

## TOEFL Word List

**Abhor** (*verb*) to hate or think of disgust

The man abhors the feel of snakes.

**Abject** (*adj.*) poor or miserable; thought to be worthless

The poor lived in abject poverty.

The woman gave an abject apology.

**Accelerate** (*verb*) to increase the speed

The bus accelerates quickly.

**Accent** (*verb*) a mark of emphasis, to give emphasis

The British accent the words differently than the American.

**Accentuate** (*verb*) to give force to or draw attention to

The blue scarf accentuates the blue dress.

**Accessible** (*adj.*) able to be reached; convenient

All buildings should be accessible to the disabled.

**Acclaim** (*verb*) to give approval; to applaud

The man is acclaimed as a great writer.

**Accurate/ accuracy** (*adj./noun*) exacts; correct

He gives an accurate account of the event.

**Acrid** (*adj.*) sharp, having a bitter smell or taste

Lots of factories put out an acrid smell.

**Adjacent to** (*adj.*) next to; near, but not necessarily touching

Our house is adjacent to a park.

**Adjoin** (*verb*) be next to or nearest to

The two buildings are adjoining.

**Advantageous** (*adj.*) profitable; helpful

It is advantageous to be able to speak more than one language.

**Advent** (*noun*) the arrival of an important development/ season/ person

Since the advent of Internet, there have been great changes in our lives.

**Advocate** (*noun/verb*) a person who supports or speaks in favor of something; to support

Consumer Council is an advocate of fair treatment for consumers.

**Affect** (*verb*) to have an influence on

Pollution affects our lives.

**Aforementioned** (*adj.*) said or written before

The aforementioned topic is of great importance.

**Aim** (*noun/verb*) a purpose or goal; to point a weapon or direct a remark in order to hit something

He aimed the gun at the police.

**Alert/alertly** (*adj./adv.*) fully awake and ready to act

The guards watch alertly as the man appears.

**Alienate** (*verb*) to cause a person to become unfriendly or indifferent

His angry remarks alienated his supporters.

**Amass** (*verb*) to collect or pile up

She has amassed her fortune over several years.

**Ambition** (*noun*) strong desire for success or fame

She works hard because of her great ambition to be a famous dancer.

**Ambrosia** (*noun*) food that has a delightful taste or smell; “food of the gods”

She makes desserts taste like ambrosia.

**Amend/amendment** (*verb/noun*) improve; correct; a change made to a rule

The government should amend existing building laws.

**Anomaly** (*noun*) something abnormal or unusual

A driver who cannot drive is an anomaly

**Anticipate** (*verb*) to do something before someone else or before the right time; to see what is likely to happen in the future

The concert promoter anticipates a large crowd for the performance.

**Anxiety** (*noun*) an emotional condition of fear and uncertainty

The students wait with anxiety for their exam results.

**Apex** (*noun*) the highest point; the top

The apex of Hong Kong is not at the Peak.

**Appall/ appalling** (*verb/adj.*) fill with fear; shock

The number of children who starved in the famine were appalling.

**Appeal to** (*verb*) make a request; to call for help or sympathy; to attract

His music appeals to young people.

**Appear** (*verb*) to come into view; to become visible

The famous singer finally appears at the end of the show.

**Appliance** (*noun*) a piece of equipment

A washing machine is an electrical appliance.

**Appropriate** (*adj.*) suitable; proper

It is not appropriate to use your mobile phone when you are watching a movie.

**Approximate** (*adj.*) almost the same; more or less correct; close to

The approximate speed the car was going was 50 kilometer per hour.

**Apt** (*adj.*) likely; relevant

The undisciplined child is apt to get into trouble sooner or later.

**Arduous** (*adj.*) difficult; using much energy

Taichi can be an arduous exercise.

**Arouse** (*verb*) to awaken; to cause to become active

The compass needle direction aroused his interests in science.

**Articulate** (*verb*) to speak distinctly or clearly; to connect or be jointed

The politician is able to articulate his words well.

**As of late** (*conj. + adj.*) recently

Crime rate has decreased as of late.

**Aspect** (*noun*) the particular way something appears; the look or appearance of something

To understand something well you must look at it from all aspects.

**Astute** (*adj.*) clever, quick

The astute student answered all the questions correctly in the contest.

**Attempt** (*noun/ verb*) the act of trying; to make an effort; to try

The prisoner attempted to escape from prison.

**Attribute** (*verb*) to consider something as the result of something else

He attributes his success to his hard work and dedications.

**Augment** (*verb*) to make something greater; to add to

He works at a part-time job to augment his family income.

**Authoritative** (*adj.*) having authority; commanding

His authoritative manner does not earn him respects from us.

**Back and forth** (*adv.*) movement: first one way and then the other

The anxious father walks back and forth across the waiting room in the hospital.

**Bare** (*adv.*) without clothing or protection

Can you catch fish with your bare hands?

**Barrier** (*noun*) something that prevents movement or progress

There is a language barrier between them.

**Barter** (*verb*) to exchange goods or property for other goods or property

Poor countries still barter products for food.

**Beak** (*noun*) the hard, horny part of a bird's mouth

All birds have a beak.

**Behold** (*verb*) to look at, to observe

The sky during sun rise is a lovely sight to behold.

**Bend** (*verb*) to cause something to curve or be at an angle

You cannot bend a steel pipe easily.

**Beneficial** (*adj.*) helpful

Clean air is beneficial to our health.

**Beyond** (*prep*) farther than, later than, surpassing, exceeding

His father won't let him stay in the party beyond midnight.

**Bind** (*verb*) to tie or fasten, to hold an agreement

Can you bind the books together?

**Bite/biting** (*verb/adj.*) to cut with the teeth, the act of cutting with the teeth, an injury resulting from a sting or bite; a sharpness or sting.

The dog is taken away after it bit several people.

**Bizarre** (*adj.*) very odd or unusual

No one can explain the bizarre accident.

**Bleak** (*adj.*) cold, miserable, bare

The economic situation in Hong Kong was bleak for the past two years.

**Blunder** (*verb*) to move with uncertainty; to make foolish mistakes

The candidate for election is careful not to blunder in his speech.

**Bold** (*adj.*) without fear or shame

The bold fireman saved the girl from the building.

**Border** (*noun*) the edge, the line or boundary between two places.

Shenzhen is at the border of Hong Kong.

**Brave** (*adj.*) ready to face danger, having no fear, having courage

The brave man jumped into the sea to save the drowning boy.

**Breach** (*noun*) a breaking or neglect of a rule agreement

The court has to decide if a breach of contract occurs.

**Brink** (*noun*) the edge of something, the upper edge of a steep place

The economy is on the brink of collapse.

**Bump** (*noun/verb*) a swelling; to move with a jerking motion

I have a bump on my arm from the insect bites.

**Burrow** (*noun/verb*) a hole made in the ground by a small animal, such as a rabbit; to make a hole as a place of protection

Ground hogs live in burrows.

**Bush** (*noun*) a low-growing plant with many stems

Tea trees are a kind of bushes.

**Bushy** (*adj.*) growing thickly; rough and thick

The new born baby has bushy hair.

**By degrees** (*adv.*) gradually

Their love grew by degrees.

**By-product** (*noun*) anything product in the course of making something else; a secondary product

Diesel is a by-product of oil.

**By right** (*adv.*) if justice were done

A son inherits his father's property by rights.

