

ENGLISH 11H: Vocabulary Word List

ABATE *v.* lessen

aberration: *n.* departure from the normal

abet: *v.* encourage

abhor: *v.* to hate

abject: *adj.* servile; cringing

abode: *n.* place of residence

abominable: *adj.* causing moral revulsion

abrogate: *v.* cancel

absolve: *v.* free of guilt; pardon; forgive

abstemious: *adj.* moderate, especially in the use of food and drink

abstruse: *adj.* profound, obscure

accolade: *n.* expression of praise

accomplice: *n.* a person who helps another commit a crime

accost: *v.* aggressively or boldly confront

accrue: *v.* be added by growth

acerbic: *adj.* acidic; sour

acolyte: *n.* novice; young assistant

acquiesce: *v.* comply; yield

acrimonious: *adj.* biting; sharp (used of language)

acumen: *n.* ability to make sound judgments

adamant: *adj.* persistent; stubborn

aeon: *n.* long period of time (also spelled *eon*)

aesthetic: *adj.* pertaining to the beautiful

affable: *adj.* sociable

affectation: *n.* behavior, speech, or writing that is intended to impress

affidavit: *n.* written declaration made under oath

aggregation: *n.* a whole formed by several different elements

agnostic: *n.* person who claims neither faith nor disbelief in God; a skeptic

agrarian: *adj.* relating to farming; agricultural

alacrity: *n.* eagerness; enthusiasm

alias: *n.* a false name or identity

alluvial: *adj.* pertaining to mud left by running water

altercation: *n.* quarrel

altruistic: *adj.* unselfish

ameliorate: *v.* to better

amity: *n.* friendliness

anachronism: *n.* a thing belonging to a time period other than the one it exists in

anathema: *n.* detestable thing; abomination

anomalous: *adj.* abnormal; irregular
anon: *adv.* soon; shortly
antediluvian: *adj.* outdated; prehistoric [*ante-*, “before” + *diluvium*, “deluge” (flood)]
anthropocentrism: *n.* putting man at the center of one’s philosophy
antipathy: *n.* strong dislike
antiquity: *n.* the ancient past
apathy: *n.* indifference
aphorism: *n.* concise formulation of a truth; a maxim
apocryphal: *adj.* of questionable origin; fictitious
apostate: *n.* a renegade; one who deserts his principles
apparition: *n.* ghost; phantom; specter
arbiter: *n.* judge
arbitrary: *adj.* biased; prejudiced
archaic: *adj.* ancient; outdated; old-fashioned
archetype: *n.* classic example of
archipelago: *n.* chain of islands surrounded by a body of water
archives: *n.* collections of old records or documents
arduous: *adj.* onerous; difficult and tiring
argot: *n.* slang
aristocracy: *n.* the highest class in certain societies; a privileged or superior group
artifice: *n.* a trickery; cunning
artisan: *n.* craftsman
ascertain: *v.* find something out for certain
ascetic: *adj.* self-denying; austere
ascribe: *v.* attribute something to (a cause)
askance: *adv.* distrustfully
assiduous: *adj.* attentive; diligent
asunder: *adv.* apart; divided
atheist: *n.* one who believes that God does not exist
atrophy: *v.* waste away
attrition: *n.* grinding down; wearing down
augury: *n.* prediction
austere: *n.* severely plain
august: *adj.* stately (i.e., respected and impressive)
avarice: *n.* greed
aver: *adj.* assert
averse: *adj.* reluctant; disinclined
avocation: *n.* a hobby or minor occupation
avouch: *v.* declare strongly
axiomatic: *adj.* self-evident

BANAL: *adj.* commonplace; boringly ordinary

baneful: *adj.* destructive

banter: *n.* jesting
barbarism: *n.* extreme cruelty or brutality; absence of culture or civilization
bastion: *n.* fortress; stronghold
beget: *v.* produce offspring; cause
beguile: *v.* to trick or charm
belabor: *v.* explain in unnecessary detail
benediction: *n.* the utterance of bestowing of a blessing
bellicose: *adj.* warlike
benign: *adj.* kindly; harmless
benison: *n.* blessing
bibliophile: *n.* lover of books
bibliophobe: *n.* hater of books
blandish: *v.* persuade by flattery
blasé: *adj.* unimpressed or indifferent to something because one has already experienced it
blasphemy: *n.* irreverence
blithe: *adj.* cheerful
bombastic: *adj.* pompous in language
bon mot: *n.* witty or clever remark
bounty: *n.* generosity
bourgeois: *adj.* of the middle class
bowdlerize: *v.* remove offensive portions in a book
bravado: *n.* bold behavior intended to impress
brusque: *adj.* abrupt; blunt
bucolic: *adj.* pertaining to the pleasant parts of countryside living
bulwark: *n.* a defensive wall; barricade
bumptious: *adj.* boldly conceited
burlesque: *n.* a variety show, typically including striptease
buttress: *v.* support; prop up

