see big picture, tunnel vision, prejudiced, bigoted

N

naïve *adj* innocent, unknowing, ignorant of how things really are

nefarious *adj* wicked, evil, villainous, vile, infamous, mean, REALLY BAD

negligent *adj* not caring, inattentive, slacking

neophyte *n* someone who is new at something

nihilism *n* belief that life is purposeless, pointless (hopeless)

nonchalant *adj* laid back, not really caring, chill, causal, indifferent, blasé

nostalgia *n* a longing for the past, homesickness, reminiscence

notorious *adj* well-known for nefarious reasons

**nurture** *v* to take care of, foster, lovingly cultivate, cherish, help grow

nuance *n* a subtle or slight degree of difference, fine distinction

O

obdurate *adj* stubborn, obstinate, unyielding, pig-headed, inflexible

**obfuscate** *v* to confuse, bewilder, discombobulate

oblivious *adj* clueless, unaware, unknowing

**obsess** *v* to fixate on, to think about NONSTOP, extreme focus

obsession *n* that upon with the obsessed thinks about nonstop

obsequious *adj* flattering, sycophantic, submissive, toadying

obsolete *adj* no longer around, extinct, out of style

**opt** *v* to chose, select, pick, decide on

onomatopoeia *n* a word whose definition is the sound it makes when said

ostentatious *adj* showy, flamboyant, seeking attention, glittering

**oust** *v* to cast out, eject, expel, throw out, get rid of

P

pathos *n* *Greek*: feeling: usually associated with sadness: pathetic

panacea *n* the cure for everything!

paradoxically *adj* ironically, illogically, strangely enough

paragon *n* model of perfection, the quintessential example/specimen

pariah *n* an outcast, a person shunned by others, ostracized hermit

**permeate** *v* to flood, fill, saturate, leak into, pervade

pernicious *adj* extremely destructive or harmful, deleterious

pejoratively *adj* rudely, critically, in a bad way, negatively

perspicacious*adj* super smart, sagacious, erudite, insightful, wise, astute

presumptuous *adj* conceited, presuming, arrogant, bold, rash (impetuous-not skin)

perusal *n* glance through, examination, look over, inspection, scrutiny

petulant *adj* grouchy, irritable, bad-tempered, snappish, whiney, bratty

philanthropic *adj* generous, doing good for others, magnanimous, benevolent

placid *adj* calm, easy-going, smooth (water), peaceful, relaxed

pliant *adj* flexible, supple, elastic, bendable

**pilfer** *v* to steal, take without permission, pinch, embezzle

poignant *adj* stirring the emotions, eliciting emotional reaction, touching

polemic *adj* an aggressive argument against a specific opinion (polar opposite)

pugnacious *adj* ready to fight, aggressive, in-your-face, confrontational

pun *n* a play on words, great one-liner, witty retort/comment

Q

quagmire *n* a marsh, a sticky situation, a nasty problem, dilemma

quaint *adj* old-fashioned, charming in an old-world way

qualification *n* requirement, prerequisite, condition, aptitude, skill

quandary*n* problem, predicament, puzzle, less serious than a quagmire

**quell** *v* to calm, mollify, soothe, quiet, stop, subdue, crush (uprising)

querulous *adj* argumentative, pugnacious, cantankerous, grouchy

quixotic *adj* having noble intentions- but doomed to fail, impractical

R

rancor *n* deep, bitter resentment/hate, malevolence

**rebuke** *v* to scold, reprimand, reproach, admonish, chide, haul over the coals

recalcitrant *adj* defiant, unapologetic, rebellious, maverick/iconoclast with attitude

**reciprocate** *v* give in return, respond, reply

reclusive *adj* keeping to one’s self, shy, hiding, isolated, cloistered

**reconcile** *v* to be reunited, resolve a disagreement, be friends again

**relish** *v* to really enjoy something! to delight in! *n* pickle combination for food

remuneration *n* payment, fee, monetary obligation, reward

replete *adj* full, abundant, opposite of sparse

repudiate *v* to reject, to refuse to accept, to throw back in their face

rescind *v* to take back, to repeal, to nullify

respite *n* a rest, a break, a temporary escape

resplendent *adj* splendid, dazzling, magnificent, glorious, stunning

resurge *v* to reappear, to revive, to be born again, get new energy: I’m BACK!

reticent *adj* shy, keeping to one’s self, quiet, taciturn

reverent *adj* respectful, worshipful

S

sacrosanct *adj* holy, sacred, something that should not be criticized- ever.

