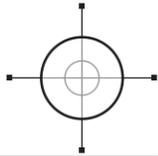
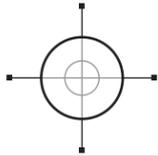


**ameliorate**



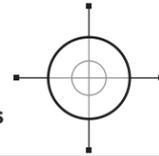
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TOP 100 HARD REPEAT OFFENDERS

**alacrity**



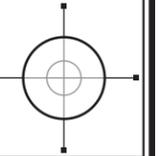
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**adulation**



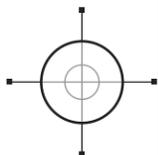
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**abstruse**



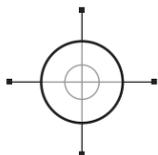
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**auspicious**



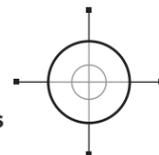
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**assiduous**



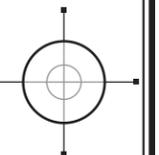
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**arboreal**



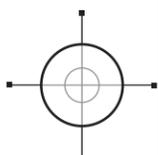
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**anachronistic**



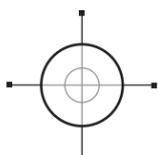
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**bombast**



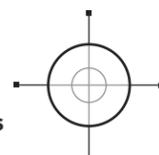
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**banal**



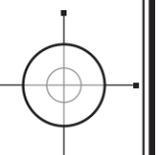
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**avarice**



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**austere**



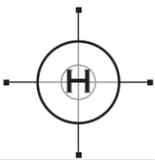
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## abstruse

(adj.) hard to understand

Mr. Abbott tried to teach us how to solve an **abstruse** math problem, but it was too complicated for most of us to understand.

**Word Forms:** abstrusely, abstruseness, abstrusity



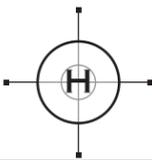
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## adulation

(n.) excessive admiration

Adele's **adulation** of the television star began to worry her parents when she started sending him letters every day.

**Word Forms:** adulate, adulatory, adulator



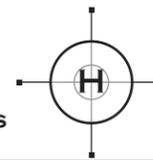
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## alacrity

(adj.) liveliness and eagerness

Alaina impressed her new boss by accepting the task with **alacrity**; she was both eager and excited to get started.

**Word Form:** alacritous



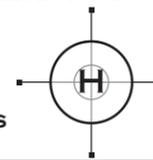
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## ameliorate

(vb.) to make better

Amelia was an outstanding caregiver; she could **ameliorate** a patient's discomfort just by smiling kindly and speaking in a soothing tone.

**Word Forms:** ameliorable, ameliorableness, ameliorant, ameliorative, amelioratory, ameliorator



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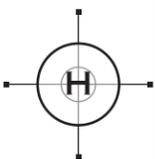
## anachronistic

(adj.) out of chronological order

Today's announcement about the impending demolition of the baseball stadium is **anachronistic**; the stadium was razed early last week.

**Word Forms:** anachronistically, anachrony, anachronic, anachronism, anachronous, anachronously

**Related Word:** chronological, chronology



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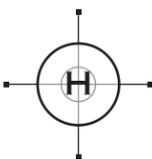
## arboreal

(adj.) relating to trees

The emerald tree boa is an **arboreal** snake; it spends all of its life in the trees of the Amazon rainforest.

**Word Forms:** arboreally, arboreous

**Related Word:** arbor



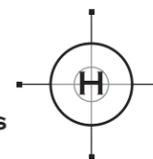
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## assiduous

(adj.) constant and attentive

Ashley is an **assiduous** researcher; she was able to find articles on the poet that even the librarian could not locate.

**Word Forms:** assiduously, assiduousness, assiduity



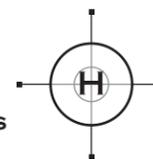
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## auspicious

(adj.) favorable; fortunate

Austin waited for an **auspicious** time to ask his father to borrow the car; he finally had his chance on the day that his dad received a sizable raise at work.

**Word Forms:** auspiciously, auspiciousness



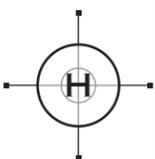
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## austere

(adj.) 1. strict; disciplined; serious  
2. simple; undecorated

Mr. Aston is the most **austere** teacher at the high school; he does not tolerate any talking in his classroom nor does he accept late assignments.

**Word Forms:** austere, austere, austerity



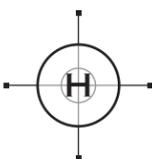
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## avarice

(n.) extreme greed for material wealth

Avery amassed million-dollar homes, luxury cars, and exquisite jewelry to satisfy her **avarice**, but somehow she still wanted more.

**Word Forms:** avaricious, avariciously, avariciousness



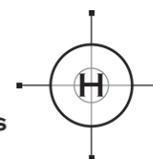
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## banal

(adj.) repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse

The plot of the movie is unoriginal and **banal**; everything that takes place in this film has happened in a dozen other movies.

**Word Forms:** banally, banalize, banality



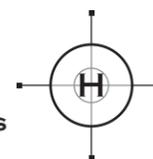
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## bombast

(n.) pompous or pretentious talk or writing

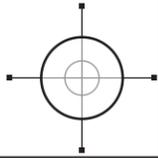
Be sure that your speech isn't pretentious or inflated, as the audience has no time to listen to **bombast**.

**Word Forms:** bombastic, bombastically, bombaster



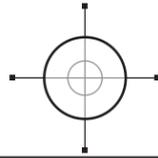
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**clandestine**



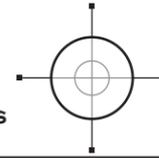
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**cathartic**



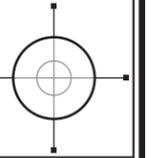
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**cataclysm**



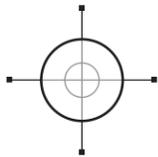
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**castigate**



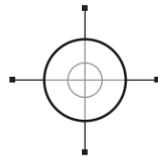
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**dalliance**



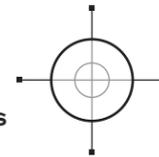
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**contrite**



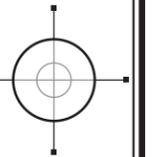
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**conscientious**



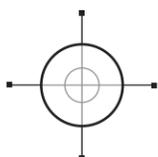
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**conflagration**



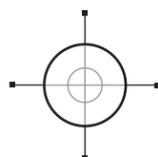
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**didactic**



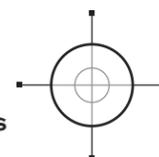
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**denigrate**



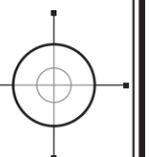
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**deleterious**



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**decorous**



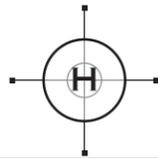
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## castigate

(*vb.*) to criticize or punish severely

Cassie was **castigated** by her parents and the school principal for her role in the cheating scam.

