

ag·nos·tic /ag' năstik/

noun

1. a person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God or of anything beyond material phenomena; a person who claims neither faith nor disbelief in God.

Similar: Sceptic, doubter, questioner, unbeliever, disbeliever, nonbeliever

Opposite: Believer, theist

adjective

1. relating to agnostics or agnosticism.

al·lay /ə' lā/

verb

past tense: **allayed**; past participle: **allayed**

diminish or put at rest (fear, suspicion, or worry).

"the report attempted to educate the public and allay fears"

Similar: Reduce, diminish, decrease, lessen, assuage

Opposite: Increase, intensify

relieve or alleviate (pain or hunger).

"some stale figs partly allayed our hunger"

bam·boo·zle /bam' boōzəl/

verb

INFORMAL

past tense: **bamboozled**; past participle: **bamboozled**

fool or cheat (someone).

"Tom Sawyer bamboozled the neighborhood boys into doing it for him"

Similar: Trick, deceive, delude, hoodwink

confound or perplex.

"bamboozled by the number of savings plans being offered"

bom·bast /' bāmbast/

noun

high-sounding language with little meaning, used to impress people.

"the bombast of gung-ho militarism"

chi·can·er·y /SHə' kăn(ə)rē/

noun

the use of trickery to achieve a political, financial, or legal purpose.

"an underhanded person who schemes corruption and political chicanery behind closed doors"

Similar: Trickery, deception, deceit

cra-ven /'krāvən/

adjective

1. contemptibly lacking in courage; cowardly.
"a craven abdication of his moral duty"

Similar: Cowardly, lily-livered, faint-hearted, chicken-hearted

Opposite: brave

noun

ARCHAIC

1. a cowardly person.

con-spic-u-ous kən'spikyōəs/

adjective

standing out so as to be clearly visible.

"he was very thin, with a conspicuous Adam's apple"

▷ attracting notice or attention.

"he showed conspicuous bravery"

du-plic-i-tous /d(y)oō'plisədəs/

adjective

deceitful.

"treacherous, duplicitous behavior"

▷ **LAW**

(of a charge or plea) containing more than one allegation.

egre-gious /ə'grējəs/

adjective

1. outstandingly bad; shocking.

"egregious abuses of copyright"

Similar: Shocking, appalling, horrific, shameful

Opposite: marvelous

2.

ARCHAIC

remarkably good.

en-er-vate /'enər,vāte

verb

1. cause (someone) to feel drained of energy or vitality; weaken.

Similar: Exhaust, tire, fatigue

Opposite: invigorate

adjective

LITERARY

/'enərvət/

1. lacking in energy or vitality.

"the enervate slowness of his frail form"

gar-ru-lous /'ger(y)ələs/

adjective

excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters.

"Polonius is portrayed as a foolish, garrulous old man"

Similar: Talkative, loquacious, voluble

hack¹ /hak/

verb

1.

cut with rough or heavy blows.

"**hack off** the dead branches"

Similar: Cut, chop, hew, lop, saw, slash

2. use a computer to gain unauthorized access to data in a system.

"they **hacked into** the bank's computer"

noun

1. a rough cut, blow, or stroke.

"he was sure one of us was going to take a hack at him"

2.

INFORMAL

an act of computer hacking.

glim·mer /'glimər/

verb

1. shine faintly with a wavering light.

"the moonlight glimmered on the lawn"

Similar: Gleam, shine, glint, flicker, shimmer, glisten

noun

1. a faint or wavering light.

glut /glət/

noun

1. an excessively abundant supply of something.

"there is a **glut of** cars on the market"

Similar: Surplus, excess, surfeit, superfluity

Opposite: Dearth, scarcity

verb

1. supply or fill to excess.

"the factories for recycling paper are glutted"

Similar: cram full, fill to excess

hack·neyed /'haknēd/

adjective

(of a phrase or idea) lacking significance through having been overused; unoriginal and trite.

"hackneyed old sayings"

Similar: overused, overworked

im·pon·der·a·ble /im'pändərəbəl/

noun

1. a factor that is difficult or impossible to estimate or assess.

"there are too many imponderables for an overall prediction"

adjective

1. difficult or impossible to estimate, assess, or answer.

"an imponderable problem of metaphysics"

2.

ARCHAIC very light.

kit·ten·ish /'kit(ə)niSH/

adjective

adjective: **kittenish**

playful, lively, or flirtatious.

"her voice had that kittenish quality"

lam·poon lam'poŋn/

verb

1. publicly criticize (someone or something) by using ridicule, irony, or sarcasm.

"the senator made himself famous as a pinch-penny watchdog of public spending, lampooning dubious federal projects"

Similar: satirize, mock, ridicule

noun

1. a speech or text lampooning someone or something.

"does this sound like a lampoon of student life?"

lau·rel /'lôrəl, 'lärel/

noun

noun: **laurel**; plural noun: **laurels**

1.any of a number of shrubs and other plants with dark green glossy leaves.

- the **mountain laurel**.
- the **cherry laurel**.
- the bay tree.

2. an aromatic evergreen shrub related to the bay tree, several kinds of which form forests in tropical and warm countries.

3. the foliage of the bay tree woven into a wreath or crown and worn on the head as an emblem of victory or mark of honor in classical times.

- honor or praise awarded for an achievement.

"she has rightly won laurels for this brilliantly perceptive first novel"

leer·y /'lirē/

adjective

INFORMAL

cautious or wary due to realistic suspicions.