**Campaign** (*noun*) a series of planned activities intended to win votes for a candidate for public office

His campaign for presidency has brought him to this city.

**Candid** (*adj.*) frank, straightforward, truthful

He wants to be candid with his friends.

**Capacity** (*noun*) the ability to hold or contain something

The disco has a capacity of 500 people.

**Care** (*verb*) to feel interest or sorrow; to be willing; to look after someone by

Providing food, medical assistance, etc.

Nurses care for their patients..

**Carriage** (*noun*) a vehicle for people, usually pulled by a horse

There are no carriages in Hong Kong.

**Carve** (*verb*) to form something by cutting away wood or stone

He is carving a statue from the stone.

**Caustic** (*adj.*) able to burn or destroy by chemical action

Caustic materials will burn your hand.

**Celebrate** (*verb*) to do something to show that a day or event is special

Let's celebrate the New Year together.

**Chart** (*noun*) a map; a pear with diagrams, table, or visual information

The salesman illustrates his point with a chart.

**Chore** (*noun*) a duty; piece of ordinary work; unpleasant work

We should help with household chores.

**Circulate** (*verb*) to move from place to place freely

Can you circulate this paper in the room?

**Circumstance** (*noun*) the conditions or facts associated with an event or person

The circumstances surrounding his death are unknown.

**Classify** (*verb*) to arrange in classes or groups

One of the librarian's jobs is to classify the new books.

**Clever** (*adj.*) quick in learning and understanding things

A clever student learns quickly.

**Colleague** (*noun*) a partner or associate working in the same profession

Your colleagues are your co-workers.

**Collide** (*verb*) to come together violently

Titanic collided with an iceberg.

**Collusion** (*noun*) a secret agreement or discussion for a dishonest reason

He is charged by the police for collusion to rob a bank.

**Comic, comical** (*adj.*) causing people to laugh

Clowns make comical moves to make children laugh.

**Command** (*noun*) to be in a position of power

After the earthquake, no one was in command of relief work.

**Commence** (*verb*) to begin

The Asian Games commence today.

**Commonplace** (*adj./noun*) normal, ordinary, ordinary, obvious, not interesting

The park is a commonplace for people to come and relax.

**Complexity** (*noun*) something difficult to understand or explain

The complexity of English grammars makes it difficult to learn.

**Compromise** (*noun/ verb*) a settlement of a dispute by which each side gives up something it wants, an agreement

Both Chinese and the US government compromise to make the agreement.

**Compulsory** (*adj.*) required

English is a compulsory subject in school.

**Conceal** (*verb*) to hide, keep secret

The policeman is searching him for concealed weapons

.

**Confident** (*adj.*) sure of oneself, certain

She was confident she would get the job.

**Confidential** (*adj.*) secret

Company information is confidential.

**Confined** (*adj./ verb*) restricted; to hold, to keep within limits

Refugees are confined to their camps.

**Conform** (*verb*) to stay in agreement with rules

Building owners have to conform to new building regulations.

**Confront** (*verb*) to meet or stand face to face, or face defiantly

The suspect confessed when the police confronted him with the evidence.

**Congregate** (*verb*) to come together

After the class, the students congregate around the teacher for discussion.

**Conscript** (*verb*) to compel by law to serve in the armed forces

There are no armed forces in Hong Kong, so we are not conscripted to the army.

**Conserve** (*verb*) to save, or to keep from destruction

We have to conserve energy.

**Consider** (*verb*) to think about

He is seriously considering changing his job.

**Considerably** (*adv.*) much, a great deal

This year is considerably colder than last year.

**Considerate** (*adj.*) thoughtful

It was considerate of you to send her flowers when she was sick.

**Conspicuous** (*adj.*) easily seen

You look conspicuous in that large colorful dress.

**Constrict** (*verb*) to make tight or smaller

Wearing tight clothing constricts your blood circulation.

**Contemporary** (*adj./noun*) belonging to the same time, of the present time, or modern

He loves contemporary paintings.

**Contradictory** (*adj.*) denying, opposing

The two witnesses gave contradictory accounts of the accident.

**Contrast** (*verb*) to compare so that differences are made clear

His actions contrast with his religious beliefs.

**Controversial** (*adj.*) likely to cause an argument

Abortion is a controversial topic that many people argue about.

**Convenient** (*adj.*) easy to use, easy to get to, easy to do

The MTR subway is very fast and convenient.

**Copious** (*adj.*) plentiful, abundant, or wordy

The students are burdened with copious note-taking in his class.

**Counter** (*noun/ verb*) a table or surface on which goods are shown or food prepared; to oppose, to return an attack

His colleagues have countered his new theory

.

**Courageous** (*adj.*) brave

He is considered a courageous man after rescuing a girl from the fire.

**Craggy** (*adj.*) with high, steep, or sharp rocks

The mountain climbers attempt to ascend the craggy slopes.

**Credible** (*adj.*) believable

Many people consider UFO sighting as not a credible story.

**Critic** (*noun*) a person who gives judgment, usually about literature, art, or music

He always reads the comments from the movie critics.

**Criticize** (*verb*) to find fault with something or to judge something

He doesn't like to be criticized about his novel.

**Crush** (*verb*) to press so that there is breaking or injury

A traffic accident has crushed his leg.

**Culture** (*noun*) advanced development of human powers; characteristics of a particular society, nation, or community

Chinese food is part of the Chinese culture.

**Curious** (*adj.*) eager to learn to know; having an interest in something

He is curious to find out why she is not at work.

**Curtail** (*verb*) to shorten or reduce; cut back on

The government has curtailed the spending on welfare.

**Cut** (*noun/verb*) a reduction in size, amount, or length; a style of clothes or hair; a remark that hurts a person's feelings; to remove from something larger; to stay away from or be absent from class

Many people like the cut of European fashion.

**Cycle** (*noun*) a series of events taking place in regular, repeated order

Tidal waves on Earth are brought about by the Moon cycle.

**Damage** (*adj./noun*) harm or injury

Fire has done a lot of damages to the building.

**Debilitate** (*verb/ adj.*) causing weakness

Diabetes has debilitated his ability to see.

**Decay** (*verb*) to go bad, to lose power or health

Non refrigerated meat decays quickly in the summer.

**Deceptive/deceptively** (*adj./adv.*) causing false beliefs, misleading

The company director gives deceptive information about the company.

**Defeat** (*noun/ verb*) to cause to fail

He defeated the chess champion easily.

**Defect** (*noun/ verb*) an imperfection, a fault; to leave one's country for political reason

The car manufacturer has asked the car owners to take their cars to dealers to fix the defects.

**Deficit** (*noun*) a condition of spending more than you have

Hong Kong has a large budget deficit this year.

**Delicacy** (*adj.*) requiring special handling, a rare and choice kind of food

Bird's nests are considered delicacies.

**Den** (*noun*) a secret place; an animal's hidden place, a room for studying

No one wants to come close to the lion's den.

**Design** (*noun/ verb*) a drawing or outline from which something is made; a pattern

He uses new designs for his work every year.

**Desolate** (*adj.*) ruined, barren, neglected, lonely, or sad

Hong Kong was a desolated fishing village two hundred years ago.

**Destitute** (*adj.*) without food, clothes, or other necessities; needy

The poor live in destitute slump.

**Detachable** (*adj.*) able to be removed, unfastened, or taken apart

He likes detachable furniture for easy moving.

**Detect** (*verb*) discover the presence of someone or something

The motion detector detects the slightest movement in the room.