CABAL: *n.* a group plotting secretly
cabalistic: *adj.* having a secret meaning
cache: *n.* hiding place
cadaverous: *adj.* haggard; ghastly pale
cadence: *n.* rhythm
caldron: *n.* huge cooking pot
callous: *adj.* insensitive
callow: *adj.* immature
calumny: *n.* false, malicious accusation
canard: *n.* an absurd rumor circulated to deceive the public
canine: *adj.* pertaining to dogs
capitulate: *v.* surrender
capricious: *adj.* changeable; whimsical
captious: *adj.* quick to find petty fault; hypercritical
carouse: *v.* revel

carte blanche: *n.* complete freedom to act as one wishes (French for “blank paper”)
castigate: *v.* punish
catacombs: *n.* an underground cemetery consisting of a subterranean gallery of tombs
catholic: *adj.* tolerant; universal
caustic: *adj.* biting or cutting (used of language)
cavil: *v.* find petty fault with
cavort: *v.* jump or dance around excitedly
celerity: *n.* speed
celibacy: *n.* abstaining from marriage and sexual relations
chalice: *n.* cup
charlatan: *n.* pretender to knowledge; fraud
chastise: *v.* punish
chicanery: *n.* deception by sharp practice
chimera: *n.* fantasy; an impossible dream
choleric: *adj.* ill-tempered
circuitous: *adj.* indirect
circumscribe: *v.* limit
circumspect: *adj.* cautious
circumvent: *v.* evade by means of deception
clad: *adj.* clothed
clairvoyant: *adj.* acutely perceptive
clandestine: *adj.* secret
clarion: *n.* sound of a trumpet; call to action
clemency: *n.* mercy
clerical: *adj.* secretarial; priestly
cliché: *n.* a commonplace phrase
coalesce: *v.* fuse; merge
cogitate: *v.* ponder or consider deeply
cognizant: *adj.* aware
colloquial: *adj.* local and informal (used of language)
collusion: *n.* secret complicity in a fraud
comely: *adj.* pleasant to look at
commandeer: *v.* take possession of
commiserate: *v.* sympathize with
commodious: *adj.* roomy
compulsory: *adj.* necessary
conceive: *v.* imagine; devise
conciliate: *v.* placate; reconcile
concomitant: *adj.* accompanying
condescend: *v.* talk down to
condiment: *n.* spice
confidant: *n.* a person entrusted with secrets
conflagration: *n.* a huge disastrous fire

congenital: *adj.* existing at birth
connive: *v.* plot; conspire
conscience: *n.* an inner feeling that informs one's sense of right or wrong behavior
consecrate: *v.* make or declare something sacred
consensus: *n.* general agreement
consort: *n.* a companion; spouse
constrain: *v.* severely restrict
contiguity: *n.* closeness
contrite: *adj.* sorry; remorseful
contumacious: *adj.* scornfully insubordinate
convulsive: *adj.* producing sudden, violent, irregular movements of body or limbs
copious: *adj.* plentiful
coroner: *n.* undertaker; a person who buries a dead body
corpulent: *n.* (of a person) fat
coruscate: *v.* sparkle
coterie: *n.* clique; circle
craven: *adj.* cowardly
culpable: *adj.* guilty
cupidity: *n.* greed
cynosure: *n.* center of attention (from Greek *kynosoura*, "dog's tail")