**Word Forms:** castigation, castigative, castigatory, castigator



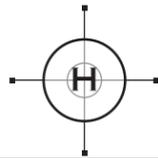
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## cataclysm

(*n.*) a violent upheaval

The political uprising against the dictator is a **cataclysm** that will hopefully result in a more democratic regime.

**Word Forms:** cataclysmic, cataclysmically, cataclysmal  
**Related Word:** catastrophe



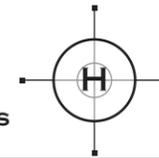
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## cathartic

(*adj.*) inducing a release of tense emotions

Painting was a **cathartic** exercise for Cathy; through her paintings of the house she was able to release the anger and fear she developed while living there.

**Word Forms:** cathartically, catharticalness



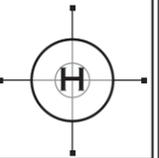
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## clandestine

(*adj.*) secret

The school administrators held **clandestine** meetings about the school uniform policy; they were afraid that if the public knew they were contemplating a new policy, the outcry would squash the issue.

**Word Forms:** clandestinely, clandestineness, clandestinity



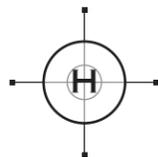
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## conflagration

(*n.*) a destructive fire

The fire department determined that the **conflagration** in the old warehouse was a result of faulty wiring.

**Word Forms:** conflagrative, conflagrate, conflagrant



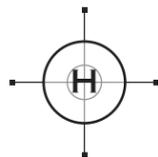
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## conscientious

(*adj.*) characterized by extreme care and great effort

Connie was the most **conscientious** student in class; she made sure that her project was free of mistakes, displayed in a binder, and turned in on time.

**Word Forms:** conscientiously, conscientiousness  
**Antonym Form:** unconscientious  
**Related Word:** conscience



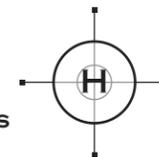
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## contrite

(*adj.*) feeling guilty and remorseful

The **contrite** criminal broke into sobs as he apologized to the victim's family for the suffering he had caused.

**Word Forms:** contritely, contriteness, contrition



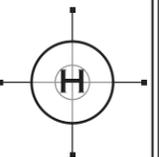
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## dalliance

(*n.*) the deliberate act of delaying and playing instead of working

Dalton's **dalliance** at the basketball court kept him from working on the term paper that was due tomorrow.

**Word Forms:** dally, dallyingly, dallier  
**Related Word:** dilly-dally



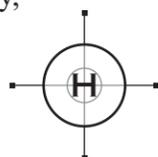
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## decorous

(*adj.*) proper and dignified

The **decorous** host made sure that she followed proper rules for table settings; each seat had four forks, three spoons, and two knives, all of which were arranged correctly for the five-course meal.

**Word Forms:** decorously, decorousness  
**Antonym Forms:** indecorous, indecorously, indecorousness  
**Related Word:** decorum



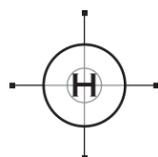
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## deleterious

(*adj.*) harmful

The **deleterious** effects of cigarette smoking, such as emphysema and lung cancer, are highlighted in the public service campaign.

**Word Forms:** deleteriously, deleteriousness  
**Related Word:** delete



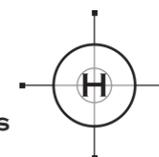
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## denigrate

(*vb.*) to damage the reputation of

The candidate hoped to **denigrate** his opponent's character by exposing the embezzlement scandal.

**Word Forms:** denigration, denigrative, denigratory, denigrator



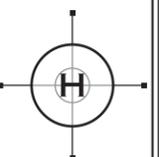
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## didactic

(*adj.*) educational

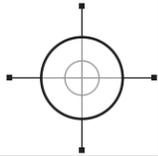
The children's book is not only entertaining, but also **didactic**; the comical story serves to teach students about the dietary habits of several marine animals.

**Word Forms:** didactical, didactically, didacticism, didact  
**Related Words:** autodidactic, autodidact



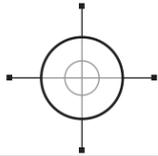
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**eclectic**



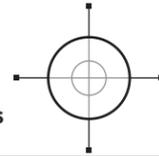
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**ebullient**



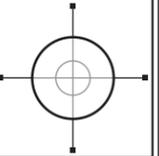
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**disseminate**



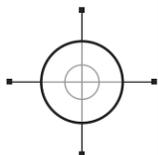
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**dilatory**



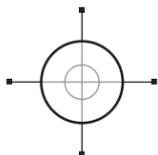
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**enervated**



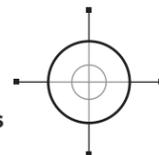
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**empirical**



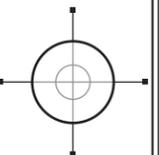
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**eminent**



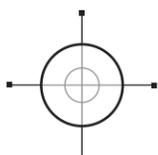
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**efficacious**



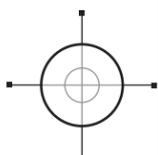
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**esoteric**



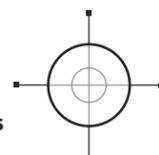
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**equivocate**



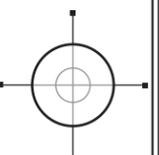
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**equanimity**



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**enigma**



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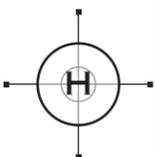
## dilatory

(adj.) intending to delay

Dillon asked nearly twenty **dilatory** questions at the start of class in an attempt to postpone the scheduled math test.

**Word Forms:** dilatorily, dilatoriness

**Related Word:** delay



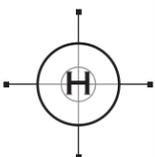
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## disseminate

(vb.) to spread widely

The police hoped the information about the suspect would **disseminate** throughout the city; the more people who knew, the better chances of apprehending the wanted man.

**Word Forms:** dissemination, disseminative, disseminator



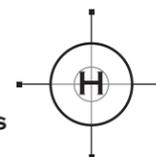
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## ebullient

(adj.) extremely excited or enthusiastic

The **ebullient** child clapped her hands and jumped up and down as she waited to ride the pony at the party.

**Word Forms:** ebulliently, ebullience



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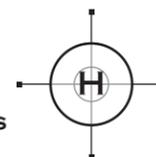
## eclectic

(vb.) made up of choices from diverse sources

Mrs. Eckert has an **eclectic** music collection; her albums span from classic jazz to hip hop to disco.