**Deter** (*noun*) to discourage

A locked door will not deter thieves.

**Detrimental** (*adj.*) causing damage or harm

Burning fossil fuels is detrimental to our environment.

**Dig** (*verb*) to use a tool to move earth

They dig a big hole in the garden to plant trees.

**Dilapidated** (*adj.*) falling to pieces, in state of disrepair, broken-down

The government wanted to repair the dilapidated old house.

**Dim** (*adj.*) not bright, not seen clearly

There is no window in this room so that it is too dim to read without a light.

**Diminutive** (*adj.*) very small, tiny

He is diminutive for his age.

**Discerning** (*adj.*) able to see clearly, recognize

He has sharp senses and discerning eyes.

**Disconcerted** (*verb*) upset

The boss was disconcerted that she didn't return his calls.

**Discord** (*noun*) disagreement, conflict

Quarrels over boundaries between the two countries have brought discord into the disputed.

**Disputed** (*verb*) argued, debated, resisted, resisted

The exact boundary between the two nations was disputed.

**Disseminate** (*verb*) to distribute, to spread widely

The Internet disseminates information around the globe quickly.

**Dissolve** (*verb*) to become liquid, to melt, to disappear

Salt will dissolve in water.

**Distinct** (*adj.*) easily seen or heard, clearly marked, separate

She speaks with a distinct accent.

**Dotting** (*verb*) scattered, having a small round mark

We can see several houses dotting the landscape from the hilltop.

**Draft** (*noun/ verb*) an outline of something to be done, a current of air in a room; to select a person for the armed forces

It is a good practice to write a draft for your composition.

**Dribble** (*verb*) to flow drop by drop

The kitchen faucet dribbles.

**Due to** (*prep.*) because of, caused by, attributed to

The farmer lost his crops due to heavy rain.

**Duel** (*noun*) a formal, prearranged fight or contest between two people

He challenged his friend to a duel.

**Duplicate** (*verb/adj./noun*) exactly alike, a copy

After the speech, he hands out duplicates of his speech.

**Duration** (*noun*) the time that something lasts

The duration of the school year in Hong Kong is about ten months.

**Earmark** (*verb/ noun*) to set aside for a special purpose; an identification mark

To show ownership

This year the boss has not earmarked any money for Christmas party.

**Edifice** (*noun*) a large building

People like to build an edifice to honor their national hero.

**Elaborate** (*verb/adj.*) worked out with much care, worked in detail

This beautiful building has many elaborate designs.

**Element** (*noun*) a necessary basic feature, a very small amount of something

Hydrogen is an element of water.

**Eligible** (*adj.*) suitable, having the right qualifications

He wants to know if he is eligible for the job.

**Embody** (*verb*) to give ideas a definite form

Nelson Mandela was embodied for his fight against racial discrimination.

**Embrace** (*verb/noun*) to take someone into one's arms to show affection; to include

People embrace the new regulations.

**Emerge** (*verb*) to come out, to appear

Michael Jordan emerges from his retirement to play basketball again.

**Emit** (*verb*) to give or to send out

A firefly emits light in the dark.

**Emphasize** (*verb*) to put force or stress on a **word**; to give a special value or importance

We emphasize on language training.

**Encourage** (*verb*) to give hope, confidence, or support

The teacher encourages students to do work on their own.

**Enforce** (*verb*) to cause something to go be obeyed; to force or compel

It is difficult to enforce the law when there is a shortage of manpower.

**Enhance** (*verb*) to add to the value or importance of something

The company has changed the product appearance to enhance its marketing capability.

**Enlist** (*verb*) to voluntarily enroll in the armed force; to get support

In some countries, young men are enlisted in the army when they are 18.

**Entangle** (*verb*) to become caught or involved in something so that escape is difficult

Dolphins are killed when they are entangled in fishing nets.

**Enthusiast** (*noun*) a person with enthusiasm or strong feelings of interest

He is baseball enthusiast; he watches every match on TV.

**Entitle** (*verb*) to give a right to something

Everyone is entitled to receive free medical treatment.

**Envy** (*verb/noun*) to have feelings of disappointment because someone else has something that you want

He is the envy of his friends when he shows them his new car.

**Epoch** (*noun*) a period of time in history

The Internet begins a new epoch in the history of human communication.

**Equipment** (*noun*) things needed for a particular purpose

The students have been advised to handle the laboratory equipment with care.

**Erode/ erosion** (*verb/noun*) to wear away, usually by rain, wind, or acid

Weather erosion has caused damage to the statue.

**Erratic** (*adj.*) irregular, odd; likely to do unexpected things

The drunk driver is driving his car in an erratic manner.

**Essential** (*adj.*) necessary

Water is an essential element of life.

**Establish** (*verb*) to set up, to settle in a position

The governor wants to establish a new department to handle complaints.

**Evacuate** (*verb*) to leave empty, to withdraw

In case of fire, evacuate everyone in the building quickly.

**Exaggerate** (*verb*) to make something seem bigger, better, or worse than it is

No one believes his story anymore because he always exaggerates the truth.

**Exceed** (*verb*) to do more enough, to be greater than

The salesman has exceeded his sales target.

**Excel** (*verb*) to do better than the others

With the help from her teacher, she excels in every school subject.

**Excerpt** (*noun*) a part of a book or article

He shows us an excerpt of his latest book in a magazine.

**Exchange** (*verb/noun*) to trade one thing for another

This shop has no exchange policy.

**Exhilarating** (*adj.*) filled with high spirits, lively, exciting

Everyone cheers when hears the exhilarating news.

**Exotic** (*adj.*) unusual, coming from another country

Some people keep exotic animals as pets.

**Expanse** (*noun*) a wide open area

Canada has a large expanse of land.

**Explosion** (*noun*) a loud noise caused by a sudden bursting

Gas leak has caused a huge explosion.

**Extravagant** (*adj.*) wasting of money, excessive

People criticize the government for holding extravagant events.

**Exquisite** (*adj.*) of a high level of excellence perfection

He is known for having exquisite taste in clothing.

**Extend** (*verb*) to make longer

The company has extended the application deadline for the job.

**Fabric** (*noun*) clothes, textile material

Cotton is a kind of fabric.

**Face** (*verb/ noun*) to meet confidently, to recognize, to turn in a certain direction

We have to face the problem of nuclear waste.

**Fallible** (*adj.*) likely to make an error

Everyone is fallible in some conditions.

**Fame** (*noun*) the condition of being know or talked about, a good reputation

His fame as a brilliant painter did not come until after his death.

**Fanciful** (*adj.*) using creative images instead of reason and logic

He is known for his fanciful stories.

**Fancy** (*adj.*) very decorated, not plain

Everyone wears fancy clothes for the New Year party.

**Fastener** (*noun*) something that ties or joins things together

He uses the cord as a fastener to tie up the books.

**Faucet** (*noun*) a device for controlling the flow of liquid (usually water) from a pipe or tank

His factory makes water faucets for export.

**Favor** (*verb*) to show support for, approval

He favors the rights to choose for everyone.

**Feature** (*noun/ verb*) the appearance of something; distinct or outstanding part; an attraction or main part; to emphasize the main part

One of the main features of Hong Kong is The Peak.

**Feeble** (*adj.*) weak or faint

The doctor is listening to his feeble heart rate.

**Fellow** (*adj.*) having the same ideas or position; in the same condition; associated

My fellow workers and their families are all joining together for a party.