DAUNTLESS: *adj.* incapable of being intimidated
dearth: *n.* scarcity
debacle: *n.* collapse
decadent: *adj.* characterized by or appealing to self-indulgence; marked by decay or decline
decimate: *v.* destroy totally
decorum: *n.* formalities; etiquette
deference: *n.* submission to another's will or opinion
delegate: *v.* entrust (a task or responsibility) to another person
delineate: *v.* sketch
deluge: *n.* a severe flood
demagogue: *n.* rabble-rouser (i.e., speaker who appeals to people's prejudices, not logic)
demise: *n.* death
denizen: *n.* inhabitant
deprecate: *v.* protest strongly
deprive: *v.* deny (a person or place) the possession or use of something
descendant: *n.* person blood-related to a particular ancestor
desecrate: *v.* render unholy
despot: *n.* ruler with absolute power
desultory: *adj.* unmethodical
detrimental: *adj.* harmful
dexterous: *adj.* skillful
diabolic: *adj.* fiendish; devilish

diatribe: *n.* abusive speech
dictum: *n.* a formal pronouncement from an authoritative source
diffident: *adj.* shy
diffuse: *adj.* spread out over a large area; not concentrated
dilapidate: *v.* cause to fall into disrepair or ruin
dilatory: *adj.* slow to act
dilettante: *n.* person who dabbles in a subject without serious study
diphtheria: *n.* bacterial disease that hinders breathing and swallowing
dire: *adj.* dreadfully extreme
dirge: *n.* funeral song
discrepancy: *n.* inconsistency
discursive: *adj.* rambling (of speech); lacking order
disdainful: *adj.* showing contempt or lack of respect
disillusion: *n.* the condition of being disenchanting; disappointed
disparage: *v.* belittle
disparity: *n.* a great difference
dispossessed: *adj.* deprived of the possession or occupancy of land or houses
disreputable: *adj.* not considered to be respectable in character or appearance
dissolution: *n.* morally corrupted living
distraught: *adj.* bewildered; perplexed
diurnal: *adj.* active in daytime
doggerel: *n.* trivial poetry
dolorous: *adj.* sad
dotard: *n.* foolish old man
drawl: *v.* speak slowly with words running together
droll: *adj.* comical
dubious: *adj.* doubtful; of questionable value
dudgeon: *n.* sullen resentment or anger
duplicity: *n.* deception

ECCENTRIC: *adj.* unusual; quirky; odd
edification: *n.* enlightenment; uplift
efface: *v.* erase (a mark) from a surface
efficacious: *adj.* potent to produce an effect
effigy: *n.* a model of a person; a dummy
effrontery: *n.* rude boldness
effuse: *v.* give off (a liquid, light, smell, or quality)
egregious: *adj.* outstanding
ejaculate: *v.* exclaim
elocution: *n.* the skill of clear and expressive speech
elude: *v.* evade or escape in a skillful or cunning way
emanate: *v.* issue forth
emollient: *n.* a preparation that softens the skin

empirical: *adj.* verifiable by observation or experience
encomium: *n.* verbal praise
encumber: *v.* burden; weigh down
endeavor: *n.* an attempt to achieve a goal
enfranchise: *v.* give the right to vote
engender: *v.* to cause
enigma: *n.* puzzle
entreat: *v.* beg; plead with
enumerate: *v.* mention (a number of things) one by one
epitaph: *n.* writing on a tombstone
epitome: *n.* a perfect example; paragon
epithet: *n.* descriptive phrase; nickname (e.g., Mississippi River called “Father of Waters”) **equivocal:** *adj.* deliberately vague
eradicate: *v.* destroy completely
ere: *prep.* before
erudite: *adj.* learned; having much knowledge acquired by study
eschew: *v.* avoid; forego
esoteric: *adj.* profound; understood by few
espouse: *v.* advocate (as a doctrine)
ethereal: *adj.* heavenly
evanescent: *adj.* fleeting; vanishing
evince: *v.* reveal; demonstrate
evitable: *adj.* avoidable
excoriate: *v.* scold severely
execrable: *adj.* extremely unpleasant
exemplary: *adj.* worthy of imitation; commendable
exhort: *v.* strongly encourage or urge (someone) to do something
exigency: *adj.* pressing need
exigent: *adj.* pressing; demanding
expatriate: *n.* emigrant; exile
expiate: *v.* atone for sin
expostulate: *v.* reason earnestly with
expunge: *v.* erase
extemporize: *v.* improvise; compose; perform, or produce something without preparation
extirpate: *v.* root out and destroy completely
exude: *v.* ooze out