**Word Forms:** eclectically, eclecticist

**Related Word:** select



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## efficacious

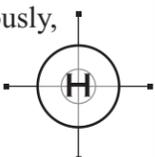
(adj.) effective

The pest repellent was **efficacious** in keeping the mosquitoes away; none of the guests were bothered by the bugs during the party.

**Word Forms:** efficaciously, efficaciousness, efficacy, efficacy

**Antonym Forms:** inefficacious, inefficaciously, inefficaciousness, inefficacy, inefficacity

**Related Words:** effect, effective



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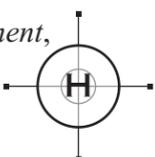
## eminent

(adj.) distinguished and prominent

The **eminent** professor has taught at the most distinguished universities, which is why he is such a remarkable addition to the faculty.

**Word Forms:** eminently, eminence

Note: *eminent* is often confused with *imminent*, which means *about to occur*.



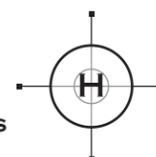
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## empirical

(adj.) resulting from an experiment

As a scientist, Emmie relied on **empirical** data every day, which is why it was hard for her to trust her intuition without evidence to justify her feelings.

**Word Forms:** empirically, empiricalness



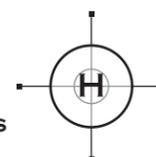
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## enervated

(adj.) lacking strength or vigor

After an entire weekend of cleaning, packing, and moving furniture, Enrico was **enervated**; he would need to rest for days in order to get his strength back.

**Word Forms:** enervate (vb.), enervation, enervative, enervator



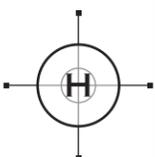
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## enigma

(n.) a puzzle

The dog's escape from the pen is an **enigma**; no one can figure out how she broke out of the locked enclosure.

**Word Forms:** enigmata (plural), enigmatic, enigmatical, enigmatically



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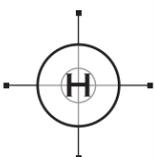
## equanimity

(n.) steadiness of mind under stress

Eva made an excellent emergency room doctor because she handled trauma with **equanimity**; she was clear-headed during the most stressful situations.

**Word Forms:** equanimous, equanimously, equanimousness

**Related Word:** longanimity



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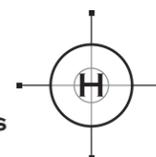
## equivocate

(vb.) to be deliberately ambiguous or unclear in order to mislead or withhold information

When asked whether there were any arrests, the sheriff **equivocated** by saying that the suspect has been located.

**Word Forms:** equivocatingly, equivocation, equivocatory, equivocator

**Related Word:** equivocal



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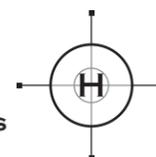
## esoteric

(adj.) intended for a select group of people; secret or confidential

Esteban was the member of an **esoteric** club, whose membership consisted strictly of men over fifty who lived in the city.

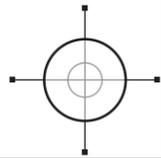
**Word Forms:** esoterically, esotericism, esotericist

**Antonym Forms:** exoteric, exoterically, exotericism



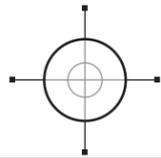
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**exorbitant**



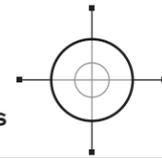
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**exonerate**



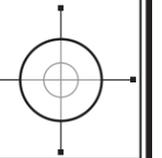
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**evanescent**



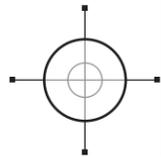
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**espouse**



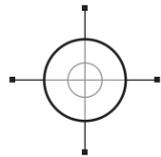
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**felicity**



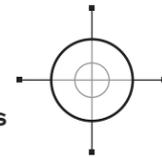
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**fastidious**



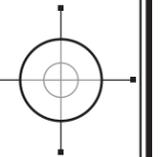
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**facetious**



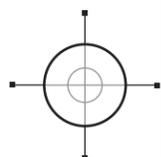
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**exuberant**



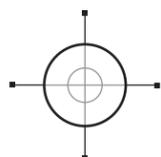
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**hackneyed**



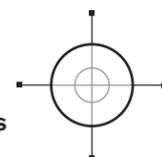
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**gregarious**



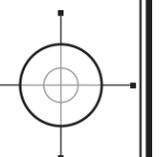
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**gratuitous**



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**garrulous**



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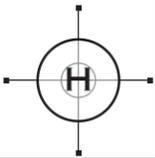
## espouse

(vb.) to adopt or marry  
(such as an idea or cause)

Although Esmerelda had never practiced a formal religion, she **espoused** her fiancé's faith in order to join the church before the wedding.

**Word Forms:** espousal, espouser

**Related Word:** spouse



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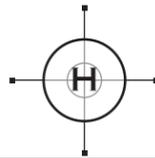
## evanescent

(adj.) vanishing

Many people believe that youth is **evanescent**, quickly vanishing before it can be truly appreciated.

**Word Forms:** evanescently, evanesce, evanescence, evanescently

**Related Word:** vanish



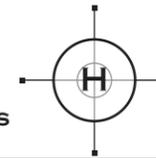
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## exonerate

(vb.) to clear from blame

The use of DNA helped **exonerate** the innocent man; twenty years after he was sent to prison, he was released with an apology for the wrongful conviction.

**Word Forms:** exoneration, exonerative, exonerator



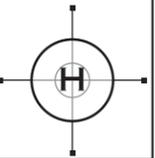
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## exorbitant

(adj.) greatly exceeding bounds  
of reason or moderation

I am forced to stop shopping at that grocery store until the owners lower the **exorbitant** prices on meats and produce.

**Word Forms:** exorbitantly, exorbitance



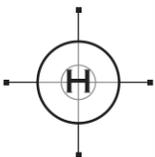
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## exuberant

(adj.) overflowing, especially with joy

The young wife was **exuberant** when her husband returned safely from the military after a year-long tour of duty overseas.

**Word Forms:** exuberantly, exuberance, exuberate



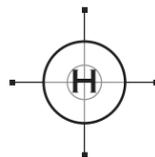
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## facetious

(vb.) not intended to be taken seriously

Fatima, who hated getting her teeth cleaned, was being **facetious** when she said, "I love going to the dentist!"

**Word Forms:** facetiously, facetiousness



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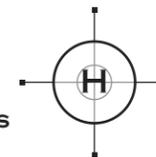
## fastidious

(adj.) giving careful attention  
to detail; hard to please

Mrs. Foster, my English teacher, is a **fastidious** grader; she deducts points for any little error in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.

**Word Forms:** fastidiously, fastidiousness

**Antonym Forms:** unfastidious



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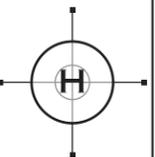
## felicity

(n.) pleasing and appropriate style

The book review highlighted both the **felicities** and the imperfections of the novel; the critic enjoyed the character sketches but found the plot unbelievable.