**Fertile** (*adj.*) producing much, full of ideas, capable of developing

Scientists are working to turn desert into fertile lands.

**Fictitious** (*adj.*) untrue or invented

He uses a fictitious name to send a letter to the newspaper.

**Fiery** (*adj.*) on fire, or angry, passionate  
to persuade the people to fight for their rights, His fiery speech did not win him any more support.

**Final analysis** (*adj. + noun*) at the end, in conclusion

He gave the company positive comments in the final analysis.

**Fitting** (*adj.*) proper, suitable

It is fitting that you send him a thank- you note after all the help he has given you.

**Fizz** (*verb/ noun*) to make a bubbling, hissing sound, as when gases escapes from liquid.

When the cap of the soft drinks are kept open, they will lose the fizz.

**Flake** (*noun*) a small, light, leaf-like piece

No two snow flakes look the same.

**Flaw** (*noun*) a fault, an imperfection

There is a flaw in this diamond.

**Flexible** (*adj.*) easily bent without breaking

Copper wire is flexible.

**Flicker** (*verb*) to burn or shine unsteadily

The torch flickered a few times before the battery ran out.

**Flock** (*noun*) a number of birds or animals together, a group

A flock of geese are flying south.

**Forbidden** (*adj./ verb*) prohibited; to order not to be done

It is forbidden to enter the building without proper authorization.

**Foremost** (*adj.*) first, most important

James Joyce is considered the foremost writer of this century.

**Foster** (*verb/ adj.*) to help with the growth and development of an idea; to take care of someone else's child as if the child were your own

The government should provide assistance to foster creative ideas.

**Found** (*verb*) to establish, to start the building of something

The school was found over a hundred year ago.

**Fragrance** (*noun*) a pleasing smell

This room is filled with fragrance of fresh flowers.

**Frank** (*adj.*) showing thoughts and feelings clearly

He wants to be frank with her.

**Frightening** (*adj.*) causing fear and alarm

Victims of a crime always have frightening nightmares.

**Frugal** (*adj.*) economical, not wasteful

Although he is rich, he lives a frugal life

**Fuel** (*noun*) a material that produces energy or heat

Coal, oil and natural gas are fossil fuels.

**Fully** (*adv.*) completely

The language used in the article has made it difficult for students to fully understand the meaning.

**Fund** (*noun/ verb*) a supply of necessary things, money; to provide money for support

The operating fund comes from donations.

**Fundamental** (*noun/ adj.*) basic, an essential part

Listening is an important fundamental skill for learning a language.

**Gain** (*noun/ verb*) an increase in power or wealth; to obtain something

People look for capital gain in the stock market.

**Gather** (*verb*) to bring together

He gathers his friends to celebrate his birthday.

**Gemstones** (*noun*) precious, valuable stones or jewels

Ruby and Sapphire are gemstones.

**Glare** (*noun/ verb*) a strong, unpleasant light; to shine disagreeable

The computer monitor makes such a glare that I can't look at it for too long.

**Glistening** (*adj.*) shining brightly, sparkling

His photographs capture the beauty of glistening dewdrops.

**Glow** (*verb*) to send out light without flame

The light glows in the dark.

**Goods** (*noun*) things which have worth or are valuable

Goods and services are subjected to tax.

**Gradually** (*adv.*) very slowly, little by little

He is recovering gradually from a bad cold.

**Graphic** (*adj.*) described in clear images

The newspaper prints graphic images of the accident.

**Gratifying** (*adj.*) pleasing

He is gratifying to know all his friends support him in the fight for justice.

**Grave** (*adj.*) serious, requiring careful consideration

Cancer is a grave illness.

**Grueling** (*adj.*) severe, exhausting

Rock climbing is grueling sport.

**Grumpy** (*adj.*) bad-tempered

He is always grumpy when he doesn't have enough sleep.

**Haphazardly** (*adv.*) by chance, accidentally

The government doesn't want people to think that the panel is chosen haphazardly.

**Hardly** (*adv.*) only just, scarcely

She can hardly talk with a sore throat.

**Harmful** (*adj.*) causing harm, damage, injury

Smoking is harmful to your health.

**Hatch** (*verb*) to break out of an egg; to produce a plan

A baby crocodile has hatched in the zoo.

**Head** (*verb*) to move in a certain direction; to be at the head of

They headed north to look for gold.

**Hearty** (*adj.*) strong, in good health

Home cooking is hearty.

**Highlight** (*noun/verb*) the most significant part; to emphasize

The teacher highlights the mistakes in his composition.

**Hostile** (*adj.*) unfriendly

The waiter is hostile towards the customers.

**House** (*verb/ noun*) to provide a home or shelter for someone or something; dwelling

This library houses over three million copies of books..

**Huge** (*adj.*) very large

His house is incredibly huge.

**Humble** (*adj.*) showing modesty; someone low in rank or unimportant

He gave a humble speech about his achievements.

**Hybrid** (*noun*) an animal or plant that is the offspring of two different parents or species

Scientists are creating hybrid plants to increase crop yield.

**Hygienic** (*adj.*) free of disease germs

We have to keep Hong Kong hygienic.

**Ignore** (*verb*) to refuse to notice someone or something

The children ignore the warning sign.

**Illicit** (*adj.*) unlawful, forbidden

Smuggling is an illicit activity.

**Imitate** (*verb*) to copy something or use it as an example

You learn by imitating.

**Impediment** (*noun*) a physical defect or an obstacle

Despite his speech impediment, he finishes top of his class.

**Imperceptible** (*adv.*) slight, gradual, unnoticeable

The economy has made an imperceptible recovery.

**Impress** (*verb*) to have a strong influence on someone or something

He is not impressed by the speaker's presentation.

**Increase** (*verb/ noun*) to make larger; growth

The company has increased the service fee.

**Incredible** (*adv.*) something that cannot be believed, very surprising

To make the Statue of Liberty to disappear is an incredible trick.

**Indefinite** (*adj.*) not fixed, vague

The football match will be postponed for an indefinite period of time.

**Independent** (*adj.*) not controlled by another, self-governing, thinking freely

Canada is an independent country.

**Indicative** (*adj.*) an indication or sign of something to come

The surging in stock market index is an indicative of economic recovery.

**Indiscriminate** (*adj.*) having no care or taste

Land mines kill people in an indiscriminate way.

**Induce** (*verb*) to produce, to influence

Stress has induced his heart attack.

**Inevitable** (*adj.*) something that is sure to happen, cannot be avoided

It is inevitable that he has to face the truth.

**Ingenious** (*adj.*) very clever and skillful

He has come up with an ingenious way to solve the energy shortage.

**Inherent** (*adj.*) existing as a natural or permanent part of something

To face danger is an inherent part of the job of a policeman.

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**Inhibit** (*verb*) to restrain or suppress, to hinder

He is inhibited from driving after failing to stop at the red light three times.

**Innovation** (*noun*) something new that is introduced

Innovations are the key elements in a competitive world.

**Insatiable** (*adj.*) something that cannot be satisfied

This young man has an insatiable desire for knowledge.

**Inscription** (*noun*) words that are marked, carved, or written on a surface

He gives his friends a pen with inscriptions.

**Inspiring** (*adj.*) causing uplifting thoughts

The president gives an inspiring speech.

**Instantaneous** (*adj.*) immediate, happening in an instant

During his speech, the audience gave instantaneous applause.