FABRICATE: *v.* construct; lie; forge [a document, etc.]
façade: *n.* deceptive appearance or attitude
facetious: *adj.* humorous
fallacy: *n.* mistake in logic
fallow: *adj.* inactive
falsetto: *n.* voice or sound that is unusually or unnaturally high

fatuous: *adj.* silly
faux pas: *n.* a social blunder
feckless: *adj.* cowardly
fecund: *adj.* highly productive; prolific
feign: *v.* pretend
felicity: *n.* intense happiness
fetid: *adj.* malodorous
fetter: *n., v.* chain; manacle
filch: *v.* steal
finesse: *n.* refined skill
fiscal: *adj.* pertaining to public or general finances
fissure: *n.* crack in the earth
flagrant: *adj.* clearly wrong or immoral
flay: *v.* scold severely; to skin
fleet: *adj.* moving fast
florid: *adj.* elaborately or excessively intricate and complicated
flotsam: *n.* floating wreckage from a shipwreck
formidable: *adj.* inspiring fear or respect
foster: *v.* nourish; encourage
founder: *v.* sink
fracas: *n.* a noisy argument
fractiousness: *n.* the condition of being difficult to control
frugal: *adj.* sparing of expenditure
frugality: *n.* the quality of being sparing or economical with regard to money or food
furtive: *adj.* secretive

GAINSAY: *v.* deny
galleon: *n.* ancient type of sailing ship
gamut: *n.* range
garner: *v.* gather
garrulous: *adj.* talkative
germane: *adj.* relevant
gibberish: *n.* meaningless, confused speech
gibe: *v.* mock; scoff
glib: *adj.* fluent; ease with conversation
gourmand: *n.* lover of good food and drink
grippe: *n.* influenza
guffaw: *n.* a loud and boisterous laugh
guile: *n.* deception; stratagem
gyration: *n.* a quickly moving circle or spiral

HACKNEYED: *adj.* worn out by use; commonplace
hapless: *adj.* unfortunate

harass: *v.* subject to aggressive pressure or intimidation
harbinger: *n.* forerunner
haughty: *adj.* scornfully proud
hedonist: *n.* lover of pleasure
hermitage: *n.* the small, remote dwelling of someone who prefers living in solitude
hiatus: *n.* gap
hibernal: *adj.* wintry
histrionic: *adj.* theatrical; melodramatic
hoax: *n.* rumor designed to deceive the public
holocaust: *n.* destruction by fire
homily: *n.* sermon
hoodwink: *v.* deceive; dupe
hyperbole: *n.* excessive exaggeration
hypochondriac: *n.* person obsessed with health

ICONOCLAST: *n.* person who opposes orthodoxy
idiosyncrasy: *n.* quirk; eccentricity
idyllic: *adj.* idealized; picturesque
ignominy: *n.* disgrace
imbue: *v.* permeate; saturate; inspire
impeccable: *adj.* faultless
imperious: *adj.* arrogantly domineering
impervious: *adj.* impenetrable; impregnable
implacable: *adj.* not easily pacified
importune: *v.* plead with
impose: *v.* force (something unwelcome or unfamiliar) to be accepted or put in place
impudent: *adj.* not showing due respect for another person
impugn: *v.* accuse
inane: *adj.* silly; foolish
incapacitate: *v.* prevent from functioning in a normal way
inclement: *adj.* merciless; stormy
incognito: *n.* an assumed or false identity
incongruous: *adj.* inconsistent; inharmonious
inconsequential: *adj.* unimportant; insignificant
incorrigible: *adj.* (of a person) not able to be corrected, improved, or reformed
incubus: *n.* an oppressive weight
indigenous: *adj.* native
indolent: *adj.* lazy
ineffable: *adj.* too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words
inexorable: *adj.* unstoppable; pitiless
infirmity: *n.* illness
inherent: *adj.* existing in something as a permanent, essential, or characteristic attribute
inimitable: *adj.* impossible to copy

iniquitous: *adj.* wicked
innocuous: *adj.* harmless
innuendo: *n.* insinuation
inscrutable: *adj.* impossible to understand
insidious: *adj.* treacherous
insipid: *adj.* flat; tasteless
insolent: *adj.* arrogantly disrespectful; cheeky
insular: *adj.* narrow-minded or illiberal
interdict: *n.* an authoritative prohibition
interlope: *v.* trespass
intractable: *adj.* stubborn; resisting outside discipline; unmanageable
intrepid: *adj.* fearless
inure: *v.* accustom; habituate
invariable: *adj.* never changing
invective: *n.* harsh accusation
inveterate: *adj.* habitual
invidious: *adj.* arousing resentment
irresolute: *adj.* hesitant; uncertain
itinerant: *adj.* wandering; nomadic