**Word Forms:** felicitous, felicitously, felicitousness

**Antonym Forms:** infelicity, infelicitous, infelicitously



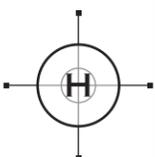
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## garrulous

(adj.) excessively talkative or wordy

The **garrulous** hairdresser talked the entire time he cut my hair; I heard his entire life story, from his first school field trip to his most recent visit to the bank.

**Word Forms:** garrulously, garrulousness, garrulity



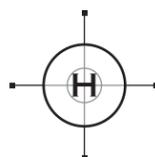
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## gratuitous

(n.) free; given without reason

On Monday, our supervisor announced that all employees were receiving two **gratuitous** tickets to this weekend's concert.

**Word Forms:** gratuitously, gratuitousness, gratuity



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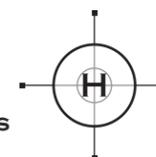
## gregarious

(adj.) sociable

Greg is a **gregarious** student who finds it difficult to avoid socializing during class.

**Word Forms:** gregariously, gregariousness

**Antonym Forms:** ungregarious



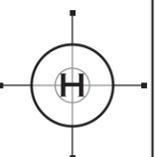
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## hackneyed

(adj.) repeated too often;  
overfamiliar through overuse

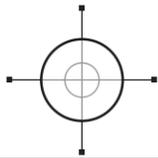
Instead of relying on **hackneyed** clichés in your essay, try to create original metaphors and similes.

**Word Forms:** hackney (vb.)



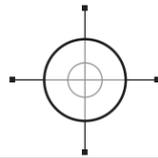
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**incongruity**



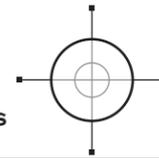
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**impugn**



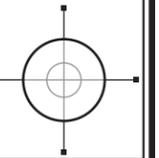
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**impervious**



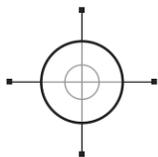
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**harangue**



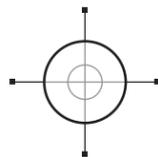
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**innocuous**



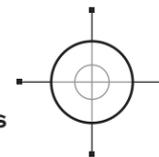
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**ineffable**



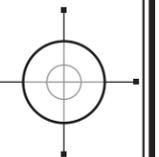
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**indigenous**



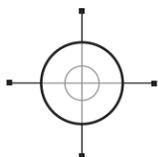
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**incorrigible**



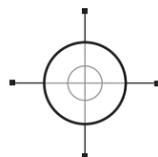
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**juxtapose**



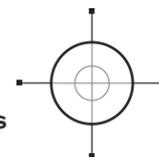
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**intransigent**



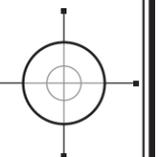
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**insolence**



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**insipid**



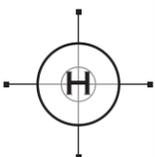
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## harangue

(*n.*) a long, pompous speech

*At the assembly, the principal delivered a **harangue** on the merits of perfect attendance and good behavior.*

**Word Forms:** harangue (*vb.*), harangueful, haranguer



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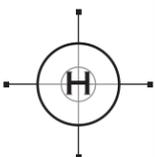
## impervious

(*adj.*) not capable of being affected

*Ima was **impervious** to Jack's insults; nothing he said seemed to affect her.*

**Word Forms:** imperviously, imperviousness, imperviable

**Antonym Forms:** pervious, perviously, perviousness



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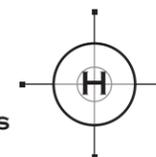
## impugn

(*vb.*) to attack as false or wrong

*The candidate **impugned** his opponent's voting record, showing instances where his opponent voted against reform he now supported.*

**Word Forms:** impugnable, impugnability, impugment, impugner

**Related Word:** oppugn



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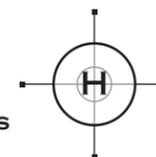
## incongruity

(*n.*) the quality of disagreeing; being unsuitable and inappropriate

*Inga's **incongruity** made it difficult to reason with her; she seemed to find fault with every logical position.*

**Word Forms:** incongruent, incongruently, incongruence, incongruous, incongruously, incongruousness

**Antonym Forms:** congruity, congruent, congruently, congruence, congruous, congruously, congruousness



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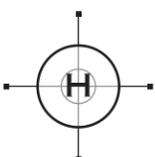
## incorrigible

(*adj.*) incapable of being corrected or punished

*The **incorrigible** child continued to throw his vegetables even after the mother threatened to send him to his room.*

**Word Forms:** incorrigibly, incorrigibleness, incorrigibility

**Antonym Forms:** corrigible, corrigibly, corrigibleness, corrigibility



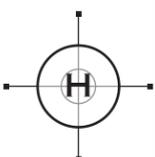
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## indigenous

(*adj.*) native to

*Although the flower can now be found all over the eastern United States, it is **indigenous** to Florida.*

**Word Forms:** indigenously, indigenouslyness, indiginity, indigen, indigene



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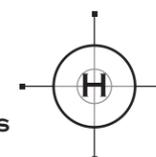
## ineffable

(*adj.*) incapable of being put into words

*Effie's joy at being reunited with her long-lost brother was **ineffable**; although she tried to describe how she was feeling, words could not explain her happiness.*

**Word Forms:** ineffably, ineffableness, ineffability

**Antonym Form:** effable



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## innocuous

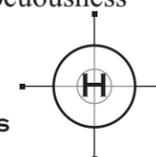
(*adj.*) harmless

*No one had to be evacuated after the tanker spill, as the gas released was **innocuous**.*

**Word Forms:** innocuously, innocuousness, innocuity

**Antonym Forms:** nocuous, nocuously, nocuousness

**Related Word:** inoculate



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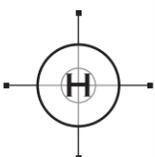
## insipid

(*adj.*) bland, dull, or uninteresting

*When I left for college, the **insipid** cafeteria food made me miss my father's home-cooked meals.*

**Word Forms:** insipidly, insipidness, insipidity

**Antonym Forms:** sipid, sipidity



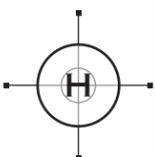
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## insolence

(*n.*) rudeness

*The headmaster made it clear that **insolence** would not be tolerated; rude behavior towards any faculty member would result in suspension or expulsion.*

**Word Forms:** insolent (*n.*), insolently, insolence



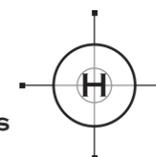
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## intransigent

(*adj.*) refusing to yield or compromise

*When it came to Edgar's hunting trophies, Enid was **intransigent**; she refused to hang the stuffed ducks and deer head on the living room wall.*