**Insult** (*noun/ verb*) speaking in a way that is intended to hurt a person's feelings

It is not polite to insult someone.

**Intangible** (*adj.*) that which cannot be touched or held; in one's mind ideas are intangible.

A company name is an intangible asset.

**Intense** (*adj.*) deeply felt, high in degree

The fire from the refinery caused intense heat for several miles.

**Intermittent** (*adj.*) happening at intervals, stopping and starting

Today we will have intermittent sunny weather.

**Intricate** (*adj.*) complicated, difficult

The fabric has very intricate designs.

**Invade** (*verb*) to enter in great numbers; to attack

Refugees from the camp invaded the neighboring village for food.

**Invent** (*verb*) to create or design something not already existing

Thomas Edison invented the electric light bulb.

**Jell** (*verb*) to take shape, to hold shape

Their scattered efforts are beginning to jell.

**Landmark** (*noun*) an object that marks the boundary of a piece of land, an object that is easily seen and can be used as a guide, an event that marks a turning point

The Peak Tower is a landmark of Hong Kong.

**Largely** (*adv.*) to a great extent

Her great success is largely due to hard work and persistence.

**Lateral** (*adj.*) From or at the sides of something, from side to side

Most buildings cannot withstand lateral movement of an earthquake.

**Laudable** (*adj.*) deserving praise

The volunteers have accomplished many laudable acts.

**Legendary** (*adj.*) from an old story told to people from generation to generation

Bruce Lee is considered as a legendary figure.

**Lengthen** (*verb*) to make something become longer

Your composition is too short, you have to lengthen it.

**Liberate** (*verb*) to free

The army liberated people from the war.

**Ligament** (*noun*) the tissue that holds bones together

While playing tennis, he injured his ligament in his arm..

**Limited** (*adj.*) restricted, narrow

He sells limited edition painting copies.

**Link** (*noun/verb*) a ring or loop of a chain, something that unites or connects; to join together, to make a connection

They build a walkway to link the two buildings together.

**Literally** (*adv.*) exactly, corresponding **word** for **word** to the original, lacking in imagination

You can't take his words literally.

**Loathe** (*verb*) to dislike strongly, to feel disgust for something

Most girls loathe rats.

**Locale** (*noun*) an area, the scene of an event

This is the ideal locale for holding the celebration.

**Look** into (*verb*) to investigate, to examine

The insurance company looks into the cause of the fire.

**Ludicrous** (*adj.*) ridiculous, absurd

It is ludicrous to say that money will buy happiness.

**Luminous** (*adj.*) giving out light

Cyclists should wear luminous clothing at night, so that motorist can see them clearly.

**Lyrical** (*adj.*) full of emotion, like a song

The verses of his poems are very lyrical.

**Magnetic** (*adj.*) having the properties of iron attracting iron, something that attracts

The Earth has a magnetic field.

**Magnificence** (*noun*) splendor, imposing beauty

Most people go to Paris for its magnificence.

**Maintain** (*verb*) to keep up, continue

They maintain their contacts through email.

**Mandatory** (*adj.*) required

it is mandatory that you take physical training before becoming a firefighter.

**Manually** (*adv.*) by hand

All the votes are counted manually.

**Mar** (*verb*) to injure or damage

Nothing could mar his high spirit after he receives the news of getting the scholarship.

**Master** (*noun/verb*) a skilled person, one who has control over others; to become skillful in or knowledgeable about

If you work hard, you can master English in no time.

**Mature** (*verb/ adj.*) to be fully grown, to be ready for use; perfected

He has very mature manners even though he is only fifteen.

**Melodious** (*adj.*) having a musical quality

The songs he sings are melodious.

**Merchandise** (*noun*) things to buy or sell

This shop has a wide variety of merchandises to choose from.

**Meticulously** (*adj.*) in a careful and detailed manner

He demands his workers to work meticulously.

**Minuscule** (*adj.*) a tiny bit

There are minuscule writings on a grain of sand.

**Miserable** (*adj.*) very unhappy, unfortunate

The old man is living alone and miserable.

**Misleading** (*adj.*) causing a wrong impression; deceiving

The investors have been given misleading information about the company.

**Mock** (*verb/ adj.*) to make fun of, insult; false

The school has given us mock exams.

**Moderately** (*adv.*) not extreme, reasonable, limited, medium

Even though he is rich, he lives moderately.

**Modern** (*adj.*) of present, up-to-date

Hong Kong is modern city.

**Motionless** (*adv.*) still, having no movement

Part of the physical training is to stand motionless for over a long period of time.

**Multiple** (*adj.*) many, more than one

The exam will be multiple choices.

**Muscular** (*adj.*) having many muscles, strong

You don't have to be muscular to be a good swimmer.

**Musty** (*adj.*) having a stale or moldy smell

When they entered the old house, a musty smell filled the room.

**Mutation** (*noun*) a change, an alteration in the genes of a plant or animal that can be passed on its offspring

Cancer is caused by mutation in genes.

**Mythical** (*adj.*) a person or thing that is imagined or invented

Chinese have lots of mythical stories.

**Naked** (*adj.*) without clothes, bare, without protection

You can't see bacteria with your naked eyes.

**Nearby** (*adv.*) close, not far

There is a store nearby.

**Nominal** (*adj.*) a very small amount

A nominal fee is charged to use the facility.

**Notorious** (*adj.*) famous or know for doing something bad

He is notorious as being the last train robber.

**Nourishment** (*noun*) a source of strength and support

Vegetarians eat beans as supplementary nourishment for proteins.

**Novelty** (*noun*) something new or unusual; a small toy or decoration

The novelty items have been sold out quickly.

**Now and then** (*adv.*) occasionally

Now and then they meet just to talk.

**Nutrient** (*noun*) something that provides nourishment

Proper nutrients are important to good health.

**Oath** (*noun*) a promise vow to tell the truth

He makes an oath before the judge.

**Obscure** (*adj.*) hard to see or understand, hidden, indistinct, not well know

This obscure restaurant serves delicious food.

**Obstacle** (*noun*) a hindrance, something that prevents you from doing something

Protesters put up obstacles on the street to stop traffic.

**Obvious** (*adj.*) easily seen or understood

You look pale. It is obvious that you are sick.

**Ominous** (*adj.*) threatening

The weather bureau has issued an ominous storm warning.

**Omit** (*verb*) to leave out

His name is omitted from the guess list.

**On the spot** (*prep.*) immediately, at the place one is needed

The police arrested the robber on the spot.

**One by one** (*adv.*) individually, one after another

The children walk across the road one by one.

**Operation** (*noun*) a process of doing something, a surgical procedure

He needs immediate heart operation to correct his heart conditions.

**Optimal** (*adj.*) the best; favorable; profitable

The optimal time for the spacecraft to respond has passed.

**Option** (*noun*) choice

To be able to speak English is not an option but a necessity.

**Outburst** (*noun*) speaking out suddenly; anything that breaks out suddenly, usually violently

There was an outburst of support after the new laws were passed.

**Outlawed** (*verb*) made illegal

Illegal drugs are outlawed in Hong Kong.

**Outlet** (*noun*) a passage or vent for vent letting something out; the place in a wiring system where the electric current is available for use; an electrical socket

Please keep the electrical outlets away from children.

**Overlapping** (*verb/adj.*) one thing covering part of another thing

The roof consists of overlapping tiles.

They have found that their duties overlapped.

**Overthrow** (*verb*) to conquer, to overturn, to upset

The people have overthrown the government by means of demonstration.