JALOPY: *n.* an old car in a dilapidated condition
jeopardize: *v.* endanger
jettison: *v.* throw overboard
jingoist: *n.* extreme nationalist

KNELL: *n.* bell toll signaling a death

LABYRINTHINE: *adj.* intricate; perplexing; confusing
lacerate: *v.* mangle; tear
lachrymose: *adj.* tearful
lackadaisical: *adj.* indifferent
lackey: *n.* a servile attendant
laconic: *adj.* sparing of words
lacteal: *adj.* milky
lance: *n.* spear; spike; javelin
languid: *adj.* contentedly lazy and relaxed
larceny: *n.* theft
lascivious: *adj.* indecent; lustful
lassitude: *n.* sluggishness
latent: *adj.* hidden; not apparent
lesion: *n.* a region in an organ or tissue damaged by injury or disease
lethargy: *n.* sluggishness
levity: *n.* lightheartedness; frivolity

liaison: *n.* linkage; an intercommunication agent; close bond or relationship
libertarian: *n.* person who opposes tyranny
licentious: *adj.* highly immodest; lustful
limpid: *adj.* transparently clear
litigious: *adj.* disputing at law
loathsome: *adj.* causing hatred or disgust; repulsive
lobbyist: *n.* person who tries to persuade someone to support a particular cause
loquacious: *adj.* talkative
lore: *n.* a body of traditions and knowledge on a subject or held by a particular group
lucid: *adj.* expressed clearly
lucrative: *adj.* profitable
ludicrous: *adj.* laughable
lugubrious: *adj.* sad
lurid: *adj.* sensationally vivid

MACHINATIONS: *n.* plots and plans
magnanimity: *n.* the quality of being very generous or forgiving
magnanimous: *adj.* generous; forgiving
magnate: *n.* a powerful businessman
malediction: *n.* an uttered curse; hex
malefactor: *n.* an evil doer; a criminal
malevolent: *adj.* malicious; spiteful
maniacal: *adj.* exhibiting wild behavior, esp. when violent or dangerous
manifest : *adj.* apparent; clear
marsupial: *n.* pouched mammal (like a kangaroo)
maternal: *adj.* of or relating to a mother
mawkish: *adj.* sentimental to a fault
maverick: *n.* a loner
meander: *v.* wander aimlessly
metamorphose: *v.* change completely in form or nature
mendacity: *n.* lying
mendicant: *adj.* begging
mephitic: *adj.* smelly
mercenary: *n.* person motivated solely by money
meretricious: *adj.* apparently attractive but having in reality no value or integrity
meticulous: *adj.* very careful; painstaking
mien: *n.* appearance
migrant: *n.* a person who moves from place to place to do seasonal work
minstrel: *n.* medieval musician or singer
misanthrope: *n.* hater of the rest of mankind
miscreant: *n.* villain
misnomer: *n.* wrong name
misogyny: *n.* hatred of women

missive: *n.* letter
mitigate: *v.* moderate; soften; lessen
modicum: *n.* a small amount
mollify: *v.* soften; appease
moot: *adj.* debatable
morass: *n.* bog; swamp
moratorium: *n.* temporary halt or prohibition to activity
mordant: *adj.* biting
moribund: *adj.* on the point of death
morose: *adj.* gloomy; bad-tempered
motley: *adj.* of mixed ingredients
myopic: *adj.* nearsighted

NEBULOUS: *adj.* vague
necromancy: *n.* magic
nefarious: *adj.* wicked
neophyte: *n.* beginner
niggardly: *adj.* not generous; stingy
nocturnal: *adj.* pertaining to the night
nominal: *adj.* in name only
nonchalance: *n.* calm, relaxed, self-assured appearance (French, “not being concerned”)
nondescript: *adj.* having no special features; dull and ordinary
nonentity: *n.* a person of no importance; not famous
noxious: *adj.* harmful; poisonous
numismatics: *n.* coin collecting
nuance: *n.* something subtle; a fine shade of meaning
nuptial: *adj.* relating to marriage; connubial