**Word Forms:** intransigent (*n.*), intransigently, intransigence, intransigency



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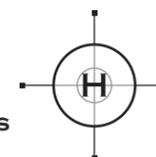
## juxtapose

(*vb.*) to place side by side

*When Justin's baby picture was **juxtaposed** with his father's baby picture, the resemblance between the two was remarkable.*

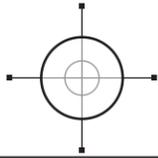
**Word Forms:** juxtaposition

**Related Word:** pose



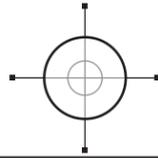
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**malleable**



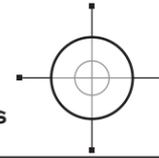
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**malevolent**



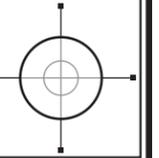
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**magnanimous**



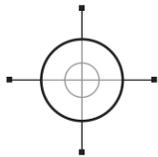
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**machination**



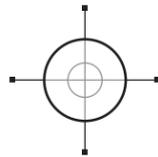
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**nefarious**



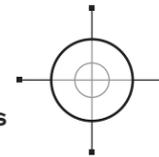
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**morose**



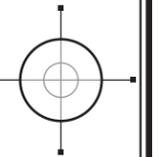
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**meritocracy**



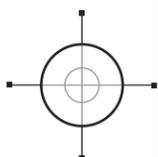
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**mendacious**



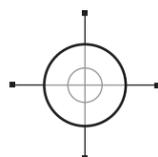
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**ostensible**



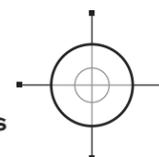
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**opulent**



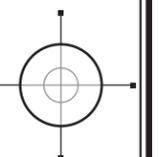
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**obsequious**



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**obdurate**



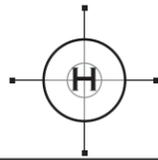
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## **machination**

(*n.*) a crafty plot

The fairy tale follows the **machinations** of an evil stepsister who is out to steal the prince from the heroine.

**Word Forms:** machinate, machinator



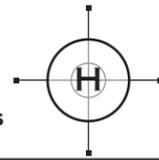
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## **magnanimous**

(*adj.*) noble and generous in spirit

The **magnanimous** donor has given over ten million dollars to children's charities in the city.

**Word Forms:** magnanimously, magnanimousness, magnanimity



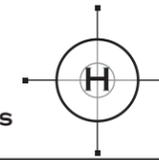
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## **malevolent**

(*adj.*) evil

The **malevolent** old man plotted the demise of his neighbor's barking dog.

**Word Forms:** malevolently, malevolence, malevolency



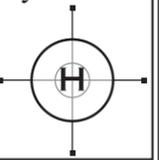
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## **malleable**

(*adj.*) capable of being shaped or influenced

Mallory worried that her **malleable** son would learn inappropriate behavior from the older boys he played with at school.

**Word Forms:** malleably, malleableness, malleability  
**Antonym Forms:** unmalleable, unmalleability



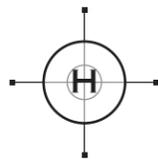
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## **mendacious**

(*adj.*) lying, false, or untrue

The **mendacious** little girl said that she didn't take her mother's lipstick, but the bright red evidence was splashed all over her face.

**Word Forms:** mendaciously, mendaciousness, mendacity



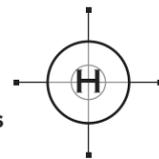
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## **meritocracy**

(*n.*) a form of social system in which power goes to those with superior abilities

Critics argue that a **meritocracy** cannot be fairly created, as intelligence and ability are difficult to measure accurately.

**Word Form:** meritocratic  
**Related Word:** merit



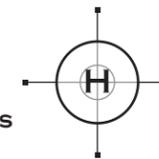
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## **morose**

(*adj.*) gloomy

After his girlfriend moved away, Morris became **morose** and depressed.

**Word Forms:** morosely, moroseness, morosity



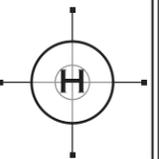
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## **nefarious**

(*adj.*) extremely wicked

In the novel, the **nefarious** character plotted to financially destroy the hero.

**Word Forms:** nefariously, nefariousness



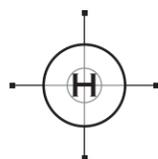
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## **obdurate**

(*adj.*) stubborn

The **obdurate** child refused to eat his vegetables and sat at the dinner table with the untouched broccoli until bedtime.

**Word Forms:** obdurately, obdurateness, obduracy  
**Related Word:** indurate



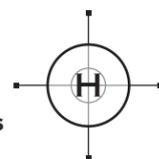
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## **obsequious**

(*adj.*) overly flattering or obedient

The new employee was distrusted by his co-workers because of his **obsequious** behavior; he agreed with everything the boss said and laughed at all of her bad jokes.

**Word Forms:** obsequiously, obsequiousness, obsequence



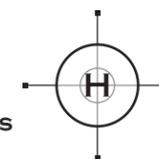
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## **opulent**

(*adj.*) rich and luxurious

The **opulent** kitchen had marble counter tops and solid gold fixtures.

**Word Forms:** opulently, opulence, opulency



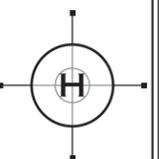
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## **ostensible**

(*adj.*) pretended

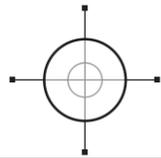
Austin's **ostensible** excuse for missing school was that his grandmother was in the hospital; the real reason, however, was that he went to the beach.

**Word Forms:** ostensibly, ostensive  
**Related Word:** ostentatious



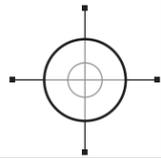
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**petulant**



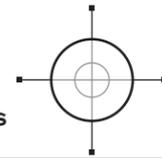
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**perspicacity**



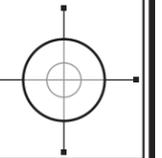
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**pedantic**



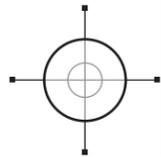
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**pedagogical**



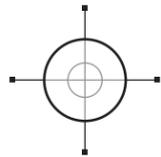
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**prosaic**



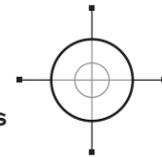
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**proliferate**



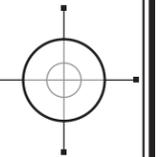
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**pristine**



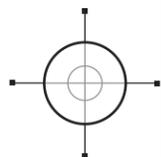
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**precocious**



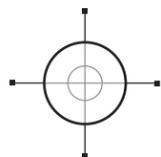
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**raucous**