**Overwhelm** (*verb*) to be defeated, to be exhausted, to cover completely

The company was overwhelmed with calls after the job advertisement.

**Painstakingly** (*adv.*) carefully, paying attention to detail

She stitches painstakingly.

**Panacea** (*noun*) a remedy for all troubles

The government warned the people that the new policies were not panacea for prosperity.

**Paramount** (*adj.*) of primary importance

Eating health is paramount to your good health.

**Particle** (*noun*) a small piece, a part

Dust particles are hard to get rid of.

**Particularly** (*adv.*) especially

The teacher has made the exam questions particularly difficult, so that no one gets full marks.

**Passing** (*adj.*) not lasting, going by

He has fond memories of the passing years.

**Patch** (*noun*) a piece of material used to cover a hole; a small area

He puts a leather patch on his jeans.

**Path** (*noun*) a place made for walking

I know a hidden path through the woods.

**Patronize** (*verb*) to support or to act in a condescending way

He always patronizes news restaurants to try new food.

**Penetrate** (*verb*) to go into or through; to spread

Scientists have sent a probe to penetrate the deepest part of the ocean.

**Perceive** (*verb*) to become aware of something through the senses or mind

No one perceived his visions.

**Perennial** (*adv.*) continuing through the whole year

Most flowers are not perennial plants..

**Period** (*noun*) a portion of time

He is doing research for the period of the Industrial Revolution.

**Perjury** (*noun*) a false statement after giving an oath to tell the truth

Perjury is a crime punishable by law.

**Perpendicular** (*adj.*) at an angle of 90 degrees, upright

Two perpendicular lines make a 90-degree angle.

**Perplexing** (*adj.*) confusing, complicated

Language of a contract is always perplexing.

**Persistent** (*adj.*) refusing to change, continuing for a long time, repeating again and again

He is a persistent salesman.

**Phenomenon** (*noun*) something that can be perceived by the senses, something remarkable or unusual

Northern Lights is a phenomenon that can't be explained.

**Pierce** (*verb*) to make a hole, to go through with a pointed instrument

She wants to pierce her eyebrow.

**Plot** (*verb/noun*) to plan secretly; the main story of a book or play; a small piece of ground

They plotted to overthrow the government.

**Poignant** (*adj.*) causing sad or painful feelings

The poignant part of the movie makes everyone cry.

**Point out** (*verb*) to show or call attention to something

He points out the mistakes in my composition.

**Pole** (*noun*) a long slender round piece of wood or metal.

The flag was blown down during the storm.

**Poll** (*noun*) a survey of public opinion made by questioning people

The opinion poll has favored the government.

**Popularity** (*noun*) the quality of being popular, well-liked

His popularity has soared after the release of his new songs.

**Posthumously** (*adv.*) after one's death

The mayor is considering giving him the title of "Citizen of the year" posthumously.

**Potentially** (*adv.*) having the capability, the possibility

It is potentially dangerous to operate the machine without proper training.

**Praise** (*noun/verb*) an expression of approval or esteem; to give approval, admiration, honor, or glory to someone

He gives praises to all the volunteers who help organize the event.

**Pray** (*verb*) to address God to give thanks or make requests, to ask earnestly

Many people come to the temple to pray.

**Precision** (*noun*) the state of being exact, correct, accurate

Landing on the Moon requires precision and technology.

**Predict** (*verb*) to foretell, to say in advance

He predicts that the economy will recover next year.

**Predominantly** (*adv.*) having more strength, power, or numbers than others

The language people use in Hong Kong is predominantly Cantonese.

**Pressing** (*adj.*) urgent, requiring immediate attention

I have pressing personal matters to take care of.

**Prevail/prevailing** (*verb/adj.*) to gain victory over something, to be the usual thing, commonly seen or done

Truth prevails in the end.

**Previously** (*adv.*) before

He has visited Hong Kong previously.

**Primitive** (*adj.*) of early times; of an early, pre-technical culture

They use primitive weapons to fight the invaders.

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**Prior to** (*adj.*) before

Prior to being to a driver, he has to take training course.

**Private** (*adj.*) concerning one person or group rather than for people in general; secret; secluded; isolated

He shouldn't mix business with private matters.

**Proficient** (*adj.*) skilled

He is proficient at several languages.

**Profitable** (*adj.*) useful; bringing in money or gain

The company has a very profitable year.

**Prolonged** (*adj.*) a long time, made longer

After several years of hard work, she needs a prolonged vacation.

**Promotion** (*noun*) advancement to a higher rank or position

She got a promotion recently.

**Prone** (*adj.*) lying down; to have tendency to do something

Male teenagers are prone to have more accidents than female counterparts.

**Propagate** (*verb*) to increase the number of plants or animals by natural mean; to spread information

The use of Internet to propagate information is very efficient..

**Propel** (*verb*) to drive something forward

The rocket propels the space shuttle into orbit.

**Prospect** (*noun*) something hoped for or looked forward to

Without any job skills, he has no job prospect.

**Prosperous** (*adj.*) successful; rich

After finding oil nearby, the city becomes prosperous quickly.

**Pulp** (*noun*) the soft part of fruit; a mass of soft material such as wood fiber

Paper is made from wood pulp..

**Purpose** (*noun*) a plan

The purpose of his visit is to research on ancient civilizations.

**Puzzling** (*verb/adj.*) hard to understand or answer

Why he left suddenly is still puzzling.

**Radical** (*adj.*) basic; extreme; fundamental

The Internet has made a radical change in the way we communicate.

**Range** (*noun/verb*) a row of things; a large area; maximum distance; the limit; a stove with an oven; to travel over or roam

The horses are free to range in the ranch.

**Rational** (*adj.*) able to reason

In times of crisis, you have to be rational.

**Raw** (*adj.*) uncooked; in a natural condition

He likes to eat his beef raw..

**Reach** (*verb*) to stretch, to extend, to come to

He has no phone in the cabin, so we can't reach him.

**React** (*verb*) to behave in response to a situation

When he heard the bad news, her reacted with sadness.

**Rebel** (*verb*) to act against something; to show resistance; to fight

Teenagers tend to rebel their parents' advice.

**Recall** (*verb*) to remember; to ask to come back

He can't recall where they have met before.

**Recycle** (*verb*) to treat waste materials like paper, glass, or metal so they can be used again

We have to recycle old cans and bottles.

**Reel** (*noun/verb*) a roller for thread, wire, hose, or cable; to walk unsteadily

The reel on the fishing rod has broken.

**Refrain** (*verb*) to stop from doing something

Please refrain from smoking in the non-smoking area.

**Refute** (*verb*) to prove a person wrong or mistaken

The professor has refuted my arguments.

**Regrettable** (*adv.*) sadly

He feels regrettable that he can't attend the wedding.

**Reimburse** (*verb*) to give money back

The company will only reimburse expenses with receipts.

**Relate** (*verb*) to tell a story; to make a connection with something

Scientists are trying to relate illnesses to genetic defects.

**Relatively** (*adv.*) comparatively

My parents live relatively close.

**Release** (*verb*) to let go; to set free

The company releases news about a new device.

**Religiously** (*adv.*) to do something conscientiously; devoutly; with faith

He takes exercising religiously.

**Reluctantly** (*adv.*) unwilling to do something

He accepts the responsibility reluctantly.

**Remain** (*noun*) what is left; a dead body

The remains of the dinner were put in the refrigerator.