"a city **leery of** gang violence"

Similar: wary, cautious, careful

li·on·ize /'līə,nīz/

verb

give a lot of public attention and approval to (someone); treat as a celebrity.

"modern athletes are lionized"

Similar: celebrate, fete, glorify

lo·qua·cious /lō'kwāSHəs/

adjective

tending to talk a great deal; talkative.

"never loquacious, Sarah was now totally lost for words"

mis·an·throp·ic /,mis(ə)n'THrəpik/

adjective

disliking humankind and avoiding human society.

"a misanthropic drunken loner"

mod-i-cum /'mädəkəm/

noun

a small quantity of a particular thing, especially something considered desirable or valuable.

"his statement had more than **a modicum of truth**"

Similar: little bit, small amount, particle

my-op-ic /,mī'äpik/

adjective

nearsighted.

Similar: short-sighted

Opposite: long-sighted

lacking imagination, foresight, or intellectual insight.

"the government still has a myopic attitude to public spending"

Similar: unimaginative, uncreative

ne-far-i-ous

/nə'ferēəs/

adjective

(typically of an action or activity) wicked or criminal.

"the nefarious activities of the organized-crime syndicates"

pe-des-tri-an /pə'destrēən/

noun

1. a person walking along a road or in a developed area.

Similar: Walker, person on foot, hiker

Opposite: driver

adjective

1. lacking inspiration or excitement; dull.

"disenchantment with their present, pedestrian lives"

Similar: dull, plodding, boring

pith-y /'pɪTHē/

adjective

1.

(of language or style) concise and forcefully expressive.

2.

(of a fruit or plant) containing much pith

pos-er /'pōzər/

noun

a person who acts in an affected manner in order to impress others.

Similar: exhibitionist, poseur, poseuse

po-ta-ble /'pōdəb(ə)l/

adjective

FORMAL

safe to drink; drinkable.

"there is no supply of potable water available"

prof·li·gate /'præfləgət/

adjective

1. recklessly extravagant or wasteful in the use of resources.
"profligate consumers of energy"

Similar: wasteful, extravagant, spendthrift, improvident

Opposite: thrifty, frugal

noun

1. a licentious, dissolute person.

Similar: libertine, debauchee, degenerate

pro·hib·i·tive /prə'hɪbətɪv,prə'hɪbətɪv/

adjective

1. (of a law or rule) forbidding or restricting something.
"prohibitive legislation"

Similar: Proscriptive, prohibitory, restrictive, suppressive, repressive, restraining, inhibitory

2. (of a price or charge) excessively high; difficult or impossible to pay.
"the costs involved were prohibitive"

res·tive /'restɪv/

adjective

(of a person) unable to keep still or silent and becoming increasingly difficult to control, especially because of impatience, dissatisfaction, or boredom.

"the crowd had been waiting for hours and many were becoming restive"

Similar: restless, fidgety, edgy

Opposite: calm, biddable, peaceable

2. (of a horse) refusing to advance, stubbornly standing still or moving backward or sideways.
"both their horses became restive at once"

sa·ga·cious /sə'gɑːʃəs/

adjective

having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgment; shrewd.

"they were sagacious enough to avoid any outright confrontation"

Similar: wise, clever, intelligent

san·guine /'sɑːŋɡwɪn/

adjective

1. optimistic or positive, especially in an apparently bad or difficult situation.
"he is sanguine about prospects for the global economy"

Similar: optimistic, bullish, hopeful

Opposite: pessimistic, gloomy

2.

LITERARY

blood-red.

noun

1. a blood-red color.

scamp /skɑːmp/ *noun*

INFORMAL

a person, especially a child, who is mischievous in a likable or amusing way.

Similar: rascal, monkey, devil

2. a wicked or worthless person; a rogue.

skul-dug-ger-y / ,skəl' dæg(ə)rē/

noun

noun: **skulduggery**

underhanded or unscrupulous behavior; trickery.

"a firm that investigates commercial skulduggery"

Similar: trickery, swindling, fraudulence

slap-dash / 'slap, daSH/

adjective

1. done too hurriedly and carelessly.

"he gave a slapdash performance"

Similar: careless, slipshod, lackadaisical

Opposite: careful, meticulous, painstaking

adverb

DATED

1. hurriedly and carelessly.

slip-shod / 'slip, SHäd/

adjective

(typically of a person or method of work) characterized by a lack of care, thought, or organization.

"he'd caused many problems with his slipshod management"

Similar: careless, lackadaisical, slapdash

Opposite: careful, meticulous, painstaking

ARCHAIC

(of shoes) worn down at the heel.

vil-i-fy / 'vilə, fī/

verb

speak or write about in an abusively disparaging manner.

"he has been vilified in the press"

Similar: disparage, denigrate, defame, run down, revile, berate

wag-gish / 'wagiSH/

adjective

DATED

humorous in a playful, mischievous, or facetious manner.

"a waggish riposte"

wast-rel / 'wāstrəl/

noun

1.

LITERARY

a wasteful or good-for-nothing person.

"I have no intention of seeing my dues gambled away by your wastrel of a son"

Similar: spendthrift, prodigal, profligate

ARCHAIC

a waif; a neglected child.

ze-nith /'zēnəTH/

noun

1. the time at which something is most powerful or successful.

"under Justinian, the Byzantine Empire reached its zenith of influence"

Similar: highest point, high point

Opposite: nadir, bottom

2.

ASTRONOMY

the point in the sky or celestial sphere directly above an observer.