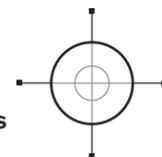
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**rancorous**



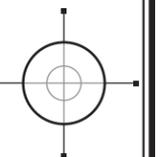
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**quiescent**



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**querulous**



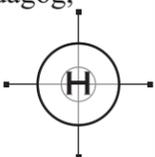
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## pedagogical

(*adj.*) relating to education or teaching

*The course for new teachers taught the **pedagogical** principal that all children could learn.*

**Word Forms:** pedagogy, pedagogic, pedagogically, pedagogism, pedagogy, pedagogish, pedagog, pedagogue



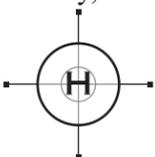
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## pedantic

(*adj.*) overly focused on small details while teaching or learning

*It was difficult to be Penny's lab partner because she was **pedantic** about recording every single step of the scientific method.*

**Word Forms:** pedantical, pedantically, pedanticalness, pedanticism, pedantism, pedantry, pedant, pedantesque, pedanthood



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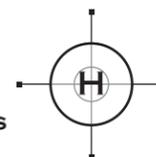
## perspicacity

(*n.*) intelligence manifested by being astute

*My accountant's **perspicacity** saved me thousands of dollars on my tax returns because he found rebates that all of the other accountants had missed.*

**Word Forms:** perspicacious, perspicaciously, perspicaciousness

**Related Words:** perspicuity, perspicuous



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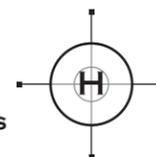
## petulant

(*adj.*) easily irritated over small issues

*The **petulant** actress stormed off the set when she discovered that her dressing room did not have her favorite brand of bottled water.*

**Word Forms:** petulantly, petulance, petulancy

**Related Word:** petty



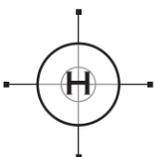
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## precocious

(*adj.*) advanced in development or maturity (especially in mental aptitude)

*The **precocious** little boy, who was only in kindergarten, was able to solve the algebraic equation without any help from his teacher.*

**Word Forms:** precociously, precociousness, precocity



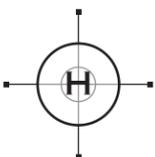
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## pristine

(*adj.*) pure, clean, or unused

*The interior of the old car was in **pristine** condition; the upholstery was spotless and the original equipment worked perfectly.*

**Word Form:** pristinely



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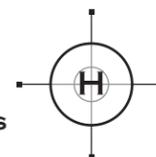
## proliferate

(*vb.*) to grow rapidly

*The franchise has **proliferated** in a very short time; while there were just two restaurants ten years ago, there are now more than two hundred nationwide.*

**Word Forms:** proliferative, proliferation, proliferator

**Related Word:** prolific



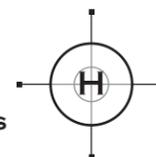
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## prosaic

(*adj.*) dull and lacking excitement

*Pam claimed the movie was predictable and **prosaic**, causing her to fall asleep halfway through.*

**Word Forms:** prosaic, prosaically, prosaicness, prosaicism



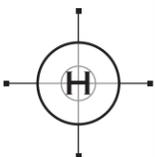
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## querulous

(*adj.*) complaining

*Quentin's **querulous** tone irritated Nina; no matter how hard she worked, he always found something about which to complain.*

**Word Forms:** querulously, querulousness



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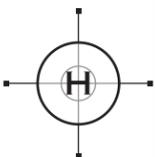
## quiescent

(*adj.*) being quiet or still or inactive

*When the mine closed, the once-bustling town became **quiescent** and forlorn.*

**Word Forms:** quiescently, quiescence, quiescency

**Related Word:** quiet



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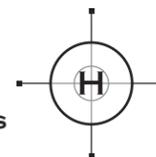
## rancorous

(*adj.*) showing deep-seated resentment

*In the fairy tale, the **rancorous** stepmother is jealous of the young maiden's beauty, youth, and innocence.*

**Word Forms:** rancor, rancorously, rancorousness

**Related Word:** rancid



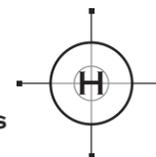
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## raucous

(*adj.*) unpleasantly loud and harsh

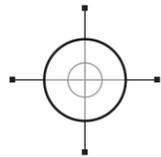
*Rachel's **raucous** laughter often drove people away.*

**Word Forms:** raucously, raucousness, raucity



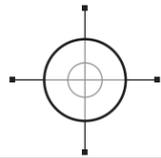
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**sanctimonious**



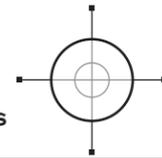
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**sagacious**



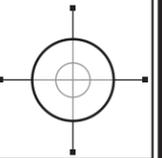
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**repugnant**



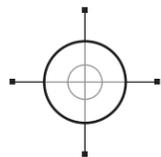
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**repudiate**



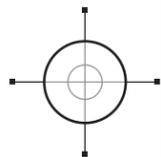
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**solicitous**



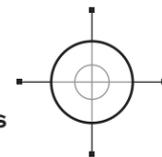
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**sedulous**



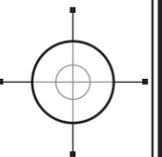
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**scintillating**



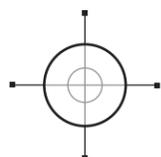
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**sanguine**



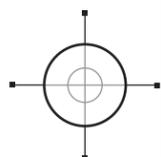
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**tacit**



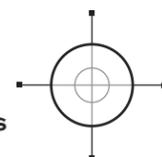
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**surreptitious**



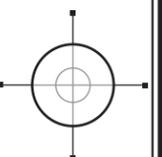
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**subterfuge**



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**spurious**



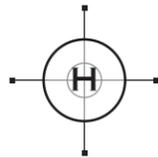
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## repudiate

(vb.) to reject

The celebrity **repudiated** claims that she had undergone plastic surgery.

**Word Forms:** repudiable, repudiative, repudiation, repudiatory, repudiator



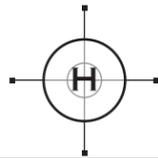
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## repugnant

(adj.) offensive

The spoiled eggs that had sat in the hot car for several weeks offered the most **repugnant** smell I had ever experienced.

**Word Forms:** repugnantly, repugnance, repugnancy



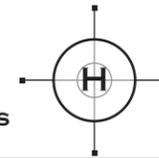
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## sagacious

(adj.) acutely insightful and wise

The **sagacious** teacher was quickly able to pinpoint Sarah's learning disability, and thus tailor lessons to better help the child comprehend the material.