There are human remains in the cave.

**Remote** (*adj.*) far away, distant; control from a distance

The remote villages are not accessible by car.

**Renowned** (*adj.*) famous, celebrated

He is a renowned heart surgeon.

**Repair** (*verb/adj.*) to restore to a good condition

The car is damaged beyond repair.

**Report** (*noun/verb*) an account given of something heard or seen

She didn't report what she saw to the police.

**Research** (*noun*) an investigation to discover new facts or information

Her research in Physics has won her the Nobel Prize.

**Resist** (*verb*) to oppose an attack; not to give in to something

You can't resist the change.

**Resort** (*noun/verb*) a place one goes to for fun, relaxation, or health; to turn to something for help to gain one's purpose

He has built a resort to attract more tourists.

**Respect** (*noun/verb*) honor, consideration, regard; to treat someone with consideration

We should respect her privacy.

**Restore** (*verb*) to bring back to the original condition; to repair; to make well

They have restored the old church.

**Retreat** (*verb/noun*) to move back, withdraw; a quiet and restful place

I know a quiet retreat for summer vacation.

**Revere** (*verb*) to have a deep respect for; to regard highly

Some students revere their teachers.

**Revision** (*noun*) a corrected version of something

This is the second revision of the book.

**Rewarding** (*adj.*) satisfying; giving pleasure in return for something

It is rewarding to know that I am able to help them.

**Rigorous** (*adj.*) very hard, harsh, severe, very strict

In order to prepare for the Olympics, he has carried out a rigorous training plan.

**Rise** (*verb*) to get up, to come to life, to become greater in intensity or volume

The Sun rises in the east.

**Rolling** (*verb/adj.*) turning over and over, swaying

Children love to roll and play in snow.

**Rudimentary** (*adj.*) elementary, undeveloped

We acquired rudimentary skills when we were children.

**Rumor** (*noun/passive verb*) general talk, gossip, statement that may not be true

The rumor spread quickly in the village.

**Run-down** (*adj.*) not cared for, weak and exhausted, fallen into disrepair

It is amazing that the run-down car is still working.

**Rural** (*adj.*) in country area

I used to live in rural area.

**Scarcely** (*adv.*) hardly, barely, almost not

Gasoline is in such short supply, you can scarcely find it anywhere.

**Scattered** (*adj.*) not situated together

Dirty clothes are scattered on the floor in his room.

**Scenery** (*noun*) the general appearance of a place, features of the landscape

Hong Kong has much beautiful scenery.

**Scent** (*noun*) smell, usually pleasant

She likes the scent of the new perfume.

**Scrupulously** (*adv.*) done very carefully, paying attention to detail

She always works scrupulously.

**Secluded** (*adj.*) kept away from others, alone

The secluded house seldom has visitors.

**Secretly** (*adv.*) not know to others, quiet

She has secretly taped their conversation.

**Seed** (*noun/verb*) the part of a flowering plant from which others, plants grow; the origin of something; to sow a field with seed

I don't like the seeds in grapes

**Seek** (*verb*) to look for

They seek everywhere for the missing book.

**Selection** (*noun*) a collection, a group of chosen things

This department store has better selection.

**Sensible** (*adj.*) reasonable, practical

It is not sensible to go out when typhoon signal No. 10 is hoisted.

**Serene** (*adj.*) calm and clear

The weather is serene and humid before the storm comes.

**Shade** (*noun/verb*) something that cuts off the sunlight; a screen or curtain; to protect from light or heat

He draws the shade to cut down the sunlight in the room.

**Shaggy** (*adj.*) hairy, rough, coarse, or untidy hair

He has a shaggy carpet in the middle of his living room.

**Sheer** (*adj.*) complete or absolute; transparent cloth

She is choosing a new sheer for her curtains.

**Shelter** (*noun*) a place to be safe or protected

The government provides shelters for the homeless.

**Shield** (*verb/noun*) to protect; a piece of metal, plastic, or other material that protect

She uses her body as a shield to protect her child.

**Side by side** (*adj.*) close together, next to one another

They put their pictures side by side.

**Silently** (*adv.*) quietly, making little sound

People read silently in the library.

**Simultaneously** (*adv.*) at the same time

The two companies announced the news simultaneously.

**Single-story** (*adj.*) a house or building with one floor

Single-story houses are very expensive in Hong Kong.

**Sinister** (*adj.*) evil, unkind

The mean old lady gave me a sinister look.

**Site** (*noun*) a place where something was or will be

The company has selected a site to build the amusement park.

**Sketch** (*verb*) to make a rough, quick drawing or an outline; a rough plan

She made a sketch of her idea.

**Slightly** (*adv.*) to a small degree; slenderly

He was slightly injured in the car accident.

**Slim** (*adj.*) small, insufficient, slender

She is exercising more to keep herself slim.

**Soak** (*verb*) to become completely wet by absorbing liquid

You have to soak it in water to soften it.

**Socket** (*noun*) a hole or space into which something fits

A square socket will not fit a round rod.

**Sole** (*adj./noun*) the only one; single; restricted; the undersurface of a person's foot or shoe

He is sole person who has the key to the building.

**Solitary** (*adj.*) living alone; without companions; seldom visited; lonely

The lonely old man has lived a solitary life for many years.

**Somewhat** (*adv.*) to some degree, a little

He is somewhat disappointed when he receives the news.

**Sophisticated** (*adj.*) a lack of simplicity or naturalness; cultured; with the latest

improvements

She has a sophisticated taste in clothes.

**Sort** (*noun/verb*) a group or class of things that are similar in some way; to separate or arrange by class

What sort of music do you like?

**Spacious** (*adj.*) having a lot of space

The entrance to the building is very spacious.

**Spectacular** (*adj.*) grand, marvelous, remarkable

Every year, there is a spectacular firework display to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

**Split** (*verb*) to break into two or more part; divide

The opinion is split over the issue of immigration.

**Sporadically** (*adv.*) occasionally; inconsistently

Her performance improves sporadically.

**Stain** (*noun/verb*) a mark that doesn't wash out; to permanently change the color of something

Someone spilled wine on the carpet and stained it.

**Stalk** (*verb/ noun*) to move quietly and cautiously toward something in order to get near, the part of a plant that supports the plant or flower

Lions stalk its preys.

**Static** (*adj.*) in a state of balance, not increasing or decreasing; electrical

Charges in the atmosphere; a crackling noise in radio or televisions

The radio isn't working properly because of static interference.

**Stem** (*noun*) the stalk of a plant; the end coming up from the ground

This flower has a long stem.

**Strengthen** (*verb*) to make something stronger

He needs to exercise more to strengthen his muscle.

**Stress** (*noun*) a condition causing depression or troubled thoughts

His heart condition is brought on by stress at work.

**Strict** (*adj.*) demanding obedience, clearly and exactly defined, precise

He is brought up in a strict family.

**Strip** (*noun/verb*) a long narrow piece of material or land; to talk off coverings

There is a small landing strip near here.

**Stripe** (*noun*) a band of material of a different color, pattern, or material

He prefers stripes on his tie.

**Struggle** (*verb/noun*) to fight; to make great effort for something; conflict

The guard struggled with the intruder.

**Stubborn** (*adj.*) obstinate; difficult to deal with; determined

He tried to talk to his stubborn friend who refused to listen to anyone.

**Stumble** (*verb*) to hit one's foot against something and fall or almost fall

He stumbled and hurt his ankle while running.