OBDURATE: *adj.* stubborn
obeisance: *n.* submission
obloquy: *n.* abusive criticism
obsequious: *adj.* obedient or attentive to an excessive or servile degree
obstetrical: *adj.* of or relating to childbirth and the process associated with it
obstreperous: *adj.* unruly; rowdy
odium: *n.* hatred; disgrace
officious: *adj.* meddling
ogle: *v.* flirt
omnipotent: *adj.* all-powerful; supreme
onerous: *adj.* oppressively burdensome
oppression: *n.* prolonged cruel or unjust treatment
opprobrium: *n.* disgrace; infamy
oracle: *n.* a prophet; an infallible authority on something
orgastic: *adj.* extremely enjoyable or exciting

oscillate: *v.* waver; undulate
ostensible: *adj.* apparent
ostentation: *n.* pretentious and vulgar display of wealth and luxury intended to impress
ostentatious: *adj.* showing off
ostracism: *n.* excluding (someone) from a society or group

PALATABLE: *adj.* good to eat; agreeable
pallor: *n.* unhealthy pale appearance
panacea: *n.* a cure-all
panoply: *n.* an impressive collection of things; ceremonial attire
paramour: *n.* lover
paraphrase: *v.* rephrase
pariah: *n.* outcast
paroxysm: *n.* outburst of emotion
parricide: *n.* murder of a father or mother
parsimonious: *adj.* stingy
parsimony: *n.* extreme unwillingness to spend money or use resources
pastoral: *adj.* of or relating to the countryside; not urban; pleasingly peaceful and innocent
pathology: *n.* deviation from the normal
pathos: *n.* a quality that evokes pity or sadness
patron: *n.* one who gives support (usually financial)
pedagogical: *adj.* of or relating to teaching
penitent: *adj.* feeling or expressing pain or sorrow for sins or offenses; repentant
penury: *n.* extreme poverty
perennial: *adj.* continually occurring; enduring
perfunctory: *adj.* mechanical; spiritless
peripheral: *adj.* on the edge; unimportant
pernicious: *adj.* destructive
perspicuous: *adj.* lucid
pertinacity: *n.* holding firmly to an opinion or a course of action
petulant: *adj.* highly irritable
philanthropy: *n.* charity; love of mankind
phlegmatic: *adj.* sluggish
piebald: *adj.* of various colors
pilfer: *v.* steal
pithy: *adj.* meaningful; terse
placate: *v.* appease; conciliate
placebo: *n.* harmless medicine with no effect; dummy medicine
plagiarism: *n.* stealing another's ideas
Platonic: *adj.* confined to words, theories, or ideals, and not leading to practical action
plausible: *adj.* can be believed; reasonable
plethora: *n.* superabundance
plumage: *n.* a bird's feathers

portentous: *adj.* prophetic of evil
potentate: *n.* one who has the power to rule over others
precarious: *adj.* dangerously uncertain
precept: *n.* a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought
precocious: *adj.* prematurely bright
predecessor: *n.* one who came before
prerogative: *n.* unquestioned right
pretension: *n.* a claim to something
prevalent: *adj.* widespread in a particular area at a particular time
prevaricate: *v.* lie
proboscis: *n.* nose
proclivity: *n.* inclination
prodigal: *adj.* wastefully extravagant
prodigious: *adj.* great in size or degree
progenitor: *n.* forefather; originator
progeny: *n.* offspring
proletarian: *n.* member of the working class
prolific: *adj.* producing a lot
promiscuous: *adj.* indiscriminating
promulgate: *v.* make known
proprietor: *n.* owner
proposition: *n.* proposal; task
prosaic: *adj.* dull; boring; ordinary
proscribe: *v.* outlaw
protocol: *n.* procedure; code of behavior
protégé: *n.* person under protection or guided by another
protract: *v.* prolong
protuberant: *adj.* bulging
proverbial: *adj.* well-known; stereotypical
pro prowess: *n.* outstanding bravery or skill
prudential: *adj.* showing care and thought for the future
puerile: *adj.* immature
pusillanimous: *adj.* cowardly