**Word Forms:** sagaciously, sagaciousness, sagacity  
**Related Word:** sage



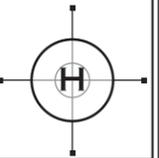
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## sanctimonious

(vb.) being hypocritically religious or righteous

The principal gave me a **sanctimonious** lecture about my tardiness, even though he was late to our last two student senate meetings.

**Word Forms:** sanctimoniously, sanctimoniousness, sanctimony, sanctimonial  
**Related Words:** sanctity, sanctify



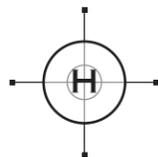
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## sanguine

(adj.) confidently optimistic and cheerful

Dr. Sanchez enjoyed working with Sandy, his most **sanguine** patient; she was always confident that her test results would be good, and if they weren't, she was optimistic about her treatment.

**Word Forms:** sanguinely, sanguineness, sanguinity



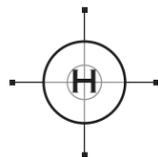
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## scintillating

(adj.) brilliantly clever or flashy and exciting

The animated movie has been praised for its **scintillating** dialogue, which is intended more for adults than children.

**Word Forms:** scintillatingly, scintillate, scintillant, scintillantly, scintillation



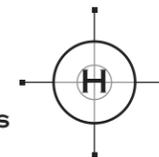
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## sedulous

(adj.) marked by care and persistent effort

Siera was impressed by Wayne's **sedulous** pursuit of a date; every day for the last three weeks, he had sent her a flower with a note asking her to prom.

**Word Forms:** sedulously, sedulousness, sedulity



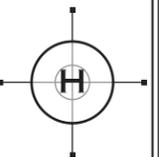
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## solicitous

(adj.) anxious, eager, or worried

The **solicitous** applicant was forced to wait three months before he received a response from the college.

**Word Forms:** solicitously, solicitousness



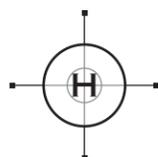
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## spurious

(adj.) false; not legitimate

The applicant made **spurious** claims about attending a prestigious private school, but when the college learned the truth, they denied his application.

**Word Forms:** spuriously, spuriousness



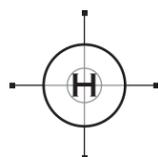
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## subterfuge

(n.) something intended to deceive

Susan used the **subterfuge** of homework to avoid going to her grandmother's house with the rest of her family.

**Related Word:** fugitive



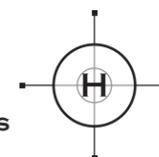
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## surreptitious

(adj.) stealthy and secret

Before the colonists declared independence from Great Britain, they held a series of **surreptitious** meetings to secretly discuss their plan of action.

**Word Forms:** surreptitiously, surreptitiousness



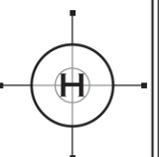
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## tacit

(adj.) unspoken and implied

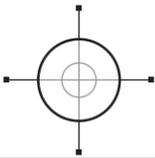
Although she never commented on our performance, the principal gave her **tacit** approval of our band by asking us to play at the next school function.

**Word Forms:** tacitly, tacitness  
**Related Word:** taciturn



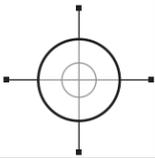
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# vociferous



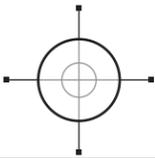
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# tumultuous



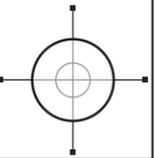
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# truculence



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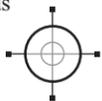
# tenuous



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## Top 100 Hard Repeat Offenders

- |  |  |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> abstruse      | <input type="checkbox"/> conscientious | <input type="checkbox"/> equivocate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adulation     | <input type="checkbox"/> contrite      | <input type="checkbox"/> esoteric   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> alacrity      | <input type="checkbox"/> dalliance     | <input type="checkbox"/> espouse    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ameliorate    | <input type="checkbox"/> decorous      | <input type="checkbox"/> evanescent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> anachronistic | <input type="checkbox"/> deleterious   | <input type="checkbox"/> exonerate  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> arboreal      | <input type="checkbox"/> denigrate     | <input type="checkbox"/> exorbitant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assiduous     | <input type="checkbox"/> didactic      | <input type="checkbox"/> exuberant  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> auspicious    | <input type="checkbox"/> dilatory      | <input type="checkbox"/> facetious  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> austere       | <input type="checkbox"/> disseminate   | <input type="checkbox"/> fastidious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> avarice       | <input type="checkbox"/> ebullient     | <input type="checkbox"/> felicity   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> banal         | <input type="checkbox"/> eclectic      | <input type="checkbox"/> garrulous  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bombast       | <input type="checkbox"/> efficacious   | <input type="checkbox"/> gratuitous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> castigate     | <input type="checkbox"/> eminent       | <input type="checkbox"/> gregarious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cataclysm     | <input type="checkbox"/> empirical     | <input type="checkbox"/> hackneyed  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cathartic     | <input type="checkbox"/> enervated     | <input type="checkbox"/> harangue   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clandestine   | <input type="checkbox"/> enigma        | <input type="checkbox"/> impervious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conflagration | <input type="checkbox"/> equanimity    |                                     |



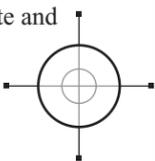
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## Flash Card Components

**Part of Speech:** Identifying the part of speech is essential to understanding the word. This is especially true for words that serve as more than one part of speech, such as *dispute*. The word *dispute* can be a verb (“*he disputed the results*”) or a noun (“*I had a dispute with my teacher*”).

**Definition:** Each word is defined as it is most commonly used on the SAT. For example, the word *apt* is usually used to refer to likelihood (“*he was apt to get angry*”); however, on the SAT, the word *apt* most often refers to a person’s intelligence (“*he was an apt student*”). Therefore, the flash card definition reflects the common usage on the test.

**Sentence:** The word is used in a sentence to illustrate and clarify its meaning and usage. Some sentences use specific words and names as memory devices.

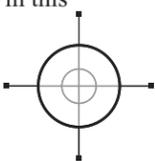


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## Word Comprehension

The word that completes a Sentence Completion blank is always a perfect fit. Not only does the correct answer look right and sound right, but it also has a definition that perfectly meshes with the context of the sentence. While you do not need to know the definition of every word to get a perfect score on the SAT, a good vocabulary certainly helps make it easier to exceed your expectations.

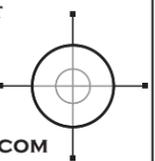
PowerScore analyzed over 60 previous SAT tests to extract the most commonly-occurring vocabulary words. After we removed the Top 200 Critical Reading Repeat Offenders, we organized the remaining words that appeared on multiple tests by difficulty—Easy, Medium, and Hard. The words in this deck frequently appear on the SAT, and are among the hard-level vocabulary words you are expected to know.