**Style** (*noun*) a manner of writing or speaking; a quality of being superior; a general appearance

She always pays attention to the latest styles in fashion.

**Submarine** (*noun*) a ship that is designed to operate under water

He is the captain of a submarine.

**Subtle** (*adj.*) difficult to perceive or describe

He has made subtle correction to his work.

**Superiority** (*noun*) the state of being better than average

The superiority of technology has made US the most powerful nation on Earth.

**Supernatural** (*adj.*) spiritual, cannot be explained by physical laws

You should not believe in supernatural stories.

**Surmise** (*verb*) guess

Since it rained last night, he surmised that the game was cancelled.

**Surpass** (*verb*) to do better than someone or something else

He tried to surpass his own winning record.

**Survey** (*verb*) to examine, to take a general view of

He is doing a survey about what people like.

**Suspicious** (*adj.*) having an idea that something bad is about to happen; thinking someone may be guilty

There is a suspicious man standing across the street.

**Swear** (*verb*) to take an oath; to curse, to use bad language

He swears that he will tell the truth.

**Swift** (*adj.*) fast, quick

It is dangerous to swim in swift current.

**Sympathetic** (*adj.*) sharing the pain or troubled feelings of other people

The judge felt sympathetic towards her when he heard her story.

**Symphony** (*noun*) a long musical composition

He is composing a new symphony.

**Tactfully** (*adv.*) showing skill and understanding in dealing with other people

You should tell your friend to leave tactfully.

**Take place** (*verb*) happen

The wedding hasn't taken place yet.

**Tap** (*verb/noun*) to make a light, quick, rhythmical touch on something; a faucet, a device for controlling the flow of liquid from a pipe

He taps his finger on the table.

**Temperature** (*noun*) a degree of heat or cold; a body fever

The summer temperature in Hong Kong is very hot.

**Tend** (*verb*) to be inclined to do something; to have a certain direction

He tends to make decision in a rush.

**Tension** (*noun*) strain; being tightly stretched

The cable isn't designed to withstand such tension.

**Tentative** (*adj.*) done as a trial to see what might happen

He has made tentative plan to take his vacation his month.

**Terrifying** (*adj.*) frightening

The newspaper has reported a terrifying accident.

**Theft** (*noun*) the act of stealing

He was accused of being a theft.

**Theory** (*noun*) an explanation of a general principle; an opinion, not necessarily based on logical reasoning

The new theory has caused a lot of arguments.

**Thorn** (*noun*) a pointed growth on the stem of a plant.

The thorns of the rose have cut her finger.

**Timid** (*adj.*) shy, easily frightened

He was quite timid when he was young.

**Tiny** (*adj.*) very small

A tiny amount of water was found inside the fossils.

**Tolerate** (*verb*) to put up with, to allow without protest

He can't tolerate the noise on the street.

**Tomb** (*noun*) a place dug in the ground or caved out of rock to put a dead body, usually having a monument over it

They build tombs to honor the soldiers who died in the war.

**Tough** (*adj.*) hard to cut; difficult; not easily broken

The government has warned the people about tough times ahead.

**Trace** (*noun/verb*) a very small amount; a mark showing someone has been in a place; to draw or sketch; to copy; to follow a line

There is only a trace of iodine in the water.

She traces the outlines of the figures.

**Trade** (*verb/noun*) to buy and sell; to give something else; means of earning one's living

My uncle is in the building trade.

He wants to make a trade for his car.

**Transplant** (*verb*) to transfer, to move to a new place

They are conducting experiments on how to transplant organs safely.

**Trash** (*noun*) something worthless; rubbish

He throw his old magazines into the trash.

**Treasured** (*adj.*) valued, loved

You should keep your treasured valuables in the safety deposit box.

**Trial** (*noun*) a test; an examination in a court of law

His trial ended quickly.

**Trickle** (*verb/noun*) to flow slowly; to move little by little by little; a slow, small flow

The water pipe is blocked so water supply is running at a trickle.

**Trigger** (*noun/verb*) a small lever that release a spring; to set off; to be the cause of something

The court decision triggered a riot.

**Trip** (*verb/ noun*) to stumble over something; a journey for pleasure

He tripped over his own foot.

**Tropical** (*adj.*) of the part of the earth around the equator

Tropical rain forests are being cut down.

**Trunk** (*noun*) the part of the tree that supports it; a large case to pack things in for traveling; the body of the person

The tree trunk has many holes.

**Turbulence** (*noun*) the state of being violent, uncontrolled, disorderly

Swift water has caused a lot of turbulence.

**Ultimately** (*adv.*) finally, in the end

Ultimately, he realized his plan did not work.

**Unaccustomed** (*adj.*) not used to something; not usual

I am unaccustomed to eating raw meat.

**Unauthorized** (*adj.*) illegal

Unauthorized personnel are prohibited to enter the building.

**Unbearable** (*adj.*) not tolerable, causing much sadness

The mother is unbearable to see her child leave.

**Unbiased** (*adj.*) impartial, giving each thing equal consideration

They keep an unbiased view when they listen.

**Uncalled-for** (*adj.*) undesirable, unnecessary, not justified

Police brutality is uncalled-for in this city.

**Unique** (*adj.*) being the only one of its type

He wants to be unique in his class.

**Unquenchable** (*adj.*) not able to be satisfied

He has an unquenchable desire to learn.

**Upgraded/ upgrade** (*adj./verb*) raised in rank; to improve the status of someone or something.

She has upgraded her computer recently.

**Vacillate** (*verb*) to waver, to be uncertain

She vacillates among the job offers she has received.

**Value** (*noun/verb*) the quality of being useful or desirable; to estimate the monetary value of something; to have a high regard for something

He reported the total value of theft was about one million.

**Vandalism** (*noun*) deliberate destruction of a work of art or private property

Vandalism is a serious problem for school authority.

**Variable** (*adj.*) changing

The variable factors affecting the economy are unknown to the government.

**Verify** (*verb*) to test the truth or accuracy of something

The bank has to verify the signature on the check.

**View** (*noun/verb*) that which is seen; a scene or prospect; to examine or consider

The view outside the window is beautiful.

**Vigorous** (*adj.*) having strength or energy

He has a vigorous schedule.

**Virtually** (*adv.*) in effect though not in fact, for all practical purposes

It is virtually impossible to get into the files without a password.

**Vivid** (*adj.*) lively; intense; bright; clear and distinct

I have vivid memories about my childhood.

**Warehouse** (*noun*) a building for storing goods before distribution

The warehouse for paper is on fire.

**Warn** (*verb*) to inform someone of possible danger

The police has warned the crowd to disperse.

**Wary** (*adj.*) to be in the habit of being careful about possible danger

Some people are wary of tight space such as elevator.

**Weight** (*noun*) the force or heaviness of something

The weight of the piano is too much for the men to carry.

**Widespread** (*adj.*) occurring over a large area

Widespread damage was caused by the typhoon.

**Wild** (*adj.*) in an original or natural condition; not domesticated or cultivated; not civilized; uncontrolled

Wild animals cannot be kept as pets.

**Willing** (*adj.*) ready; agreeable

He is willing to submit to more tests.

**Withdraw** (*verb*) to pull back or take out

He withdrew a large sum of money from the bank.

**Withhold** (*verb*) to keep or refuse to give

She withholds her emotion.

**Youthful** (*adj.*) the state of being young

His youthful look has got him the part in the play.