sage *n* a smart person; sagacious: *adj*: really smart

salient *adj* pertinent, most important, significant, prominent

sanctimonious *adj* self-righteous, holier-than-thou, smug, pious

**satiate** *v* to satisfy

simian *adj* looking like or acting like a monkey

sparse *adj* having little of something, meager, sparse hair = going bald

sporadic *adj* happening at spontaneous intervals, random, periodic

stringent *adj* severe, strict, rigorous, inflexible, stern, harsh

stoic *adj* not showing any emotion

**squander** *v* to waste

**succumb** *v* to give into, to surrender, submit, capitulate

supercilious *adj* arrogant, haughty, condescending, superior, stuck-up, demeaning

superfluous *adj* surplus, redundant, unnecessary, extra, more than enough

superlative *adj* The Best

sycophant *n* a kiss up, someone who does nice things to win points with authority

symbiotic *adj* relationship that benefits all involved

syncopated *adj* rhythmic, having a beat, being in rhythm with each other

T

tacit *adj* unspoken, implicit, inferred, implied, understood, unstated

talisman *n* amulet, charm, lucky charm

tangent *n* digression, departure, go off topic

tantamount *adj* equivalent in value, equal in value, same as

tedium *n* boredom (tedium leads to ennui)

temerity *n* recklessness, stupid brave, audacity

tenacity *n* stubbornness, persistence, resolve, obstinacy

timorous *adj* timid, fearful, shy

**transcend**  *v* rise above, go beyond, surpass

tranquil *adj* calm, serene, peaceful, soothing

taunt/ed *v* mock, tease, sneer at, insult

tribulation *n* a difficulty, misfortune, suffering (participle), ordeal, pain

truculence *n* hostility, argumentativeness, grumpiness

truculent *adj* hostile, unfriendly, bad-tempered, quarrelsome

U

ubiquitous *adj* common, ordinary, found everywhere, not unique

umbrage *n* resentment, offense

uncanny *adj* weird, eerie, mysterious, supernatural, strange, amazing

understatement *n* deliberately making things less than they are; *ant*: hyperbole

undulate *v* to move in waves like the ocean, steady pulsing

unqualified *adj* untrained, inept, unprofessional, unskilled, unprepared

unrelenting *adj* never giving up, relentless, merciless, insistent, pitiless

unwarranted *adj* unjustified, unnecessary, superfluous, uncalled-for

unwitting *adj* unaware, unsuspecting, innocent, ignorant, accidental

**usurp**  *v* to overthrow, take the place of, coup, seize, grab

utopia *n* the perfect society, perfect place, most ideal \_\_\_\_\_

V

**vacillate** *v* fluctuate, move between two things/choices, hesitate, dither

vacuous *adj* empty, empty-headed, stupid, blank, inane, insipid

valor *n* honor, bravery, heroism, courage, integrity

venerable *adj* respected, revered, august, admired

verbose *adj* talkative, gregarious, garrulous, loquacious, never shuts up

versatility *n* resourcefulness, flexibility, adaptability, able to do many things

viable *adj* workable, doable, possible, feasible, practical

vicarious *adj* in place of another; Father lived vicariously through his children.

vindictive *adj* seeking revenge

vindication *n* a proof that you were right, justification, evidence, acquittal

virtuoso *n* a person who is VERY good at something- the best!

vitriolic *adj* spiteful, hurtful, bitter, malicious, malevolent, belligerent

vivacious *adj* full of energy and life! bubbly! spirited! effervescent!

voluminous *adj* Big: really, really, really, BIG

W

**wallow** *v* flounder, stumble, welter, roll around in

**wane** *v* to get smaller

**waning***part.* growing smaller

wanton *adj* undisciplined, lewd, lustful, horny

whimsical *adj* random, capricious, fanciful, quirky

winsome *adj* charming, pleasant, appealing, pretty

winnow *v* to separate the good from bad, usable from unusable, divide

wistful *adj* full of yearning, longing, musingly sad, moping around

wizened *adj* dry, shrunken, wrinkled

X

xanthic *adj* yellow, yellowish

xanthippe *n* an ill-tempered woman

xenogenesis *n* spontaneous generation- just suddenly shows up!

xerography *n* Xerox-ing or copying something- usually paper

xenophobic *adj* not liking/fearing other people, chauvinistic, racist; intolerant

Y

**yex** *v* to burp, hiccup or spit

**yield** *v* to give way to, to give up, to surrender

**yoke** *v/n* to harness things together, be bound to/that which binds

**yomp** v to carry heavy equipment over difficult terrain

yonderly *adj* mentally or emotionally distant; absent-minded

Z

zaftig *adj* having a full, rounded figure

zany *adj* crazy, wacky, screwy, loony

zealous *adj* really, really, really, really, really excited!

zealot *adj* one who is Hyper-Excited, SUPER-Excited about something

zenith *n* peak, high point, pinnacle, acme, TOP!

zephyr *n* a gentle wind