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TOP 100 HARD REPEAT OFFENDERS

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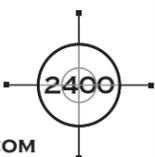
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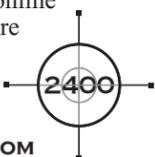
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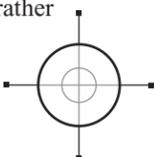
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## How to Study Vocabulary Words

Studying vocabulary in multiple ways increases your retention of the definitions. Try these other study methods:

1. **Write out the words and their definitions.**  
Transferring the words and their definitions to paper helps transfer the information into your long-term memory.
2. **Write new sentences for each word.**  
Similarly, using the word in context helps cement its meaning.
3. **Draw a picture representing the word.**  
Pictures can create a connection to the definition.
4. **Read the word aloud and say it in a sentence.**  
Some students learn best by hearing information rather than by seeing it.

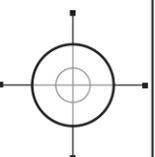
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TOP 100 HARD REPEAT OFFENDERS

## POWERSCORE Top 100 Hard Repeat Offenders

*One hundred of the most commonly-occurring  
hard-level SAT vocabulary words from  
a survey of over 60 real SAT tests*

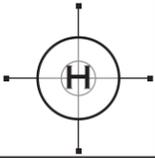


# tenuous

(adj.) very thin; lacking substance

"The dog ate my homework," is a **tenuous** excuse that no teacher will believe.

**Word Forms:** tenuously, tenuousness, tenuity



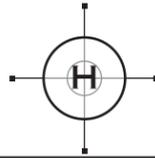
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# truculence

(n.) brutal cruelty and aggressiveness

After the fight in school, Truman was expelled; the school board said that his **truculence** was a danger to the other students.

**Word Forms:** truculent, truculently, truculency



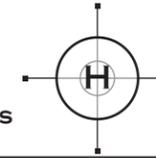
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# tumultuous

(adj.) characterized by unrest, commotion, or agitation

Tommy's and Gina's relationship had always been **tumultuous**; they often broke up after explosive arguments, only to get back together hours later.

**Word Forms:** tumultuously, tumultuousness, tumult, tumultuary



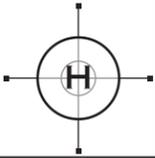
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# vociferous

(adj.) marked by loud outcry

When the student newspaper ran an article on the benefits of a dress code, there were **vociferous** complaints from the students.

**Word Forms:** vociferously, vociferousness, vociferate, vociferation, vociferant, vociferator  
**Related Word:** voice

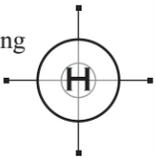


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Want an easier place to start? Try these easy words first.
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These common SAT words are sure to appear again.
- **Top 100 Extreme Repeat Offenders**  
Less common, these words are for students looking for a challenge.



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## Parts of Speech

**Noun (n.):** word that names a person, place, or thing

**Pronoun (pr.):** word that replaces a noun

**Verb (vb.):** word showing action or state of being

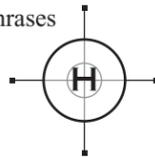
**Preposition (prep.):** word used to link a noun or pronoun to other words

**Adjective (adj.):** word which describes or modifies a noun or pronoun

**Adverb (adv.):** word which describes or modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb

**Conjunction (conj.):** word which links words or phrases

**Interjection (int.):** word used to convey emotion



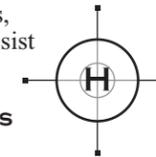
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## Flash Card Components

**Word Forms:** The main entry on each card is either the base word or the most commonly used form of the word, but the SAT may use any of the forms of the word listed. For example, if *indignant (adj.)* is the main word on a card, you should also be prepared to see *indignantly (adv.)* or *indignation (n.)* on the test.

**Antonym Forms:** An antonym is a word with opposite meaning. You must understand the meaning of both the entry word on the card and its antonym, as the SAT expects you to apply the definition of the root word to many different forms of the word. For example, if *implausible* means *unbelievable*, then *plausible* must mean *believable*.

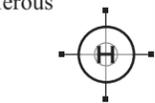
**Related Words:** Some words share common roots, prefixes, or suffixes. Related words are listed to assist you in remembering the definition of the word on the card.



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## Top 100 Hard Repeat Offenders

- |                                       |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> impugn       | <input type="checkbox"/> nefarious    | <input type="checkbox"/> repudiate     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> incongruity  | <input type="checkbox"/> obdurate     | <input type="checkbox"/> repugnant     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> incorrigible | <input type="checkbox"/> obsequious   | <input type="checkbox"/> sagacious     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> indigenous   | <input type="checkbox"/> opulent      | <input type="checkbox"/> sanctimonious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ineffable    | <input type="checkbox"/> ostensible   | <input type="checkbox"/> sanguine      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> innocuous    | <input type="checkbox"/> pedagogical  | <input type="checkbox"/> scintillating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> insipid      | <input type="checkbox"/> pedantic     | <input type="checkbox"/> sedulous      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> insolence    | <input type="checkbox"/> perspicacity | <input type="checkbox"/> solicitous    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> intransigent | <input type="checkbox"/> petulant     | <input type="checkbox"/> spurious      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> juxtapose    | <input type="checkbox"/> precocious   | <input type="checkbox"/> subterfuge    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> machination  | <input type="checkbox"/> pristine     | <input type="checkbox"/> surreptitious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> magnanimous  | <input type="checkbox"/> proliferate  | <input type="checkbox"/> tacit         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> malevolent   | <input type="checkbox"/> prosaic      | <input type="checkbox"/> tenuous       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> malleable    | <input type="checkbox"/> querulous    | <input type="checkbox"/> truculence    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mendacious   | <input type="checkbox"/> quiescent    | <input type="checkbox"/> tumultuous    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> meritocracy  | <input type="checkbox"/> rancorous    | <input type="checkbox"/> vociferous    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> morose       | <input type="checkbox"/> raucous      |  |



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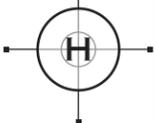
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## How to Study Vocabulary Words

### 5. Type the words and definitions.

Type all 100 words into a word processing document or spreadsheet. Then try to define them without looking at the definitions.

### 6. Analyze the roots, prefixes, and suffixes.

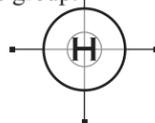
Can you find words that have the same suffix? If so, do they mean the same thing in both words? Learning to associate words with related words can help you solve even the toughest test questions.

### 7. Group words by meaning.

Many SAT words have similar meanings. Group them so you associate the meaning with all of the words in the group.

### 8. Have someone quiz you.

Place a check in the target if you get one right.



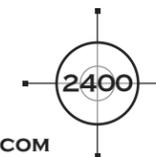
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