QUALMS: *n.* misgivings; doubts
quandary: *n.* predicament
quash: *v.* suppress
quay: *n.* a pier (pronounced KEE)
quell: *v.* subdue
querulous: *adj.* constantly complaining
quintessence: *n.* the most perfect state of an essence
quixotic: *adj.* impractical; starry-eyed

RACONTEUR: *n.* storyteller
rake: *n.* a fashionable or wealthy man of dissolute or promiscuous habits
rancor: *n.* deep-seated malice
rankle: *v.* fester
raucous: *adj.* harsh sounding; shrill
recalcitrant: *adj.* stubbornly hostile
reconcile: *v.* return to harmony
recondite: *adj.* obscure; understood by few
recreant: *adj.* cowardly
rectitude: *n.* morally correct behavior or thinking
recumbent: *adj.* lying down
red tape: *n.* paperwork; official procedure
redolent: *adj.* suggestive; reminiscent
redress: *v.* to remedy or set right
redundant: *adj.* superfluous
regale: *v.* entertain
reminiscence: *n.* the enjoyable recollection of past events
remuneration: *n.* payment
renegade: *n.* traitor; turncoat
reprisal: *n.* paying back for damage sustained
reproach: *n.* mild disapproval
respite: *n.* temporary relief
restive: *adj.* restless; recalcitrant
reticent: *adj.* secretive; tight-lipped
retrospection: *n.* the act of looking back or reviewing past events in one's own life
retribution: *n.* punishment that is considered to be morally right and fully deserved
reverberate: *v.* to echo; resonate
reverie: *n.* daydream; musing
ribald: *adj.* low in language (i.e., using rude or irreverent words)
rill: *n.* a small brook
rococo: *adj.* extravagantly ornamented
rostrum: *n.* platform; podium
rubberneck: *n.* a person who turns their head to stare at something in a foolish manner
rubicund: *adj.* rosy
ruthless: *adj.* merciless; cruel

SACHEM: *n.* chief or leader
sacrilegious: *adj.* violation or misuse of what is regarded as sacred
sadist: *n.* torturer
sagacious: *adj.* extremely shrewd
sagacity: *n.* wisdom
sage: *n.* a wise person
salacious: *adj.* highly indecent

sanctimonious: *adj.* hypocritically holy; outwardly religious
sanguinary: *adj.* bloody; gory
sanguine: *adj.* cheerful; hopeful; red
sardonic: *adj.* mocking
sartorial: *adj.* pertaining to clothes
satiare: *v.* satisfy fully
saturnine: *adj.* habitually solemn
savant: *n.* person with knowledge
scintilla: *n.* a tiny trace
scion: *n.* heir
scourge: *v.* punish severely
scrivener: *n.* a scribe; someone who copies out documents by hand
secular: *adj.* nonreligious
sensuous: *adj.* appealing to the physical senses
sententious: *adj.* pompously moralistic
sentimental: *adj.* prone to feelings of tenderness, sadness, and nostalgia
sentinel: *n.* guard; sentry
sepulcher: *n.* burial vault
shoat: *n.* a young hog
side: *v.* move sideways
sinecure: *n.* a position not requiring much work
sinuous: *adj.* winding
smolder: *v.* burn slowly with smoke but no flame
solicitous: *adj.* anxious
somnambulism: *n.* sleepwalking
somniferous: *adj.* inducing sleep
somnolent: *adj.* sleepy
soothsayer: *n.* fortuneteller
soporific: *adj.* causing sleep
sound: *adj.* in good condition; not damaged, injured, or diseased
sparse: *adj.* spare; bare; meager
spurious: *adj.* not genuine
squalid: *adj.* filthy
squalor: *n.* state of being extremely dirty and unpleasant due to poverty or neglect
staid: *adj.* very grave
stalwart: *adj.* steadfast; unwavering
stevedore: *n.* dockworker
stigma: *n.* blemish
stigmatize: *v.* to brand with disgrace
stoic, stoical: *adj.* indifferent to pain or pleasure
stultify: *v.* render foolish
substantiate: *v.* give supporting evidence
subterfuge: *n.* deceitful evasion; ploy

subversive: *adj.* rebellious; revolutionary
succinct: *adj.* concise
succor: *n.* aid; assistance
succulent: *adj.* juicy
sully: *v.* to dirty; defile
sundry: *adj.* of various kinds; mixed
supercilious: *adj.* behaving or looking at though superior to others
superfluous: *adj.* unnecessary; redundant
supersede: *v.* replace
supine: *adj.* on one's back
surcease: *n.* an end; cessation
surfeit: *v.* fill to excess
surreptitious: *adj.* stealthy; secret
sycophant: *n.* servile flatterer
syllogism: *n.* three sentences in logical sequence

TACITURN: *adj.* habitually silent
talisman: *n.* a charm
tangible: *adj.* actual; touchable
tantamount: *adj.* equal to
tarpaulin: *n.* heavy-duty waterproof cloth
tautological: *adj.* needlessly repetitive; wordy
temerity: *n.* rash boldness
temperance: *n.* moderation or self-restraint, esp. in eating and drinking
temperate: *adj.* mild; moderate
temporal: *adj.* pertaining to earthly matters
tenacious: *adj.* unyielding
tenant: *n.* one who rents from a landowner
tenuous: *adj.* flimsy; slender
testy: *adj.* easily angered
timorous: *adj.* fearful
tirade: *n.* a long speech of abuse
tonic: *n.* medicinal drink that restores well-being
torpid: *adj.* listless; sluggish
torpor: *n.* state of inactivity; lethargy
tractable: *adj.* docile
trammel: *v.* to hinder free movement
transient: *adj.* short-lived; ephemeral
trepidation: *n.* agitation from fear
tributary: *n.* a river or stream flowing into a larger river or body of water
trident: *n.* a three-pronged spear
trite: *adj.* stale; commonplace
truant: *n.* shirker; someone absent without permission

truculent: *adj.* fierce
turgid: *adj.* swollen
turpitude: *n.* baseness
tyro: *n.* beginner; novice

UBIQUITOUS: *adj.* existing everywhere
umbrage: *n.* hurt pride; tree's shadow
unalloyed: *adj.* pure; total
unalterable: *adj.* not able to be changed
unconscionable: *adj.* unreasonable; uninfluenced by conscience
unremitting: *adj.* without stopping
unwittingly: *adv.* not deliberately; unconsciously
unwonted: *adj.* unaccustomed
upbraid: *v.* condemn severely
usurer: *n.* person who lends money at unreasonably high interest rates
utopia: *n.* a perfect society
utopian: *adj.* ideal; visionary

VACILLATE: *v.* waver
vacuous: *adj.* vacant (lack of intelligence, mindless)
vagabond: *n.* a person who wanders from place to place without a home or job
vagary: *n.* unexpected and inexplicable change (from Latin *vagari*, "to wander")
vagrant: *n.* person wandering without a home
vapid: *adj.* tasteless
vassal: *n.* slave
venom: *n.* extreme malice and bitterness
verbose: *adj.* using more words than needed
vernacular: *n.* common speech
vernal: *adj.* spring-like
vertigo: *n.* dizziness
vestige: *n.* trace
vicarious: *adj.* sharing another's experience
vicissitudes: *n.* changes in fortune
victuals: *n.* food
vigilante: *n.* one who undertakes law enforcement without legal authority
vilify: *v.* blacken someone's name
vindicate: *v.* prove right; remove blame
vindictive: *adj.* revengeful
vinous: *adj.* of, resembling, or associated with wine
virago: *n.* quarrelsome woman
virtuoso: *n.* an accomplished artist
virulent: *adj.* malignant; hostile
visage: *n.* face

viscous: *adj.* sticky
vitriolic: *adj.* corrosive; strongly attacking
vituperation: *n.* abusive language
voluble: *adj.* talkative
voracious: *adj.* aggressively greedy
vouchsafe: *v.* reveal; disclose
vulpine: *adj.* crafty; pertaining to foxes

WAIVE: *v.* refrain from enforcing a rule or fee
wan: *adj.* pale
wane: *v.* decrease
wanton: *adj.* unchecked
wary: *adj.* cautious
wastrel: *n.* spendthrift; irresponsible spender
waylay: *v.* to accost or hinder someone
wheedle: *v.* cajole; entice
wily: *adj.* cunning
wistful: *adj.* regretful longing
wont: *adj.* accustomed
wrangle: *v.* quarrel
wrought: *v.* formed; crafted

ZEALOT: *n.* fanatic
zealous: *adj.* enthusiastic
zenith: *n.* highest point; acme